

SYMPHONY SUPPORT'S TESCO'S RESERVATIONS ABOUT COMPOSTABLE PLASTIC PACKAGING

Symphony Environmental, a UK public company and specialist in oxo-biodegradable plastic fully agrees with Tesco's Packaging Manager that there is no value in using compostable packaging that can only be industrially composted.

Tesco's packaging technical manager said on 20th October <http://packagingnews.co.uk/news/946833/> that the supermarket group "does not see the value" in packaging that can only be industrially composted" and that "local authorities do not want to touch it, as it can contaminate existing recycling schemes." A few days earlier, Tesco's head of waste and recycling had told a conference that the supermarket group was "not taking compostable packaging any further."

Symphony also believes that home-composting of plastic should not be encouraged, as it is often contaminated with meat or fish residues, and temperatures may not rise high enough to kill the pathogens. The company believes that compostable plastic makes no sense, and is far too expensive for everyday use. It is designed to degrade in a composting process but will not readily degrade in the open environment. Deep in landfill it will emit methane – a powerful greenhouse gas.

In June 2009 Germany's Institute for Energy and Environmental Research concluded that oil-based plastics, especially if recycled, have a better Life-Cycle Analysis than compostable plastics.

A growing number of plastic users believe that a better - and much less expensive option - is Controlled-life Plastic such as Symphony's d₂w. This can be re-used many times and recycled (see www.biodeg.org/recycling.htm) but will self-destruct if it gets into the open environment, leaving no harmful residues. Like normal plastic it is made from a by-product of oil which used to be wasted, so nobody is importing extra oil to make it. It does not emit methane when degrading – even deep in landfill.

NOTE TO EDITORS

Symphony Environmental Technologies PLC is a world leader in Controlled-life Plastic Technology. The technology is recognised by the d₂w 'droplet' logo on plastic products, which can be found in over 80 countries round the world.

In the last 12 months, enough of Symphony's d₂w Controlled-life additive has been supplied to make more than 5 billion plastic products.

For further details, go to: www.d2w.net or www.biodeg.org

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