

Food Service Products — Alternatives to Petroleum-based Plastics

Materials mentioned in product listings

Composting note: "commercial" means higher-than-natural temperatures are required

Corn note: some sources specify non-GMO (no glyphosate) and/or non-food

APET (petrochemical-based, not a substitute)

Qualities: clear (can be made opaque), hard

Sustainable: recyclable, but **not suitable for a plastics reduction effort**

Made from: amorphous PET (polyethylene terephthalate – e.g., blister packs)

Uses: clamshells and other containers

Bagasse (a particular type of molded fiber)

Qualities:

Sustainable: compostable, biodegradable (more readily than tree-based papers)

Made from: sugar cane fiber after removal of juice, can be combined with other fibers such as bamboo

Uses: clamshells and other containers, plates, trays, lids

Ingeo – brand of PLA

Molded Fiber

Qualities: varies depending on processing, waterproof if waxed

Sustainable: biodegradable, compostable, recyclable

Made from: plant fiber (usually recycled newsprint or paperboard)

Uses: clamshells, trays, plates, bowls, beverage carriers

PLA (polylactic acid)

Qualities: clear (can be made opaque), hard

Sustainable: compostable commercially, not biodegradable, recyclable (#7), manufacture does not involve hazardous chemicals that will leach

Made from: usually corn, but also wheat, barley, potatoes

Uses: clamshells and other containers, cold cups, cup caps, lining for hot cups

PSM (Plastarch)

Qualities: stiff, durable, heat resistant

Sustainable: biodegradable, compostable

Made from: Corn or potato starch, plus other biodegradable materials which modify its qualities

Uses: utensils

RPET (petrochemical-based, not a substitute)

Qualities: clear (can be made opaque), hard

Sustainable: recyclable, but **not suitable for a plastics reduction effort**

Made from: recycled PET (polyethylene terephthalate – e.g., plastic water bottles)

Uses: clamshells and other containers, cold cups, cup caps

Wheat straw

Qualities:

Sustainable: biodegradable, compostable

Made from: wheat (or other grains: barley, oats, rice, rye) minus the grain kernel and chaff

Uses: plates

Wood

Sustainable: biodegradable, compostable

Uses: utensils

Sampling of Suppliers

(not to be considered a recommendation)

Note: This list is meant for those who don't have an ongoing satisfactory relationship with a supplier that carries such products

Sysco: Earth Choice (product line of Paktiv)

<http://www.earthchoicepackaging.com>

Distributed by Sysco Northern New England (207-871-0700, info@nne.sysco.com)

Catalogs (no prices, mostly – but not completely – the same products:

EarthChoice (organized by materials, then types):

http://dickatlee.com/mdi-plastic/earthchoice_catalog_no_prices.pdf

Paktiv (organized by types, then materials):

http://dickatlee.com/mdi-plastic/Sysco_EC_POS_6-13.pdf

Prices: contact Sysco (Ed Pierpont, Pierpont.Edward@nne.sysco.com)

Biomass Packaging (product line of Excellent Packaging & Supply)

<http://www.biomasspackaging.com/products> (800-317-2737, csr@excellentpackaging.com)

Catalog (no prices):

<http://excellentpackaging.com/catalog/biomasspackaging/biomasspackagingcatalog.html>

Catalog with prices:

<http://www.excellentpackaging.com/catalog/fsm/biomass-fsm.html>

downloadable PDF:

http://www.excellentpackaging.com/catalog/fsm/FSMfiles/assets/common/downloads/BioMassPackaging_Q3_0918_FSM.pdf

Order direct, or, if wholesale account, free shipping over \$1000; samples can be sent

EcoDallas

<http://ecodallas.com/products/>