



Improving End-Of-Life options for plastic packaging

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The problem

Plastic packaging generates a huge amount of waste. Not all materials used in packaging are readily recyclable, hindering efforts to reduce landfilling and leading to resource depletion, energy consumption and multiple associated environmental impacts. Mismanged plastic packaging ends up in the environment, polluting the ecosystems and contaminating all the levels of the food chain.

The solution

Sustainable packaging design can drive the shift towards biodegradable/compostable, reusable, and recyclable materials. Additionally, improved waste management practices and recycling infrastructures can reduce the amount of plastic packaging reaching landfills and incinerators. Within SISTERS project, packaging solutions are developed in line with home compostability requirements, being compliant with the main schemes of certification.

Benefits



The use of bio-based polymers and biodegradable materials leads to the reduction of landfilled waste and fossil fuel reliance.



Consumers will be able to easily compost the packaging at home, eliminating the need for special disposal facilities or recycling programs.



Eco-friendly consumers will have the option of choosing environmentally friendly packaging options that reduce their environmental footprint.

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PRACTICAL RECOMMENDATIONS



It is key to align each packaging with standardized certifications and recognized standards.



It is important to pay attention to the specific End-Of-Life label (Home compostable is different from Industrial compostable)



Home composting requires proper conditions and time to work effectively, which may not be feasible for all consumers.



About SISTERS and this Practice Abstract

This practice abstract was elaborated in the framework of the SISTERS project, based on the EIP AGRI practice abstract format. © 2024

Project dates: from November 2021 to April 2026.

Goal: to systemically reduce food loss and waste in the main stages of the food value chain in Europe through innovations targeted to each stage of the chain.

