Eco-Products Learning

Welcome to the Eco-Products Learning Center!

The content in our online Learning Center explores **eight learning areas** essential to understanding who we are, what we do, and why we do it.

We've divided the content into units starting with the basics before moving into deeper detail and more advanced topics.

Each unit includes:

Study Guide
For guided notetaking and increased comprehension

Video Playlist
Watch them all at once, or break them up to fit into your schedule

Quizzes
To test your recall and record your progress

Eight Learning Areas:

Company

Products

Beginning-of-Life

End-of-Life

Certifications

Services

Legislation

Success Stories

Unit 2

In Unit 2, we expand on topics introduced in Unit 1, and introduce more of our service offerings.

Unit 2 Videos:

- Veda™ Reusables (1:46)
- Recycling Challenges (1:41)
- Why Contamination Ruins Compost (1:41)
- Field Testing Compostable Packaging (3:00)
- CIRC Program (1:32)
- Product Carbon Footprint Reports (1:27)
- Product & Zero Waste Specialists (1:36)
- Legislation 101 (2:46)
- PFAS and Foodservice Packaging (1:31)

Watch at ecoproducts.com

Guided Note-Taking

Fill out these worksheets as you watch each video to guide your note taking and highlight key takeaways.

PRODUCTS

Veda™ Reusables

Our newest product platform features sturdy, reusable clamshells with integrated tracking & collections.

Veda's tracking and collection technology was developed by our partner _____

Veda containers are:

1. **Made with heavyweight _____**
2. **Work best in _____ _____foodservice environments that have tracking and collection programs in place**
3. **_____ to meet food protection and sanitation standards.**
4. **Ecolab ware tested for _____ washes**

PRODUCTS

Veda™ Reusables

Meet Veda, our newest line of environmentally responsible foodservice products specifically designed for the rigors of reuse programs and powered by tracking and collection technology developed by our partner OZZI.

Veda containers are

- Reusable
- Made with heavyweight polypropylene
- Work best in closed system foodservice environments that have tracking and collection programs in place
- NSF- certified to meet food protection and sanitation standards. Ecolab ware tested for 1,000 washes
- Equipped with proprietary barcode tracking and collection technology that integrates with leading campus meal plan systems like Atrium, Transact, and Seaboard
- Capable of generating real-time collection data when paired with OZZI collection machines.

So how does it work?

A customer gets a meal served in a Veda container and a token or deposit credit is taken at the time of purchase.

The customer takes their meal to go and enjoys it somewhere not far like their office, breakroom, classroom, or dorm room.

The customer returns the used container to a dedicated collection location and gets their token or credit returned to them. Systems that feature OZZI collection machines are able to credit customers automatically when containers are returned and give program managers the data they need to monitor the collection rate for every container in their system.

Once the container is collected, it is either washed on site or transported to an off-site washing hub, typically through a partnership with a warewash service provider. Finally, the clean container is returned to its point of purchase where it is ready to be used again.

Find out more at ecoproducts.com

END-OF-LIFE

Recycling Challenges

Recycling foodservice packaging can be tricky, because MRFS want clean and dry materials.

The chasing arrows triangle 

- ☐ Is a recycling symbol
- ☐ Is not a recycling symbol

The chasing arrow number indicates the type of _____ _____ a product is made from.

Most material recovery facilities, or MRFS, want the recyclable materials to be

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Most MRFS DO / DO NOT do not accept soiled foodservice products.

Even if a material could be recycled, when a load gets contaminated with _____ the products may get sent to _____ instead.

When recycling is the best option, make sure the packaging you're using is

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

END-OF-LIFE

Recycling Challenges

Recycling can be a great way to reduce waste from landfills – but when it comes to foodservice packaging, things can get a bit tricky.

Many people think that any item that has the chasing arrows triangle means that product is recyclable. However, this is a common misconception, as the chasing arrow number only indicates the type of plastic resin a product is made from.

While recycling rules and product acceptance can vary depending on location, most material recovery facilities, or MRFS, want the recyclable materials to be clean, dry, and larger than 2 inches in diameter. Most MRFS do not accept soiled foodservice products. When packaging is covered in leftover food, grease, or liquid, it can spoil the entire batch of recyclables. So, even if the material could be recycled, when a load gets contaminated with food residue, the products may get sent to landfill instead.

So, what's the solution? First, reduce waste where you can by choosing reusable or compostable options if infrastructure exists. When recycling is the best option, make sure the packaging you're using is accepted at your local facility, and ensure that the material is clean and dry before you chuck it in the recycle bin.

Foodservice packaging plays a big role in our daily lives. By understanding the correct disposal method and how the end-of-life systems work, we can all do our part to keep valuable materials out of landfills and allow for products to live on and be used again and again. To learn more, visit ecoproducts.com

END-OF-LIFE

Why Contamination Ruins Compost

Contamination from non-compostable products is the biggest challenge composters must overcome.

Common Compost Contaminants Include:

- Hard Plastics
- Metals
- Paper Towels
- Chip Bags
- Banana Peels
- Rubber gloves
- Glass
- PLA Cups
- Wood Chips

It's EASY / DIFFICULT to remove contamination once it gets to a composting facility.

END-OF-LIFE

Why Contamination Ruins Compost

Hi, everybody. My name is Clinton Sander; I am the marketing manager for A1 Organics. We are located here in Colorado, and we are the largest commercial compost manufacturer in the state.

When material comes to A1 Organics it will come in a very large load. It's all co-mingled, so it could be yard trimmings, food waste, it can be compostables it's all mixed into one blend.

When it shows up like this, and there's contamination in here as you can see, it's really challenging and difficult to remove these materials from the entire pile.

What are the most common contaminants that we're seeing coming in the stream?

Different types of lightweight plastics, chip bags, blue rubber gloves, hard plastic, glass, and metals. This is a glass bottle that's going to shatter into thousands of little pieces. Then you have your real random ones that is not compostable that is not a material that we'd like does this compostable

Contamination causes such impact, and the easiest way to solve it is at the beginning in the smallest bin. Get it out. Don't put it in there. It just goes all the way and causes all this challenge. The only way we're going to be able to continue to support this specific stream is that contamination has to be removed at the beginning.

I'm sitting here looking at some amazing, beautiful composting process by the way. It's really hot which is really awesome. Mother Nature doing it it's work right here. We're creating an amazing finished product that provides so much benefit to the environment, but if contamination is in it it's just going to stop this whole process. It starts with you at the beginning, don't put anything in there that doesn't belong.

END-OF-LIFE

Field Testing Compostable Packaging

We don't stop at lab testing for BPI certification, we also work with composters around the country to test our products in the field.

What three partners worked on this field-testing project?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

CMA stands for

_____ _____
_____

Field Testing Process

Fill bags with _____ material and products.

Let them sit through the whole _____ process.

Sift through the bags looking for _____, _____, or whatever _____ is being tested.

Look for just the last _____ _____.
That's what we consider a _____ for CMA.

CERTIFICATIONS

Field Testing Compostable Packaging

A1 Organics is a proud local company. We've been in business for 50 years. We're excited to be working with another local company Eco-Products who produces compostable packaging for which we're testing right here in the state of Colorado

When we think back to some of our most important zero waste success stories here in the Boulder County area, A1 Organics has been with us every step of the way. They were an early pioneer in accepting compostable packaging and working together with some of our largest operators in order to achieve a zero-waste event. A1 Organics has made the choice to continue to accept compostable foodserviceware and packaging, but it's really important to make sure that these materials continue to break down in the processes they said they would.

The Compost Manufacturing Alliance is a group that is actually out field testing compostability of foodserviceware products, packaging, materials that are all compostable. Eco-Products is creating these materials. It's important to make sure that their products are breaking down in our compost piles.

So what we do for field testing compostable products is we have a series of these bags that we're putting in these giant piles here to test for compost. Each one of these bags is filled with fresh compostable material alongside fresh products. We will let them sit through the whole composting process, and then we'll come here at the end and we'll sift through each one of these bags and look for those finished products to see if we have any remaining plastics, fibers, whatever type of base material we're testing, and what we're looking for is really just the last identifier tag. That's what we consider a pass for CMA.

We're all working together we have a much better chance of advancing zero waste communities when we want to employ compostables and get food scraps out of the landfill and into compost. We want customers to have confidence that they can buy materials know they're doing the right thing going to break down in Colorado, and then we can do it all over again. A1 Organic's mission is to be the organic waste solution for a more sustainable Colorado and produce material that goes back and captures carbon in our soil.

Eco-Products is a mission driven organization. We're committed to making sure our packaging helps keep food scraps out of the landfill. In order for that to be achieved it requires partnerships: Partnerships with composters, partnerships with haulers, partnerships with operators, and with the certification partners that can confirm that our products will work as intended in the compost pile. We're excited for this project to demonstrate the zero-waste success stories that are achievable when we work together.

SERVICES

CIRC Program

This open-source toolkit helps create zero-waste systems from procurement through finished compost.

THE ISSUE: _____ from non-compostable products and materials is one of the biggest problems facing composters accepting material from post-consumer sources.

CIRC stands for:
C_____ I_____ to R_____ C_____

The program will be _____, meaning it will be available to all.

The CIRC Scorecard is divided into four sections:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

SERVICES

CIRC Program

THE ISSUE: Contamination from non-compostable products and materials is one of the biggest problem facing composters accepting material from post-consumer sources. Consumer education is low and most composters have a limited ability to deal with contamination once it gets to their facilities. This means that a contamination mitigation system that begins with procurement and extends through operations, communications and hauler engagement must be in place if we expect to send composters a post-consumer organics stream they can work with.

One solution is our new program, CIRC - CIRC stands for Controls Intended to Remove Contamination.

What does CIRC do? - The CIRC Program is a scalable, operator-level verification mechanism designed to increase composter confidence in organics streams that contain post-consumer food scraps and packaging.

Goals of CIRC: "Systematically control and mitigate contamination from non-compostable materials. Increase composter confidence in organics streams that contain post-consumer food scraps and certified packaging. Demonstrate that a systems approach to contamination mitigation is possible in an array of foodservice environments."

Foodservice Operators, Composters, Haulers, Industry Audiences, Food Packaging Manufacturers, Associations, NGOs, etc.)

The program will be open-sourced, meaning it will be available to all.

CIRC will use scorecards to facilitate conversations between operators, haulers, and composters around the right mix of contamination controls for a given operator.

While we are not calling the program a “certification”, we will refer to operators that have gone through the process as “CIRC Approved”.

The scorecard is divided up into four sections – Procurement, Operations, Communications, and Hauler Engagement.

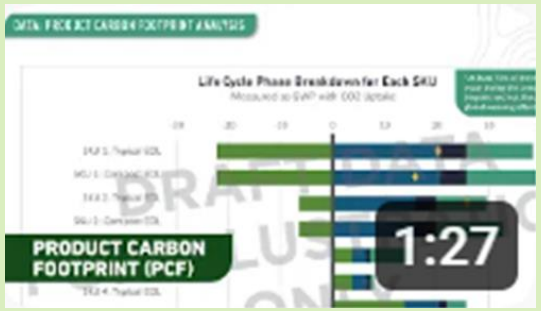
Over the past 6 months, we've gathered feedback from stakeholders such as operators, composters, industry organizations to see how feasible these controls are. Now, CIRC is ready to roll out so we can all start benefiting from it.

With CIRC, we can help solve the problem of contamination from non-compostable products to make the stream cleaner. Together we can improve composting and recycling infrastructure, and collaborate to shift how the world manages resources

SERVICES

Product Carbon Footprint Reports

We can supply, free of charge, a report detailing the carbon impacts of products used by our customers



Product Carbon Footprint analysis accounts for the _____ impacts from _____ _____emissions associated with every product we make.

GWP =

G _____ W _____ P _____

The total value includes inputs from

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

GWP with Carbon Uptake accounts for

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

throughout the life cycle of a product

SERVICES

Product Carbon Footprint Reports

One of the unique value-added services we provide at Eco-Products is custom Product Carbon Footprint analysis or PCF, which accounts for the carbon impacts from greenhouse gas emissions associated with every product we make.

This means we can supply, free of charge, a report detailing the carbon impacts of products that were purchased during a specific time period.

To determine the greenhouse gas emissions associated with a product, carbon dioxide equivalent values are measured throughout the product's life cycle. To do this, we utilize a combination of primary data from our value chain combined with inputs of secondary data from resources like the ecoinvent database.

The total value includes inputs from raw materials, the manufacturing processes, secondary packaging, and end of life, as well as the transportation that occurs between and during each life cycle phase.

While we have data for our products in a variety of life cycle indicators, we currently share product impacts in the life cycle indicator of Global Warming Potential (GWP) with Carbon Uptake, unless otherwise specified. GWP with Carbon Uptake accounts for carbon sequestration and biogenic carbon emissions, in addition to anthropogenic emissions*, throughout the life cycle of a product.

To learn more go to ecoproducts.com/product-carbon-footprint

SERVICES

Product & Zero Waste Specialists

Our team of regional experts help customers and composters navigate the world of compostables.

PZW Duties Include:

1. Keeping up to speed on local _____, _____, and _____ infrastructure

2. Supporting _____ and _____ sales reps with key operator opportunities

3. Gatekeeping _____ and _____ specific to our network of _____ and haulers in their marketplace

4. Assisting in the advancement of _____ operators by offering both _____ and _____ support

SERVICES

Product & Zero Waste Specialists

Our Product & Zero Waste Specialists (PZW) are a group of market-based experts who work across the value chain to provide Eco-Products customers with a wide array of value-added services, all while helping to create meaningful waste diversion success stories to inspire others.

Our dynamic team members come to Eco-Products with backgrounds in composting as well as hauling, foodservice, sustainability, and local government with deep connections in the regions where they operate.

Waste diversion can be complex at times, but our PZWs make it look seamless. Creative thinking is their forte when it comes to implementing solutions from procurement through waste collection to help Eco-Products customers get as close to zero waste as possible.

PZW Duties Include:

- Keeping up to speed on local legislation, policy, and composting infrastructure
- Supporting broker and distributor sales reps with key operator opportunities
- Gatekeeping database and analytics specific to our network of composters and haulers in their marketplace
- Assisting in the advancement of waste-diverting operators by offering both marketing and training support

The best part of our PZW story is that if you are an Eco-Products customer or partner, you already have access to the unique sustainability and compliance-focused value that our PZW team provides.

To connect with the PZW in your area, go to ecoproducts.com/product-zero-waste-specialists.

LEGISLATION

Legislation 101

Three categories of legislation apply to foodservice packaging: PFAS regulation, product labeling, and EPR

As of June 2025, how many U.S. States have banned the use of intentionally added PFAS in food packaging?

_____

In January of 2020, the _____ _____ _____ added rules around the intentional use of fluorinated chemicals for the products they certify.

The Eco-Products® _____ line was the first set of products to be BPI-Certified under the new rules,

Which two states currently have labeling requirements for compostable products?

1. _____
2. _____

EPR stands for

_____ _____ _____

EPR programs are typically established to boost the _____, _____, and _____ rates of specified materials.

LEGISLATION

Legislation 101

Over the last few years there has been a considerable amount of legislation in the United States related to single-use packaging and foodservice products specifically. This video is designed to provide an overview of the key legislative categories as of June 2025 and may not reflect more recent regulatory activity.

Fluorinated Chemicals / PFAS

Per and polyfluorinated substances, often abbreviated as PFAS, are sometimes used to increase performance and grease resistance.

As of June 2025, 12 U.S. states - California, Colorado, Connecticut, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington – have banned the use of intentionally added PFAS in food packaging.

In January of 2020, the Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI) added rules around the intentional use of fluorinated chemicals for the products they certify.

BPI's standards for PFAS have been adopted by every state with legislation in this category, meaning that if a fiber product is BPI-Certified, it also meets all state requirements for the use of fluorinated chemicals.

The Eco-Products® Vanguard™ line was the first set of products to be BPI-Certified under the new rules, and it remains one of the largest assortment of no-added PFAS products in the industry.

Labeling Requirements for Compostable Products

Bioplastic and bioplastic-lined items in Washington and Colorado are required to:

- Meet ASTM standards for compostability
- Display a third-party certification logo
- Feature the word "Compostable"
- Utilize coloring, striping, or symbols that differentiate the item from non-compostable products green only in Colorado, and green, brown, or beige in Washington.

The Eco-Products Veridian™ collection of tinted and printed compostable products is designed to help customers follow these new rules.

Extended Producer Responsibility

Extended Producer Responsibility or EPR programs are typically established to boost the recycling, composting, and reuse rates of specified materials. Some EPR laws within the United States may also:

- Establish post-consumer recycled content targets for covered materials
- Mandate reusable and refillable packaging
- Enforce source reduction
- Restrict the use of certain materials
- Reward producers for conducting Life Cycle Analysis and acting on the findings

As of June 2025, seven US states – California, Oregon, Colorado, Maine, Minnesota, Maryland, and Washington have passed laws to establish EPR systems for packaging.

LEGISLATION

PFAS and Foodservice Packaging

Many organizations have begun to phase out PFAS in consumer products, including Eco-Products

PFAS are known for their _____, _____, and _____ resistance

What industries use PFAS?

- ☐ Foodservice packaging
- ☐ Clothing
- ☐ Textiles
- ☐ Personal care products
- ☐ Automotive
- ☐ Aerospace

PFAS are commonly known as _____ _____ because the chemical bonds are extremely strong

When the _____ _____ _____, updated its certification standards to prohibit intentionally added fluorinated chemicals, and we introduced our _____ line.

LEGISLATION

PFAS and Foodservice Packaging

You've probably heard a lot about PFAS, but what are they, and where did they come from?

PFAS stands for Per-and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances. They are a family of man-made chemicals that were invented in the late 1930s. They are known for their water, oil, and grease resistance, making them useful in industries such as foodservice packaging, clothing, textiles, personal care products, automotive, and aerospace.

PFAS are commonly known as "forever chemicals". The fluorine-carbon bond in PFAS is one of the strongest bonds in chemistry, making these substances extremely durable. Over time, PFAS can build up in the environment. After decades of consistent use of PFAS, scientists have begun to see the negative effects of PFAS exposure in humans and animals. In response, many organizations, companies, and states have begun the work to phase out PFAS in consumer products. For instance, the Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI), updated its certification standards to prohibit intentionally added fluorinated chemicals, and we've introduced our Vanguard line.

Since 2022, we've helped customers in states requiring foodservice products to contain no intentionally added PFAS transition to Vanguard products. The best way to identify our Vanguard line with no intentionally added PFAS is to look for the Vanguard or BPI logo.

To learn more, visit ecoproducts.com

Continuing Education

Stay up-to-date on our company, products, & industry

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