

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

You may choose to 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 1: Introduction & Foundations

In Unit 1, we introduce the basics of each learning area to get you started with a solid foundation.

We recommend starting here even if you've known us for a while, because our dynamic world is always changing.

Watch at ecoproducts.com

Unit 1 Videos:

- The Eco-Products Difference (2:17)
- Product Platforms (1:35)
- Materials
 - PLA (:43)
 - Sugarcane (:34)
 - Bamboo (:48)
 - RPET (1:10)
- Composting (1:30)
- Compostability Certifications (1:48)
- Services Overview (2:00)
- Success Story (4:11)

Guided Note-Taking

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

COMPANY

The Eco-Products Difference

Eco-Products is a leading brand of environmentally responsible foodservice packaging.



We only make products with:

1. _____

or

2. _____

Or that are:

1. _____

2. _____

or

3. _____

The term _____ is literally in our mission and vision statements.

We're a certified _____.

This third-party certification for social and environmental performance proves that we are "walking-the-talk" and pushes us to be the best we can be.

The Pillars of our Value Proposition are:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

COMPANY

The Eco-Products Difference

Eco-Products is a leading brand of environmentally responsible foodservice packaging.

Everything we make comes with real environmental benefits but lots of companies make green products what makes us so special?

Eco-Products is more than just a packaging company we're a true sustainability partner.

We're mission driven. The majority of our products are made with renewable resources or post-consumer recycled content. Many of those products are compostable or recyclable. We also have a line of reusable products that have their own collection and tracking system. The term zero waste is literally in our mission and vision statements.

1. Bundle: We have the broadest bundle of green packaging available. For operators who are composting it's crucial they use only compostables. That way customers can throw everything into one bin, the compost bin, along with food scraps, and reduce the risk of contamination. That's just one of the reasons having more than 400 items matters to customers.

2. Innovation: We aren't satisfied with the status quo. Our award-winning product team and cutting-edge development

stay ahead of customer demand and changing regulations.

3. Services: We have a whole staff of experts who can help our customers with sustainability goals, waste diversion, and compliance. We offer marketing and sustainability services at no extra charge. Want a custom poster or table tent? How about a custom product? Or even Product Carbon Footprint Analysis? By offering marketing and sustainability services at no additional charge we help our customers meaningfully incorporate green into their brands.

4. Advocacy: We are committed to solving the world's waste problems and supporting a more circular economy. That's why Eco-Products works with other industry leaders on increasing access to composting and recycling, and improving waste diverting systems. We're members of multiple industry organizations pushing for change.

When it comes to green packaging Eco-Products can confidently say "we got this" in a way no other packaging company can.

Let us be your partner.

PRODUCTS

Our Product Lines

Our products are organized into three platforms that account for raw material type and end-of-life potential.



When developing our products we have always tried to balance:

1. _____

3. _____

2. _____

4. _____

GreenStripe products are:

BlueStripe products are:

Veda products are:

PRODUCTS

Our Product Lines

We've been at this for over 30 years, and the one thing that has remained constant during that time is our commitment to creating and maintaining a product mix that balances environmental benefits, performance, economics, and market needs.

That can be tough, particularly as factors like technology, regulatory requirements, and recovery dynamics shift.

To make it easy, our products are organized into three platforms that take into account raw material type and end-of-life potential.

GreenStripe products are made with renewable resources and are compostable.

We think using renewable materials like PLA and molded fiber for single-use items makes good sense, regardless of whether or not you have the ability to compost them.

And we know that compostable products are a critical tool in the effort to keep food waste out of landfills.

BlueStripe products are made with post-consumer recycled materials and have varying degrees of recyclability.

Using post-consumer materials helps support recycling by driving end-market demand, which is critical to the long-term viability of recycling as we know it.

Veda products are reusable and are supported by proprietary tracking and collection technology.

These products are perfect for reusable programs in closed-system environments like colleges, universities, stadiums, and corporate campuses.

Whatever your needs are, there's a good chance we have something that will work.

BEGINNING-OF-LIFE

Raw Materials

The top four materials we use to make foodservice packaging are PLA, Sugarcane, Bamboo, and RPET.



MATERIAL	FACTS AND BENEFITS	PRODUCTS

MATERIAL	FACTS AND BENEFITS	PRODUCTS

MATERIAL	FACTS AND BENEFITS	PRODUCTS

MATERIAL	FACTS AND BENEFITS	PRODUCTS

BEGINNING-OF-LIFE

Raw Materials

PLA is derived from plants like corn, sugarcane, or cassava. These plant-based starches are processed into a biopolymer that looks acts like a traditional petroleum-based plastic.

With the circular benefits of being made from renewable, plant-based materials and being compostable in commercial composting facilities – this versatile raw material is a fan favorite for earth-loving fans.

You will find PLA in many of our GreenStripe® products, from PLA-lined molded fiber, to clear cold cups, clear clamshells and deli containers. CPLA (crystalized PLA) for heat tolerant cutlery and hot cup lids.

Sugarcane is a renewable, plant-based resource that is grown primarily for cane juice extraction. Once the juice is extracted, the remaining sugarcane fiber, known as bagasse, is commonly incinerated or discarded. Making our molded fiber products with bagasse promotes the reclamation of this versatile, renewable resource.

We use sugarcane in our broad array of GreenStripe® molded fiber products including plates, bowls, and trays.

Bamboo is the fastest growing plant in the world. It's considered a rapidly renewable resource with many climate benefits. Many bamboo species sequester more carbon and reintroduce more oxygen to the atmosphere than trees.

Since bamboo grows from its own root system, it does not require an ecosystem-disturbing replanting process and is

naturally renewable. The undisturbed soil helps with water retention and preventing erosion. It can also provide economic benefits to its farmers, as it can be grown on land that may not be suitable for other agricultural purposes

We use bamboo in our broad array of GreenStripe® molded fiber products including plates, bowls, and trays.

PET is one of the most common plastics in the world. You have probably seen this plastic in your soda and water bottles that are marked with the resin code #1. PET is petroleum-based and is one of the most commonly recycled plastics – particularly when it is in bottle form. Post-consumer recycled PET (rPET) provides a new life to plastics that would have otherwise gone to a landfill, while also creating opportunities for other products to be made from a post-consumer resource.

We use the highest amount of rPET that we possibly can in the different products we make from this material – anywhere from 30% – 100%. Fewer virgin traditional PET + more post-consumer recycled PET = a lower product carbon footprint potential and supports a more circular approach to resource use.

We use post-consumer recycled PET (rPET) in our BlueStripe cold cups and lids, as well as in many of the lids that go on molded fiber bases. NONE of these items are compostable.

END-OF-LIFE

Intro to Industrial Composting

Industrial composters use science and microbes to turn compostable materials into a valuable soil amendment



Materials industrial composters may accept include:

1. _____

and/or

2. _____

and/or

3. _____

Methods of industrial composting include:

1. _____

2. _____

In both methods, compost piles are monitored for ideal conditions including:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Compost piles can reach up to _____ °F which is crucial to _____

END-OF-LIFE

Intro to Industrial Composting

Have you ever wondered what happens after you toss that compostable cup into the compost bin?

Turns out it is a fascinating process full of wonder, societal benefits, and science.

Industrial composting facilities utilize several different methods to produce a finished product, and they accept a range of materials including yard waste, food scraps, and compostable food service products.

Windrow style composting consists of long piles in which the material is turned by machines to promote aeration.

Aerated static pile composting or ASP achieves aeration by forcing air through the pile and so it does not have to be physically turned.

In both processes the piles are monitored for ideal conditions which include temperature, moisture, oxygen levels, and the correct carbon to nitrogen ratio.

When optimal conditions are achieved, microbes flourish and the pile heats up - anywhere from 131 to

160 degrees Fahrenheit!

This is crucial as it kills off potential pathogens and breaks down compostable products.

Once the compost has completed the active phase, it is cured to full maturation. Finally, the material is screened to remove contaminants and larger particles resulting in a beautiful finished product.

Now what was once your cup has been converted into a rich soil amendment that has a plethora of uses.

CERTIFICATIONS

Compostability Certifications

We rely on third-party verification to make claims about the compostability of our products.



Entities that may require certification include:

_____, _____,
_____ & _____

Why is certification and labeling important?

The leading authority on compostable products in North America is:

Criteria to obtain their certification includes:

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

Field testing is provided by _____

CERTIFICATIONS

Compostability Certifications

Third-party certification for compostability is just what it sounds like – an organization other than the company selling the product has verified that it meets certain standards.

Some of the entities that require third-party verification include composters, haulers, foodservice customers of all kinds, and even a few states.

Why? Third-party certification is the best way to distinguish between legitimate compostable products, and “lookalike” packaging that is made to look compostable, but may contain ingredients that prevent it from breaking down.

In North America, the Biodegradable Products Institute or BPI is the leading authority on compostable products, and has been certifying products for commercial compostability for over 25 years.

In order for an item to BPI-Certified, it must meet ASTM standards for compostability, be free of intentionally added PFAS, be labeled with the BPI Certification Mark, and be associated with food.

Testing for BPI-Certification happens in labs under

conditions that approximate real world composting environments. This makes the tests reliable and repeatable across the nearly 30,000 items that BPI certifies.

The Composting Manufacturing Alliance or CMA provides field testing designed to give composters an idea of how a product will perform in specific composting technologies like windrow and aerated static pile.

Field tests have a lot of value for composters, but they take place in variable environments and are highly dependent on operating conditions being maintained appropriately. There is no third-party standard or test method that currently exists for field testing, which can contribute to variability in results.

Eco-Products works extensively with both organizations, and has the widest array of BPI-Certified and CMA Approved available anywhere.

For SKU level certification information on all of our products, please visit ecoproducts.com

SERVICES

Services Overview

We offer a wide range of value-added services, the majority of which come at no extra cost.



Check all the services mentioned:

- Custom Printing
- Custom Embossing
- Custom Shape Design
- Communications Support
- Creative Support
- Marketing Support
- Product Carbon Footprint Reports
- In-Market Support for Composting Infrastructure
- In-Market Support for Legislation Compliance
- Product & Zero Waste Specialist Team
- Advocacy for Composting and Compostable Products

SERVICES

Services Overview

Eco-Products offers services designed to help our customers get the most out of their investments in more sustainable packaging.

Custom printing and custom embossing is available on a broad selection of items including hot cups, cold cups, etc

We also offer custom shape design for customers that don't see what they are looking for in our stock catalog. Our product team has the consultative expertise to guide custom shape projects for QSRs and others that require specific packaging solutions with lower minimums than you might think.

If it is communications and creative support you need, we've got you covered there too. Let "our" Marketing department be "your" Marketing department, helping you tell your story, and communicate effectively about the products you are using.

We even offer custom Product Carbon Footprint reports that detail the carbon impacts associated with our products. We spent over two years overhauling our approach to this service, and are excited to share what we've learned.

Working with Eco-Products also means unlimited access to in-market support on composting infrastructure and legislation. Our team of Product and Zero Waste Specialists or PZWs is the biggest and best in the business, and they are your key to understanding composting infrastructure and legislation in your area.

To top it all off, we spend an enormous amount of time advocating for composting and compostable products. If there is a conversation happening about compostable products in your community, there is a good chance we'll be there.

To learn more visit ecoproducts.com

Continuing Education

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

Subscribe
to our Newsletter

Follow us
@ecoproducts