

BioPlastics: Separating fact and fiction

Webinar

Tuesday 21 September 2021
10:00am - 12:00pm

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TICKETS

AIEN Member: \$77 inc GST
Non Member \$110 inc GST

REGISTER NOW

<https://events.humanitix.com/aien210921>

A photograph of a white, crumpled plastic shopping bag hanging from a tree branch. The bag is in sharp focus, while the background of green leaves is blurred. The image is partially covered by a green diagonal overlay on the left side of the page.

Across the country, there is momentum at the local, state and national level to tackle the issue of plastic litter in the environment and to make consumer packaging more recyclable.

The National Packaging Targets aim to ensure that 100% of packaging is to be reusable, recyclable or compostable by 2025. The NSW Government is also mandating compulsory FOGO collections by councils by 2030, which will need to be supported by the use of compostable bags made of 'bioplastics' to make it easy for households to separate and recycle this waste stream.

To achieve these policy targets, bioplastics, or plastics made from natural biodegradable material, will play an important role in society. Question being, how do we manage these materials, so they don't impact the existing collection systems and infrastructure the country has for conventional plastic recycling? Will bioplastics deliver the environmental benefits that governments are seeking to achieve?

To explore these issues and shape the agenda for the appropriate use of bioplastics, AIEN is pleased to host a two-part series commencing with a webinar designed to draw out the issues as seen from the perspectives of different stakeholder groups.

The second part of the series will be a workshop (tentatively set for Feb 2022 in Sydney) to discuss the issues that were raised during the webinar and seek to find common ground and move forward with holistic policy recommendations for the appropriate management of bioplastics.

The outcomes from these two events will be summarised in a paper to be published shortly after the workshop. The AIEN intends to continue to pursue resolution of any outstanding issues.

We look forward to your involvement in this important industry event.

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

1000	Welcome and housekeeping Colin Barker, Chair - Australian Industrial Ecology Network
1010	Setting the scene and webinar/workshop series objectives Hugh Williams, Marketstrat Business Advisors
1020	A National Compostable Packaging Strategy for Australia Lily Barnett, Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation • The current state of compostables in Australia • Collective actions to help ensure that compostable packaging is recovered at end of life and has beneficial end uses • The strategic direction on appropriate application of compostable packaging.
1035	Compostable Film Solutions Scott Morton, BioBag World Australia • What is Compostable Film? • Where do Compostable Films fit in the Australian Market? • New market opportunities for Compostable Film?
1050	Comfort Break
1100	The Bioplastic Product Market Opportunity: Green Bags - A user perspective Tracy Chalk, Penrith City Council • To what extent is the council's leadership driving this • Compostable plastic bags for FOGO collections - what's worked, what hasn't worked? • Key learnings and benefits that other councils can take to inform their FOGO collection programs
1115	The Downstream Challenges Outlined: Separation and Recycling Systems Kurt Palmer, CEMAC Technologies • What challenges do bioplastics present in a separation environment? • How can we accommodate/resolve these challenges in the future? The Downstream Challenges Outlined: Composting Charlie Emery, Soilco • How appropriate are the current bioplastic standards? • How is compliance being achieved? • Managing contamination • Potential risks to the composting industry as quantities of bioplastics increase
1140	Comments, Questions and Discussion
1155	What's Next? – February 2022 Workshop Introduction Hugh Williams, Marketstrat Business Advisors