

Sustainable materials

Products with environmental potential

Better bags

Made from cornstarch and synthetic polymers, BioBag is a biodegradable alternative to paper or polyethylene. The BioBag can be reused, recycled, composted or incinerated. According to its manufacturer, the bag degrades in 10 to 45 days depending on the composting method. **Contact:** www.biobag.ca



Dense and durable

100 Percent panels are composed entirely of post-consumer recycled high-density polyethylene (HDPE) from used detergent and milk containers. The sheets are recyclable and are part of 3form's reclaim program, which accepts panels, at no cost to the customer, to be reprocessed and resold or recycled into new product. Contact: www.3-form.com



Plates you could eat, almost

EarthShell Packaging foam laminate products are a composite of starches such as potatoes, corn, wheat, rice and tapioca, and inorganic materials such as limestone. EarthShell's biodegradable products, including cups, plates, bowls, hinged-lid containers and sandwich wraps, consume less energy to manufacture and produce less waste than traditional food service disposable packaging. The material can insulate food and is microwavable. **Contact:** www.earthshell.com



Heavy on performance, light on the budget

These biodegradable composite panels are said to be stronger, lighter and cheaper than traditional building materials, with impressive strength to weight ratios. Bio Composite is manufactured from waste agricultural fibres such as bamboo, jute, flax and kenaf, and soy-based resin. **Contact:** www.e2ematerials.com

New paper that's the shit

A Welsh paper company has discovered a way to reuse the undigested cellulose fibres from sheep dung. The poo is sterilized and washed repeatedly over several days, producing usable fibres that are beaten and blended with other recycled pulps and made into Sheep Poo paper. **Contact:** www.creativepaperwales.co.uk

Paper chain

Your guide through forest certifications

Forest Stewardship Council certification

What it is: FSC certification by accredited third-party auditors follows a set of environmental and social standards to ensure forests are responsibly managed. This includes protecting waterways,



wildlife habitat, and old growth forests; regular monitoring of forest management practices; limiting the size of clear cuts; prohibiting genetically modified trees; promoting local communities; and recognizing Aboriginal rights.

How it works:

In order to use the FSC logo on a finished product, every step between the forest and end user must be certified to FSC standards including the sawmills, pulp mills, paper producers, merchants and printers. These suppliers must obtain chain-of-custody certification to track the source, production and transfer of the fibre.

FSC also verifies the legitimacy of any claims that fibre has been

recycled. Use of the recycling mobius loop is not regulated.

FSC works on a credit system. For instance, if 40% of a paper mill's fibre supply is FSC-certified then only 40% of its paper production can be labelled as such. FSC certified content can contain a combination of certified, recycled and/or controlled fibre (from non-certified, forest-friendly sources). **Contact:** www.fscscanada.org

Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification

What it is: PEFC recognizes programs that promote sustainable forest management – maintaining a forest's biodiversity, productivity, regeneration capacity, vitality, social benefit and economic viability – through independent third-party forest certification. PEFC endorses the Canadian Standards Association's National Standard for Sustainable Forest Management (CSA) and the U.S.-based Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI).

How it works: A CSA-labelled product must contain a minimum of 70% certified fibre. Some SFI labels have no minimum requirement but must state the percentage of certified or recovered fibre. Others require that at least 66% of the wood fibre used comes from certified forests, if no percentage is stated on the label. Printers must have CSA or SFI chain-of-custody certification in order to make a claim about the paper being certified. **Contact:**

www.pefc.org; www.csa-international.org; www.sfi-program.org