

A Place for Compostable Packaging



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Keeping plastics in the economy and out of the oceans.

➤ Maximising the recyclability of plastics.

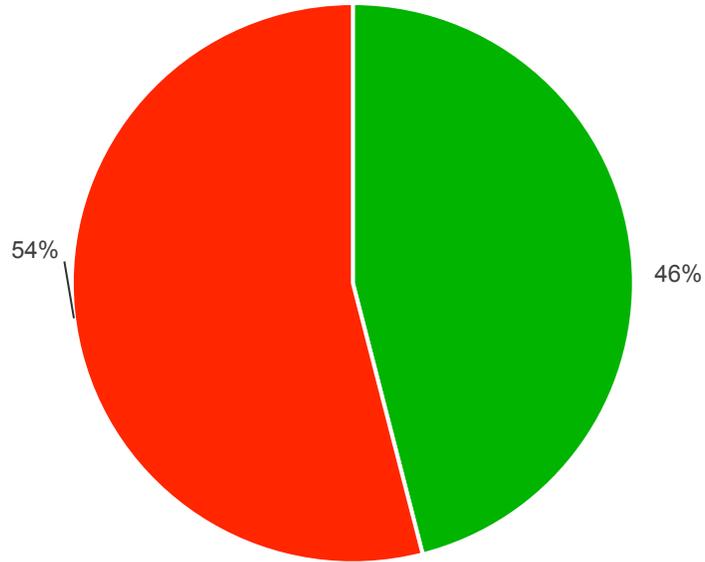
- ✓ Focus has been on where we can make most impact with the packaging we use – hard plastics (pots, tubs and trays).
- ✓ We have also been successful in influencing the labelling system used to communicate recyclability.
- ✓ We have made some changes away from plastic to increase recyclability – pizza discs, tomato packaging.

➤ Avoiding uncontrolled loss to the environment (pollution).

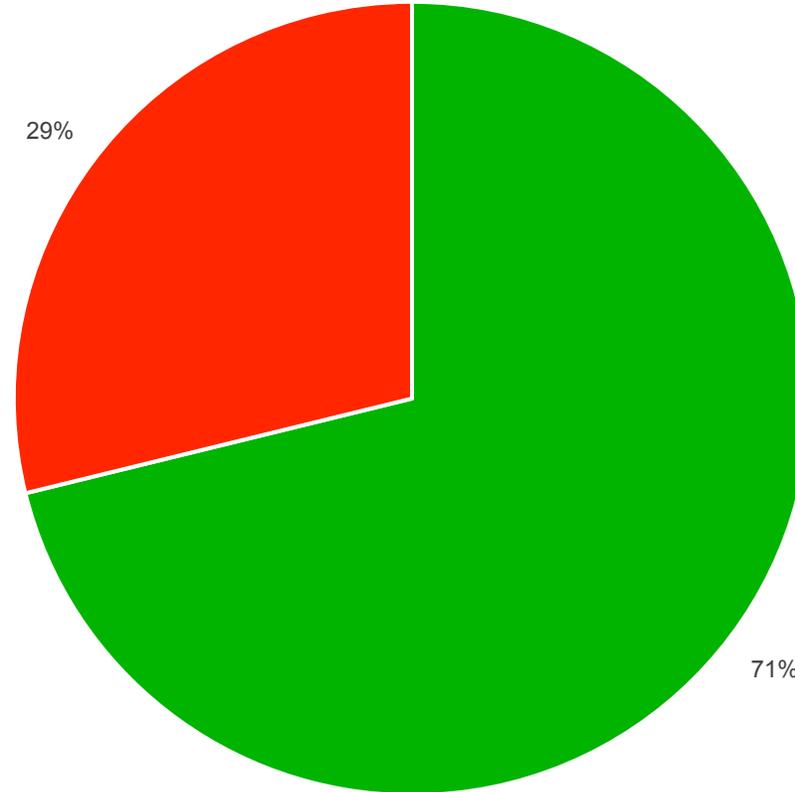
- ✓ We have a strong track record on this – removing plastic stems on cotton buds in 2006, and removing plastic microbeads from Co-op brand over 16 years ago.
- ✓ Recently announced changes to tea bags to improve compostability.

3 Progress on Recyclability

2015 benchmark



Co-op products sold in 2017



Recyclability measured by product line, not by weight.



Not everything can be recycled practically.

Too small to be collected:

- tamper-evident bands
- small labels on fresh fruit

Too complex to separate:

- coffee pods

Too small for sorting machinery:

- milk portion packs
- contact lens packs



Making carrier bags out of compostable material

- Gives them a very valuable second use.
- Supports food waste collections, practically and financially.
- Addresses the convenience and small trader retail sector problem of having a low-cost bag for passing trade and distress purchases where just using a Bag for Life would lead to increased plastic use.
- Has been shown to increase resident engagement and reduce plastic contamination in food waste collections.

Plastic films

- Comprise a very complex range of technical functions.
- Collection and sorting are challenging and expensive.
- Markets for recyclate are limited and are usually downcycling.

Replacing with compostable

- Would be a great solution.
- Would create high-value European jobs in material innovation.

All these solutions need acceptance into food waste collections. That will probably need a marking system, agreed between major stakeholders, not just a small logo on the pack.

- needs to be distinctive.
- for some packaging, needs to be recognisable on fragments, not just the entire pack.
- its use needs to be protected and controlled.



It doesn't have to be complicated.
Percol's green band may be all that's
needed.



The Co-op is brewing up a fully biodegradable paper tea bag, making it the first retailer to find a solution to the problem of plastic waste caused by the nation's favourite beverage.

The convenience retailer's famous own-brand 99 tea will be developed without polypropylene, which is an industry-wide method used to enable teabags to hold their shape. The move could save nine tonnes of plastic every year from being dumped into household rubbish and compost collections.

PackagingNews

Co-op switches to biodegradable bags

The Co-operative is looking to biodegradable materials to help reduce the environmental impact of plastic bags distributed to customers.



Co-op seeks solution to polypropylene in tea bags

THE  TIMES

Co-op's tea goes green to cut plastic



An eco-friendly cuppa? Now teabags are set to go plastic-free

Co-op announces initiative to reduce Britain's plastic waste



▲ Many tea drinkers are blissfully unaware that the teabag from their daily cuppa is sealed using plastic, said Jo Whitfield, chief executive of Co-op Food. Photograph: GJQuinlan/Getty Images/istockphoto

MailOnline

Teabags with plastic-free seals will be made for first time in bid to cut down the 150 tons a year of waste from your favourite cuppa

Thank you for your attention.
Questions?

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