

DBC Eco Church Newsletter

November 2023

Welcome to our Newsletter.

For more information about the Dronfield Baptist Eco Church Group contact – margaret.keen@talk21.com

Bioplastics are complex, so we thought we'd try to clear up some common assumptions surrounding the terms often seen on food and drink packaging, and work out whether they help or hinder the plastic problem.

Here's a whistle-stop guide to the top terms seen on packaging.

Are bioplastics part of the solution or part of the problem?

Bioplastics: An alternative to traditional fossil fuel-based plastics, made from resources such as corn starch, sugarcane, or even algae.

Biodegradable: These will break down through the use of living organisms. However, the time it takes for them to break down can vary significantly and may still leave behind microplastics.

Compostable: These break down into natural components, but rely on the correct composting conditions using high levels of heat, humidity and oxygen. They won't break down in home compost, the sea or in landfill.

Home compostable: These will break down in your home compost bin, along with food waste, typically taking up to 90 days, but often more. Unfortunately, some products labeled as "home compostable" may still contain additives / coatings that leave behind residues.

The role of bioplastics is nuanced. They can present part of the solution to the plastic problem when used in the right circumstances, as they reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, which in turn reduces carbon emissions. However, they can also exacerbate the problem if their production, use, or disposal is not carefully managed, as they require specific conditions to decompose efficiently, and not all of them are truly compostable or biodegradable. This can lead to confusion and mismanagement, potentially adding to further waste problems.

(Taken from an email from Everyday Plastic to me)

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Do you use coffee pods in your coffee machine? If so did you know you can recycle them via Podback. They recycle a variety of makes. Go to the Podback Website and search for your particular brand. You will be sent some bags to collect your pods in and there is information on the website about how to return them. There are at least 2 places in Dronfield that you can take them to for return – The little store on Chesterfield Road, and Morrisons Daily in Greendale Shopping area. They are returned via Yodel and it costs you nothing. If you have any problems then please contact me – Margaret Keen on 07835455940.

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In September I did an article about Second Hand September – well it's not just for September, try to purchase things you need second hand always before you buy new. Conserve resources.

I apologise for only a short Newsletter this month, we got news at short notice that we were moving house, so I thought a short Newsletter was better than none. Will try for a bumper issue next time about Christmas.