

## **BIOCHEM show case**

# **Introduce sustainable packaging for organic food**

## **Problem**

Supermarket consumers buying organic food tend towards the deeper green end of the spectrum of environmental awareness and concern. They demand higher standards in these products.

## **Technical solution**

Responding to consumer pressure, Sainsbury's moved to over 90% of its SO organic produce being packaged in compostable, recycled or recyclable packaging, including cane sugar trays, flow wrap film, labels and netting, which is all made from non-petroleum, sustainable and renewable sources.

Consumers are encouraged to compost the packaging materials after use.

## **Benefits**

The plant-based starch breaks down naturally in a compost heap or bin without needing to be binned or bagged and sent to landfill. In tests, most of the compostable packaging was found to break down quicker than a banana skin. All compostable packaging must be certified to the European standard EN13432, which enables the supermarket to display the Compostable logo. Standards and a logo for "home" composting it in a normal garden compost bin are being developed (for more information, see [here](#)).

Sainsbury's is unique in specifying that the materials used in its compostable packaging must come from non-GM sources.

## **Further information**

Association for Organic Recycling <http://www.organics-recycling.org.uk/>