

You've got questions. We've got answers.

At TemperPack, we understand that sustainability is complex. Recycled content does not imply recyclability. Products that biodegrade may or may not compost at home or in a facility. Here's a little cheat sheet to help you navigate through it all.



Renewable

Natural, non-petroleum-based materials (petroleum-based materials are non-renewable) that will that can be replenished at a rate which equals or exceeds the rate of their usage.



Rapidly Renewable

Natural, non-petroleum-based materials that have harvest cycles under 10 years.



Degradable

A substance that will undergo a process of deterioration or breaking-up by the action of natural forces (air, light, water) or by the addition of certain chemicals.



Biodegradability

A substance that is capable of being broken down (decomposed) rapidly by the action of microorganisms.



Composting

Composting is the natural process of recycling decomposed organic materials into a rich soil known as compost.



Home Compostable

A product that will fully compost in an individual's home compost system and is eligible for certification by the Vinçotte "OK Compost Home" labeling system.



Industrially Compostable

A product that will only compost at regulated temperatures between 55 to 60°C and is eligible for certification by the Vinçotte "OK Compost" labeling program.



Total Embodied Energy

The summation of all greenhouse gas emissions, as expressed as CO₂e per kilogram of material produced, associated with the cradle to grave lifecycle of the product.



Repulpability

Determined by the fiber-on-fiber yield* when processing paper and corrugated products in accordance with standard set forth by the Fibre Box Association and the American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA).

*is the amount of fiber that remains after the processing action, expressed as a percentage of the fiber present in the material to be tested. Greater than 80% is considered as passing.

http://corrugated.org/upload/CPA/Documents/Vol_Std_Protocol_2013.pdf



Recyclability

Any product that is eligible for either curbside collection or for being accepted into recycling programs that use drop-off locations.



Curbside Recyclability

The Sustainable Packaging Coalition has developed a label that can be placed on "recyclable" products. The threshold for full eligibility is at least 60% of consumers should have access to a program that accepts the material for curbside collection.

Paper products can be evaluated for recyclability against performance levels (fiber yield, operations impact, and product requirements) as set forth by the Fibre Box Association and the American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA).

http://corrugated.org/upload/CPA/Documents/Vol_Std_Protocol_2013.pdf

Other Questions?

We love to talk sustainability! If you have more questions about how to lower your carbon footprint or become a more renewable-friendly company, feel free to reach out. Email us today at sales@temperpack.com.