

News Release



Zerust selects BASF's Ecoflex[®] polymer for compostable plastic leaf bags Great Green Earth[™] bags offer alternative to paper products

FLORHAM PARK, N.J., January 24, 2006 -- BASF's [Ecoflex](#) copolyester is helping [Zerust Consumer Products Ltd.](#), Twinsburg, Ohio, to market a clear, plastic compostable bag for lawn and leaf applications.

Zerust's new Great Green Earth bags can be used to replace paper bags for organic waste disposal. Great Green Earth bags are approved by the Biodegradable Products Institute, and are certified via ASTM D6400 for their ability to biodegrade swiftly and safely during municipal or commercial composting. The Great Green Earth bags are manufactured using a proprietary technology developed by Northern Technologies International (NTI), Lino Lakes, Minn. Zerust, the consumer division of NTI, also markets food waste bags and agricultural film under the Great Green Earth brand.

"Municipalities throughout the United States require residents and businesses to dispose of organic waste in 30-gallon paper bags that can then be transported to composting facilities, rather than landfills. The problem with paper is that when it rains, the bags get wet, messy and difficult to handle. Our Great Green Earth bags are clear and tough, and stand up to water. Yet they will biodegrade quickly in a composting facility," said Budd Dworkin, President of Zerust Consumer Products Ltd.

Zerust selected Ecoflex because it is already BPI-certified and meets ASTM D6400 Specification for Compostable Plastics. Ecoflex is part of BASF's [PlasticsPlus[™]](#) specialty plastics portfolio, which includes reliable, high-performance styrenics, biodegradable materials and foams. Great Green Earth bags join a growing list of new compostable products that permit more waste to be diverted from landfills and incinerators.

"To achieve certification, a company must prove that it meets the requirements of ASTM D6400 based on testing in an approved third party lab and confirmation by an independent reviewer," said Steve Mojo, [BPI](#) Executive Director. "Compared to just a few years ago, there are more compostable products in the marketplace, so businesses and consumers can choose ones that meet their needs."

"Ecoflex is the only biodegradable/compostable polymer with the processability and toughness to perform in Zerust's proprietary organic waste application. Great Green Earth bags are a viable alternative to paper products because they biodegrade within 180 days," said Keith Edwards, Market Development Manager, Ecoflex Copolyester, for BASF in North America.

The Great Green Earth compostable leaf bags are produced for Zerust by Marshall Plastic Film, Martin, Mich., on existing equipment.

With its outstanding properties, BASF's Ecoflex is the leading synthetic biodegradable plastic available worldwide. This aliphatic-aromatic copolyester is ideal for bags, paper coatings, disposable packaging or agricultural sheeting because it decomposes in soil or in compost without leaving any residues. BASF manufactures Ecoflex in Ludwigshafen, Germany, at a plant with an annual production capacity of 8,000 metric tons. BASF is planning to increase Ecoflex production by 6,000 metric tons by adding capacity at its Schwarzheide, Germany, site. This expansion is scheduled to be completed early in 2006.

BASF's PlasticsPlus products offer a diverse range of solutions to meet the most unique and demanding requirements for new innovations, including Ecoflex® 100 percent biodegradable plastic, Luran® S acrylonitrile-styrene-acrylate (ASA), Terluran® HH high heat acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene (ABS), Palusol® alkali metal silicate, Basotect® melamine resin foam, PermaSkin® system for coating components, Styroclear styrene butadiene copolymers (SBC), Styroflex® styrene/butadiene block copolymer (SBS), Terluxe® methyl methacrylate/acrylonitrile/butadiene/styrene (MABS), and Terblend® N polyamide and acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene (ABS+PA).

For more information on Ecoflex, please visit www.plasticsportal.com/products/ecoflex.

For more information on Zerust Consumer Products and Great Green Earth bags, please visit www.ntic.com/zconsumer.

For more information on the Biodegradable Products Institute, please visit www.bpiworld.org.

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