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Coming Soon to Stores Near You: Compostable Plastic

First there was wood, then metals, and finally plastics. Now we have reached a point where we have created compostable "plastic" from recyclable material. Plastic is one of the biggest sources of landfill material, but if people can market this new plastic on a large scale it might not be anymore.

On the "Can't We Planet Any Better?" blog, They talked about fully biodegradable "plastic" bottles. These bottles are marketed in the UK and are the current packaging for Innocent Breakfast Thickies, which are a combination of yogurt, oats and fruit juice. The biodegradable bottle is made from completely renewable corn starch, but the material is called poly lactic acid and made in a carbon neutral process. The bottles take about six weeks to break down, according to the blog. Unfortunately, only 10% of the UK's recycling centers have machines that can sort these bottles, so you may want to recycle the cap and compost the bottle yourself.

According to World Centric, for a plastic to be called compostable, it needs to be biodegradable (break down into carbon dioxide, water, biomass at the same rate as cellulose), disintegrate, and have no eco-toxicity (meaning it produces no toxic material and the compost supports plant growth). They also state that other materials that can be used to make the plastic is potato, tapioca, cellulose, and soy protein.

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