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To me, summer can be summed up in one word, picnics. I love them. From the soft, warm grass to the Frisbees and conversations, nothing compares to a great meal on a blanket with friends and family. Traditionally, picnics, while fun, tend to be wasteful. From the paper napkins and plates to the plastic utensils that get thrown away, a day in a park is a big day for the dump.



Old traditions die hard. It's time we all learned a new word: biocompostable.

Question: What does biocompostable mean?

Answer: Biocompostable may not be in Webster's Dictionary (yet) but the word is on the tip of every activists tongue. The word refers to a new range of products that are made from organic materials, like sugarcane, bamboo, corn and reed grasses. All these materials are naturally sustainable and since they are processed without toxins, they all easily, and naturally (that's important!), biodegrade back into the soil.

So, where do biocompostable products and picnics meet? Here's a hint, after the cow jumped over the moon in this nursery rhyme, these two biocompostables ran away together.

Dishes and utensils! World Centric, founded in 2004, is the best one-stop online shop for anything and everything biocompostable. From cups and saucers to dishes and even Tupperware, World Centric is making it.

The problem: most people don't have their own compost pile out back, so buying biocompostable dishes just doesn't make sense.

The solution: most cities have their own public compost sites, and if your city doesn't, why not look into starting your own compost? It's easy! Check out this site: http://www.howtocompost.org/

Made from sugar cane, these cups, bowls and plates are tough. They are two chicken breasts, potato salad, a piece of bread and macaroni tough. They can be microwaved, frozen and refrigerated and still maintain their durability and shape. And if composted, this curious crockery will return from whence it came between 60 and 90 days.

This summer, I propose a toast to sugar cane, sweet as a drink and even sweeter on the table. These low-impact, earth-friendly dishes are really going places, and that includes back into the ground.

Having traveled around the world, Beryl Shereshewsky, a recent



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University of Colorado, Boulder graduate, realized that in life, she wanted to accomplish three things. One, travel more, two, write about what she saw and three, save the world. With the recent advances in the green movement, she realized that she could be a superhero writer and write about saving the world. Combing her powers, she now writes for various eco and travel sites across the web, changing the world one article at a time. Feel like chatting? E-mail her b.shereshewsky@yahoo.com.

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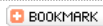
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Posted by Beryl Shereshewsky on July 7, 2008 in Kitchen



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