Compostability Testing Service

Wisconsin Institute for Sustainable Technology
College of Natural Resources
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

Compostability testing in WIST's certified laboratory

As your company develops materials for the sustainable packaging industry, look to the Wisconsin Institute for Sustainable Technology (WIST) for expert testing and certification of the compostability of your materials.

WIST developed its testing protocol to help producers meet the growing market for sustainable packaging. Increasing consumer demand for eco-friendly packaging along with regulatory change, such as municipalities banning single-use food packaging from landfills, is propelling market expansion. Research by The Freedonia Group, Inc., projects global demand for biodegradable and biobased plastics will more than triple by 2015.

WIST's testing protocol includes three stages: a disintegration trial, plant seed germination trial, and biodegradability trial. It takes a minimum of 120 days to complete the full protocol.

In the biodegradability trial, the material being tested is placed in a sealed vessel, and instruments record the amount of CO_2 generated. CO_2 is produced during decomposition and its release is then compared to that of cellulose decomposition, which testing standards specify as the baseline for compostability comparison.

WIST's testing protocol is designed to meet ASTM D6400 and D6868 standards for compostability. The Federal Trade Commission's " Green Guides,"outline how companies may advertise environmental attributes of their products. WIST compostability testing helps companies understand the compostability profile of their products. With that information, they may make certain claims regarding compostability in their marketing.

Right, CO2 capture is automatically recorded in our testing laboratory, providing detailed data on product performance in compostability.

WIST's Compostability Testing Laboratory has been certified by the ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB) to meet ISO 17025 standards.

"This certification is a strong endorsement of the professionalism of our staff and the care we take with our work. This achievement is the result of a team effort and a commitment to quality all the way through our organization." — Paul Fowler, WIST executive director

WIST: the right choice

- **Developed its testing protocol on-site at UW-Stevens Point so staff has complete understanding of the process**
- **Tests material to U.S. ASTM D6400 or D6868 standards**
- **Can perform multiple trials simultaneously**
- **Track record of providing timely, high-quality laboratory services to industry**
- **Expertise in compostable products**
- **Competitive pricing: contact us for project options.**

To learn how WIST compostability testing can assist in your product development contact Amber Davidson, Compostability Testing Laboratory Manager, at 715-346-2671 or by email at Amber.Davidson@uwsp.edu

An industrial composting facility is shown below. The ASTM compostability standards for plastics contemplate composting under aerobic conditions at municipal or industrial facilities.

The Wisconsin Institute for Sustainable Technology —

Creating sustainability solutions and economic opportunities

The Wisconsin Institute for Sustainable Technology (WIST) is a multidisciplinary program of the College of Natural Resources at UW-Stevens Point. WIST offices are in the Science Building and the Dan Trainer Natural Resources Building on the UW-Stevens Point campus.

Direct mail to:
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
Wisconsin Institute for Sustainable Technology
800 Reserve Street
Stevens Point, WI 54481

For more information contact:
Amber Davidson, Compostability Testing Laboratory Manager
Office phone: 715-346-2671
Email: Amber.Davidson@uwsp.edu
WIST is online at www.uwsp.edu/wist

Wisconsin Institute for Sustainable Technology
College of Natural Resources
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

Ed. 2: April 2017
No state tax revenue supported printing of this document.