LET'S FIND OUT ABOUT TWO INNOVATIVE MATERIALS.

DICHEPLASTICA6

PLASTICS AND BIOPLASTICS - TWO RESOURCES WE NEED TO KNOW ABOUT

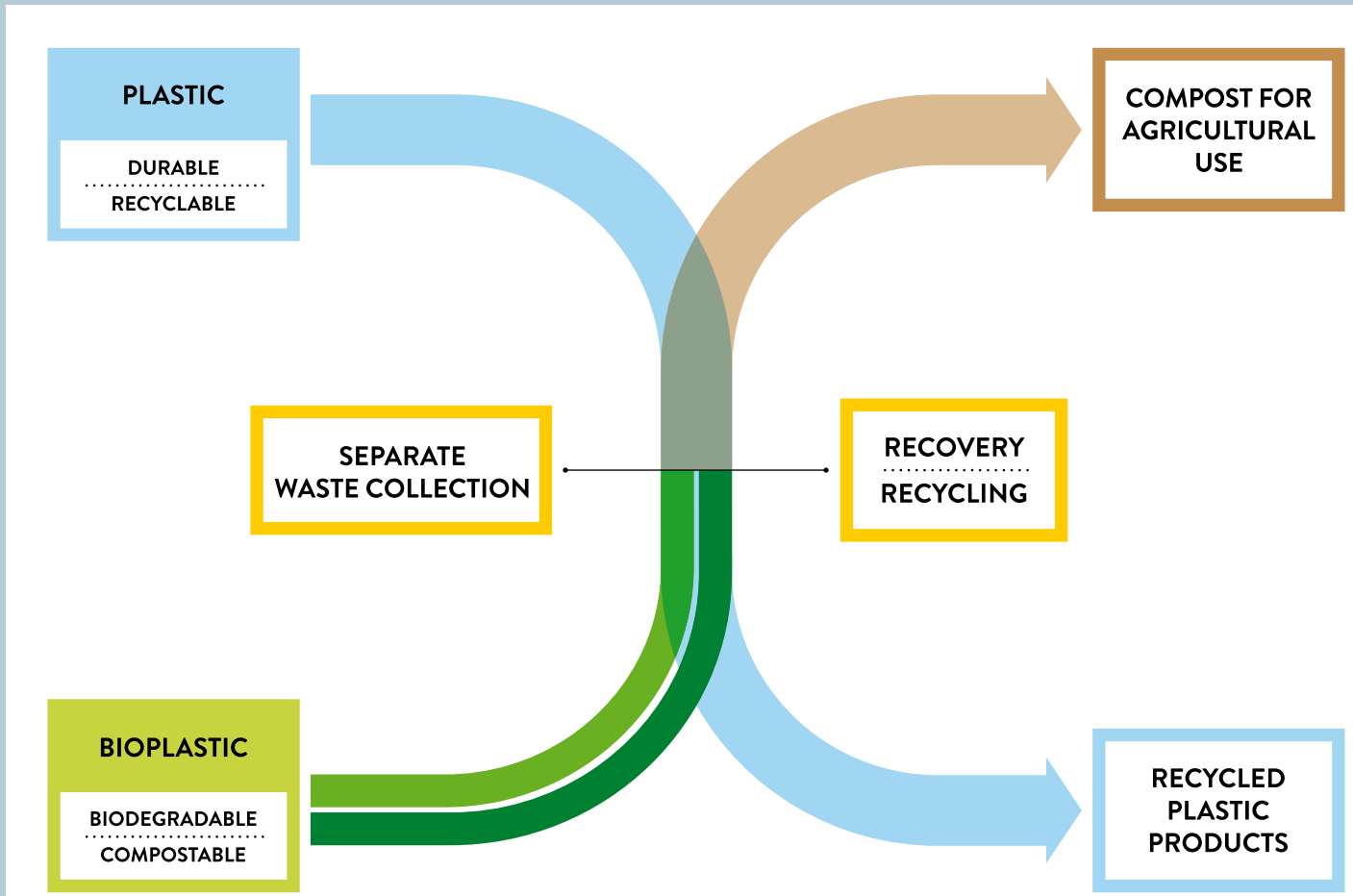
WHAT IS PLASTIC? WHAT IS BIOPLASTIC?
HERE'S WHAT UNITES THEM AND WHAT SEPARATES THEM.

THERE'S NOTHING MORE PLASTIC THAN PLASTIC.

Plastic is a truly **versatile** material.
It is light, cheap, easy to work and to colour.
It ensures electrical, thermal and acoustic insulation.
It is waterproof and resistant to mould and bacteria.
It facilitates the transport of goods.
Plastic packaging also preserves foods, avoiding unnecessary waste.
In addition, plastic has a thousand lives.
Thanks to the industrial recycling system, an excellence at European and global level, plastic packaging is becoming a new **"second" raw material** that is invaluable for making quality products in the most diverse market fields, with considerable savings in raw material. Now the plastics family has a new member: bioplastic.

BIOPLASTIC. AN INNOVATIVE RESOURCE.

Bioplastic is a new type of plastic, derived also from renewable raw materials, whose main feature is that it is **biodegradable** and **compostable** at the end of its life. Biodegradability is the potential for substances and materials to be converted, through the activity of microorganisms, into humus, water and carbon dioxide. A compostable product can be recovered through organic recycling, which includes industrial composting and anaerobic digestion.
Thus the bioplastic returns to nature in the form of valuable **compost**, which is beneficial for the fertility of the soil. Nowadays, the development of regulations on environmental issues and waste management has led to an increase in the production of bioplastic packaging.


PLASTIC
DURABLE
RECYCLABLE
COMPOST FOR AGRICULTURAL USE
SEPARATE WASTE COLLECTION
RECOVERY
RECYCLING
BIOPLASTIC
BIODEGRADABLE
COMPOSTABLE
RECYCLED PLASTIC PRODUCTS

TWO MATERIALS THAT ARE SURE TO GO FAR. TOGETHER AND SEPARATELY.

The first stages of the industrial process to produce plastics and bioplastics are essentially the same, even though they may start out with different raw materials. Once the finished products have been obtained (such as, and to name only the best known, plastic bottles and carrier bags made of bioplastic), the life paths of the two materials continue along parallel lines, passing through the stages of separate waste collection, recovery and recycling, but then arrive at two **different destinations**: the production of a new raw material to make recycled plastic products, and compost, respectively.
Along this journey, nothing finishes and everything is reborn.

PLASTIC WITH PLASTIC, BIOPLASTIC IN THE ORGANIC WASTE. IF IN DOUBT, JUST ASK.

Packaging can – and must – be separated correctly. Let's take the example of **shopping bags**, the disposable carrier bags which, by law*, must be biodegradable and compostable.
These comprise only those bags that comply with international standard UNI EN 13432 and that are marked with the **relevant certifications** (see box opposite). These bags can then be reused for the separate collection of organic waste.
In accordance with the law, reusable bags made of traditional plastic must meet specific requirements (see box opposite) and should be disposed of in the specific containers for separate waste collection.

*Article 2 of Law 28/2012

COMPOSTABLE BAGS:

Carrier bags that comply with standard UNI EN 13432, according to certifications issued by accredited bodies. The symbols of some of the best-known certification bodies are shown here.

compostable

OK compost

VINÇOTTE

compostabile CIC

REUSABLE BAGS MADE OF TRADITIONAL PLASTIC:

EXTERNAL HANDLE

- 200 microns for use in foodstuffs. They must contain 30% recycled plastic.
- 100 microns for other uses. They must contain 10% recycled plastic.

INTERNAL HANDLE

- 100 microns for use in foodstuffs. They must contain 30% recycled plastic.
- 60 microns for other uses. They must contain 10% recycled plastic.

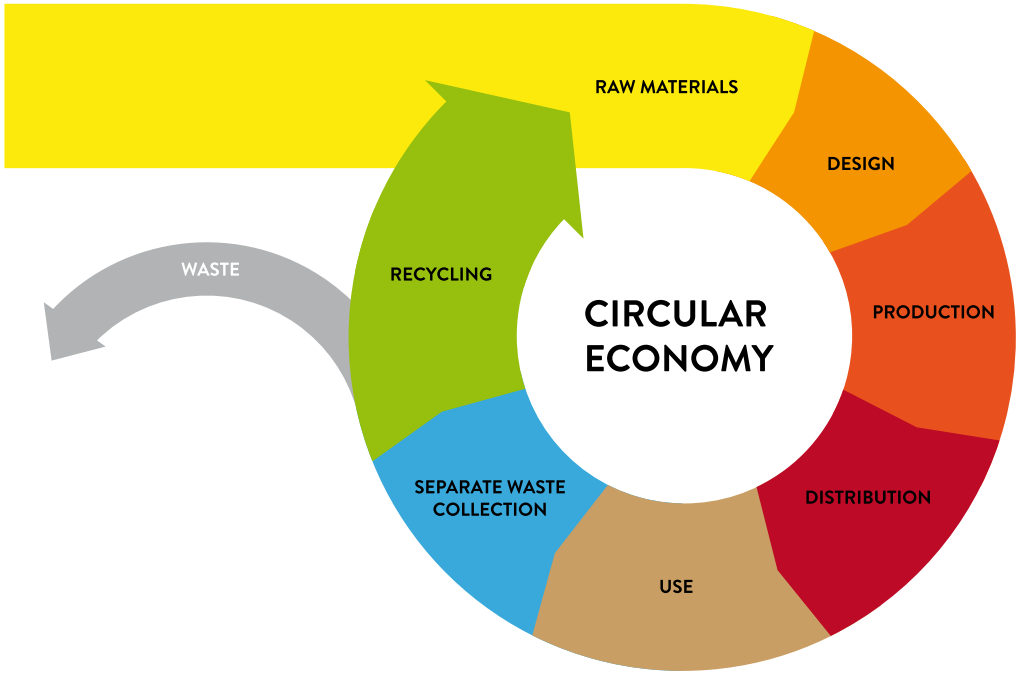
NEW LIFE FOR PLASTIC, BIOPLASTICS AND THE ENVIRONMENT.

By separating packaging correctly, each one of us becomes an essential component of a **virtuous circle**, but not the only one. It is the mission of **COREPLA** (National Consortium for the Collection, Recycling, Recovery of Plastic Packaging) to ensure that the plastic collected separately is sent for recycling and recovery following criteria of efficiency and cost-effectiveness. This is why in Italy today only 0.8% of the plastic packaging collected* ends up in landfills. The consortium also supports research and development initiatives to improve recycling quality and to create new market opportunities.

ASSOBIOPLASTICHE is an association that promotes biodegradable and compostable bioplastic as a material with a high ecological value and it encourages its culture and use, by means of scientific studies, conferences and training courses. The bioplastics industry is a driver of innovation, competitiveness, economic development and job creation. **CIC** (Italian Composting Association) promotes the growth and monitors the quality of the separate collection of organic waste. It is committed to the development of recycled organic waste products, ranging from quality compost to produce organic fertilisers to the biogas used to obtain biomethane. **CONAI** (National Packaging Consortium) currently ensures that the recycling and recovery targets established by law are achieved in Italy. Major economic, social and environmental benefits can be created through the recycling of packaging. It is a **circular economy**, where everyone's a winner: citizens, the business system, the quality of life and the environment.

*COREPLA data 2015

THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY. WHAT IT IS AND HOW IT WORKS.



For more information www.corepla.it - www.assobioplastiche.org - www.compost.it - www.conai.org

ASSO BIOplastiche

CONAI
Consorzio per il Recupero degli Imballaggi

CONSORZIO ITALIANO COMPOSTATORI

COREPLA
Consorzio Nazionale
per la raccolta,
il riciclaggio
e il recupero degli
imballaggi in plastica