

PACKING IT UP: HOW TO CHOOSE AMONG TODAY'S SUSTAINABLE PACKAGING OPTIONS

Packaging materials can have a tremendous impact on food shelf-life, taste, texture, food safety, and, of course, the environment. **Choosing the right material is critical as each option has its own pros and cons.**



With increasing environmental concerns surrounding traditional packaging materials, there is a growing shift towards sustainable alternatives within the food industry.

Fortunately, there are many smart and sustainable alternatives, including more sustainable plastics. How do you know which type of sustainable packaging to select? **Choose the best type for your food product by considering the following:**

First, look at the big picture.



ARE THERE REGULATIONS IN YOUR MARKET THAT IMPACT YOUR PACKAGING CHOICES?

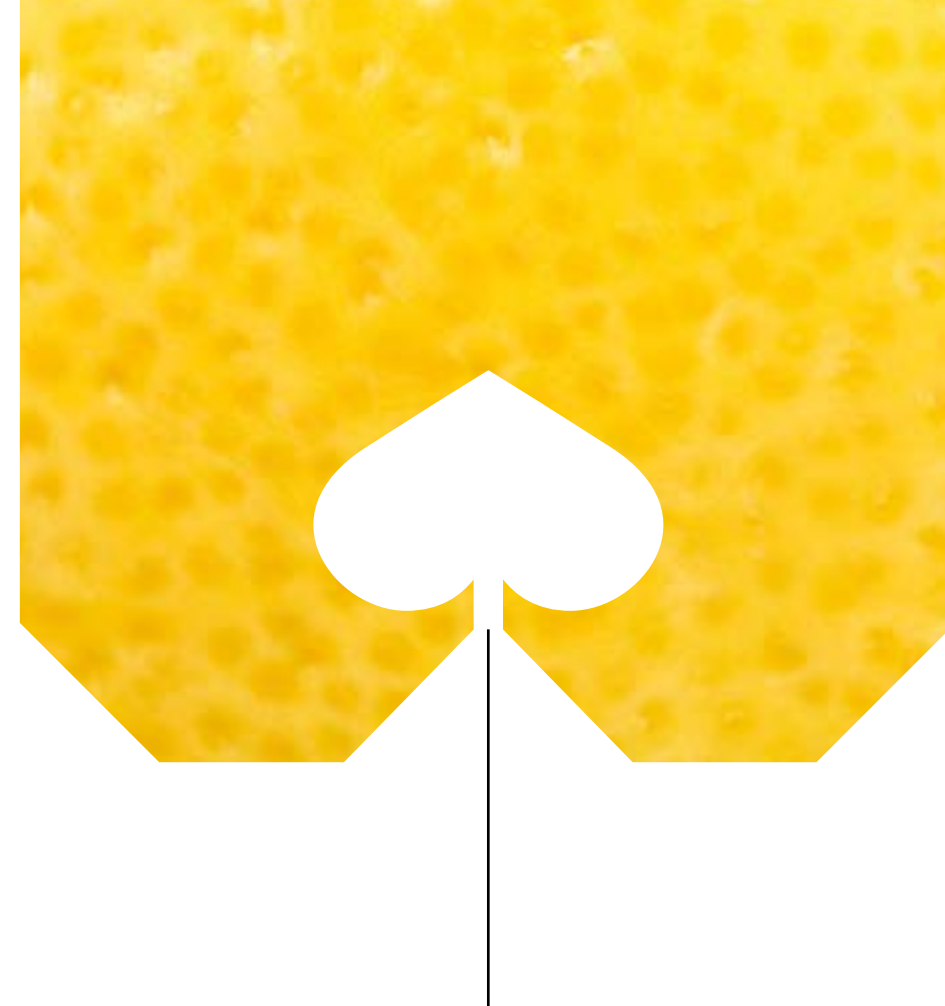
There may be:

- Product or material bans
- Waste reduction
- Food traceability
- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) fees
- Recycled content mandates
- Other taxes levied on the producer or consumer

WHAT ARE YOUR COMPANY'S SUSTAINABILITY GOALS?

These may include:

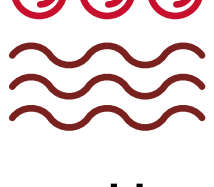
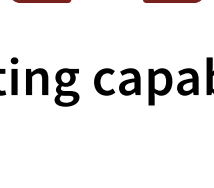
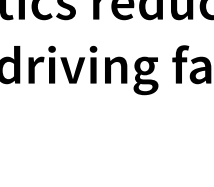
- Carbon emission reduction
- Water reduction
- Waste reduction
- Material chain of custody, such as responsible forestry
- Energy reduction
- Plastics reduction



WHAT LIES AHEAD?

- Is it recyclable?
- Is it compostable?
- Is it reusable?
- Does the consumer have access to the infrastructure?

Which material works for you?

MATERIALS	PLASTIC	BIOPLASTIC	FIBER
 Wet and humid conditions	✓	✓	
 Hot or cold dry conditions	✓	✓	✓
 Heavier products	✓	✓	
 Printing capability	✓	✓	✓
 Plastics reduction is a driving factor		✓	✓

Finally, do not underestimate the **importance of verifying material assumptions with Life Cycle Analysis Data⁴ to understand the benefits and trade-offs of each option.**



Enviro-Lok is a new, sustainable bag closure from Kwik-Lok

Kwik Lok's new polypropylene Enviro-Lok, is a good match for heavier products – like apples and potatoes – can be used in wet or freezing environments, as well as bakery products. It uses 34% less plastic, 67% less water consumption, and emits 44% fewer carbon emissions.

Additionally, Kwik Lok offers Fibre-Lok – made from 100% natural cellulose fibers from post-consumer waste. As well as Eco-Lok – made with up to 20% less fossil fuel-based resin, emitting up to 20% less greenhouse gases.

LEARN MORE

SOURCES

1. [Sustainability & Flexible Packaging: Advantages & Environmental Impact](#)
2. [Packaging-Related Food Losses and Waste: An Overview of Drivers and Issues](#)
3. [Sustainability in packaging: US survey insights](#)
4. [Everything you need to know about LCA \(Life Cycle Analysis\)](#)