



SUSTAINABILITY 101

EPISODE 6 – BIODEGRADABLE PLASTICS

BIODEGRADABLE PLASTICS

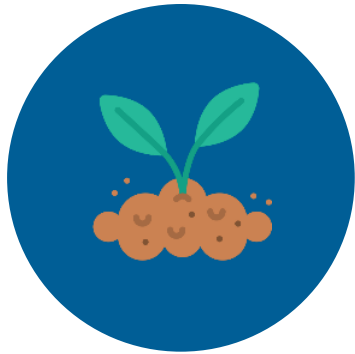
Biodegradation is a natural chemical process in which organic matter is decomposed in CO₂, Water, and Biomass by living microorganisms found in nature (such as bacteria and fungi) and reabsorbed into the planet without harming the environment.

Biodegradable plastics are those that decompose under certain conditions into natural substances.

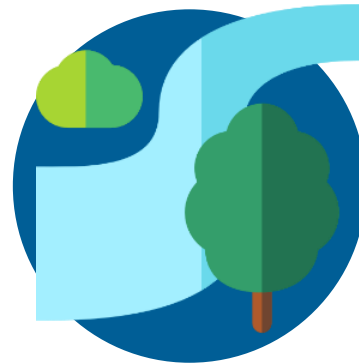


BIODEGRADATION VS. COMPOSTABLE

Why it isn't as easy as saying "biodegradable plastics"



Biodegradable
in soil



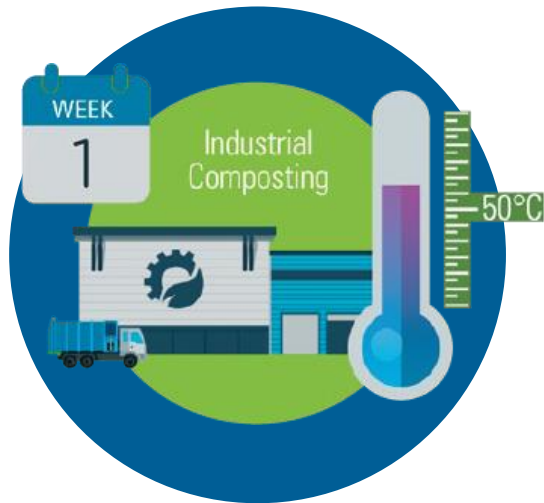
Biodegradable in fresh
water (such as rivers)



Biodegradable in marine
water (such as oceans)

THE CHALLENGES OF BIODEGRADATION

Why it isn't as easy as saying “biodegradable plastics”

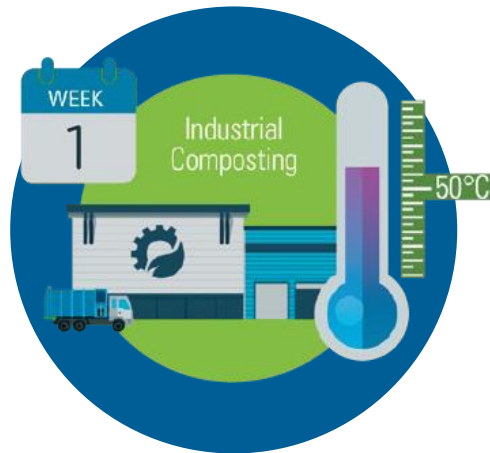


Composting is a human-driven process that consists of an **accelerated biodegradation process** due to optimized circumstances (e.g. a certain temperature, timeframe, etc.).

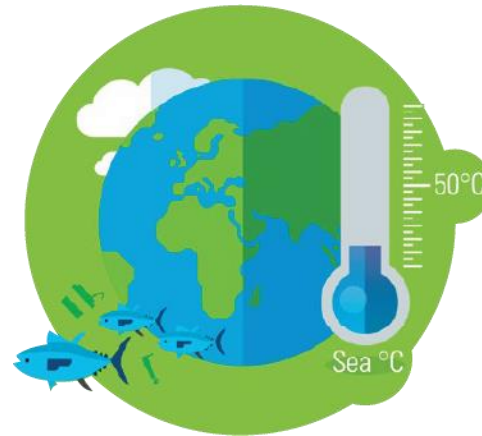
Standards for “biodegradable plastics” mostly **refer to industrial composting, and not biodegradable in open nature**, since the conditions there can be unpredictable.

WHY ISN'T ALL PLASTIC BIODEGRADABLE?

Biodegradable plastics are not a universal solution to plastic waste



Standards for biodegradable plastics **mostly refer to the Industrial Composting** of organic waste under controlled conditions (temperatures over +50°C for weeks).

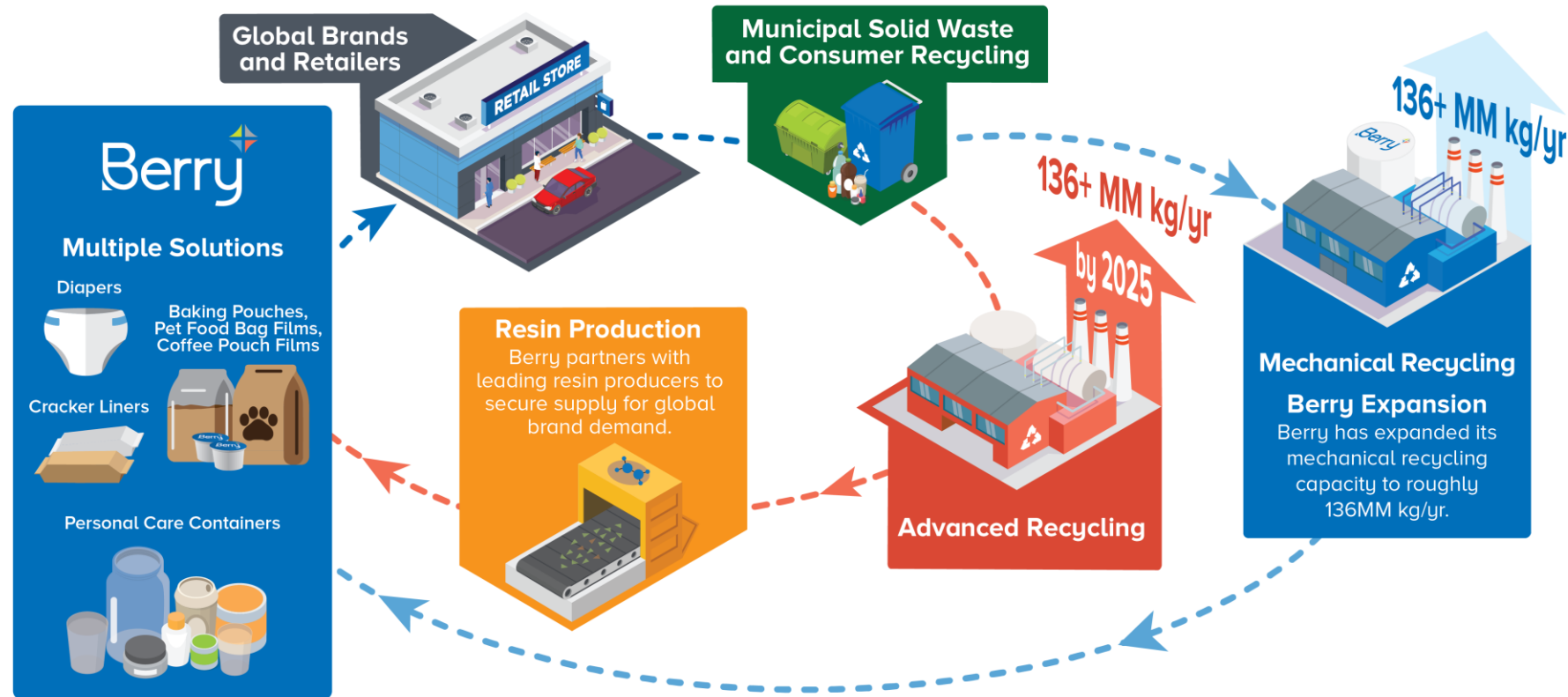


That is why biodegradable plastics are **not a solution to marine litter** and plastic pollution, since biodegradation in water can take many years due to the low temperatures.



Biodegradable plastics **cannot be recycled with most plastics.**

Berry is a leader in the industry for Recycling Capacity and Access to Advanced Recycled Material



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Stay tuned for the
next episode

