



Problem

Biodegradable plastics (BDPs) are mixed with traditional plastics in the plastic bin. BDPs replace conventional plastics but chemically they are different and need to be processed differently. However, there is still a lack of separate collection infrastructure and a misconception by the consumer about what biodegradability means.

Consequence

Negative impact on the efficiency of conventional plastic collection and sorting systems across EU and lower quality of recyclates.

BDPs are **contamination** in the plastic bin



Even when BDPs are separately collected and disposed for composting, lack of harmonization in composting periods across Member States causes BDPs to be incinerated with energy recovery.

Challenge

Reduce plastic waste by fostering its management through sorting and recycling infrastructure in place. Public awareness about BDPs needs to consider:

- BDPs = plastic waste
- Lack of separate collection systems and harmonization
- Misguiding labelling

the only label needed should be



Objective

Manage plastic waste in an efficient manner to effectively protect the environment and enhance the circular economy for plastics.



Recommendation

To contribute successfully to the very objectives set by the European Green Deal and the New Circular Economy Action Plan is necessary to:



Focus on the improvement of plastic recycling by following design-for-recycling principles.



Ban the use of biodegradable from all plastic packaging products until a proper infrastructure is put in place to collect, sort and treat biodegradable packaging plastics.



Set strict criteria for the use of BDPs in order to restrict the types of plastics that can be discarded in the bio-waste



Only label needed is *recyclable* and only those plastic items with the recyclable label should go into the plastic bin.

Clarity is essential to prevent false expectations and potentially misleading green claims.



Read more about plastic recycling:
[EuRIC Plastics Recycling Fact Sheet](#)