

Proposed Item for Biobased Designation

The following biobased product information has been collected to support item designation by USDA for the Federal Biobased Product Preferred Procurement Program (FB4P). This summary reflects data available as of July 25, 2006.

Title: Biodegradable Containers

Description: Naturally decomposable receptacles used for the storage or transportation of materials.

Manufacturers Identified: 5 manufacturers producing Biodegradable Containers have been identified through internet searches, manufacturer's directories, trade associations, and company submissions.

Industry Associations Investigated: The following industry associations have been investigated for member companies producing Biodegradable Containers:

- The Business Journal of Phoenix
- Flexible Packaging Association
- Biobased Manufacturers Association
- United Soybean Board
- National Corn Growers Association
- Packaging Manufacturers Association
- Women in Packaging Inc.
- American Institute of Food Distributors
- American Meat Institute
- American Plastics Council
- Chilled Foods Association
- Contract Packaging Association

Commercially Available Products Identified: Of the manufacturers identified, 7 Biodegradable Containers are commercially available on the market.

Product Information Collected: Specific product information including company contact, intended use, biobased content, and performance characteristics have been collected on 4 Biodegradable Containers.

Industry Performance Standards: Product information submitted by biobased manufacturers indicate that have typically been tested to the following industry standards:

- American Society for Testing and Materials # D6400-04 Standard Specification for Compostable Plastics
- Biodegradable Products Institute Certified Compostable plastic products will biodegrade and compost satisfactorily in actively managed compost facilities

Samples Tested for Biobased Content: 2 samples of Biodegradable Containers have been submitted to independent laboratories for biobased content testing as specified by ASTM standard D6866-04.

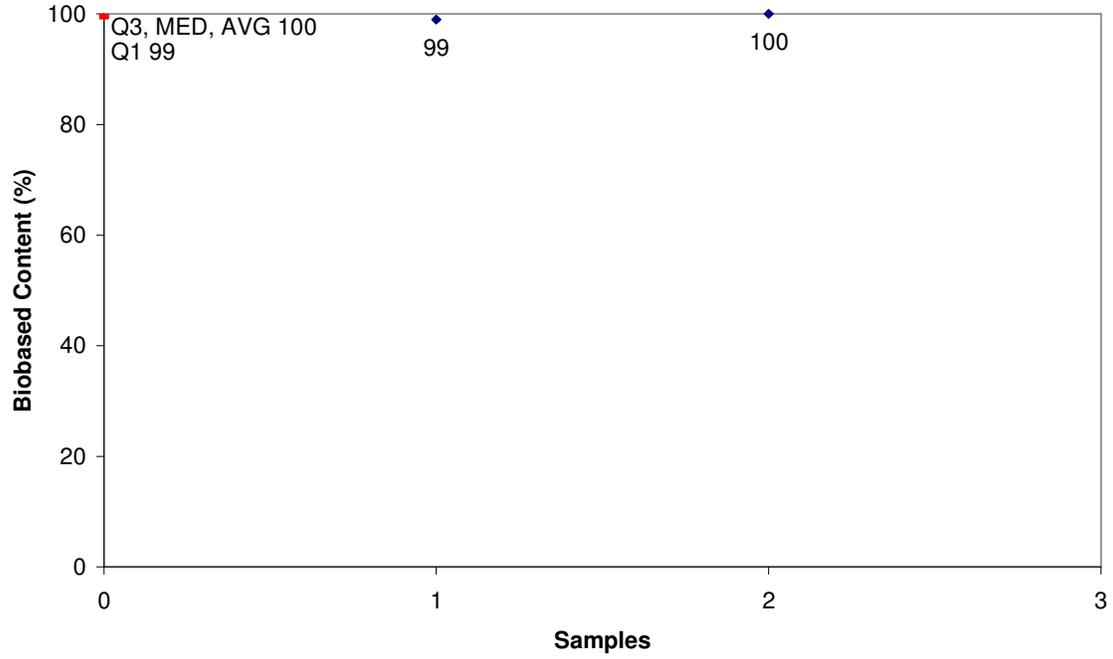
Biobased Content Data: Results from biobased content testing of Biodegradable Containers indicate a range of content percentages from 99% minimum to 100% maximum biobased content as defined by ASTM D 6866-04. A detailed distribution of biobased content levels is included as Appendix A.

Products Submitted for BEES Analysis: Life-cycle cost and environmental effect data for 2 Biodegradable Containers have been submitted to NIST for BEES analysis.

BEES Analysis: The life-cycle costs of the submitted Biodegradable Containers range from \$0.05 minimum to \$0.10 maximum per usage unit. The environmental scores range from 0.0003 minimum to 0.0008 maximum. A detailed summary of the BEES results is included as Appendix B.

Appendix A - Biobased Content Data

Biodegradable Containers

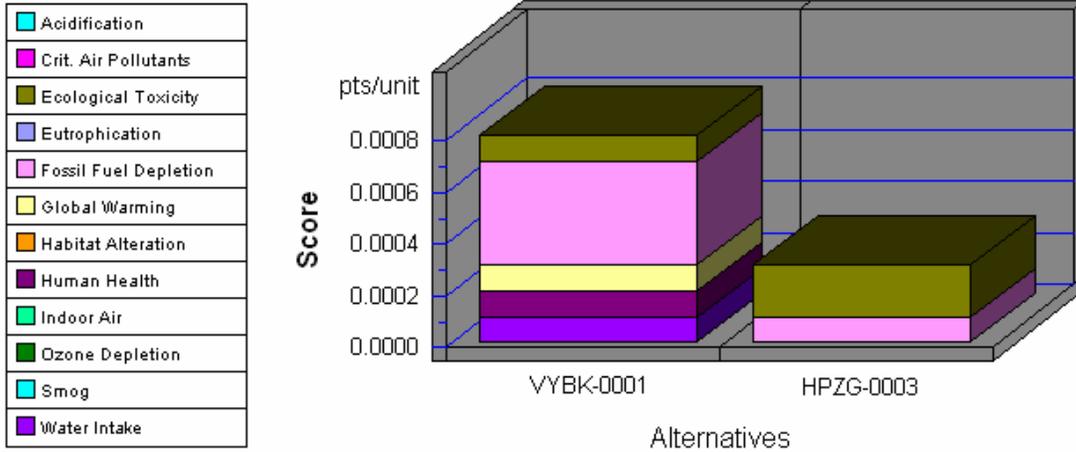


	Manufacturers Identified	Products Identified	C14	BEES
1	VYBK	VYBK-0001	99	yes
2	A388	A388-0001	100	
3	HPZG	HPZG-0003		yes

Appendix B - BEES Analysis Results

Units: 1 Compostable Container

Environmental Performance

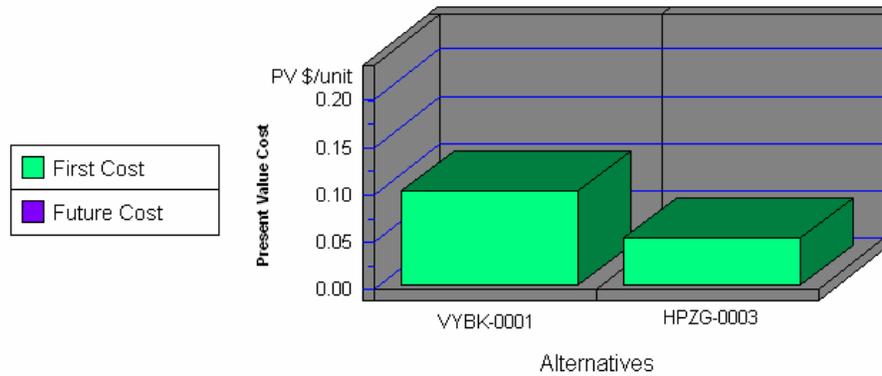


Note: Lower values are better

Category	VYBK-0001	HPZG-0003
Acidification--5%	0.0000	0.0000
Crit. Air Pollutants--6%	0.0000	0.0000
Ecolog. Toxicity--11%	0.0001	0.0002
Eutrophication--5%	0.0000	0.0000
Fossil Fuel Depl.--5%	0.0004	0.0001
Global Warming--16%	0.0001	0.0000
Habitat Alteration--16%	0.0000	0.0000
Human Health--11%	0.0001	0.0000
Indoor Air--11%	0.0000	0.0000
Ozone Depletion--5%	0.0000	0.0000
Smog--6%	0.0000	0.0000
Water Intake--3%	0.0001	0.0000
Sum	0.0008	0.0003

Appendix B – continued

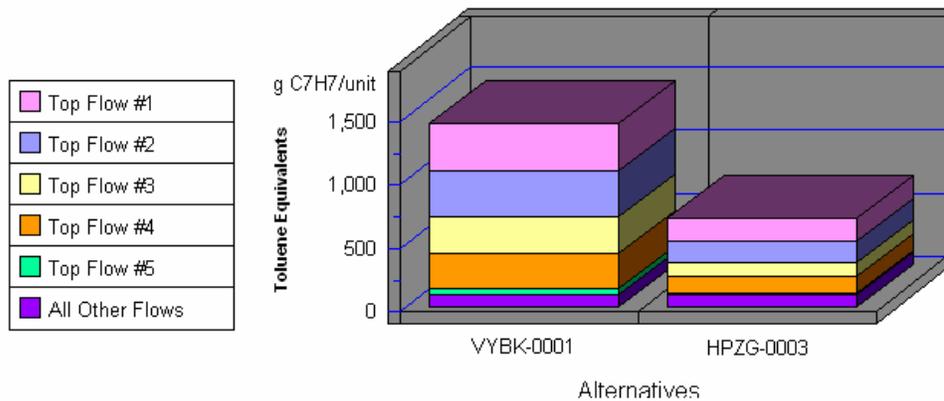
Economic Performance



Category	VYBK-0001	HPZG-0003
First Cost	0.10	0.05
Future Cost-- 3.9%	0.00	0.00
Sum	0.10	0.05

*No significant/quantifiable performance or durability differences were identified among competing alternatives. Therefore, future costs were not calculated.

Human Health by Sorted Flows*



Note: Lower values are better

Category	VYBK-0001	HPZG-0003
Cancer--(a) Dioxins (unspecifie	380.63	177.68
Cancer--(a) Arsenic (As)	358.84	174.87
Cancer--(w) Arsenic (As3+, As5+	283.97	100.16
Cancer--(w) Phenol (C6H5OH)	275.82	132.30
Noncancer--(a) Mercury (Hg)	46.98	15.44
All Others	107.92	102.92
Sum	1,454.16	703.38

*Sorted by five topmost flows for worst-scoring product