

BioPreferred

# BioBuzz

We analyzed application and certification activity from the past year. Here are 5 highlights:



- 1 Most ever in a single year!
  - Received **1,302** applications
  - **1,050** new USDA Certified Biobased Products
- 2 A+ percentages! **250 products tested at 100% biobased.**
- 3 California added the most USDA Certified Biobased Products, with **105**; Texas was 2nd with 60.
- 4 The category with the greatest number of products added was Intermediates – Fibers and Fabrics, with 127 new USDA Certified Biobased Products. Top growing categories include Filters, Clothing and Perfume, as well as Adhesives (97), Safety Equipment (24), Engine Crankcase Oil (25) and Intermediates – Textile Processing Materials (which has grown 84%!)
- 5 The top six companies that added the greatest number of USDA Certified Biobased Products **in 2023**: Ingevity Corporation, American Excelsior Company, Clariant Corporation, O’right Inc., Vimin chemical industrial corp., and Montelur S.A.

## The Single-Use Plastic Predicament: An Urgent Need for Change



Single-use plastics have long been part of our daily lives, offering convenience but at an immense environmental cost. From polluting oceans to clogging landfills, the environmental impact of traditional plastic packaging is evident. Consumers and businesses alike are recognizing the urgent need to shift towards more sustainable alternatives, giving rise to biobased (and bioplastic) packaging options.

### Biobased Packaging Defined

Biobased packaging represents a departure from conventional plastics derived from fossil fuels. Instead, it utilizes renewable resources such as plant-based materials, agricultural byproducts, and even algae to create packaging that is not only functional but environmentally friendly.

Biobased single-use items have unique advantages.

During their growing cycle, plants sequester carbon from the atmosphere decreasing greenhouse gases. So, products made from plants are more likely to provide environmental benefits compared to plastic single-use items.

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## Reduce Your Reliance on Single Use Plastics

As we approach this year's National Biobased Products Day on March 8th, we encourage everyone to "Commit to Switch." Find at least one biobased alternative to replace a common petroleum-based product. Replacing single-use plastics is an ideal option!

There are many single-use biobased products that companies have registered in our Catalog. There, you will find products such as clamshells, eating utensils, coffee cups, trash bags, surgical gloves, dog waste bags, straws and other single-use items. Made from soy, bamboo, potatoes, palm leaves, avocado seeds and other plant-based feedstocks, these products offer many advantages over petroleum-based plastics. Some examples include:

- NatureFlex™ by Innovia Films. Derived from sustainably sourced wood pulp, NatureFlex™ is a compostable packaging material known for its flexibility and biodegradability. It has found applications in various industries, from food packaging to pharmaceuticals.
  - Cortec Corporation manufactures a variety of biobased products, including innovative packaging that offers corrosion protection for metal components.
  - Recognizing the need for sustainable packaging, major brands like PepsiCo and Unilever are investing in biobased alternatives. From plant-based bottles to biobased packaging for snacks and takeout food, these initiatives showcase the transformative potential of biobased materials.



Consider how you can reduce your reliance on petroleum-based plastics. Then, on March 8th, in honor of National Biobased Products Day, commit to switch!

And, if you're a product manufacturer, we urge you to get your biobased products and packaging USDA Certified

Biobased. Learn the [Key Steps to Certification](#).

## Biobased Clamshells: Examples in the BioPreferred Program Catalog



Clamshell from Sugarcane: Eco-Products, Inc.

USDA Certified Biobased Product: 99% Biobased



Clamshell from Plant Fibers by Pactiv Evergreen

USDA Certified Biobased Product: 98% Biobased



Clamshell from Plant Fibers: GR Groups of Companies LLC

USDA Certified Biobased Product: 100% Biobased



### Do you need single-use items?

The easy answer is No. Here are some alternatives:

- Choose a refillable water bottle
- Bring your own plate and utensils
- Take reusable shopping bags
- Pack reusable straws

Want to stay up to date on what's happening in the bioeconomy and the BioPreferred Program?

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## Both Products and Packaging can be USDA Certified Biobased!



Symbolizes the sun, the soil, and the aquatic environments.

The words “USDA Certified Biobased Product” are required to be used for all certified products, whether the certified product is a package or product.

Tells consumers the percent of certified biobased content your product or packaging contains.

Represents a product that has qualified for Mandatory Federal Purchasing.

### Once certified, you can proudly use the label on or in the following:

- A certified product or package
- Dedicated product literature, for a certified product or package
- Website(s) to identify a certified product or package
- Advertisements where it is used next to or on a certified product or package
- Product point-of-sale displays
- Collateral materials that feature certified products
- Product catalogs and user manuals
- Digital media (product-specific procurement databases, social media, websites).

## March 8th is National Biobased Products Day...

The second annual National Biobased Products Day is just around the corner... And we invite you to celebrate!

National Biobased Products Day is an annual date designed to raise awareness of biobased products—how they’re made, what they’re made from, their many benefits, and the wide variety of products available for use at home, in the office, on the playground, at construction sites and even in landscaping.



This is not a USDA specific program or event. Instead, National Biobased Products Day is a collective effort and opportunity for all of us within the bioeconomy to bring attention to the great work being done to improve sustainability, grow U.S. manufacturing, jobs and the bioeconomy, and benefit rural communities. To celebrate, we encourage you to:

- Plan some type of event—large, small or virtual.
- Get local kids involved by holding a poster or story contest.
- Host an educational webinar to showcase your agency’s sustainability efforts.
- Spread the word to let others know about National Biobased Products Day. And collaborate with partners and stakeholders to celebrate together.

Use this helpful [Checklist](#) to plan your company’s celebration!

Want to learn more? Go [here](#). You can even download logo artwork that you can use in your own materials to celebrate National Biobased Products Day.