

## Latest PLA Foam Trials Results are better than ever



### PLA Trials

If you are a regular reader of this newsletter, you might remember we are continuing to advance the throughput rate and quality of NatureWorks, LLC's Ingeo™/PLA extruded foam made using Turbo-Screws® technology. Earlier this year, we reported a 40% increase in throughput rate and after the latest trials, we are very pleased to announce an additional 40% - 50% increase in rate (density dependent). "Obviously, this increase in rate is not useful if quality is not maintained and we're very pleased to report the quality of the PLA foam is superb. Closed cell counts are comparable in quality to polystyrene foam sheet, so we are



### European Union Directives - News

The EU has a new landfill directive. Called the European Commission (EC) Landfill Directive, it calls for diversion of 65% of organic waste away from the landfill between now and 2016.

Another key directive is the EC Biowaste directive which entails the recycling of food waste to agricultural land. Both of these regulations are likely to fuel the demand and investment needed to set up an infrastructure for biowaste composting and collection.



## Peak Oil Production - noted economist Fatih Birol issues warnings

Noted economist Fatih Birol of the Paris-based International Energy Agency stated earlier this past summer in an interview with The Independent newspaper (London) that a " ... disastrous energy crunch is looming". Birol believes that most of the major oil fields in the world have passed peak production. He further opined that most of the world's governments appear unaware that oil is running out faster than previously predicted, emphasizing that "one day we will run out of oil, it is not today or tomorrow, but one day we will run out of oil and we have to leave oil before oil leaves us, and we have to prepare ourselves for that day." Birol concluded his remarks by stating "the market power of the very few oil-producing countries, mainly in the middle east, will increase very quickly. They already have about 40% market share of the oil market and this will increase much more strongly in the future."

## German Action Plan to Promote Bioplastics Released



The Berlin based trade association European Bioplastics has released a new action plan, the hope of which is to encourage use of renewable raw materials in Germany. Ilse Aigner, Germany's Federal Minister of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection, said the plan is intended to increase efficiency and secure a leading position for Germany on this issue. The German government has yet to release details of the plan.



Netherlands - Bioplastics has already become a considerable market, both on the retail and on the resin level, says Hans van der Pol, marketing manager for Netherlands-based lactic acid producer PURAC.

Germany-Helmut Kaiser Consultancy estimates that the global bioplastics market is growing at 20% to 30% per year, and will increase from **400,000,000 lbs.** in 2006, to **10,000,000,000 lbs.** by 2015.

## PLA Trials - continued

very pleased that these significant rate increases are not sacrificing PLA foam sheet quality. In fact, the PLA foam sheet quality is truly superb and the foam makes beautiful parts when thermoformed. One of the interesting things for us as PLA foam experts is the work we are doing on continuing to push the upper throughput PLA foam limits. It's exciting to continue to push the state of the art of PLA foam development. And because we have been in the polystyrene foam machinery business for over 40 years now, we think we have a leg up on everyone as to what a tandem PLA foam extruder should look like for making commercial quality PLA foam. Of course, it all starts with the right screw technology and frankly, without Turbo-Screws® technology, you're in for a rough road." stated Dave Fogarty, President of Plastic Engineering Associates Licensing, Inc. More trials are scheduled for the end of the year and those results will be reported in the next newsletter.



### Some useful links:

[Doug Kunnemann, Business Segments Director, NatureWorks, LLC \(PLA Resin Sales, USA\)](#)

[Stefano Cavallo, Business Development Manager, NatureWorks, LLC \(PLA Resin Sales, Europe\)](#)

[Bill Fogarty, Vice President, Plastic Engineering Associates Licensing, INC. \(Turbo-Screws for Foam PLA\)](#)

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2300 nw corporate blvd. suite 111 | boca raton, florida 33431

phone: 561 998 4869 | fax: 561 998 5535

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[www.pea.cc](http://www.pea.cc) (ps, pla, pe extrusion hardware)

