

# Media Release

2 March 2009



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## Plantic Achieves Outstanding Results in 2009 Life Cycle Assessment

MELBOURNE, Australia — 2 March 2009 — Plantic Technologies Limited, manufacturer of starch-based polymers for packaging and other applications, commissioned RMIT University, Melbourne, to undertake a streamlined update of the Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) of Plantic<sup>®</sup> biodegradable plastic packaging system compared with alternative polymers. The updated LCA reveals that every tonne of Plantic<sup>®</sup> sheet purchased in place of petrochemical polymers will save up to 2.5 tonnes of carbon dioxide (the average annual emissions of a compact car) *and* enough energy to power 2.5 average Australian homes.<sup>1</sup>

An LCA of Plantic<sup>®</sup> rigid trays from cradle to grave was first conducted in August 2004 (James and Grant 2004) and was recently updated to incorporate the process changes implemented to Plantic's production line during that time. The functional unit used for the purpose of this study is the production and disposal of 1000 retail trays used to package chocolates, each 12g in weight.

This updated LCA indicates that when compared to other conventional polymers used in similar tray applications, less than half the energy is required to produce the equivalent number of Plantic<sup>®</sup> trays. Additionally, Plantic<sup>®</sup> materials are estimated to have approximately 40-70% less impact on global warming than various petrochemical polymers.<sup>2</sup>

With Easter fast approaching, it is estimated that Easter eggs generate about 1200 tonnes of waste in Australia each year. If all of these eggs were packaged in Plantic<sup>®</sup> material, enough energy would be saved to power 350,000 homes for the Easter period. It would also save enough carbon to take 140,000 cars off the road in that period.

Mr. Brendan Morris, Chief Executive Officer, Plantic Technologies Limited, commented, "We are pleased to note that if disposed of properly in a compost, Plantic's rigid trays will have

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<sup>1</sup> Energy use for average Australian home and average annual car emissions of compact car obtained from Carbon Neutral ([www.carbonneutral.com.au](http://www.carbonneutral.com.au))

<sup>2</sup> Assuming 100% home/industrial compost

considerably less impact on global warming than conventional polymers. And, as this study shows, we are constantly devising new ways to reduce our energy consumption through innovative and streamlined manufacturing processes.

“Ultimately, Plantic’s advanced biopolymer technology provides our customers with sustainably-sourced packaging materials that offer a trio of functional, environmental and cost benefits.”

Plantic’s novel polymer manufacturing technology is based on the use of high-amylose corn starch, a material derived from annual harvesting of specialised non-GM (hybrid) corn. The unique chemical and film-forming properties of this type of starch allow for development of a range of applications across conventional plastics markets. The materials are inherently anti-static, offer excellent gas taint and odour barriers and are sealable, printable and laser etchable. Plantic® materials have a renewable bio-content of approximately 85%. In addition to being renewably sourced, Plantic® materials are biodegradable, home compostable, water dispersible and compostable to European (EN 13432) and American (ASTM 6400) standards.

### **About Plantic Technologies Limited**

Plantic Technologies Limited is based in Australia, where its head office, principal manufacturing and R&D facilities are located. The company also has sales offices in Germany and the United Kingdom, and recently announced its plans to establish a European manufacturing operation in Jena, Germany in 2009.

Plantic Technologies has won numerous international awards for their innovation in biodegradable polymers. Plantic recently listed on the London Stock Exchange (AIM) under the symbol ‘PLNT’. For more information visit the company’s website [www.plantic.com.au](http://www.plantic.com.au)

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