

SINGLE USE PLASTICS REDESIGN AND MANAGEMENT

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**We are drowning in plastics,
many necessary, many optional,
many totally superfluous.**

- The most needless one-time use plastics are the clear-plastic sleeves on invitations and postal advertising used for status only.
- Plastic magazine covers too are unnecessary.
- Millions of micro-plastics 1mm diameter to cover ball-pen tips should be of compostables.

Can we REDESIGN these for rapid bio-degradation?

Paper mills using recycled paper as feedstock are left with 4% rejects

These are mostly plastic, from the plastic liners of disposable paper cups and plates, file covers, envelope liners, carton strapping.

There are literally mountains of such unwanted mixed plastics covering several acres of land at paper centres like Vapi, which even nearby Saurashtra cement plants do not want.

We need pulping-compatible or fully biodegradable polymers instead.

(NOT oxo-degradable fragments!)

We need compostable polymers for once-used sanitary napkins and disposable diapers for babies & seniors

Leakproof compostable bioplastic bottom layers are readily available but not used. WHY???

Absorbent outer layers to replace non-woven PP are easily imported and would add fractional cost.

Indian non-woven rayon needs thickness reduction for sanipads and diapers.

Compostable or digestible biopolymer bin liners for garbage may save cows and sea life.

But if knotted they make their organic contents anaerobic for weeks.

Plastic bans are present in 17 States

Bans are variably enforced as this is very difficult.

Carry-bags are useful and recyclable but very hard to collect, so increased thickness is no solution & only means more plastic in the waste stream.

Compulsory pricing for carry-bags works better:

In Ireland it made 95% people bring their own bags.

Compostables for carrybags are not a good idea. If mixed with waste streams of recyclable plastic it can weaken new plastic goods made from them.

We use millions of plastic bread-wrappers daily !

This is not banned but is a needless use of plastic.

A product with maximum shelf life of 2-3-4 days at most, needs non-plastic alternatives.

Non-woven PP table napkins used in five-star hotels are another needless single-use problem.
Use paper !

Wet wipes should be fully compostable.

MULTI-LAYER PLASTIC FILMS ARE THE MOST TROUBLESOME WASTE

They blanket every dumpsite in the country.

They are wilfully, irresponsibly, deliberately **designed NOT to be recyclable** like other thermoplastics, as **Melting Points of layers are incompatible.**

Plastic Management Rules 2016 gave the industry **Two Years time for redesign.** Instead, Industry lobbied and MOEF succumbed to redefining recyclable as combustible (RDF) with no thought for the huge carbon footprint of transport to unwilling cement industries.

We must redesign MLP to be recyclable by the thousands of decentralised plastic recyclers who manage our waste so well

MLP users must redesign or take full EPR Responsibility

Currently there are **far too few Producer Responsibility Organisations (PROs)** recognised by CPCB to collect MLP and non-recyclable or hard to recycle waste.

Why encourage licence-permit raj and an exclusive club of PROs ? We need hundreds !

Let all enter and market forces decide success.

See May 2018 data on the huge problem :

www.no-burn.org/wp-content/uploads/India-BrandAuditReport_Final.pdf

120 volunteers at 8 Blr locations for 3 days audited 12,000 pieces of waste (600 kg) from 128 foreign and 479 local brands, sorted into 5 product categories.

86% was from Food Packaging with 61% MLP

10 foreign brands use 75% MLP packaging

20 of the 273 local food brands use 83% MLP

Small Packs have a huge % by weight of packaging for net weight of product

12.2% pkg by wt for **25 gm** Bingo onion chips, ITC

9.7% for **30 gm** Lays masala potato chips, Pepsi

10.4% for **37 gm** Little Hearts, Britannia

2.5% for **40 gm** moong dal, Haldirams

2.6% for **150 gm** Milk Ma Vanilla Dew, Whole Foods

2.3% for **280 gm** Maggi Noodles, Nestle.

Reduce packaging and/or increase pack size !

The Solution by Waste Producers:

- **Collect**
- **Take Back**
- **Phase Out**