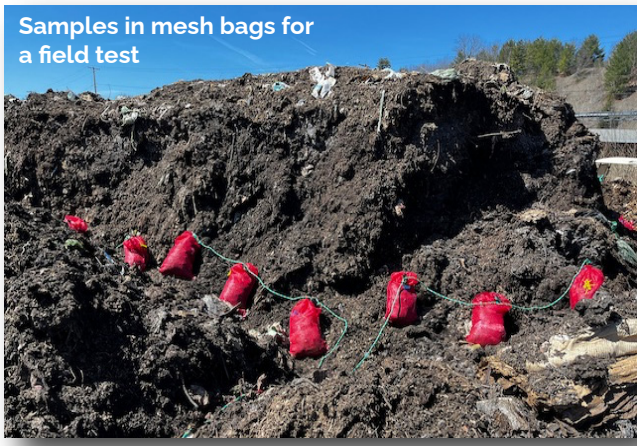
BPI | Certified Compostable Products: Lab-Tested, Field-Proven

Certified compostable products are rigorously tested—both in the lab and in real-world conditions—using standards such as ASTM D6400 to ensure they break down as intended and produce safe, high-quality compost.

Field-Testing in Real-World Conditions

In 2023 alone, a project funded by **Closed Loop Partners** evaluated more than **23,000 compostable units across 10 diverse composting facilities,** including a site in California.


Samples in mesh bags for a field test

Results:

- Compostable plastics achieved **an average of 98% disintegration in ~45 days**, demonstrating that ASTM D6400 is a reliable—and even conservative—indicator of real-world performance.
- As a beta test of ASTM field methods D8618 and D8619, the study documented key operating conditions (e.g., temperature, moisture, oxygen, pH), confirming that **compostable products perform as intended** in facilities meeting "reasonable" conditions outlined in The Composting Handbook.
- These findings indicate that **compostable products are compatible with existing infrastructure**, provided facilities are designed to accept and properly process them.

Products meeting ASTM standards break down under 'reasonable' real world conditions

Safety for Quality Compost

- Certified compostable must pass the same **heavy metals and plant toxicity tests** used for finished compost, demonstrating there's no negative impact on quality.
- **PFAS use has been prohibited in BPI-certified products since 2020**, ahead of regulations, making it the most reliable way to avoid this substance in compost.
- **STA Certified™ Compost** is a trusted verification of what is in the finished compost and how it was produced, as opposed to more vague compost approvals for the National Organic Program (NOP).
- Compost produced with compostable products **meets or exceeds** all STA compost quality requirements.

Watch how field testing helped compostables at Petco Park:

Bottom line:

Certified compostable products are lab-tested and field-proven, enabling the transformation of food waste into high-quality compost that supports and builds soil health.