



University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
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Wisconsin Institute for Sustainable Technology

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To whom it may concern:

This letter shall serve as affirmation that the Wisconsin Institute for Sustainable Technology project on the compostability of packaging and bioplastics meets the criteria for an innovation credit in the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point sustainability assessment for the STARS program.

As director of the institute I have worked closely with WIST laboratory staff and faculty in the College of Natural Resources Soil and Wastes Resources discipline to establish a facility to test the compostability of packaging and bioplastic materials. The institute developed a protocol to test materials to ASTM D6400 and D6868 standards for compostability. This facility is one of only a handful of laboratories in the US that test to these standards. Compostability testing at UW-Stevens Point will help companies to develop and bring to market new materials that compost under industrial composting conditions.

Compostable packaging is becoming more important, particularly in the food industry. Packaging contaminated with food or composed of several different types of material is difficult to recycle. Compostability provides a useful alternative end-of-life solution. At the same time, consumers are increasingly aware of environmental impacts and are demanding more environmentally responsible products. Compostable materials can be diverted from landfills and the compost put to productive use, yielding a double environmental gain.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Paul Fowler".

Dr. Paul Fowler
Executive Director
Wisconsin Institute for Sustainable Technology