

# Made to reuse Precious by nature



**"Single-use plastic"**  
Our personal view of the  
current situation.



## Made to reuse – Precious by nature

Plastic is a highly significant material for the twenty-first century. Hardly any other material can be used cross-industry in such a diverse, effective and flexible manner, and simultaneously recycled in a manner designed to save resources. The term "single-use plastic" has rapidly lodged itself in the minds of consumers, fuelled by related news and announcements in the media – in our opinion, almost always with an unjustly negative connotation. The extremely simple statement, "use once and then throw it away" does not reflect the possibilities which this material provides.

The material used by Pro-Pac, a "Mono-PP" raw material is considered to be of high-grade purity and valuable due to its 100% recyclability and the diverse possibilities for re-use and re-processing the material. Ideally, this raw material can repeatedly enter new value-added chains through appropriate recycling measures. Of course, with regard to PP, or PET for example, we have raw materials on a mineral oil basis. However, the proportion which is used for food packaging or similar is extremely small in relation to the amounts required in the automotive industry, for example. Yet even this overall cross-industry consumption of plastics in Germany is barely significant in comparison to what is consumed in our country (or even globally) in fossil-origination raw material oil for energy generation, heating and fuels, etc. The new objective for our society is to avoid packaging or packaging waste. However, we must all realise that our shopping habits have changed greatly, especially over the course of the much-discussed digitalisation process and due to global, increasingly fast and easy to reach markets. Subsequent generations are growing up with "online possibilities," having the opportunity to purchase a desired product at any time from anywhere in the world at the click of a button. The demand on logistics service providers and the associated packaging is therefore experiencing a dramatic, still-accelerating change.

The term "single-use" therefore extends far beyond the material "plastic", which is currently being focussed on. The objective must be to further develop, improve and make more efficient the design of the already-existing recycling possibilities in Germany. This objective, and the information associated with this, must be made the subject of European and global considerations, and the possibilities revealed in the advantages of collecting, utilising and recycling across borders must be conveyed and marketed. In our opinion, it is completely wrong to degrade the subject of our environment to the political play area, subjected to media-effective polemics. The practical analysis of causes or perpetrators plays no role in the increasingly faster downward spiral featuring product bans or slandering of products. The waste problem is mainly of Asian origin and cannot be solved by Germany / Europe alone. The statement from EU circles that Germany and Europe wish to lead by good example also seems extremely questionable in light of the risk to many workplaces in Germany alone. The advancing contamination of our global seas is without doubt an enormous challenge for us and for coming generations. However, this challenge must be approached with a sense of proportion and with solutions based on founded, ecological and economic knowledge. Plastic packaging for the food branch by Pro-Pac protects the valuable content. It provides an extremely high level of hygiene, guarantees and maintains the freshness of a product and ensures a high level of reliability in its use.

We work using high-grade purity material which can be 100% recycled. The replacement of materials with this advantage with packaging from so-called renewable raw materials is, in our opinion, not expedient. "NAWARO\*-packaging" can barely cover the current and also increasing requirements for appropriate packaging solutions. The necessary raw material, although this can be extremely diverse, requires increasingly larger areas to cultivate it, which is increasingly intervening in the natural landscape. Monocultures result, which are connected with the intensive use of fertilisers and an enormously high consumption of potable water to guarantee rapid growth. In this case, fossil raw materials are only saved in part (even for renewable raw materials, high energy expenditure is necessary!), and the environment and its resources are not protected.

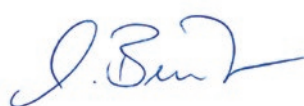
Therefore, we view a complete transformation in the direction of such methods and so-called biologically-degradable raw materials as being highly critical, as it is simply not expedient from a purely ecological point of view. The problem of the global lack of recycling possibilities is not solved. Theoretically, this only alters the material form of the waste, and not the awareness of the consumer when handling the associated residual materials. Plastic bans imposed in the 'recycling country' of Germany and within Europe do not change anything regarding the problem of marine pollution. Rather, far more valuable resources such as electrical energy and drinking water are wasted in the search for organic alternative solutions and cause price upsurges for the resulting foods in the corresponding packaging solutions then available. Furthermore, without collection, processing and utilisation / recycling, our global seas will continue to be subjected to a high level of contamination, even using solutions from so-called renewable raw materials, because these too "do not disappear by themselves" but also require controlled and industrially-implemented recycling or industrial, energy-intensive composting.

Hygiene and safety are non-negotiable for us regarding food packaging for fresh food. We should repeatedly remind ourselves that our plastic packaging made from PP and PET serves this sole purpose, and in our opinion fulfils this protective task ecologically and economically effectively without there being a viable alternative.

## Strong arguments for packaging and disposable dishes made from mono-PP

- 100% high-grade purity material (no composite materials)
- 100% recyclable
- Continuous optimisation of material consumption
- Future-orientated product concepts
- Low weight
- Production under the most stringent hygienic conditions
- Neutral in taste
- Perfect protection of valuable food
- Freshness guarantee
- Safe to use

Vechta, July 2018



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[www.pro-pac.de](http://www.pro-pac.de)