***BIOPLASTIC PRODUCTS***

Bioplastics are made from renewable biomass sources, such as vegetable fats and oil. Bioplastics can be made from agricultural offshoots and also from previously used plastic bottles and other containers that use micro-organisms.

The most common plastics, such as fossil-fuel plastics, are derived from petroleum or natural gasses.

Some but not all bioplastics are designed to biodegrade. Biodegradable bioplastics can break down in their environments, depending on how they are manufactured. Bioplastics can be composed of starches, cellulose, biopolymers, and a selection of other materials.

At one time bioplastics were too expensive for consideration as a replacement for petroleum-based plastics.

However, the lower the temperature needed to process bioplastics the more stable supply of biomass combined with the increasing cost of crude oil making bioplastics more pricy and competitive with regular plastics.

Bioplastics are used for disposable items such as packaging, crockery, cutlery, pots, bowls, and straws. They are also often used for the production of bags, trays, fruit and vegetable containers, egg cartons, meat packaging, vegetables, bottling for soft drinks, dairy products.

These plastics are also used in non-disposable uses including mobile phone casings, carpet fibres, insulation, car interiors, fuel lines, and plastic piping.

