

Food packaging from 100% recycled plastic

Food-approved packaging made from 100% recycled plastic – is this possible? YES - Danish company SKY-LIGHT are specialized in plastic packaging and sheet made from up to 100% recycled PET.

Plastic packaging – and especially single-use plastic packing – is a much debated topic these years. Newspapers, TV and the social medias are overflowing with pictures of disposed plastic waste in nature and animals that have been negatively affected by plastic waste in oceans or on land. The comprehensive debate about plastic puts pressure on the plastic industry – but this debate is welcomed by the Danish manufacturer of plastic packaging – SKY-LIGHT A/S:

- Some may frown at plastic manufacturers, because they associate them with the world's current problems with plastics. We consider ourselves part of the solution, not part of the problem, explains Søren Kjær Larsen, CEO and co-owner of SKY-LIGHT A/S.

Plastic – a material with unique capabilities

- People tend to believe, that the problems with the large volumes of disposed of plas-

tic in nature could be solved by minimizing or even banning the use of plastics. While we share the goal of minimizing use of all the world's resources, we would like to point out, that the essence of the world's problems with plastics are not plastic itself, but the way we humans dispose plastic products after use, highlights Søren Kjær Larsen and continues:

- The world's problems with waste in nature are not to be blamed on waste itself. All waste – no matter the material – is harmful to nature – and should be recycled. We are facing a behavioral problem – not a material problem.

Plastic is a unique material – a material with considerable advantages to our climate, especially when talking about food packaging. It is important to emphasize that a shift away from plastic to alternative materials could result in other negative consequences. We need to be aware of the unique mix of advantages, which plastic brings as cheap price,

light weight, extended food shelf life, recyclability and durability (see figure 1). Therefore, plastic is by far the most climate-friendly material there is.

- We have loved plastic throughout many years because of its strength and durability – great qualities which paradoxically are turned into catastrophic disadvantages, when the material ends up in nature, notes Søren Kjær Larsen and continues:

- Plastic is disposed of in nature, probably because it is so cheap and therefore often considered as worthless waste. But once we dispose of plastic in nature, it ceases to be an asset, and instead becomes a liability – to the environment. This is what we humans overlook. The only solution to this problem is to ensure that the plastic is recycled and thus maintained as a valuable resource. If we recycle, we not only maintain the value of the plastic, we also prevent the negative value which will otherwise impact the environment.

rPET packaging: From plastic bottles to food packaging

SKY-LIGHT is specialized in optimizing the amount of recycled plastic in especially food packaging – without compromising food safety.

- For more than 30 years we have worked with recycling plastic into new packaging products. Today, we have reached a goal,



SKY-LIGHT manufacture rPET food packaging with up to 100% recycled plastic. One of the sources are shredded and recycled plastic bottles.

SKY-LIGHT

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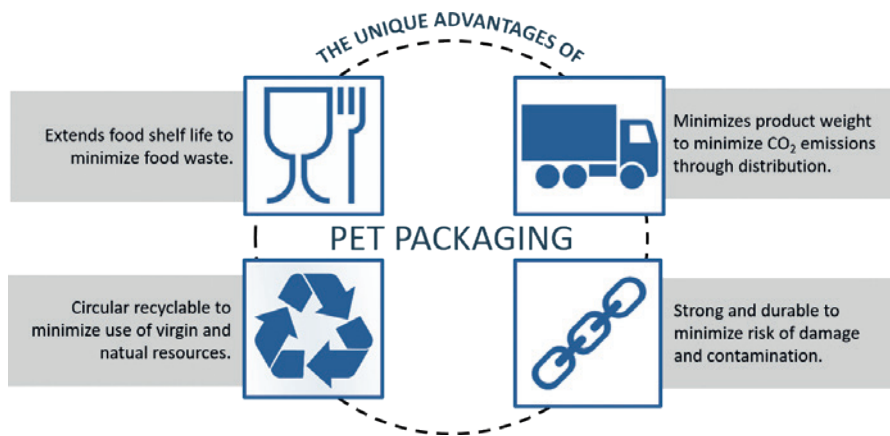
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where we are able to produce food packaging and sheet with up to 100% recycled plastic, states Søren Kjær Larsen.

SKY-LIGHT were one of the very first companies to achieve the pre-approval from EFSA (the European Food Safety Authority) to recycle post-consumer-waste from plastic bottles into new products approved for food contact – and since then they have not looked back.

- Plastic packaging of rPET is a sustainable choice – and we make rPET even more sustainable by increasing the amount of recycled plastic in our packaging products. By using recycled plastic, we decrease the use of virgin plastic and hereby the consumption of fossil resources like oil. The result is a significant reduction in the CO2 impact, explains Søren Kjær Larsen.

Making food approved packaging from recycled plastic is the essence of what SKY-LIGHT do. Today, between 85-90% of the company's total consumption of raw materials consist of recycled plastic – about half of this is post-consumer-waste from bottles.



Plastic is a unique material with a strong mix of advantages – especially when talking about food packaging.

Circular recycling of customers production waste

Besides recycled plastic bottles, SKY-LIGHT also use post-industrial-waste in their production of packaging and sheet. A vision to have a production facility, with the most sustainable resource consumption, has led to efficient circular recycling of all plastic waste from SKY-LIGHT's own production, as well as plastic waste from other parts of the value chain – including customers and other indus-

trial partners. In most cases, SKY-LIGHT have established circular collaborations with their customers.

- Recycling is here to stay – and we see circular recycling collaborations as something that will grow in the coming years. We are the best in using recycled PET for food packaging, we aspire to become even better, and we will lead the development of maximizing recycled content in food packaging, ends Søren Kjær Larsen. ●



Packaging of up to 100% recycled PET

- a sustainable choice for the future...

- 100% approved for food contact
- 100% transparent- or any other colour
- 100% recyclable mono PET
- EFSA compliance regarding post-consumer waste for food contact

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