



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Sorting of PLA from municipal plastic waste again proven to be easy.

GORINCHEM, The Netherlands, 17 October 2022 – With the aim of determining the sortability of PLA from municipal mixed plastic waste, TotalEnergies Corbion and TOMRA Recycling conducted a sorting test in August 2022. The outcome confirmed, as has been confirmed many times before, that sorting PLA from other plastics waste is easy and straightforward.

Using a Near Infra-Red (NIR) sorting machine, PLA trays mixed with other post-consumer plastic items were fully recovered with a very high purity at the TOMRA center in Mülheim-Kärlich, Germany. Also when the PET bottle fraction was sorted from the mixed plastics waste stream, no PLA trays ended up in the PET stream. This realistic and industrial test shows that PLA is sortable and will not contaminate other recycling streams.

"Plastic waste collectors and sorters know that using the infrared technology, PLA plastic products can easily be sorted from other municipal plastic waste. In closed loop environments, where PLA bottles and PLA cups are exclusively used, the amount of PLA is sufficiently high to also make it economically feasible to collect, sort and clean the PLA" , says XXXX, xxx title e at TOMRA.

TotalEnergies Corbion is actively collecting used PLA products from closed loop systems and pre consumer waste. The collected PLA waste is used as feedstock for making rPLA and will help divert PLA from ending up in landfill or incineration. It also further reduced the carbon footprint of PLA and rPLA reduces the need for biomasss and landuse. Luminy® rPLA, containing 20% post-industrial and post-consumer PLA waste is commercially available.

"In collaboration with Tomra, a leading supplier of plastic waste sorting equipment, we confirmed (again!) that PLA can be effectively sorted from other municipal plastic using existing separation equipment. Claims that PLA contaminates PET recycle streams have again proven to be nonsense. Many other studies, as cited in our white paper about end-of-life options for PLA, have confirmed exactly the same." says François de Bie, Senior Marketing and Supply Chain Director at TotalEnergies Corbion. "In short no technical barrier exist that prevent an effective separation of PLA from other plastic waste."

At the K-show In Dusseldorf, you are invited to visit The TotalEnergies Corbion or Tomra booth for more information. At the Tomra booth we will also be presenting the detailed results of our sorting trials during the Tomra Talks, on Monday 25 Oct at 14:30.



Open your phone camera to scan and click the link on the QR code to access the video.



Caption: Using a Near Infra-Red (NIR) sorting machine, PLA trays mixed with other post-consumer plastic items were fully recovered with a very high purity at the TOMRA center in Mülheim-Kärlich, Germany.

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About TotalEnergies Corbion

TotalEnergies Corbion (formerly known as Total Corbion PLA) is a global technology leader in Poly Lactic Acid (PLA) and lactide monomers. PLA is a biobased, recyclable and compostable polymer made from annually renewable resources, offering a reduced carbon footprint versus traditional plastics. The Luminy® PLA portfolio, which includes both high heat and standard PLA grades, is an innovative material that is used in a wide range of markets from packaging to consumer goods, fibers and automotive. TotalEnergies Corbion, headquartered in the Netherlands, operates a 75,000 tons per year PLA production facility in Rayong, Thailand and has recently announced the intention to build a second plant in Grandpuits, France. The company is a 50/50 joint venture between TotalEnergies and Corbion. www.totalenergies-corbion.com

About TotalEnergies

TotalEnergies is a global multi-energy company that produces and markets energies on a global scale: oil and biofuels, natural gas and green gases, renewables and electricity. Our 105,000 employees are committed to energy that is ever more affordable, cleaner, more reliable and accessible to as many people as possible. Active in more than 130 countries, TotalEnergies puts sustainable development in all its dimensions at the heart of its projects and operations to contribute to the well-being of people. www.totalenergies.com

About Corbion

Corbion is the global market leader in lactic acid and its derivatives, and a leading supplier of emulsifiers, functional enzyme blends, minerals, vitamins, and algae ingredients. We use our unique expertise in fermentation and other processes to deliver sustainable solutions for the preservation of food and food production, health, and our planet. For over 100 years, we have been uncompromising in our commitment to safety, quality, innovation and performance. Drawing on our deep application and product knowledge, we work side-by-side with customers to make our cutting-edge technologies work for them. Our solutions help differentiate products in markets such as food, home & personal care, animal nutrition, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, and bioplastics. In 2020, Corbion generated annual sales of € 986.5 million and had a workforce of 2,267 FTE. Corbion is listed on Euronext Amsterdam. www.corbion.com

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