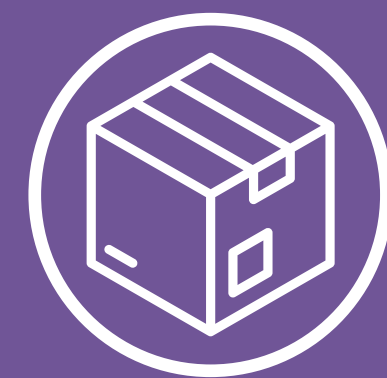


Edible, Soluble and Compostable Packaging



Keywords: *Circular economy, single-use plastic, alternative packaging*


Audience: *VET Teachers and Providers, Chambers of commerce, Start-uppers and young entrepreneurs, SMEs, Associations and consulting companies, Institutions supporting entrepreneurs and innovation*

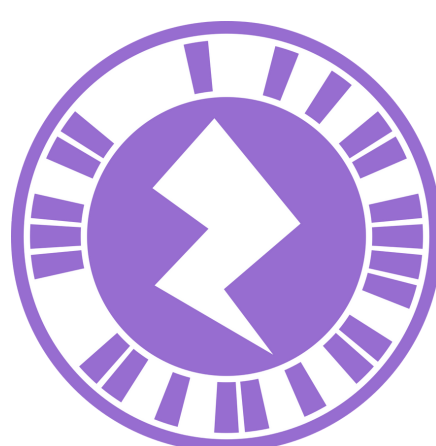
According to the UNEP, until 2015, only 9% of plastic was recycled, 12% was incinerated, and 79% ended up in landfills, dumps or in the environment. Landfills and dumps require space, leading to habitat loss. Additionally, leakage to the environment leads to soil and water contamination, ingestion by wildlife, food chain contamination, and the release of toxic chemicals and emissions if burned, among others. Can you imagine a world without single-use plastic?



<https://pixabay.com/photos/package-packaging-delivery-1511683/>

Eliminating unnecessary plastic packaging is the first step. But some products need packaging. Start-ups and SMEs are developing alternatives, replacing single-use plastic with seaweed and plants (which is different from bioplastics). They are creating substitutes for plastic bottles that are also edible and other packaging solutions that dissolve in water and/or that decompose easily. If more companies invest in R&D and work on this, it may be possible to eliminate a lot of waste and help tackling the problem of plastic pollution.

Downloading the Zappar App  on your mobile device (AppStore/ Google Play) and pointing toward this flyer, you will see an infographic illustrating the development of circular economy entrepreneurship.



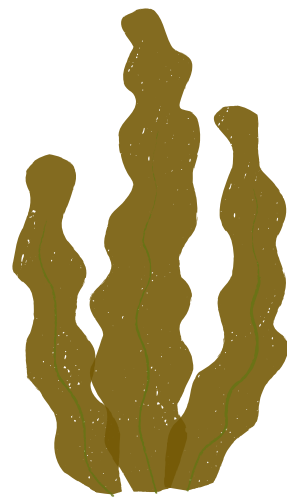
Test Your Knowledge

***Are you familiar with single-use plastic and its alternatives?
Take the AR-based Quiz below***

1) Plastic pollution poses a threat to biodiversity and also to human health



2) With seaweed and plants it is possible to create a viable substitute for plastic



3) Edible, soluble, and easily compostable packaging are examples of bioplastics

