# The Bad News About BioPlastics & Compostables

## THESE PRODUCTS SOUND PROMISING BUT ARE NOT THE ANSWER

- Across numerous measures, compostable and bioplastic foodware have even worse environmental impacts than their conventional alternatives.
- Compostable products and bioplastics often produce more greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) than single-use plastic due to emissions created during the agricultural phase.
- Growing crops to make these materials also requires significant amounts of fossil fuels, farmland, and water - all precious resources that can be used to grow actual food.
- Much compostable packaging relies on toxic per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) to repel water and oil and researchers have shown that PFAS can leach into compost.
- Most bioplastics and compostable packaging will not break down in a backyard bin - they can only be composted by a high-heat industrial composting facility. Unfortunately, very few cities have these facilities which means bioplastics often end up in landfills and incinerators.
- Many products that claim to be compostable or recyclable aren't collected for either recycling or compost. If they do get collected, they may still get diverted to landfill or incinerator.
- When compostable products end up in a landfill or incinerator, their climate footprint increases: compostable packaging that ends up in landfills releases methane, a greenhouse gas 30 times more potent than carbon dioxide.
- Unlike food waste and yard trimmings, compostable packaging and bioplastics do not add valuable nutrients to compost.
- Composting facilities don't want bioplastics, and many don't accept compostable foodware because of the contamination they cause.
- Composters serving Oregon ask residents not to put any plastic compostable foodware in their green bins and many commercial composting facilities in California do not accept bioplastics, and some don't accept any foodware at all.