

ENVIRONMENT POLICY

We give all of our products a code which shows how the materials, design and usage of the packaging affects the environment.

R – recycled. This product contains between 50 and 95% recycled content

R – recyclable. This product is recyclable

R – reduce packaging. The minimum amount of packaging possible has been used.

R – renewable. Product is made from renewable resources.

R – reusable. Product can be reused.

R – returns to earth. Product is biodegradable.

This is a very complex subject and much debate is happening within the sandwich packaging industry, as to the various merits and the environmental impact of different forms of packaging.

For example, PP bags and flow wrap films. These are not made from recycled or biodegradable materials but they are the absolute minimum packaging that can be used. Using biodegradable or recycled packaging would be worse for the environment as they would use more resources and more energy to produce and transport. Packaging food in this manner gives a longer shelf life than alternatives which reduces waste.

Biodegradable cardboard is viewed by the customer as being better for the environment than recycled plastic. However all the evidence shows that the energy used to manufacture, transport and seal recycled plastic uses far less; than for cardboard packaging. This is before taking into account the loss of shelflife. As cardboard packaging cannot be sealed to be 100% airtight there will be a minimum of 1 days loss of shelflife on the food. This creates greater food waste, packaging waste, transport energy wasted as fridges need to be replenished more often and wasted manufacturing energy. Also often not all of the pack is biodegradable ie the glue used to form the product. Plastic can then be used again and again.

The cost of the packaging must also be taken into account. If the cost of a piece of packaging increases the cost of the product so much that only the most affluent can afford the food is this the right choice to make?

With such groups as Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace, RSPB and Action aid coming out against ; biodegradable plastics on ethical and environmental grounds we will not sell products containing these products.

Each case will be different. If you want to discuss how to make what you do more environment friendly in a cost effective way please contact us.