

Energy Carta Seminar Series – Sustainable Materials: Towards Absolute Oil Independence

Plastics Made From Corn and Sugarcane. *Not Oil.*

Imagine a world where there is no need for coastal cleanups because all plastics we use can biodegrade naturally.

Absolute Oil Independence: Sustainable Materials

Even if we manage to replace our entire gas guzzling fleet with electric cars and renewable energy, we would still need petroleum plastics to make the world go round. Look around us and the merits and problems of plastics are abundant. Issues range from the extraction process from crude oil, the additives and stabilizers that are toxic, the incineration of plastics which releases more green house gases, the non-biodegradability and harm to wildlife and pollution.

But today, there exist technologies where plastics can be made from sustainable raw materials such as corn, sugarcane and biomass. They have the added advantage of being naturally biodegradable and recyclable but remain lacking in terms of material properties (strength, melting temperature) and cost compared to conventional petroleum products which has been around for a long time. Big players such as Dow, Tejin and DuPont have heavily invested in these line of products usually termed Bioplastics. Several conferences have been held on the topic worldwide as well. Singapore has its own start ups (Olive Green, Grenidea) investing in these materials. Products currently include food packaging, utensils, credit cards, crockery and clothing. Energy Carta is proud to bring you this seminar on sustainable bioplastics.

This is a panel discussion about a new generation of plastic materials. The following speakers will be speaking about their experiences:

Aloysius Cheong

Director
Olive Green

Graduated from NUS Arts in 2002, Aloysius has started 3 businesses. A tuition centre in 2003 that caters to the needs of the mass market, as well as a marine-life research facility dealing with the biomedical sciences in 2004. In 2006, a 3rd business is set up in order to meet the changing needs of the disposable packaging industry. For decades, we have been relying on styrofoam and PP/PE plastics but due to international influences on the need to be more eco-friendly and to stem our reliance on petrol-chemicals, there is a business opportunity present. A new family of bioplastics has been introduced to Singaporeans since 2007 and has gained momentum over the years.

Professor Pui Kwan Wong

Deputy Director
Research
Institute of Chemical and Engineering Sciences, A*STAR

Dr PK Wong began his industrial career at Dow Chemicals in Midland, Michigan before joining Shell Chemicals where he has worked in Houston and Amsterdam. While at Shell, he has carried out a variety of exploratory research projects in homogeneous catalysis and polymers, and participated in several development projects including the commercialisation of aliphatic polyketones. In addition to research, he also has experience in manufacturing support.

Details and Registration

Date: 13th March 2009, Friday

Time: 10 to 11:30 AM

Venue: LT 5, Engineering Faculty, National University of Singapore. (Engineering Drive 2)

MAP:

<http://energycarta-seminars.wikispaces.com/>

REGISTER HERE:

<http://tinyurl.com/byl2m3>

Contact: tiddwayll@gmail.com

Join the Facebook group Energy Carta as well!

Please find more details about the speakers, including a map and registration form, on this website:

<http://energycarta-seminars.wikispaces.com/>