



Compostable fruit and vegetable wrap could replace the polyethene plastic wrap used in many grocery stores | Photo source [Fikri Rasyid on Unsplash](#)

[Innovation](#) > [Retail](#) > [Compostable shrink wrap for grocery produce](#)

COMPOSTABLE SHRINK WRAP FOR GROCERY PRODUCE

 RETAIL

The bioplastic could replace traditional single-use shrink wrap used on fruits and vegetables

Spotted: Australian independent grocer Drake's Supermarkets partnered with Adelaide-based wholesaler IG Fresh to create a compostable fruit and vegetable wrap. The supermarket chain wanted to stop using the polyethene plastic wrap frequently used on individually sold fruits and vegetables. While there are many biodegradable and compostable packaging options now available, the challenge in this project lay in making the new material usable for shrink wrapping.

The compostable wrap took 12 months to develop with IG Fresh working in partnership with BioBag World Australia. The new material is made of a plant-based resin called Mater-Bi and, as well as being 100 per cent industrially compostable, can also be disposed of in-home and garden compost and recycling bins. The team behind its development sees it as a direct replacement for a wide range of single-use plastics.

Countries including South Africa and Qatar have already expressed interest in the heat-shrunk bioplastic. Distribution plans include expanding into the United States and other countries. Development of the compostable wrap is focusing on a non-shrink version that could replace traditional cling films.

Other recent innovations in composting spotted by Springwise include a compost-powered [bench warmer](#) and a garden building made entirely of [cork](#).

15th October 2019

Email: au@biobagworld.com

Website: biobagworld.com.au

Takeaway:

Fully compostable materials are becoming more valued as the general public begins to better understand the important differences between biodegradable and compostable. Innovations in material sciences are helping to reduce pollution and increase supply-chain sustainability across a wide range of industries. Businesses as diverse as construction and fashion are beginning to make more use of composting and compostable bio products, helping increase carbon neutrality across processes and areas of work.