

Plastic packaging manufacturer Greiner Packaging making strides toward reducing material usage for yogurt cups

Greiner Packaging is taking various steps to make its packaging solutions as sustainable as possible. One key approach is reducing material usage while maintaining or improving recyclability to save weight as well as cutting carbon emissions. The company is now unveiling a plastic cup for Greek yogurt that demonstrates the strong success of these efforts.

- **Material reduced by 20 percent compared with current production methods**
- **Smaller carbon footprint thanks to reduction in materials**
- **Polypropylene (PP) for filling with warm or cold products**
- **IML decoration for optimal branding and premium look**

Kremsmünster, Austria, April 2021. Austrian dairy company Ennstal Milch operates a filling plant for various flavors of Greek yogurt. Greiner Packaging has successfully developed an ideal packaging solution for the yogurt – a cup that features an appealing design while significantly reducing the use of plastic. The packaging manufacturer is now producing this solution as well, allowing it to respond to the market's requirements and the trend toward lightweight packaging decorated with IML technology.

Reduced material usage: the approach for new packaging solutions

One aspect of Greiner Packaging's sustainability strategy is reducing its material usage, a goal it has been pursuing for some time now. The company aims to produce packaging that exhibits the same functionality and improved recyclability compared with previous solutions in order to cut back on plastic from virgin materials as well as carbon emissions. This represents an essential, sustainable approach for the plastics experts – in addition to using recycled materials and renewable raw materials while increasing the recyclability of its packaging solutions to as much as 100 percent.

Sometimes, less is more

Greiner Packaging achieved a material savings of 20 percent for the new plastic cup for the Greek yogurt, having reduced the solution's weight by making adjustments to technical conditions in production. And this reduction has absolutely no impact on the functionality of the cup or its suitability for logistics and filling line systems. Likewise, it is still just as easy to separate the empty cups and stack the sealed cups filled with yogurt. The polypropylene (PP) plastic used in the cups is designed to be suitable for filling with dairy products and other foods in a refrigerated environment or at room temperature. A concerted effort is already underway in Europe to build a collection and recycling infrastructure that is as comprehensive as possible, so the future prospects for recovering the material in optimal quantities are highly promising. Moreover, the carbon footprint incurred during transport is significantly reduced due to the decreased weight of the cup.

Almost endless design possibilities

The PP cup also offers numerous plus points in terms of its design. Thanks to the in-mold labeling technology – that is, the use of a label fused with the cup during the production process – the cup boasts a premium look and makes a particularly impressive statement on store shelves. IML allows for a tailored brand identity with the same high quality as photo printing, ideal for attracting the consumer's attention at the POS. Double-sided or interactive labels can be used to take consumer interactions to the next level. A QR code or digital watermark, for example, can be integrated for competitions, promotions, or similar consumer engagement activities. Plus, a wide range of surface effects is available to enhance the product's premium look, including soft touch, matte, ultra-glossy, metallic, transparent, or imitation paper finishes.

Another option: renewable materials

As part of its efforts to utilize more renewable materials, Greiner Packaging also offers its customers biocircular plastics on request, such as those made from agricultural production waste. Because Greiner Packaging is ISCC Plus certified (International Sustainability and Carbon Certification), the company's customers can highlight this on their packaging solutions if their organizations are also certified as part of the value chain. In addition, customers can use sealing film made of polypropylene so that the cup, IML label, and sealing film are made of the same material. This represents a further step ahead in terms of recyclability.

"The new, lighter-weight IML cup for Greek yogurt is a great example of Greiner Packaging's dedication to reducing material usage and the weight and carbon savings that come with it. The fact that we also make products from renewable materials on request, which in turn are 100 percent recyclable, is completely in line with our sustainable mindset and our mission to actively advance the transition to a circular economy," says Philipp Maurer, key account and IML category manager at Greiner Packaging.

Packaging facts:

- Technology: Injection molding
- Decoration: IML
- Material: PP, including bio-circular on request

About Greiner Packaging

Greiner Packaging is a leading European manufacturer of plastic packaging in the food and nonfood sectors. The company has enjoyed a reputation for outstanding solutions expertise in the fields of development, design, production, and decoration for more than 60 years. Greiner Packaging responds to the challenges of the market with two business units: Packaging and Assistec. While the Packaging unit focuses on innovative packaging solutions, the Assistec unit is dedicated to producing custom-made technical parts. Greiner Packaging employs a workforce of around 5,000 at more than 30 locations in 19 countries around the world. In 2019, the company generated annual sales revenues of EUR 690 million (including joint ventures), which represents more than 40 percent of Greiner's total sales.

Text and image:

Text document and high-resolution images for download:

<https://mam.greiner.at/pinaccess/showpin.do?pinCode=bCp7unJxCpjg>



Caption: Greiner Packaging has developed a special yogurt cup made of PP that reduces material usage by 20 percent.

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