



# OWS

## Foundation

- 1988

## Turnover

- 19 million €/yr

## Employees

- 70

## Key services

- Biodegradability, compostability and ecotoxicity testing
- Consultancy and support in anaerobic digestion
- Auditing, controlling and sorting of different waste streams
- Sustainable development

## Key aspects

- Strictly independent
- No material development
- ISO 17025 accredited
- Recognized by all certification bureaus worldwide
- More than 20 years of experience



OWS nv is a world leading company in the construction and operation of anaerobic digestion plants, in the biodegradability and compostability testing of different types of materials, and in waste management consultancy. OWS is a private company under Belgian law with headquarters in Gent (Belgium) and subsidiaries in the USA and Germany.

The Lab & Consulting department holds approx. 40 employees and is divided in 5 main divisions offering services in biodegradability, compostability and ecotoxicity testing, physico-chemical characterization of compost and soil, consultancy and support in anaerobic digestion, auditing, controlling and sorting of different waste streams and transition to sustainability.

Testing is done under conditions of strict quality control and confidentiality (ISO 17025) and with an independent and objective scientific approach. OWS is an active member of several normalization organizations such as CEN, ISO, ASTM and DIN and the official Belgian delegate of several CEN and ISO committees. In this capacity OWS has developed several standard methods and is project leader of some new standards in development. In the area of consulting services OWS is providing assistance to various clients, both private and governmental, in the field of recycling, integrated waste management, waste composition, home and industrial composting, management of organic waste and information on market and legislative developments in home and industrial composting and anaerobic digestion. OWS is offering testing and consulting services on a world-wide basis through its fully-owned subsidiary OWS Inc. in Dayton, Ohio (USA) and a strong partnership with DJK International in Tokyo, Japan.

As a strictly independent laboratory working conform ISO 17025, OWS is recognized by all certification bureaus worldwide working in the field of biodegradability and compostability. In the last 20+ years, OWS has tested more than 2500 samples for more than 750 different clients all over the world. Tests can be performed under different conditions: aerobic (compost, soil, fresh water, marine, ...) or anaerobic (landfill, digestion, ...).



Biodegradability testing



Visual follow up of the disintegration during composting



Plant toxicity testing



Pilot-scale composting test

## References

**Base Polymers:** BASF (DE), DSM (NL), Du Pont (US), Limagrain-Biolice (FR), FKUR (DE), Metabolix (US), NatureWorks (US), Novamont (IT), Showa Denko (JP), ...

**Additivated Base Polymers:** Bio-Tec (US), ECM Biofilms (US), EconVerde (UK), Enzymoplast (UK), EPI (US), Goody (AU), Symphony (UK), Wells Plastics (UK), ...

**Paper & Board:** Ahlstrom (UK/FR), Huhtamaki (FI/DE), International Paper (US), Kuan Chun Paper (TW), Lenzing (AT), Pactiv (US), UPM (UK/FI), ...

**Food & Non-Food Packaging:** Alcan Packaging (UK/MX), Amcor (UK), Mondi Packaging (AT), Sealed Air (US), Tetra Pak (SE), ...

**Consumer Goods & Personal Care:** 3M (US), Henkel (DE), Kimberly-Clark (US), Nestlé (CH), Procter & Gamble (BE/UK/DE), Sara Lee (UK), SCA (SE), Unilever (UK/US/FR), ...

**Inks & Masterbatches:** Schulman Plastics (BE), CIBA (IT/CH), Chimigraf (ES/FR), Flint (NL/FR), Siegwark (FR), Sun Chemical (AU/FR/ES/UK), Wacker (DE), ...

**Films & Bags:** Because We Care (AU), Cortec (US), Sabc (SA), Sphere (FR), WeiMon (TW), Wuhan Huali (CN), ...

**Food Service Ware:** Medac (IT), Seda (IT), Source Atlantique (US), Smurfit Kappa (FR), Solo Cup (US/UK), ...

**Other categories:** Agriculture & Horticulture (Smithers-Oasis-US), International Associations (EuBP-DE), Governmental Authorities (ACCC-AU), ...

## Contact

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