

## ***Biodegradation of PHAs in the Open Environment***

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Polyhydroxyalkanoates of short and medium chain length are well biodegradable under suitable laboratory conditions. This makes them good reference materials also for field studies on biodegradable plastics polymers. However, several variables influence the performance of PHAs in marine, freshwater and soil systems, with temperature being the dominant driver. The biodegradation rates of different co-polymers under different environmental scenarios will be presented. Furthermore, we show how to render results from lab, mesocosm and field studies comparable by statistical modelling and how this allows for lifetime predictions of products made from PHAs in the open environment.