

## **Development of biodegradable/compostable plastics/barriers.**

### **Swedish Company at the forefront.**

Swecoat Timrå AB specializes in the coating of moisture and grease-resistant plastics, paper and other materials. For years, Swecoat has specialized in the development of new products, together with external suppliers, customers, Mid Sweden University in Sundsvall and businesses in the local network Packaging Mid Sweden.

Today there are a few companies in Europe who have managed to extrude a biopolymer that qualifies for compostability. Only one small company in the Nordic region with a small volume of a board together with a few companies in Europe has similar products in their product portfolio.

What Swecoat has succeeded is to coat the polymer in a variety of substrates with excellent adhesion. Examples of substrates where the company has achieved this are:

- Board for the food industry.
- MG and LWC paper for wrapping industry.
- Nonwoven materials for the hygiene industry.
- Grease proof for the food industry.
- As well as technical applications such as VCR paper.

The company, through exclusive cooperation agreement, conducted development and test runs since 2007 together with a number of industrial customers. A number of new products have and will be launched on the market in the coming years, in which a component of the product is manufactured by Swecoat in Timrå.

Currently, Swecoat cooperates with leading companies like Ahlstrom. Swecoat delivers, for example, some of the material used for hair removal strips chiefly to countries in the Mediterranean region. There is strong market pressure to produce hair removal strips that decompose quickly. In today's society with huge mountains of rubbish we are happy if we can contribute to a better environment, says Stefan Soderberg marketing manager and part owner of Swecoat.

Swecoat developed product also has excellent barrier properties against lipids. The product has even proven to be better than traditional polyethylene plastic. Regarding barriers to moisture and water it is possible to achieve good barrier by adding a primer on the substrate before coating of biopolymers takes place. Bio-polymers are known to not

achieve the equivalent barrier against moisture and water, but this Swecoat solution gives the barrier a very good resistance even to moisture and water.

Customer reactions in Europe have been very positive and Swecoat expect strong demand for biopolymer coating in 2012. Products that are now in production are for industrial hygiene and the food industry.

Swecoat located in Timrå, close to Sundsvall, employs 11 people and has annual sales of about 25 million SEK.

For more information, including the various standards that this bio-polymer meets, please contact Marketing Director Stefan Soderberg +46 (0)70-276 77 26.

The company is also described in an article in Green Solutions page 74, [www.cleantechregion.se/inspiration.htm#1](http://www.cleantechregion.se/inspiration.htm#1)