

Ecological Alternatives

Innovation in Recycling

I recently ordered some articles from Forestry Suppliers and, on opening the box, had a pleasant surprise. Instead of those annoying plastic packing "peanuts" that electrostatically adhere to everything and can't be recycled, the box was packed with Eco-Foam[®] pellets. These packing pellets look and function just like their plastic predecessors, but they completely biodegrade and do not contain any chlorofluorocarbons. EcoFoam[®] is a product of the National Starch and Chemical Company and are composed of 95% corn starch and 5% organic polymers. What makes them unique is that they can be saved and

used over again but, when you put them in water, they biodegrade right before your eyes-instantly and completely.

To me, this is what the recycling movement should be about, not merely trying to find ways to reuse existing materials but developing new innovative products that solve a pre-existing problem. Hopefully, the new administration will institute a recycling awards program that will give proper recognition to these eco-friendly new products.