



DISTRUPOLSM
A *Univar* company

SUSTAINABLE SUCCESS

Far from seeing plastics as the enemy of the environment, James Stanton, Commercial Manager, Distrupol argues that conscientious use of these materials can contribute to a sustainable future.

The 'Attenborough effect' has continued to cause shockwaves around the world following the 2017 documentary 'Blue Planet II'. Heart-breaking footage, considerable statistics and stark messaging brought to light the environmental impact of the irresponsible use and disposal of plastic. Since then, we've seen a huge increase in the public awareness of plastic, unfortunately very negative for the most part. Whilst it's undeniable that the irresponsible disposal of plastic into our oceans is very damaging to marine ecosystems and our wider environment, the conscientious use of plastic also contributes to a sustainable future in a magnitude of ways.

In our industry, we all need polymer solutions that can be applied sustainably. This means reduced emissions, a reduced impact on the environment (including oceans), reduced polymer waste and improved recyclability and reusability.

DISTRUPOL AND SUSTAINABILITY

At Distrupol, we recognise the importance of acting responsibly and sustainably, especially considering our industry. We have developed a three-pronged approach to sustainable business and reducing our environmental impact. This comprehensive method is to ensure we are able to act sustainably as a business, whilst also positively impacting the sustainability of our customers and their products. We take heed and direction from both

government policies and industry initiatives and keep updated with sustainability project developments to guarantee we are at the forefront of sustainable business.

OUR POSITION ON SUSTAINABILITY

We work tirelessly to ensure our business processes are optimised and 'best practices' are as efficient and effective as possible to reduce our impact on the environment and maximise our sustainability efforts. From investing in communications and technology to reduce the need for travel, to investing in smart warehousing and logistics, and of course using resources and energy efficiently. Distrupol prioritises safety and sustainability in every aspect of what we do.

Operation Clean Sweep® is an international initiative to reduce plastic pellet loss to the environment, led by the British Plastics Federation in the UK. The initiative's aim is to ensure that the plastic pellets, flakes and powders that go through manufacturing facilities are handled with care and do not end up in our oceans. Distrupol's commitment to Operation Clean Sweep® means that we adhere to best practices and implement systems to reduce plastic pellet loss throughout our supply chain.

A SUSTAINABLE PORTFOLIO

The last 18 months have seen a real drive and focus on working with new and existing supply partners to develop a more sustainable portfolio of polymer materials. Distrupol work with a range of supply partners who

incorporate recycled, renewably-sourced and environmentally-friendly polymer materials in their portfolios. These include, but not limited to, DuPont™, Chi Mei, INEOS, Biffa® Polymers and H. J. Enthoven.

We are proud to include Polyvinyl Alcohol (PVOH) in our innovative portfolio. PVOH has been around for many years but, in relatively recent times, new formulations have been developed to make them not only extrudable into polymer film, but also convertible by techniques such as injection moulding.

PVOH, to touch and feel, can be as flexible as Low Density Polyethylene (LDPE) or as rigid as Polypropylene (PP). Crucially, all formulations completely dissolve in water. Current applications include; disposables, packaging and medical products with the following available attributes: hot and cold water dissolve, rapid and slow dissolve and clean chemistry. This can help to keep our oceans cleaner and safer.

As well as this, we have recently launched an extremely exciting new material: Distrupol Pre-CW (pre-consumer waste). Pre-consumer waste refers to waste derived from an industrial process where the plastic item cannot be used again in the same industrial process. Our aim is to take this 'waste' and give it another use, therefore reducing plastic wastage. Distrupol Pre-CW is a pre-consumer waste polypropylene material available in both pellet and flake form. It is polypropylene reprocessed from the moulds of contact lenses, and so we are able to detail the exact grade and source



of the polypropylene (referring to the manufacturer's MSDS). It is also consistent, extremely clean and natural in format. More details on this material are being released by Distrupol imminently.

It's not just recent additions to our portfolio that can be considered as 'sustainable'. Distrupol's long-standing relationship with DuPont brings expert polymer solutions to manufacturers and OEMs across the UK, Ireland and Nordics. The quality, efficiency and engineering excellence of DuPont polymers also ultimately delivers sustainable solutions. Take Delrin® homopolymer acetal, for example. When designed correctly, Delrin could produce a part using less plastic material, compared to a standard copolymer acetal. These parts would be as strong, if not stronger, and more durable, meaning there is less of a need to dispose of



JAMES STANTON
Commercial Manager
at Distrupol

COMPANY PROFILE

DISTRUPOL

A specialist in the sales and application development of thermoplastic polymers and elastomers

www.distrupol.com

Distrupol is a European leader with over 50 years of excellence, innovation and expertise in the sales and application development of thermoplastic polymers and elastomers.

Our team of highly experienced sales people is able to meet your requirements and exceed your expectations, whilst adding value to your business. The team is supported in every market by our development engineers, who have an unrivalled knowledge of every aspect of polymer technology including design of parts and moulds, polymer selection to achieve best performance, troubleshooting and optimising the production of parts.

and replace the plastic parts. This smart approach to manufacturing with plastic is imperative to making a substantial and long-term impact on the safe and responsible use of plastic in modern society.

WORKING WITH CUSTOMERS

Distrupol's dedicated Development Engineer team have been supporting manufacturers across Europe to develop innovative, effective and results-driven plastic parts and products for over 50 years. Part of this service has more prominently become about developing sustainable solutions. With extensive knowledge, industry awareness and a genuine passion for plastic manufacturing, our development engineers work with customers, manufacturers and OEMs to make their plastic parts more sustainable. This

may be through maximising the longevity of a part, reducing the need for disposal and replacement, improving the design of a part to require less material, or incorporating more materials from our sustainability portfolio.

DISTRUPOL, A UNIVAR SOLUTIONS COMPANY

Univar Solutions' commitment to sustainability is embedded throughout the Distrupol business. Together, we recognise that sustainability is more than reducing our impacts, but instead is an all-encompassing social, economic and environmental philosophy. As a global enterprise, we have a value driven approach to business and a conviction that sustainable business is key to our collective success.

In 2018, Univar Solutions became

a signatory to the United Nations Global Compact, emphasising the ongoing dedication to responsible business. The UN Global Compact is a voluntary initiative based on CEO commitments to implement universal sustainability principles and to take steps to support UN goals.

Sustainability, environmental-friendliness, recycling, reducing, reusing – nothing is effective if only done by one person, one business or one entity. Making plastics part of a sustainable future is collaborative effort. As leaders and experts in our industry, we recognise the responsibility we have to continue to drive sustainability efforts and work with suppliers, customers and other organisations to support the safe and responsible use of plastics in 2020 and beyond.