Research Brief Series: The Intersection between Environmental Policy and Health April 28, 2020

The Problem

Natural resources are being extracted faster than the Earth is able to produce them

Most resins are derived from petroleum, NOT biodegradable, and NOT sustainable

There is NO
environmentally friendly
way to dispose of
composites - they stay in
landfills for centuries
without degrading

Green materials are made in a sustainable way and degraded or composted into soil

Advanced Green
Composites do not
degrade in built
environments outside, resins degrade in
3 months

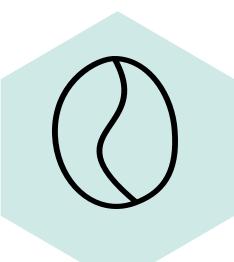
KEY TAKEAWAYS



"Green" materials are environmentally friendly alternatives to petroleum based manufactured products



"Green" materials can be utilized in housing, aerospace, automobiles, medical supplies, sporting goods, etc.



Soy proteins are plant-based, yearly renewable (sustainable), biodegradable, and inexpensive

94%

OF COMPOSITES
END UP IN
LANDFILLS

6-8% of all petroleum is used to produce plastics, polymers, etc.

Advanced Green Composites//

Material defined by high strength and stiffness, developed using plant and starch based resins

Policy Implications

To face the challenges of climate change, manufactures must adopt environmentally sustainable practices. The use of plant-based advanced green composites can help New York State reach its progressive sustainability goals and reduce the unsustainable demand for natural resources.

