



expect the world from us



The Oppenheimer Group and Earthcycle Packaging put Completely Home Compostable Produce Packaging on retail shelves

VANCOUVER, B.C. – May 16, 2006 – The Oppenheimer Group and Earthcycle Packaging announced today the availability of their new line of completely compostable kiwi fruit packaging at Wal-Mart Supercenters and Neighborhood Markets in the United States. With the introduction of this completely compostable kiwifruit packaging, Wal-Mart is taking advantage of the design brilliance of nature and making it available to consumers as part of the retailer's efforts to reduce environmental impacts.

“This development aligns well with Oppenheimer's own commitment to sustainability,” noted John Anderson, chairman, president and CEO of The Oppenheimer Group. “I am very proud that Wal-Mart has taken the opportunity to work with us on this project.”

About a year ago, The Oppenheimer Group, an international produce marketer with a long-term relationship with Wal-Mart, introduced the retailer to Earthcycle Packaging, the innovator of this ground-breaking sustainable packaging design. Subsequently, the three companies have collaborated toward the launch of these packs, recognizing the value of having all components come from the earth and, when they have served their useful purpose, return to the earth.

“Working with the Wal-Mart sustainable packaging team has really demonstrated the company's commitment to sustainability,” commented Shannon Boase, founder and president of Earthcycle Packaging. Earthcycle sources all its palm fiber from long established plantations in West Malaysia. “We are proud to be able to bring to Wal-Mart, a product that clearly contributes to the sustainability efforts of the Malaysian palm oil industry by giving a former waste product a useful life with a cycle that returns it to the soil.”

The Earthcycle tray is a moulded pulp package made from palm fiber of the Empty Fruit Bunch (EFB), a waste product left over after the palm fruit is harvested and pressed for oil. Previously incinerated or landfilled, this fiber is now made into FDA food grade packaging which is certified compostable (ASTM D6400). Just pitch it in the compost and, in less than 90 days, it will biodegrade and be ready to make a healthy contribution to the soil.

To protect the kiwifruit, the pack is covered in NatureFlex™ film, a certified compostable (ASTM D6400) material made with cellulose derived from wood pulp harvested at managed plantations. Even the paper label is earth-friendly, designed with water-based ink and a special adhesive. It is certified by the OK Home Compost program in Europe (EN13432).



expect the world from us



About The Oppenheimer Group

Based in Vancouver, BC, Oppenheimer is among North America's top fresh produce companies, sourcing over 100 varieties of fruits and vegetables from more than 25 countries and delivering them to retailers, wholesalers and foodservice operators across the U.S. and Canada. The full-service marketer has offices throughout North and South America and relationships with growers around the world to ensure a 52-week supply of preferred produce items. For more information visit: www.opyproduce.com

About Earthcycle

Vancouver-based Earthcycle Packaging is a privately held company that offers sustainable packaging for fresh food, food service, garden and consumer products as well as providing custom solutions for clients. For more information please visit: www.earthcycle.com

- end -

Contact:

Karin Gardner
Communications Manager
The Oppenheimer Group
Tel: 206-284-1705 / 206-499-7440
e-mail: karga@opy.com

Shannon Boase
President
Earthcycle Packaging Ltd.
Tel: 604-899-0928
e-mail: sboase@earthcycle.com