What happens to our organic waste?

Compostable packaging is either made from common biodegradeable materials (paper, wood, cardboard, bagasse) or is a bioplastic with industrial composting certification. The three industrial composting certifications used include the Australian (AS4736), the US (ASTM D6400), or the European (EU 13432).

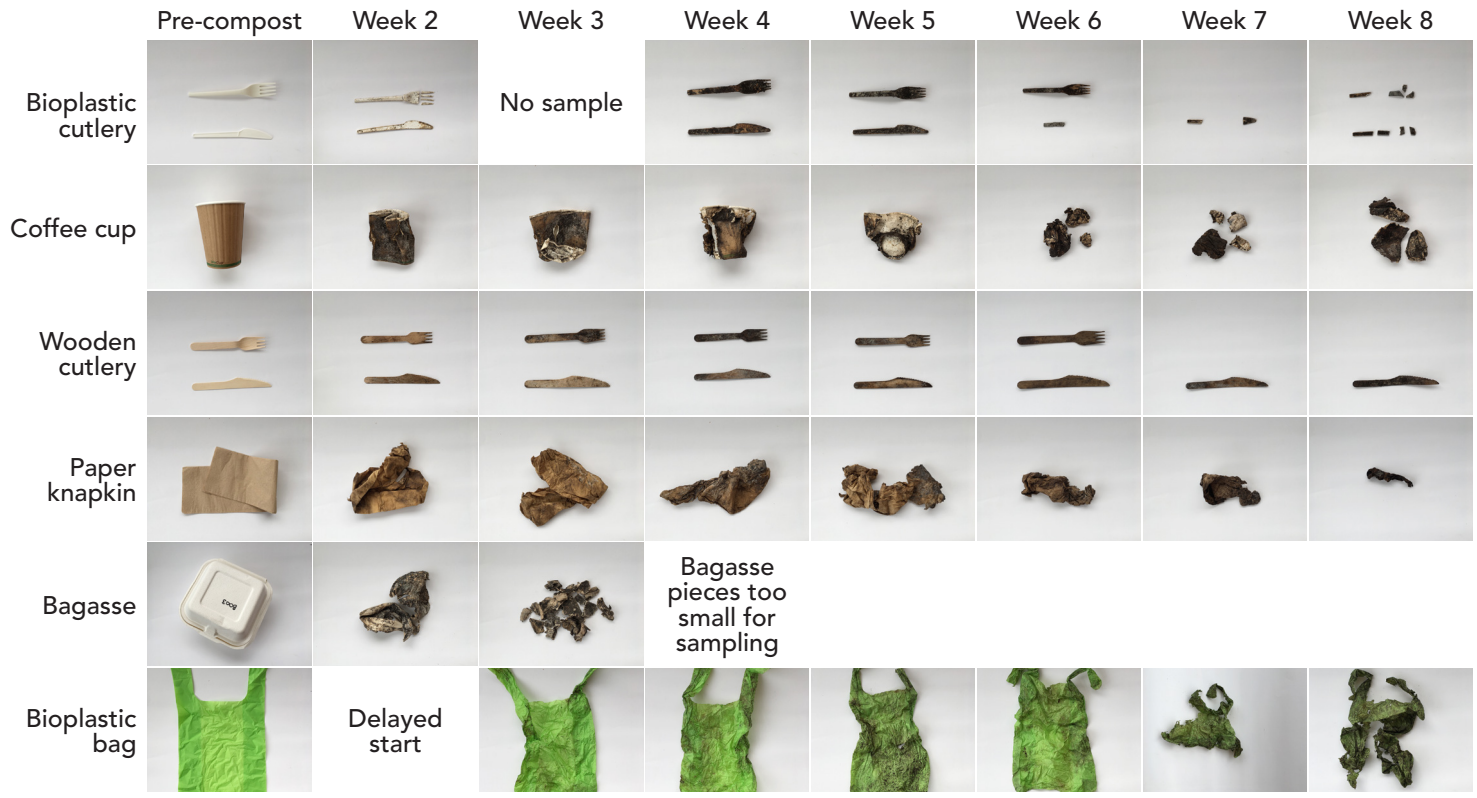
The main requirements of these certifications can be seen below:

	AS4736 (AUS)[1]	ASTM D6400 (US)[2]	EN13432 (EU)[3]
Decomposition standard	**90% in 180 days**	**60% in 180 days**	**90% in 180 days**
Toxicity	**Nil**	**Nil**	**Nil**
Worm test	**Yes**	**No**	**No**
Disintegration	**90% < 2mm in 84 days**	**90% < 2mm in 84 days**	**90% < 2mm in 84 days**

The organic waste from our bins is sent to McRobies Compost Facility, which meets Australian Standard AS 4454 – Composts, soil conditioners and mulches.

From beginning to end, the composting process takes approximately 6 months. An 8 week snapshot of the behaviour of compostable packaging in the McRobies Compost Facility can be seen in the image below.

Figure 1 Disintegration rates of certified compostable packaging during trials at McRobies Composting Facility



1 Australian Standard AS 4736 – 2006 Biodegradable plastics – Biodegradable plastics suitable for composting and other microbial treatment

2 ASTM D6400 – Standard specification for labelling of plastics designed to be aerobically composted in municipal or industrial facilities

3 EN13432 – Requirements for packaging recoverable through composting and biodegradation.

4 Australian Standard AS 4454 – 2012 Composts, soil conditioners and mulches