Plastics and the Environment

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For many in the plastics sector, environmental sustainability may be part of a wider corporate social responsibility scheme with the primary purpose of increasing customer loyalty and penetrating new markets. However, everyone knows that there are also real opportunities for companies to gain substantial cost savings - not to mention environmental integrity - through efficient processing and resource management.

In the past so called ‘green’ materials were simply not able to meet the aesthetic demands of customers or to achieve the required level of durability and functionality in plastic products, and very often recycled materials were more expensive to produce than their virgin equivalents. Not so now. New application ideas, novel designs and lower cost material solutions are now readily available and some are discussed in this book.

This Update aims to address the environmental decisions that the non-packaging plastics supply chain can take to increase their environmental integrity, and to comply with current and pending regulations.

With the plastic products sector acknowledging the need to consider the environment throughout a product’s life cycle, many companies now recognise the benefits of communicating these efforts to the consumer through product labelling to encourage a purchase and simplify post-use disposal.

This book features best practice cases from key industries to illustrate the steps that can be taken at each stage of product development – including conception, and design and materials selection.

This book will be of interest to all those who produce both plastic raw materials and to those who produce plastic products.

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