



March 11, 2021

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### **BIOPLASTIC: Hype or Hope?**

*Beaver County explores exciting new technologies in this educational series*

Beaver, Pa. – Do bioplastics have a viable economic future in SWPA? That is the question that will be explored Thursday night, March 11 from 7-8:30 p.m. and later on March 25 when a virtual panel of experts addresses the science and promise of bioplastics.

More than 130 residents have signed up to attend the event, the third of four programs for residents interested in expanding the economic vision of our region beyond petrochemical-based plastic development in Appalachia and the Ohio River Valley.

The event will be streamed live on Zoom, [BCMAC's Facebook](#) page. A discussion and Q+A will follow the speakers. Media are invited to join.

**To Register: [bit.ly/bioplastics\\_BC](https://bit.ly/bioplastics_BC)**

**To Attend the Zoom Event:**

<https://blueleens.zoom.us/j/94921274179?pwd=MkZLYjdMcWJOdUdJSnlCRkqxQnpQZz09>

Moderator and Chatham University professor Dr. Patricia DeMarco will provide an overview of the circular economy, an intro to the pros and cons of bioplastic and discuss the ways bioplastics contribute to the creation of products that are biodegradable, compostable and recyclable.

“The first step toward using alternative materials that can replace plastics, especially for single-use products, is a better understanding of the different kinds of bio-plastics,” says DeMarco, a professor at Chatham University. “The terms can be confusing. Some bio-based plastic polymers are produced from biomass or by living organisms, and they may or may not be biodegradable.”

“The best time for innovation often follows a crisis when folks are activated to make change,” says Joanne Martin, co-founder of Reimagine Beaver County. “The pandemic, justice issues,

and the climate crisis are just a few which have mobilized people to challenge old ideas. This educational series on bioplastic offers exciting new technologies for Beaver County to explore and diverse economic growth options for a resilient community – one that will be irresistible to young people who are the future.”

**Guest speakers include:**

Dr. Patricia DeMarco, Chatham University

Dr. Clifford Lau, Duquesne University

Anne Rouse, U.S. Fulbright Scholar, producer and educator

Taylor Weiss, University of Arizona

The second event, **Building a Bioplastic Industry**, will take place on March 25, 2021.

*The Beaver Event Series is sponsored by: Beaver County Marcellus Awareness Community (BCMAC), Reimagine Beaver County, Breathe Project and League of Women Voters and Climate Reality Project.*