

Cellulose fibers – two new approaches to sustainable nonwovens

Traditionally cellulose-based fibers in nonwovens came in two forms: as fluff pulp for binder-bonded airlaid nonwovens and as polyester/viscose fiber blends for wipe production. With the EU Single-Use Plastics Directive, especially wipe materials needed to be reconsidered.

This talk focuses on the potential of paper-grade pulp as a rising star for single-use wipes.

Cost-effective NBSK pulp entered the scene in 2013 with biodegradable wet-laid and spunlaced (WLS) nonwovens, made entirely from pulp and lyocell/viscose short fibers. Being already popular in the flushable wipe segment, WLS nonwovens also make high-quality, strong wipes.

Last year the first industrial Carded/Pulp line started up. CP composite nonwovens feature a wet-laid pulp layer and a second layer from re-generated cellulosic fibers. They combine highest functionality, eco-friendliness with low material costs.

We'll discuss WLS and CP technologies and lessons learnt from extensive trials in both our own Technical Center and at customer's site.