

**Title:**

Replacing Plastics in Nonwovens with cellulosic fibre innovations to improve sustainability in product designs

**Abstract:**

Single use nonwoven products like wipes and absorbent hygiene products were not plastic based from their beginning. However, as time passed, due to cost and performance improvement measures plastic components kept increasing their share. Presently, the status is that almost 70% of wipes and 30-40% of AHP products is plastic based by weight.

Wipes are simpler by design hence, changing the design to non plastics is easier. However, AHP products are complex products and removing plastic from each layer poses different challenges.

As an industry, does single use wipes and AHP nonwoven products have a choice to continue as it is. With continuous social awareness and regulatory push, the timeline and options to shift to plastic free materials is limited now. The earlier we make this shift better it is for the future of nonwoven industry. In recent years there have been several developments around wipes and AHP products attempting to find solutions to replace plastics. While substantial progress has happened on wipes, completely biodegradable and compostable AHP products is still some distance away. We present the status as on date and the performance gaps that still exists.

In our presentation we are discussing possible future scenarios in movement towards fully biodegradable and compostable wipes and AHP products.