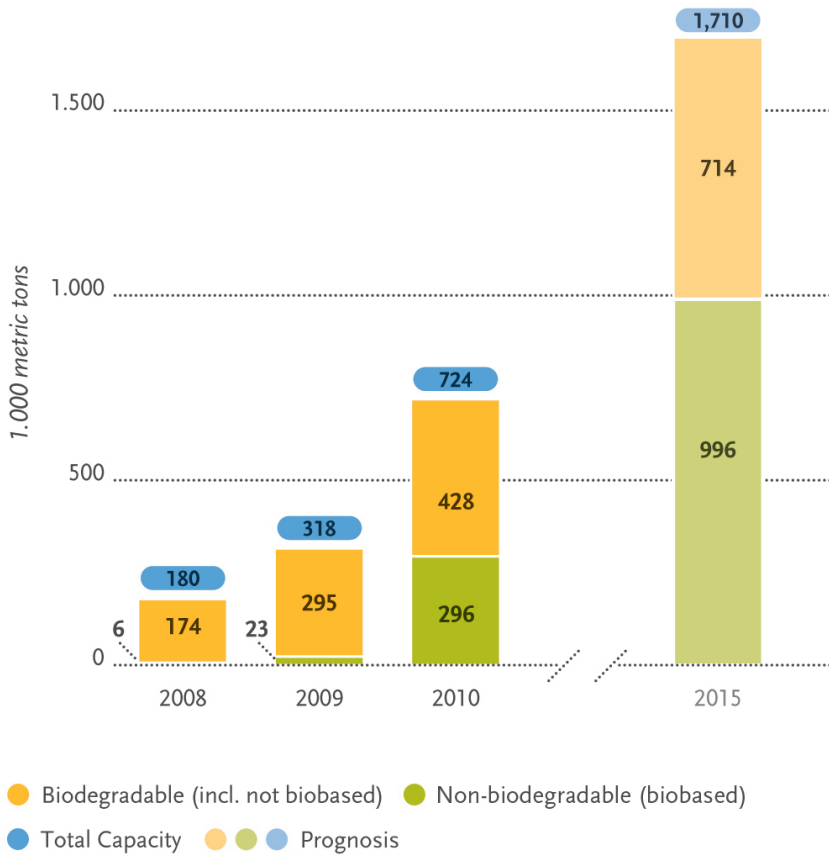


The worldwide climate debate has been a constant theme in politics, business and the media for the last few years. Given the growing demand for more environmental protection and resource conservation by the general population, many companies are also thinking on how to base the development and manufacture of their products on greater sustainability. Above all, ever-rising crude prices lead the plastic industry to invest increasingly in research and development of bioplastics. Increased demand for bioplastics provides for an expansion of production capacities.

These plastics have led a niche existence so far, and have barely managed to establish themselves on the market. This could however change in a relatively short time span, with both companies and experts foreseeing an economic opportunity for bioplastics.

Exact worldwide bioplastics production figures and capacities are difficult to determine. They are mostly only based on estimates, and these are constantly changing due to the rapid growth of the bioplastics industry. The most reliable estimates are probably published by European Bioplastics. According to its latest surveys the production capacity has quadrupled from 2007 to 2010 due to the double-digit growing rates in the industry. Furthermore European Bioplastics announced in May 2011 that global production capacity would rise to over 1 million tons per year in 2011.

## Global production capacity of bioplastics



Source: European Bioplastics | University of Applied Sciences and Arts Hanover (Status May 2011)

bioplastics  Fachhochschule Hannover  
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