

Factsheet: Disposable plate

Analysis of the Life Cycle

This factsheet represents the results of a life cycle analysis with respect to environmentally relevant emissions. The climate balance shows which rice product out of the Migros assortment is the most climate-friendly one.

Product information

The following rice products were compared:



Plastic Plate M-Party



Palmplate



Board Plate M-Party

Functional unit: 1 standard plate (500 cm²)

Comparison

The climate impact of the disposable plates was balanced over the entire lifecycle, starting from the winning of the raw materials, to the production, the transportation, through to the waste disposal.

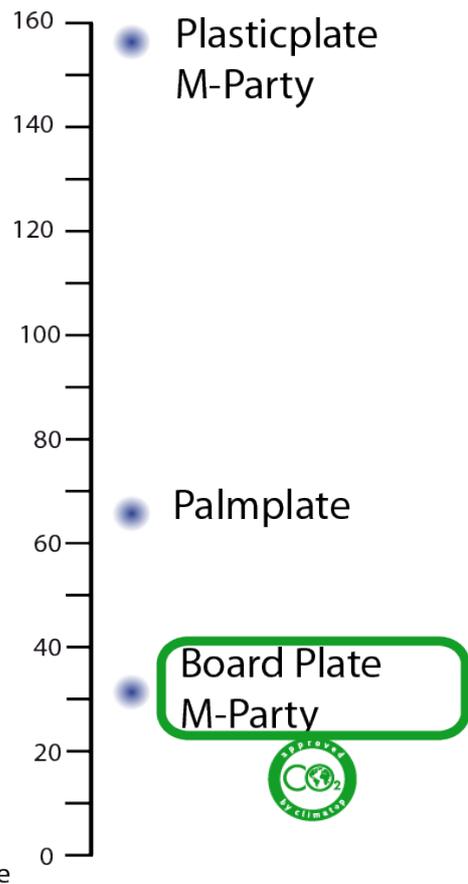
The climatop Certification

There is a mandatory reevaluation, which has to be undertaken after the expiration of the certification. There were both, greenhouse emissions and overall environmental impact, calculated. The board plate is particularly climate-friendly and therefore receives the climatop award.

Validity: 2011 to 2013

The Results

The product comparison shows that the board plate is at least 52% more climate-friendly than the palmplates and 80% less climate damaging than the plastic plates.



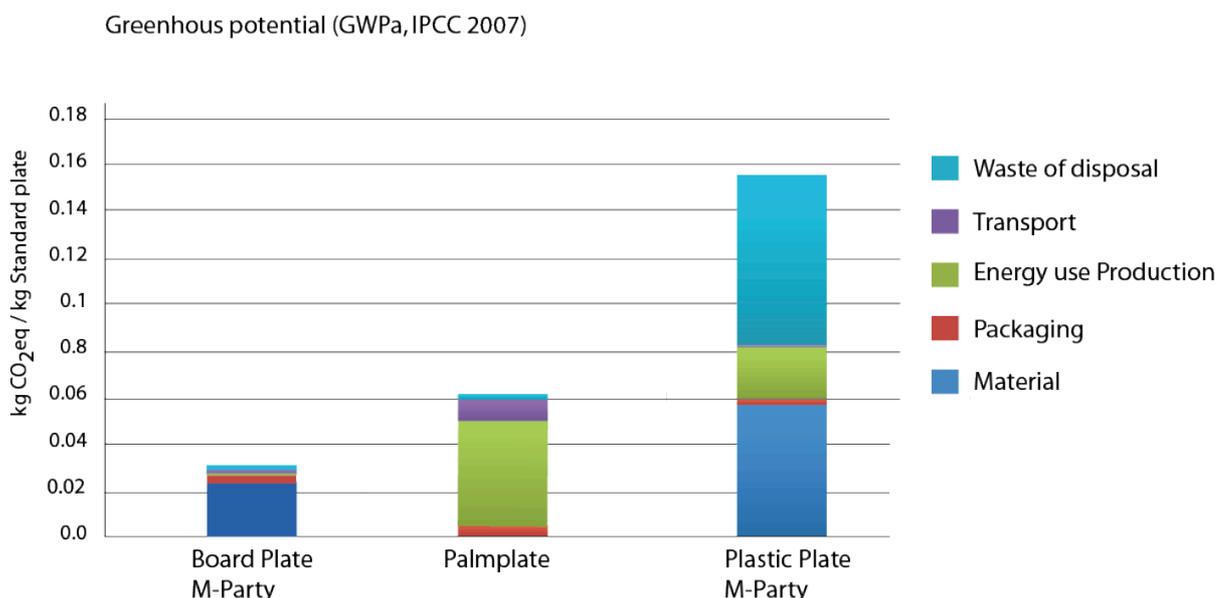
g CO₂eq / Standard Plate

Discussion

The graphic below shows in which stages a climate impact arises for the various disposable plates: even though the palm leaf material is more climate-friendly, in all other areas such as manufacturing, packaging, transportation and disposal, the cardboard performs very well, which leads to a good overall result. The board plates are made of raw cardboard, which is fortunately made from recycled fibers. If it was new fiber, the climate impact of the cardboard plate would be higher.

Palm leaf plates are made from naturally fallen palm leaves of a walnut: the material is top-climate-friendly. However, the leaves are pressed in a hot mold and cut, which requires a relatively large amount of power - and power production in the manufacturing country - India - is relatively climate damaging. The production is the most climate damaging phase. The transport path is very long, although the transport emissions come in second place: the shipping, however, causes a significant proportion of the greenhouse potential.

The worst performer is the plastic plate, which shows the highest climate impact with the production of plastic and the burning of the plates in the waste incineration. These two processes cause the greatest contribution to climate impact - as with most products made from crude oil.



Overall environmental impact

Regarding the overall environmental impact, the board plates made of recycled cardboard come better off than the rest of the compared products.

Tip: The content counts as well!

Not only with regard to the choice of the plate one can behave climate-conscious. Offer your guests seasonal and regional dishes, which neither grow in a heated greenhouse, nor are imported from far away. Like this the climate celebrates with you at your party.

New balance in the review process / climatop, 05.12.2013