

PRIVACY STATEMENT GO!PHA

GO!PHA stores and processes personal information about you as a visitor of our website, a subscriber to our newsletter or a contact person of one of our members.

Stichting Global Organization for PHA, based in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, with Chamber of Commerce registration number 75070790, is the data controller with regard to the processing of these personal data. This document serves to inform you on the categories of personal data we process, the grounds and reasons for this processing as well as your rights with regard to your personal data. It only applies to the processing of personal data related to website visitors, newsletter subscribers and members' contact persons.

A. What personal data do we process?

For visitors of our website, we may store and process the following categories of personal data:

- personal information processed through cookies
- other personal information you have provided to us

For newsletter subscribers, we may store and process the following categories of personal data:

- name
- e-mail address

For contact persons of our members, we may store and process the following categories of personal data:

- name and title
- function
- company affiliation
- work address
- e-mail address
- telephone number
- correspondence and other personal data you share with us

In the event that you are not willing to provide information we request, you may experience limited functionality of our website and we may not be able to provide all our services to you or the member with which you are affiliated.

B. **Legal grounds and purposes of the processing**

The personal data listed above are being processed under the following legal grounds and for the following purposes:

- your consent for storing and accessing cookies;
- processing is necessary for the performance of a contract to which you are a party, such as your subscription to our newsletter;
- processing is necessary for the purposes of our legitimate interests, including enhancing your experience of our website, improving our services, interacting with you as a member's contact person in order to provide our services, responding to your enquiries and resolving disputes.

C. **Our use of cookies**

Our website makes use of cookies and related technologies in order to store and access certain personal and anonymous information on your device. We use the following types of cookies:

- necessary cookies, which are essential for the functioning and security of our website;
- functional cookies, which we use to identify and remember you throughout your visit;
- analytic cookies, which we use to analyse the use of our website and the provenance of our visitors;
- marketing cookies, which enable us to target you on other websites.

The term during which a cookie is retained depends on the purposes for which we use the cookie. So-called session cookies will be deleted at the end of a session, which will mostly coincide with the closing of the browser. Persistent cookies will be retained for a longer period of up to two years after its last use.

An overview of the cookies we use, including its purposes and retention times, can be found [here](#).

D. **Distribution to third parties**

Your personal data shall only be shared with third parties to the extent that such sharing is necessary for the purposes the personal data is being processed for. We may transfer your personal data with other members of GO!PHA.

Please be informed that these third parties may be based in countries outside of the European Union, in which less restrictive data protection laws may apply. We will ensure that these third parties provide appropriate safeguards with regard to the level of protection of your personal data. These safeguards will be provided by means of contractual terms or other measures. Should you have any questions about the distribution of your personal data to non-EU countries and the safeguards provided, please feel free to contact us.

E. **Retention period**

Your personal data will be retained as long as necessary with regard to the purposes for which the data was collected.

F. **Your rights**

In respect of your personal data, you always have the right to request access, as well as to request rectification, erasure or restriction of processing. Furthermore, you may object to any of our processing and you have the right to data portability. If you are not satisfied with our processing of your personal data, you have the right to lodge a complaint with the Dutch data protection authority, the Autoriteit Persoonsgegevens.

G. **Changes**

Please note that we may amend this privacy statement from time to time. The latest update dates from 1 April 2024.

H. **Any questions?**

Should you have any questions regarding our processing of your personal data, please do not hesitate to contact us by e-mail gopha@gopha.org.

About GO!PHA

GO!PHA is a member-driven, non-profit initiative to promote the use of biodegradable and compostable materials such as PolyHydroxyAlkanoate (PHA) biopolymers.

Renewable, biodegradable, and compostable materials provide a unique opportunity to reduce greenhouse gases and environmental plastic pollution while establishing circularity in materials used by offering sustainable, functional, and natural materials that are renewable and offer diverse end-of-life options.

GO!PHA provides a knowledge-sharing platform, organizes experiences, and facilitates joint development initiatives with these natural, unique, and innovative materials. Join our cause and be a part of the movement towards a better and more sustainable future!

About PHA^{[1][2][3][4]}

Polyhydroxyalkanoate (PHA) biopolymers are a class of natural materials that have existed for over 2 billion years. Like other natural materials such as wood, cellulose, proteins, and starch, PHA are produced in nature and this natural process (fermentation) is being used to produce them commercially.

Being a natural material, PHA are benign to living beings and are marine, freshwater and soil biodegradable. PHA are thermoplastic in nature having the attributes of 7 of the top selling fossil plastics in the world. PHA are being used in many applications to successfully replace fossil plastics⁵. PHA can be recycled for reuse, they are home and industrially compostable, and if they were to leak, they biodegrade in the marine environment, freshwater, and soil. Therefore, PHA does not create microplastics and in some countries they are even being used as animal feed.

¹ Koller, Martin & Mukherjee, Anindya. (2020). Polyhydroxyalkanoates – Linking Properties, Applications and End-of-life Options. Chemical & biochemical engineering quarterly. <https://doi.org/10.15255/CABEQ.2020.1819>

² Mukherjee, Anindya & Koller, Martin. (2022). Polyhydroxyalkanoate (PHA) Biopolyesters - Emerging and Major Products of Industrial Biotechnology. The EuroBiotech Journal. <https://doi.org/10.2478/ebtj-2022-0007>

³ Koller, Martin & Mukherjee, Anindya. (2023). Polyhydroxyalkanoate (PHA) Bio-polyesters – Circular Materials for Sustainable Development and Growth. Chemical and Biochemical Engineering Quarterly. <https://doi.org/10.15255/CABEQ.2022.2124>

⁴ Koller, M., Mukherjee, A., Obruca, S., Zinn, M. (2022). Polyhydroxyalkanoates (PHA): Microbial Synthesis of Natural Polyesters. In: Rehm, B.H.A., Wibowo, D. (eds) Microbial Production of High-Value Products. Microbiology Monographs, vol 37. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-06600-9_8

⁵ Koller, Martin & Mukherjee, Anindya. (2022). A New Wave of Industrialization of PHA Biopolyesters. Bioengineering. <https://doi.org/10.3390/bioengineering9020074>