Biotechnology: A New Industrial Revolution

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There’s a new kind of plastic in town 30 years later – bioplastics. Biobased bioplastics are plastics made from renewable resources – agricultural feedstocks such as corn, soybeans, or sugarcane. The starches, oils, and sugars from these feedstocks are extracted, modified, and used as the chemical building blocks for these new bioplastic products. This is valuable because these feedstocks are sources of new carbon because of their renewability. Petroleum/oil-based products contain old carbon. The amount of new carbon in a product can be an important measurement for the product’s sustainability.