Green chemistry
Group name: Silver
Name: So Kar Wai (22) Class: 7S
Wong Pak Nin (28)

Polymerization of lactide to polylactide
Name of the chemical process in industry:

*Polymerization of lactide to polylactide*

Catalytic and thermolytic ring-opening polymerization of lactide (left) to polylactide (right)

Applications:

Tea bags are made of polylactide (PLA). Mulch film made of polylactic acid. Peppermint tea is enclosed.

Biodegradable plastic cups in use at an eatery.
There are 12 principle in green chemistry:

1. Prevention
2. Atom economy
3. Less hazardous synthesis
4. Deigning safer chemical
5. Safer auxiliary substance
6. Energy efficiency
7. Use of renewable resource
8. Reducing derivatives
9. Catalysis
10. Design for degradation
11. Use of real time analysis for pollution prevention
12. Accident prevention
1. Prevention

No waste generation. It prevents the use of traditional method to produce plastic from fossil fuels and hence reduces the greenhouse gas generated during the production process.

Lowering the use of petroleum generated

Reducing the greenhouse gas

2. Atom economy

Typical conditions for polymerization are 180°C to 210°C, tin octoate (catalyst) concentrations of 100-1000 ppm, and 2-5 hour to reach 95%

Now, through the use of a metabolically engineered strain of E.coli, the team have developed a one-stage process which produces polylactic acid and its copolymers through direct fermentation. This makes the renewable production of PLA and lactate-containing copolymers cheaper and more commercially viable.
3. Less hazardous synthesis

Using renewable resources for the polymerization, such as corn starch, tapioca products (roots, chips or starch) or sugarcanes. Less or even no hazardous products.

4. Deigning safer chemical

Poly(lactic acid) or polylactide (PLA) is a thermoplastic aliphatic polyester derived from renewable resources, such as corn starch, tapioca products (roots, chips or starch) or sugarcanes.

5. Safer auxiliary substance

The NatureWorks PLA process substitutes renewable materials for petroleum feedstocks, doesn’t require the use of hazardous organic solvents typical in other PLA processes, and results in a high-quality polymer that is recyclable and compostable.
6. Energy efficiency

Typical conditions for polymerization are 180°C to 210°C, tin octoate (catalyst) concentrations of 100-1000 ppm, and 2-5 hour to reach 95% conversion.

7. Use of renewable resource

Poly(lactic acid) or polylactide (PLA) is a thermoplastic aliphatic polyester derived from renewable resources, such as corn starch, tapioca products (roots, chips or starch) or sugarcanes.
8. Reducing derivatives

PLA of high molecular weight is produced from the dilactate ester by ring-opening polymerization using most commonly a stannous octoate catalyst, but for laboratory demonstrations tin(II) chloride is often employed. This mechanism does not generate additional water, and therefore a wide range of molecular weights is accessible.

No generation of water

9. Catalysis

Lactic acid is produced by fermenting corn and converted to lactide, the cyclic dimer ester of lactic acid using an efficient, tin-catalyzed cyclization.

Ring-opening polymerization catalyst: stannous octoate
Laboratory demonstrations catalyst: tin(II) chloride
10. Design for degradation

It can biodegrade under certain conditions, such as the presence of oxygen.

Through thermal depolymerization, a highly purified lactic acid is extracted and can be considered as raw material for the manufacturing of virgin PLA with no loss of original properties.

Because it is biodegradable, it can also be employed in the preparation of bioplastic, useful for producing loose-fill packaging, compost bags, food packaging, and disposable tableware.

PLA also has many potential uses, for example as upholstery, disposable garments, awnings, feminine hygiene products, and diapers.

PLA shares a similar molecular bonding structure to that of lipids or fats, which are routinely broken via acidic or basic hydrolysis.
11. Use of real time analysis for pollution prevention

The results show that PLA is a low-impact, greenhouse gas polymer because carbon dioxide generated during PLA biodegradation is balanced by an equal amount taken from the atmosphere during the growth of plant feedstock. Longer term, as PLA is produced from field wastes or other biomass, PLA can become a CO$_2$ sink and actually contribute to a net reduction in greenhouse gases.

12. Accident prevention

Aliphatic polyesters can be assembled from lactones under very mild conditions, catalyzed anionically, cationically or metallorganically.
Source:
Google + Wikipedia

useful website:

Google: <<Polylactic acid technology>>
http://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&q=cache:n_k_SyTXtQoJ:www.jimlutllc.com/pdfs/polylactic_acid_technology.pdf+Polymerization+of+lactide+to+polylactide+less+hazard+synthesis&hl=zh-TW&gl=hk&pid=bl&srcid=ADGEEShhpnEYr_9LU3yESezJViV5F2Dah3Lj_HzSiu2Z1E43I9564xspkJvKeVDrs9SDdJOOdR69SAxKbhji_5O-yqnnjoR-HFHEbgsXOWTA-sY_iqi44Pd7w_cZ3QIKDB3rs8f-ccbcZn&sig=AHIEtbQXB4nMrkC27WhZwj3LP7pCjNGTUQ

Wikipedia: <<polylactic acid>>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polylactic_acid#See_also

Wikipedia: <<Green chemistry>>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Green_chemistry