



Seagrown

Overview:

The Challenge: Seaweed is a versatile, naturally-occurring material – but sustainable supplies are limited and dependant on growth cycles.

The Circular Solution: Seagrown is creating a farm to grow seaweed from seed and create a reliable, sustainable supply for various industries.

The Result: Plentiful seaweed for sustainable feedstock, bioplastic production, food retail lines and more, plus local environmental benefits.

The Challenge:

Circular Opportunities

Rethink Packaging 

Boost Your Brand 



The environmental benefits of seaweed are numerous: it acts as a carbon sink, aids with water purification and protects the seabed.

If harvested, it can be consumed as a nutrient-rich food source, as a feedstock for sustainable bioplastics and more.

However, harvesting seaweed from pockets of naturally-occurring wild stock depends on the growth cycle, and the small scale means it isn't often cost-effective.

The Solution:

Seagrown developed from a small business selling artisanal food and bath products into a commercial seaweed farming company producing three different types of kelp for the bioplastic, biotextile and pharmaceutical markets.

Funding from various sources including the Coastal Communities Fund has financed a boat and the creation and licensing of a 25-hectare farm site located in the North Sea four miles off Scarborough.

A hatchery and a marine lab facility are also in development. Ultimately, the conditions for spore reproduction can be recreated in a tank before ropes carrying juvenile seaweed are taken to the offshore site and the seaweed is harvested three months later.



“Seaweed is a fascinating organism,” says Seagrown co-founder Wave Crookes. “It’s a versatile input for several different industries and it’s great for the environment, but importing it from overseas negates its environmental benefits,” he explains. “It really needs to be home-grown to be sustainable.”

“With the Seagrown farm, we’re growing types of seaweed that already grow prolifically on the adjacent reefs and they’re submerged deeply enough not to interfere with boats. We’re just controlling the growth cycle to ensure that we can guarantee supply.”

The Result:

Rethink Packaging



With plans to supply the bioplastic, biotextile and pharmaceutical markets, the Seagrown farm will boost the local economy and create jobs.

“The global seaweed market is worth around £9.6 billion,” says Wave. “And we’re hoping to create 23 jobs within five years.”

“That’s alongside the significant environmental benefits for the area arising from the farm: increased carbon sequestration, cleaner sea water, food and a safe environment for marine life and more.”

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