



Seaweed farming does not require cleared land, fertiliser or pesticide to grow | Photo source [Shane Stagner on Unsplash](#)

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SCOTTISH STARTUP DEVELOPS SEAWEED-BASED, MARINE-SAFE BIO-PACKAGING



FOOD & DRINK

Oceanium plans to meet the demand for eco packaging and food products while enabling sustainable growth of seaweed cultivation

Spotted: Oceanium is developing marine-safe, home compostable bio-packaging materials and food products made from sustainably-farmed seaweed. Their aim is to enable a sustainable seaweed farming industry to mitigate climate change, ensure food security and create jobs across their supply chain.

Andy Wilkinson, COO of Oceanium, joins a growing number of innovators investing in the seaweed sector, also known as “seaweed-preneurs”.

“When I look at the supply chain, the demand is off the charts for bio-packaging and on the food side it’s the same story – in the UK people are converting to become vegans more rapidly than anywhere else,” [he said](#).

What sounds like a simple solution to solving ocean plastic pollution has a plethora of environmental benefits. Seaweed farming does not require cleared land, fertiliser or pesticide to grow. In addition, it acts as a carbon sink sequestering carbon dioxide and nitrogen from the ocean, which reduces atmospheric carbon and ocean acidification. Seaweed farms also protect the seabed from commercial fishing and provide a marine sanctuary for sea life.

Oceanium will be launching their product at the end of 2020. The company also seeks to establish its first processing plant, processing a modest 10 tonnes this year, but to increase this to over

5,000 tonnes by 2024.

Written By: Katrina Lane

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Email: info@oceanium.co.uk

Website: oceanium.co.uk

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Takeaway:

According to Oceanium, for every ton of plastic replaced by bio-packaging, approximately 1.9 tons of carbon dioxide is prevented from entering the atmosphere. Compared to traditional terrestrial agriculture, however - which has hundreds of years of experience to draw on - seaweed aquaculture is only starting. While the potential of seaweed-based products is promising, farmers will have to come up with innovative ways to ensure a steady supply for facilities of this scale.