

SeaGrown



SeaGrown is a North Yorkshire based company pioneering UK offshore seaweed farming, supported by the Coastal Communities Fund. It seized the opportunity to transform from an artisanal food and bath producer into a commercial seaweed farming company. By establishing a seaweed farm in the open waters of the North Sea, SeaGrown aims to produce a local and sustainable seaweed crop to be used in a variety of ways by customers from a range of industries.

The challenge:

While seaweed is a naturally occurring material, there are limited sustainable supplies of it because of its growth cycle, and harvesting natural wild stock is often not the most cost-effective approach. Seaweed boasts a number of natural environmental benefits so the challenge for SeaGrown is to ethically produce local and sustainable seaweed crops fit for innovative uses across a range of environmentally friendly industries.

SeaGrown recognises the unique position it's in to produce an exciting range of products which genuinely support a circular economy and lead the way in the UK seaweed harvesting industry as a circular business.

“Seaweed is a fascinating organism. It’s a versatile ingredient for several different industries and it’s great for the environment, but importing it from overseas negates its environmental benefits. It really needs to be home-grown to be sustainable.”

SeaGrown co-founder, Wave Crookes



The solution:

Seaweed requires two things - the sea and the sun. SeaGrown is committed to creating fully sustainable seaweed crops from only natural existing resources; using no chemicals, power, fresh water or land. The company's innovative offshore seaweed farm produces British-grown sustainable seaweed crops for the bioplastics, biochemical, food and pharmaceuticals markets, with products supporting a fairer, greener and stronger economy.

SeaGrown is taking its sustainability practices a stage further by developing new ways of adding shellfish to its offshore seaweed farm. The shellfish and seaweed will work together to create a habitat and environment which is mutually beneficial. The seaweed produces oxygen which supports the shellfish, who then produce nutrients which support the growth of the seaweed. A number of sources, including the Coastal Communities Fund, have financed a boat for the creation and licensing of a 25 hectare farm site in the North Sea.

Wave adds: “We are busy developing our farm operations, rising to challenges posed by working in the wild North Sea. We are currently working on the latest addition to the SeaGrown fleet - a ship which we will bring to Scarborough to house our business, and provide an opportunity to show the wider public what we are doing.”

The result:

SeaGrown's approach to supplying the industrial sectors will see the expected creation of 23 jobs over the next five years.

By harvesting a seaweed crop SeaGrown has created a sustainable option for carbon sequestration as the crop takes up carbon whilst simultaneously producing oxygen; vital for marine life, and helps purify the water and protects the seabed.



SeaGrown hopes to create
23 jobs in the next 5 years

Wave concludes: "SeaGrown is pleased to be a member of the Circular Yorkshire consortium and to be able to contribute towards the Circular Economy in our region. Some businesses will find the transition into circular methods of operating more challenging than others, but we would encourage all enterprises to adopt circular practices wherever they can. By doing so, they can feel proud to be enhancing society and helping to safeguard the environment we all live and work in."