



What does the product you are making do to improve environmental impact and create economic value?

Compostable liners enable and encourage householders to recycle organics – food scraps, garden waste etc. in local authority recycling schemes. Such schemes have a large scale positive impact on carbon and potential council tax savings.

The resulting PAS100 and PAS110 products reduce farmers' reliance on artificial fertilisers. These outputs also improve soil health and increase soil water holding capacity, thereby reducing flood risk. Some organic recycling schemes also generate renewable energy.

Agricultural mulching films are in widespread use in Europe for high value crops to increase yields, reduce water consumption and costs whilst controlling pests and weeds without the use of chemicals.

When applied to food packaging, bio-based films display different characteristics than fossil-based plastics. They prolong the shelf-life of several foodstuffs, while replacing a significant proportion of fossil-based plastic packaging with sustainable polymers.

How many new jobs has your company created worldwide in this activity?

Worldwide the BioBag group employs around 150 full time posts and in the UK we employ six.

Do you currently use bio-based and biodegradable materials in your production?

Yes. BioBag Ltd specialise in bio-based products which comprise the vast majority of our turnover (£2.7m in the UK). Globally the BioBag group turnover is over £20m.

Do you produce in or export from the UK?

No. The bio-based polymer industry is under-developed in the UK. We import all products from manufacturers in the EU, mostly Belgium.

Waste and packaging policies in different EU countries created market demand and led to significant investments in production facilities outside of the UK (where no such policies exist). Our main production partner in Belgium is constantly looking for opportunities to expand and invest, including in the UK, but at this time the lack of market demand and policy uncertainty does not justify the risk.

What policies could help stimulate growth of your company and create more added value, jobs and exports for the UK economy?

A national sustainable waste policy in the UK: The House of Commons predicts this could create 50,000 new jobs, £10bn investment and a £3bn boost to GDP.

A national food waste policy for England, requiring local authorities to collect source-separated food scraps: WRAP estimates this could generate £12bn household savings, plus potentially 20m tonnes of CO2e nationally.

A UK policy on garden waste: Currently non-statutory, recycling is predicted to decline as more local authorities start charging for waste collection services, making disposal cheaper and easier than recycling.

Post-Brexit we would prefer to source products from within the UK: Currently we rely on currency exchange rates, whereas in future there could be customs, taxes and other barriers to trade. A UK manufacturer would be able to compete with factories in the EU and in the Far East for both UK and EU procurements. The lack of policy drivers hindered investment in this sector well before Brexit, but new policy and/or grant funding could kick start a UK manufacturing industry.