



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

We manufacture biodegradable NatureFlex™ cellulose films from renewable, FSC™ and PEFC™ certified wood pulp.

Our material helps to reduce the overall packaging waste sent to landfill as it is both home and industrial compostable.

NatureFlex films have excellent barrier properties that protect the product within, therefore, also reducing food waste. Our unique coloured films have excellent clarity and have been used to enhance brands for years.

We have a well-established business with an annual turnover of approximately £60 million at our UK facility, employing 270 on site.

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

Yes, both.
We manufacture biodegradable NatureFlex™ cellulose films from renewable, FSC™ and PEFC™ certified wood pulp.

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

Futamura acquired the Innovia Films' cellulose films business in July 2016, securing around 400 jobs between our Wigton, Cumbria (UK) and Tecumseh, Kansas (US) sites. Since then, Futamura has recruited a further 10 people in the UK, and employs circa 1,500 people worldwide.

Do you produce in or export from the UK?

We do both. Futamura has three manufacturing sites in the UK, US and Japan, plus worldwide sales offices.

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

- A national infrastructure for collecting food waste and other organic municipal waste for composting;
- Acceptance of bio-packaging materials into the composting waste management stream;
- Mandating the use of compostable packaging for food service applications (e.g. as successfully done in the US and as has been announced for implementation in France);
- Funding support to R&D projects to encourage scale-up to commercial manufacture in the UK, thereby creating economic and employment benefits in the UK.