



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

Vegware's clients range from the biggest contract caterers and food distributors through to UK government offices, NHS units and independent artisan delicatessens and cafes.

Vegware's Food Waste Network matches businesses across the UK with food waste recycling, allowing them to compost their used compostable packaging and food waste.

The University of Cambridge, for example, composts 1.5 tonnes of used Vegware packaging and food waste every month.

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

Vegware use bio-based and biodegradable materials to make compostable food packaging.

All of the food packaging is designed to be composted in in-vessel composting, where it will break down and become high-quality compost in less than 12 weeks. All of the packaging is free from oil-based plastic, as well as being completely renewable and lower in carbon than conventional packaging.

Do you produce in or export from the UK?

Vegware's packaging is produced in Asia and the British Isles, and supplied to countries around the world.

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

Vegware has its headquarters in Edinburgh, UK, but operates globally. The company currently employs 60 people worldwide.

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

Policy and legislation changes around the use of landfill and non-renewable materials in packaging would stimulate Vegware's growth.

The UK has issued a landfill tax since 1996. Vegware believe that introducing global landfill taxes would encourage businesses to seek out more sustainable end-of-life solutions for their waste, leading to an increase in exports of Vegware's compostable packaging and further support for in-vessel composting as an end-of-life solution.

Several countries and cities have recently banned polystyrene, including Barbados, the Seychelles, New York, San Francisco and Selangor. France is set to ban all single-use plastic disposables by 2020. Further bans of plastic-based food packaging across the globe could also stimulate Vegware's growth and exports.