



# CARBONWAVE



**Name:** Carbonwave

**Country:** USA

**Incorporated:** 2020

**Fund:** Katapult Seed Fund 1

## Problem:

Warming oceans and nutrient runoff have created an algae bloom resulting in over 20 Megatons of Sargassum seaweed piling up on Caribbean coastlines each year. When left rotting on the beach, it creates an oxygen-depleting brown tide that can be smelled 1 kilometer inland and which kills marine life and tourism alike. No matter where it is disposed of, rotting Sargassum leaks arsenic into local waters and soils, and off-gases hydrogen sulfide, ammonia, and methane – a dangerous greenhouse gas 84 times more powerful than CO<sub>2</sub> at trapping heat in the atmosphere in the short term.

## Solution:

Carbonwave's business model upcycles the excess of Sargassum before it rots, creating high performance biomaterials to replace fossil and animal-based products – and avoiding the dangerous effect of it being left on shore.

## Impact:

“Since launch in 2020, Carbonwave has scaled a Sargassum solutions business able to collect over 15,000 tonnes of seaweed that would otherwise rot on Caribbean and Mexican coastlines – with collection expected to grow in volume 2x year-over for the next 3-years. From this Sargassum, our team has developed 3 Sargassum-based products for the Agriculture, Personal Care, and Fashion sectors, and is developing 3 more high-impact products to maximize the amount of seaweed we collect and carbon emissions we avoid. Total CO<sub>2</sub>e avoided should increase from nearly 10,000 tonnes in 2023 to over 300,000 tonnes in 3 to 5 years.”



Ben Ellis

Co-founder, Carbonwave

