



Fairtrade Bamboo and Climate Change



Bamboo products are somewhat new to the world market. They have always been used in some parts of the world, but as the world economy expands more and more people are seeing the benefit of eco-friendly bamboo. However, most people don't know that the bamboo tree is a very sustainable source for products. As one of the fastest-growing plants on the planet, bamboo products are very eco-friendly.

Plastic is carbon-based. This means that it is made from oil which is not a sustainable product. Plastic is not good for the environment, yet we find it in just about everything we touch. Plastic toothbrushes are cheap and used for the three months that are recommended by dentists. However, the plastic toothbrush will take 400 years to decompose whereas the bamboo toothbrush can be put into your garden compost and takes between a few months and a couple of years to fully break down.

BAM is a viable and sustainable clothing company based in Plymouth sourcing bamboo from the steep slopes of naturally occurring bamboo forests in Chongqing Province, Southwest China, maximising on an otherwise unusable area. Without the need of pesticides or irrigation, the yield is ten times faster than cotton for the same area. Bamboo absorbs five times more carbon than hardwood trees. The next step is turning the harvested bamboo into dried pulp which will then go to the factory which uses high quality waste-treatment technology.

The company (BAM) is challenging itself to reduce its carbon footprint to zero by 2030 and will ensure that every person in the supply chain is paid fairly and treated with dignity. The goals set are: zero waste to landfill, zero pollution and zero wasted water.

As yet, BAM items (<https://bambooclothing.co.uk/>) is not Fairtrade certified but is heading in the right direction. However some products from 'Thought' using bamboo are sold by Traidcraft and are Fairtrade registered. (<https://www.wearethought.com/>)