

Manufacturing

Manufacturing interacts with climate change on a number of levels. On the one hand, it requires energy to manufacture goods, so it is currently a source of greenhouse gasses. On the other hand, the materials used can ALSO be a source of CO2. Advances in manufacturing can take the form of reducing energy costs, changing energy sources, or materials that either replace carbon-intensive ones, or even act to pull carbon out of the atmosphere at some level.

[Using fungus to create a variety of materials](#)

This company uses [mushrooms, grown in molds](#), to create materials for packaging, insulation, car parts, structural building materials, and even surfboards. Not only does their product require relatively little energy to create, it replaces other, more energy-intensive products, and has a wide range of applications.

[Beetle wing casings to make plastic](#)

A Dutch designer has developed a way to convert [beetle wing casings](#)—made mostly of chitin—into a kind of bioplastic. Given that a number of people are trying to develop ways to farm insects for food, chitin-based plastics could turn out to be a major part of manufacturing in the future.

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