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## Keep Trying and Keep Hoping

People all over the world are making efforts to save the environment. Some have succeeded, some have failed, but remember that every little change helps.

### Seaweed Hamburger Packages

Most food packaging is coated with plastic, making it nearly impossible to recycle. Believe it or not, your hamburger could soon be wrapped in seaweed. A team of researchers has invented an alternative material from seaweed native to South Australia. The new coating material works almost like plastic, helping prevent food from sticking to paper, while also breaking down more easily than plastic. The material can be made into thin films that can be coated on various surfaces, such as paper or fabric. The fast-food industry is welcoming the news, with major restaurant brands planning to choose greener packaging by 2025.

### Your Leather Bags Are Going Un-Leather

What is made of leather? Bags, shoes, clothes, car seats, and the list goes on. Oil-based leathers, which make up the majority of artificial leathers, require a lot of energy to produce and a long time to break down. So companies have been trying to find more environmentally friendly options. The first success came in the 1990s, when a company made leather from pineapple leaves. To many customers' relief, since then, many other eco-friendly ingredients have been tested, and some have been proven to make alternative leathers.

Grape waste from the wine industry and a mushroom grown from farming waste have been successfully turned into leather-like sheets. As consumer demand for eco-friendly products continues to grow, more will be invented and used. The market for eco-friendly leather alternatives is growing rapidly. In 2022, the market was valued at \$725 million and is expected to reach \$1.2 billion by 2030.