



## Algae proving its worth

It turns out that algae - the green sludge festering in ponds and other watery confines - is a powerful environmental force. Indeed, French biochemist, Pierre Calleja, has invented a lamp powered by algae alone.

It doesn't need electricity, and reportedly drains CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere 200 times more effectively than trees - sucking up one tonne of it a year; which is more than any single tree does in its entire lifespan. The algae generates light by pulling off sunlight and carbon dioxide. However, it can also function on carbon dioxide alone; making it an invaluable light source in areas devoid of natural light. Already proving very effective in the biofuel arena too, it looks like algae is another of nature's great answers to the question of how best to protect our planet.