

RECYCLING OYSTER SHELLS INTO DRAINING PAVING STONES IN PAYS DE LA LOIRE IN FRANCE

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[Ecoinventos magazine](#) has published an [article](#) reporting that the [Alegina company](#), based in the *Pays de la Loire* Region of France, since 2018 has been developing a pioneering solution based on the recycling of oyster shells, transforming them into construction materials.

Its flagship product, the VIVAWY draining paving stone, represents a concrete innovation in the face of the increasing artificialization of urban land. Alegina, in particular, has adopted a circular economy approach and transformed waste into a high-value raw material. Oyster shells, which until recently were considered marine debris, now serve as the basis for draining paving stones for permeable soils; green roofs that contribute to thermal insulation and urban biodiversity; and eco-designed tableware and jewelry.

Alegina processes between 700 and 1,000 tons of shells per year. For the collection of oyster shells, the Alegina company relies on local communities and consumers, establishing collaborative arrangements that make it easier for everyone to recover this waste and give it a new lease on life. [The website runs an information campaign to encourage all stakeholders in the region to participate in this effort to create a cleaner environment.](#)

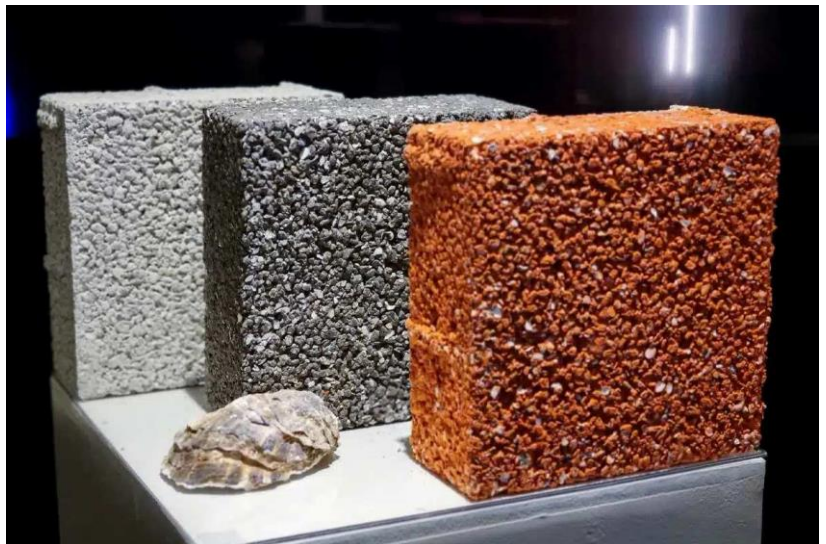
Its core products, [VIVAWAY](#) and [VIVAROOF](#), are innovative and more environmentally friendly solutions capable of transforming the construction world of the future. These products utilize the latest innovations in low-carbon cements and the greening of mineral materials.

In particular, VIVAWAY pavers are an important advance in sustainable urban planning. Their porous structure allows rainwater to drain, reducing the risk of flooding and combating soil impermeability, one of the major problems facing today's cities. The key benefits of this product are:

- Natural soil permeability.
- Reduction of the urban "heat island" effect.
- Reduced need for artificial water channeling.
- Cement-free material, with a lower carbon footprint.

[The brochure published by the Alegina company presents its high-quality products](#) and the characteristics of the manufacturing model.

Currently, oyster farmers in France produce approximately 180,000 tons of oyster shells per year. This represents a potential of 180,000



tons of marine calcium carbonate available for recycling, innovation, and industry. Alegina seeks to use this waste to develop innovative, environmentally friendly, and bio-based products, recovering 100% of the shells. Shells from oyster consumption represent a burden for communities and users, as the majority of them are collected indiscriminately with household waste and end up in landfills or incinerators. Alegina's supply needs represent a suitable solution for oyster farmers and communities.

Taking into account its results in terms of innovative products developed over the years and these national data, the company has developed a project to build a new plant by 2026, which will allow it to multiply its production capacity and reach up to 150,000 tons per year, enabling it to process almost all the mother-of-pearl generated in France.

The approach adopted by Alegina allows biowaste to be repurposed and reduces the extraction of new resources, aligning with the principles of the circular economy. It is an example that can inspire other stakeholders and coastal regions to embark on this path to improve the environment and strengthen local economies.

To know more

[Article in Ecoinventos magazine](#)

[Alegina company website](#)

[Alegina products brochure](#)

[Article in neozone.org](#)

[Article in ekosistemastartup.com](#)

[Article in inthevande.com](#)

