

# Alternative found to aluminium in food foil

**Researchers may have found an alternative to the familiar aluminium coating in thin food wrapping: a mix of positively and negatively charged polymers that combine to form a protective layer against oxygen.**

The discovery was made within the Advanced Research Center for Chemical Building Blocks Consortium, a collaborative venture between chemicals companies and science institutions, including WUR. According to Jasper van der Gucht, professor of Physical Chemistry and Soft Matter at Wageningen, the discovery is an important step towards more sustainable food packaging. 'The gas barrier properties of these polymer-based coatings are at least as good as those of food packaging with vacuum-deposited aluminium. And there are potentially big gains for the environment too as the polymer packaging could be much easier to recycle.'

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