

# Transforming Ames Plastic Waste into Sustainable Fuel

**Team Name:** Plastic Waste Free Midwest

## **Team Members and Backgrounds:**

*Akalanka Tennakoon:* Expert in catalyst, reactor, and process design, specializing in converting waste plastics into fuels, aiming to reduce reliance on fossil fuel

*Xun Wu:* Brings engineering and technical expertise for business development in waste-to-fuel technology.

*Brian Phillips:* Experienced in city management, focusing on sustainability initiatives within Ames.

*John Joiner:* Skilled in community engagement and environmental sustainability, working towards making Ames a model city for sustainability.

*Merry Rankin:* Responsible for coordinating sustainability activities in support of the Live Green! Initiative at Iowa State University, encompassing environmental, economic and social sustainability

**Community:** Ames, Iowa - A committed and innovative college town focusing on sustainability and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Home to Iowa State University,

**Energy-Related Challenge:** The primary challenge is addressing Ames's reliance on fossil fuels and the inefficient management of waste, particularly non-recyclable plastics. The goal is to transform these plastics into clean, sustainable diesel fuel, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions, enhancing waste management efficiency, and fostering a circular economy.

## **Partner Organizations:**

Upcycling+

Iowa State University:

City of Ames

