



MicroMidas: converting biological waste into biodegradable plastics

John Bissell, Casey McGrath and Kristen Matsumara were recent Civil and Environmental Engineering undergraduates from UC Davis when they came to 2008 Green Technology Entrepreneurship Academy as a team. Their venture: converting biological waste into biodegradable plastics.

The novel biological reaction converts waste streams like municipal waste water, agricultural, and food waste, into pure-grade polyhydroxylalkanoate (PHA). The research and technology won first place in the 2008 U.S. EPA People, Prosperity, and Planet (P3) competition for sustainability, which eventually led the team to GTEA to find out how to move their research into the marketplace.

After GTEA, Bissell, Matsumara and McGrath (along with several additional team members) launched **MicroMidas**, to convert biological waste into biodegradable plastics. The biodegradable plastic is a polymer with traditional properties and can be competitively priced compared to petroleum plastics.

The company incorporated in Fall 2008 and received seed funding to secure lab space and begin development and testing of the technology.

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