BIOTECH START-UP CHALLENGE

Two problems. One solution.

Group 1: Food Waste + Renewable Energy

Problem 1 - Food Waste

Every day, supermarkets, restaurants and households throw away large amounts of food that is no longer eaten or sold. Producing that food has already used land, water, energy and labour, so throwing it away wastes those resources. In addition, when food waste is sent to landfill, it can break down and release greenhouse gases.

Problem 2 - Renewable Energy

Society still relies heavily on fossil fuels for heating, electricity and transport. These fuels are finite and contribute to climate change, so there is growing demand for renewable energy sources that can be produced more sustainably.

YOUR CHALLENGE

Can you design ONE biotechnology-based solution that helps tackle BOTH of these problems?

Think creatively: could something being wasted in one problem become useful in solving the other?

You have x minutes to research, design and prepare a short pitch for your start-up.

BIOTECH START-UP CHALLENGE

Two problems. One solution.

Group 2: Coffee Waste + Food Production

Problem 1 - Used Coffee Grounds

Cafes, restaurants and homes produce large quantities of used coffee grounds every day. After brewing, people usually throw away the grounds, even though they still contain organic material and nutrients that could be reused.

Problem 2 - Sustainable Food Production

Growing food normally requires land, soil, water and other resources. As demand for food increases, there is growing interest in finding ways to produce food using fewer new resources and making better use of materials that would otherwise be wasted.

YOUR CHALLENGE

Can you design ONE biotechnology-based solution that helps tackle BOTH of these problems?

Think creatively: could something being wasted in one problem become useful in solving the other?

You have x minutes to research, design and prepare a short pitch for your start-up.

BIOTECH START-UP CHALLENGE

Two problems. One solution.

Group 3: Carbon Dioxide + Animal Feed

Problem 1 - Carbon Dioxide Emissions

Factories, power stations and other industries release large amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas, so reducing emissions or finding ways to reuse it is an important part of tackling climate change.

Problem 2 - Sustainable Animal and Fish Feed

Producing animal and fish feed can use large areas of farmland, water and crops. Some feed ingredients also compete with food crops for land and resources, creating pressure to find more sustainable alternatives.

YOUR CHALLENGE

Can you design ONE biotechnology-based solution that helps tackle BOTH of these problems?

Think creatively: could something being wasted in one problem become useful in solving the other?

You have x minutes to research, design and prepare a short pitch for your start-up.

BIOTECH START-UP CHALLENGE

Two problems. One solution.

Group 4: Used Cooking Oil + Transport Fuel

Problem 1 - Used Cooking Oil

Restaurants, cafes and takeaways generate large amounts of cooking oil that can no longer be used for food preparation. If it is poured into drains, it can cause blockages and problems in sewer systems, so it must be collected and disposed of properly.

Problem 2 - Fossil-Fuel Dependence

Cars, buses and other forms of transport still depend heavily on fuels made from fossil resources. There is a need for alternative fuels that can reduce reliance on newly extracted oil and make better use of existing waste materials.

YOUR CHALLENGE

Can you design ONE biotechnology-based solution that helps tackle BOTH of these problems?

Think creatively: could something being wasted in one problem become useful in solving the other?

You have x minutes to research, design and prepare a short pitch for your start-up.

BIOTECH START-UP CHALLENGE

Two problems. One solution.

Group 5: Crop Waste + Sustainable Packaging

Problem 1 - Agricultural Waste

After crops such as wheat, rice or maize are harvested, farmers are often left with large amounts of straw, stalks and other plant material. Some of this can be reused, but large quantities may have little economic value and can be discarded or burned.

Problem 2 - Plastic Packaging

Packaging is essential for protecting food and other products, but much of it is made from conventional plastics that can remain in the environment for many years after use. This has increased interest in materials that are renewable, biodegradable or made from waste resources.

YOUR CHALLENGE

Can you design ONE biotechnology-based solution that helps tackle BOTH of these problems?

Think creatively: could something being wasted in one problem become useful in solving the other?

You have x minutes to research, design and prepare a short pitch for your start-up.