



Bio-Polymer Processing Facility

The Bio-Polymer Processing Facility converts fats and vegetable oils into plastics. The facility allows Iowa State University engineers to research and develop their process for producing biopolymers. It also “de-risks” technologies for companies that could be interested in producing tons of biopolymers each year. The facility can make about 1,000 pounds of biopolymers per day, and will be used for evaluation in several different industries including asphalt paving, adhesives, coatings and packing materials.

Accomplishments

- » A \$5.3 million facility was built at the BioCentury Research Farm by industry partner Argo Genesis Chemical LLC.
- » Commissioned the Bio-Polymer Processing Facility.
- » Produced asphalt binder for accelerated testing at the National Center for Asphalt Technology.

Future Work

- » Manufacture adhesives from co-products of the biofuels industry.
- » Scale up unique biobased monomers and polymers.



Team Members



Eric Cochran
Professor
Chemical and Biological Engineering
(515) 294-0625
ecochran@iastate.edu

R. Christopher Williams
Civil, Construction and Environmental Engineering

Nacu Hernandez
Chemical and Biological Engineering

Austin Hohmann
Chemical and Biological Engineering

Iowa State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, ethnicity, religion, national origin, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, sex, marital status, disability, or status as a U.S. Veteran. Inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies may be directed to Office of Equal Opportunity, 3410 Beardshear Hall, 515 Morrill Road, Ames, Iowa 50011, Tel. 515 294-7612, Hotline 515-294-1222, email eooffice@iastate.edu