

## Genetically modified bacteria converts plant matter into fuel

Scientists have genetically engineered microbes to successfully convert biomass into fuel directly, in a first step towards industrial production.

A new research by the University of Georgia documents the direct conversion of biomass to biofuel without pre-treatment, using the engineered bacterium *Caldicellulosiruptor bescii*.

Pre-treatment of the biomass feedstock – non-food crops such as switchgrass and miscanthus – is the step of breaking down plant cell walls before fermentation into ethanol.

This pre-treatment step has long been the economic bottleneck hindering fuel production from lignocellulosic biomass feedstocks.

**Read the full, original story:** [Engineered microbes convert biomass to fuel](#)