

Podcast: Could domesticated bacteria help break our dependence on fossil fuels?

Microbes surround us and enhance our lives in almost innumerable ways. These helpful micro-machines catalyze

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Sarah

Richardson

key reactions required to produce our favorite foods—cheese, coffee, yogurt, chocolate and bread among others—and perform important services including [crop fertilization](#) and [environmental clean up](#). But this may only be the beginning, says Sarah Richardson, CEO and co-founder of biotech startup [MicroByre](#).

On this episode of Talking Biotech, Richardson joins University of Florida plant scientist Kevin Folta to explain how her company aims to bring wild bacteria that perform important chemical functions under human control. In a world where more than [6,000 products](#) are made from fossil fuels, these domesticated microbes represent an untapped resource that could one day be used to sustainably produce everything from clothing to medicine that can treat infections.

<https://geneticliteracyproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/193-richardson.mp3>

Sarah Richardson is a molecular biologist and CEO of MicroByre. Follow her on Twitter: [@theGermWrangler](#)

Kevin M. Folta is a professor in the Horticultural Sciences Department at the University of Florida. Follow professor Folta on Twitter [@kevinfolta](#) and email your questions to kfolta@ufl.edu

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