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UNCC, Catawba County work on green project

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UNC Charlotte and Catawba County plan to collaborate on environmental research.

University personnel at the Charlotte Research Institute will conduct experiments at the Catawba EcoComplex, an industrial park where companies use each other's production wastes and byproducts to fuel their operations. The 1,000-acre park is at the Blackburn Landfill off U.S. Highway 321.

The collaboration is an expansion of waste-reduction and -processing efforts already under way at the site. Plans call for testing alternative means of generating energy and fuels from waste products, as well as expanding technologies for emission reduction.

The first experiments are planned for the spring.

The Charlotte Research Institute is the portal for business-university partnerships at UNC Charlotte. The institute includes a number of multidisciplinary research centers and The Ben Craig Center, a business incubator.

Catawba County is the developer of the EcoComplex.