Waste vegetable oil from deep fat fryers can be utilized to make biodiesel fuel with the addition of methanol and lye. Check out Loyola University Chicago's initiative to convert all of its dormitory cafeteria waste vegetable oil into biodiesel that is then used in the shuttle buses that take students between its two Chicago-based campuses.

In biodiesel production, a byproduct called glycerin is created. To avoid this byproduct becoming more waste, students at Loyola University Chicago worked with chemistry professors to develop a formula for converting the waste glycerin into liquid hand soap, which is now dispensed in all of the washrooms on campus. In this way, students are developing innovative new products out of campus waste, saving the landfills, and saving money.