In the spring semester, I interned with the Ackerman Center for Excellence in Sustainability and primarily worked in two areas: facilitating the LIFT challenge and researching the cycle of food waste.

### ACES Overview

**Goal**

- **Initiatives within UNC**

**Academic Opportunities**

- **Global Initiatives**

### The Lift Challenge

**Who?**
- University students, both undergrad and graduated

**What?**
- The goal is feasible solutions to sustainability issues that use blended finance, in line with the UN’s SDGs

**When?**
- The finals are held in early February

### Food Waste Research

**2 interviews conducted**

I interviewed Alex Piasecki, Co-Founder and COO of Seal the Season, and Turner Wyatt, Co-founder and CEO of Upcycled Food, about upcoming trends in agricultural tech.

**23 companies researched**

My final deliverable included 23 different companies who were all contributing to food waste reduction in new, innovating ways.

**13 weekly meetings**

Every week, I met with 3 other interns, Jeff, and Tracy, and we updated each other on our progress and generated new ideas to test out.

**5 areas of focus**

I divided the food cycle into Agricultural Production, Manufacturing/Processing, Distribution, Retail/Distribution, and Consumption in my research.

### Internship Takeaways

- Organize impactful events
- Utilize your network
- Synthesize findings into digestible deliverables
- Give structure to long-term projects

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Jaida Jett, Kenan Scholars Class of 2024