

# Green Horizon Consulting

<u>Team Member Name</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Major</u>
Alyssa De La Cerda	2026	International Business
Christopher Payne	2024	International Business
Andres Peña	2026	Sustainability Management
Mariana Pinzon	2025	International Business
Grace Shartle	2025	International Business

**Advisor(s):** Astrid Schmidt-King, *J.D., LL.M., M.A.*

**Topic Title:** “Waste to Watts: Fostering Energy Solutions Through Mindful Waste Management”

**Audience:** “The Covanta Council”

## Sustainable Development Goal

SDG #11: Sustainable Cities and Communities- Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.

### Executive Summary

Established in 1986, Covanta is a leading waste management company committed to its mission, “To build a safer, cleaner, more prosperous world by ensuring no waste is ever wasted.” Over the last 40 years, the company has pioneered innovative technologies in waste management. Covanta has integrated non-hazardous waste and generated it for electricity production, in support of environmental sustainability and social responsibility.

To grow in an increasingly competitive market, Green Horizons Consulting proposes that Covanta use its Waste-to-Energy to fuel charging stations in urban communities. Given the shift to electric vehicles (EVs) and lack of clean energy charging, Covanta should partner with EV infrastructure companies to become an energy supplier for EVs. This would support decreased pollution, more livable and efficient cities, and economic prosperity.

Covanta’s non-polluting technology involves converting organic waste materials from landfills into electricity through thermal, chemical, and biological processes. By repurposing waste as a renewable energy source, communities can reduce reliance on fossil fuels and minimize the environmental impact of waste disposal, allowing community members to be active participants in global sustainability efforts. As the EV charging station industry is projected to exceed a 30% compound annual growth rate, the time is now to invest in this industry and shape the future of transportation.

California continues to be a leading example of renewable energy through codifying Executive Order N-79-20 in 2020 which established a roadmap towards having new cars emit zero emissions by 2035. Simultaneously, the US federal government has made great strides in promoting green energy and redefining our aging infrastructure through the Inflation Reduction Act (2022) and providing incentives to companies with sustainable practices. Additionally, Covanta will see the benefits of this investment through brand differentiation, revenue from energy sales, and increased market presence within the sector of renewable energy. By utilizing renewable energy sources to support electric vehicle infrastructure, Covanta will contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating climate change impacts, promoting a cleaner and healthier environment with equitable access to transportation.