

Cleantech Innovations Launch to Market

The NREL Innovation & Entrepreneurship Center (IEC) brings economically viable cleantech innovations to market. We create technology incubation programs and solutions that address gaps preventing innovations from getting to market and preventing market growth.

Through the IEC, startups, investors, corporates, industry partners, and foundations can leverage the capabilities at the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL). As a partner, you can join forces with one of our successful programs, or work with us to design a technology incubation or entrepreneurial development program of your own. Let's work to solve your most pressing energy and environmental challenges with the world's best technologists and innovators.

Contact us to learn how we can craft a solution to maximize your impact and propel your innovation goals forward at iec@nrel.gov.

Robust, Connected Networks Provide Jumping Power

Partnerships are required to bring cleantech innovations to market. The IEC serves as a neutral platform that binds the fabric of the cleantech ecosystem together, providing connections that allow startups to jump between resources and launch them skyward into the market where their innovations have real impact.

Investors

Our NREL Investor Advisory Board along with our network of more than 150 cleantech investors provides the market knowledge that keeps us on top of trends, and equips innovators with capital to be successful. These experts work with NREL, innovators, and each other to support technology solutions for global impact.

Incubators, accelerators and universities

The IEC is supported by an ecosystem of more than 60 universities, accelerators, and incubators that refer promising startups to our programs. We foster this pipeline with strategic grants, sharing of resources, and convening conversations throughout the year.

Industry

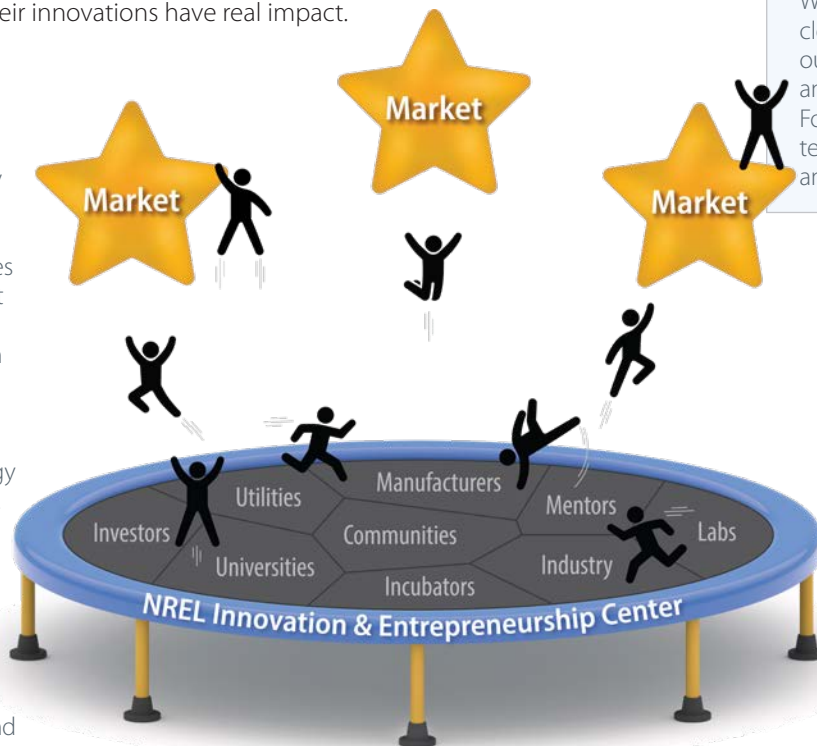
Our industry partners work with portfolio companies, serve on advisory boards, and participate in demonstration programs to launch startups.

Labs

From our own experts and facilities at NREL to other national labs, we provide technical assistance to startups and corporate innovation programs.

Startups

We work with hundreds of cleantech startups through our tech incubation programs and our Industry Growth Forum, helping them validate technologies in world-class labs and connect with capital.



Crafting Solutions to Fit Your Needs

Acutely aware of commercialization barriers that hold back promising innovation in the marketplace, we have designed and manage a wide variety of programs in both scale and level of technology readiness.

Our programs tackle persistent roadblocks and allow our funding partners to create customizable solutions that address technical challenges and speed the path to market.

Some of Our Innovation Programs



Energy I-Corps is an entrepreneurial "boot camp" for research teams from the national labs and directed by DOE's Office of Technology Transitions.



West Gate supports innovators as they develop technology concepts into startups and equips them with funding, training, and technical assistance.



Chevron Studio helps entrepreneurs scale up and commercialize potential cleantech solutions for a lower-carbon future by linking them with world-class, early-stage technologies developed at national labs and universities.



Canadian Technology Assistance Program
Canadian startups pitch their tech to NREL experts and are awarded technical assistance hours with NREL scientists to help solve specific challenges.



Shell GameChanger Accelerator™ Powered by NREL (GCxN) provides cleantech startups with access to NREL's world-class research and facilities, along with the incubation expertise of the Shell GameChanger program.



The Wells Fargo Innovation Incubator (IN²) supports startups that work in commercial buildings, affordable housing, sustainable agriculture technologies, and beyond with product development and validation at NREL and the world's largest plant science non-profit, the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center.



The Clean Energy Cybersecurity Accelerator (CECA) initiative offers a visionary path to accelerate cyber innovation for modern, renewable energy technologies around high-priority cybersecurity risks to the energy sector.



The NREL Industry Growth Forum annually connects cleantech startups with motivated investors and industry experts.



Our Tech Is Your Tech

The IEC is experienced in de-risking cutting-edge technologies across a wide spectrum of application areas from hydrogen to hydropower, microgrids to manufacturing, agriculture to analysis, cybersecurity to mobility. Access our deep bench of experts and partners in transforming energy and energy systems by visiting nrel.gov/innovate or contacting us at iec@nrel.gov to start exploring areas of expertise.



Innovation & Entrepreneurship Center

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