



The Innovation & Entrepreneurship Center: Bringing Cleantech to the World

The Innovation & Entrepreneurship Center (IEC) at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) is a convener of cleantech. The IEC connects investors, entrepreneurs, researchers, start-up organizations, and industry to move transformative technologies to market.

The IEC encompasses programs—some world renowned—that are aimed at getting clean technologies into the market.

Building a cleantech ecosystem to empower market solutions that transform communities around the world.



The Wells Fargo Innovation Incubator (IN²)

A \$30 million technology incubator funded by the Wells Fargo Foundation and co-administered by the IEC. IN²

helps speed the path to market for early-stage clean energy and agriculture technologies by providing funding and technical assistance for selected startups. IN² leverages the capabilities, facilities, equipment and expertise of NREL and the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center.

IN² portfolio companies have gone on to

raise **\$202M** from external follow-on funding;
that's **\$24** raised on average
for every **\$1** awarded.

The Industry Growth Forum

The premier event for cleantech entrepreneurs, investors, and industry experts to meet and build relationships, showcase innovative technologies, and explore disruptive business solutions.

The Industry Growth Forum facilitates

more than **1000** meetings
between investors and entrepreneurs

Small Business Program

Small business is big business at NREL. We award more than 50% of our annual procurement dollars to small businesses, and work to partner with small and disadvantaged businesses. NREL also mentors small businesses to teach them to work with federal agencies.

In FY18, NREL awarded **57%**
total procurement dollars to small business,
equivalent to **\$69.3** million.

Front page photo by Kira Vos Photography

GCxN Shell Gamechanger Accelerator™ Powered by NREL (GCxN)

Focused on discovering and advancing emerging clean technologies with the potential to dramatically alter the future global energy landscape. Modeled on IN², GCxN partners early-stage companies with the resources, expertise, and world class facilities available at NREL and the Shell GameChanger program to reduce technology development risk and accelerate tech to market.

“With its top scientists and world class facilities, NREL is a great match for Shell GameChanger in supporting passionate tech entrepreneurs. Through our collaboration with the IEC, we can leverage their strong network of national and international channel partners with our industry expertise and really help start-ups expedite the testing and validation of their potentially game-changing technologies.”

– Haibin Xu, Manager Shell Research Connect and GameChanger, GCxN Program Director

Emerging Markets Day

An event focused on discovering clean technology solutions to the world’s most pressing energy challenges in emerging economies. A day of networking, pitching, and expert advice connecting impact ventures with resources.



Energy I-Corps

Pairing teams of national laboratory researchers with industry mentors for an intensive two-month training program. Researchers define technology value propositions, conduct customer discovery interviews, and develop viable market pathways for their technologies. Managed by NREL for the U.S. Department of Energy.

6,650+
customer discovery
interviews

Hitachi, Lowe's, Johns Manville, Lego,
US Army, Trane, Tesla, GM, Dow
Chemical, Yingli, 3M, Whirlpool, GE,
Home Depot, ReMax, Amazon

\$22M
in follow-on funding

6
new businesses



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