

Introducing the
Spark Cleantech Accelerator

An early-stage business accelerator that offers a comprehensive set of services to support promising cleantech technology companies

Our Mission

To support early stage cleantech businesses and drive commercialization of their technologies in Tennessee and throughout the Midwest in partnership with Evergreen Climate Innovations (previously Clean Energy Trust) and other partners

What We Do

- **Recruit** the best in-class cleantech technology companies to invest and deploy their technologies in Tennessee.
- **Nurture** the development and deployment of those companies and their products and/or services.
- **Ensure** the inclusion of promising underserved entrepreneurs, including women, people of color, and veterans

What We Offer

- **Stipends** to help defray travel and living costs and to support business and technical milestones
- **Prototyping services** through the University of Tennessee's Center for Materials Processing
- **Mentoring** One-on-one support from our experts in business, market analysis and positioning, and IP/patent strategy, product design, engineering, prototyping, testing, material selection, tooling design, and manufacturing
- **Connections** with customers, investors, strategic partners, suppliers, and universities and national laboratories
- **Training** Workshops and one-on-one support, including individual meetings with DOE SBIR/STTR staff
- **Partnerships** with organizations such as the Tennessee Valley Authority, the University of Tennessee, the City of Knoxville, and members of the Tennessee Advanced Energy Business Council

Eligibility

- Applicants from Tennessee, the Midwest, and beyond
- Companies that demonstrate a positive impact to energy efficiency, generate renewable energy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase recycling/upcycling and a circular economy

Eligibility Continued

- Companies that show strong market potential and defensible intellectual property, with issued patents or pending patents filed
- Those who demonstrate their technology can support the challenges and needs of Spark partners, such as utilities, local governments, universities, manufacturing companies, commercial building operators, etc.
- Those that create software or hardware technologies including intelligent connected devices, advanced materials processes, or with technology companies at a Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 2-6
- Applicants who are open to Tennessee as a permanent business location.

NOTE: This program is not open to individuals or academic entities that are not incorporated.

Company Acceptance Criteria

- Evidence of customer discovery, and market validation and interest.
- Understanding of the competitive landscape and market forces.
- Dedicated founder and qualified advisors.
- Committed funding sources; including founder and evidence of non-dilutive grants.
- Dedication to developing and growing their business in Tennessee directly or through supply chain partners in the state.

2022 Spark Accelerator Schedule

January 2022	Applications Open
January and February 2022	Webinars
March 2022	Applications Close
April 2022	Participants Notified
June 2022	Accelerator Begins
September 2022	Demo Day

Contact

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Application: <https://tinyurl.com/sparkcta>