ClimateLaunchpad

The leading green business ideas competition
ClimateLaunchpad Global

The world needs novel business solutions to help decarbonise entire industries and economies at an ever-increasing pace and scale. It is widely recognised among policy and market actors that supporting the development and deployment of innovative technology plays a critical role in fighting climate change.

Since our start in 2014, ClimateLaunchpad has been the largest green business ideas competition in the world. Our mission is to unlock the world’s cleantech potential that addresses climate change. We are not just a competition—promising business ideas receive training to validate their business case and develop their pitch. Every year more countries and continents join ClimateLaunchpad, more ideas are entered, and more cleantech start-ups are launched to create global impact on climate change.

In 2021
8th edition
Founded in 2014

2,136 business ideas submitted
680 teams invited to join our competition
69 Boot Camps organised
55 participating countries
7 Themes

All years combined
11,887 business ideas submitted
3,702 teams invited to join our competition
356 Boot Camps organised

Clean Energy
Circular Economy
Adaptation & Resilience
Next Big Thing
Sustainable Mobility
Urban Solutions
Food Systems
Where’s the Activity?
ClimateLaunchpad 2021 applications

Cleantech sectors
- Agriculture: 576 (27%)
- Air and Environment: 478 (22%)
- Clean Industry: 373 (17%)
- Clean Energy: 303 (14%)
- Efficiency: 127 (6%)
- Transportation: 99 (5%)
- Water: 83 (4%)
- Other: 64 (3%)
- Energy Storage: 33 (2%)
- Grand Total: 2,136

Gender ratio
- Male: 1,410 (66%)
- Female: 585 (27%)
- Prefer not to say: 137 (6%)
- Other: 4 (1%)
- Grand Total: 2,136

Average age of founder: 31.9
ClimateLaunchpad 2021 by Region

Africa

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Countries</td>
<td>15</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applications</td>
<td>920</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teams trained</td>
<td>214</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average age</td>
<td>30.6</td>
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Female: 62 (29%), Male: 149 (70%), Prefer not to say: 3 (1%)

Entomo Farm
Zambia
Founder
Priscilla Musenge

Turning organic household waste into insect-based livestock feed
www.entomofarm.biz

“ClimateLaunchpad was eye-opening and enlightened me to the greater impact I could make in the reduction of CO2 emissions and water usage.”

Learn more about Entomo Farm on page 10

Americas

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<tr>
<td>Countries</td>
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<tr>
<td>Applications</td>
<td>307</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teams trained</td>
<td>79</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average age</td>
<td>34.8</td>
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Female: 18 (23%), Male: 49 (62%), Other: 1 (1%), Prefer not to say: 11 (14%)

SEOS Energy
Colombia
Founders
Nadia Pfeiffer, Juan Pfeiffer

Solar financing platform connecting users with top qualified installers, unlocking LATAM’s USD 140 B residential energy potential
www.seosenergy.co

“ClimateLaunchpad was definitely a great experience for us that helped us to validate the global potential of our solution by peers and experience entrepreneurs. The lessons, feedback and networking have been a big motivator and driving force to keep pursuing our mission of creating and empowering energy prosumers in LATAM and taking the next step jumping into our seed fundraising stage.”
Europe

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<tr>
<td>Countries</td>
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<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Applications</td>
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<td>206</td>
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<td>Teams trained</td>
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<td>93</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average age</td>
<td></td>
<td>31.5</td>
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Female | 29 | 31%

Male | 57 | 61%

Prefer not to say | 7 | 8%

Qaptis Sàrl
Switzerland

Founders
Yves Loerincik,
Masoud Talebi,
Theodore Caby

Plug-in kit transforms fossil fuel trucks and ships into low-emission vehicles

www.qaptis.com

“There are lots of resources on the internet and books, but ClimateLaunchpad gives you the basis and confidence to build a first foundation for your start-up.”

Eastern Europe
& Middle East

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<tr>
<td>Countries</td>
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<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Applications</td>
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<td>238</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teams trained</td>
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<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average age</td>
<td></td>
<td>31</td>
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</tbody>
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Female | 35 | 32%

Male | 69 | 64%

Prefer not to say | 4 | 4%

SOYL-GEL
Turkey

Founders
Dr. Senem Seven,
Ogeday Rodop,
Yeşim Menceloğlu

A multifunctional hydrogel applied under the soil to increase effectiveness of irrigation

www.soygel.com

“In the ClimateLaunchpad Boot Camp, we re-examined the environmental impact of our start-up thanks to experienced mentors. It was instructive for us.”
Indian subcontinent

| Countries | 3 |
| Applications | 291 |
| Teams trained | 115 |
| Average age | 31.7 |

Female: 38, 33%
Male: 75, 65%
Prefer not to say: 2, 2%

SMDPower Solutions
India

Founder
Vishwesh Bhat

Our IAC product is an AI-driven IoT designed for your existing air conditioner to cool your room and reduce electricity wastage.

www.smdp.in

“The ClimateLaunchpad Boot Camp offers education at such a high level, anyone with a green business idea will benefit from joining.”

Southeast Asia & Australia

| Countries | 5 |
| Applications | 161 |
| Teams trained | 71 |
| Average age | 34.3 |

Female: 24, 34%
Male: 43, 61%
Prefer not to say: 3, 4%

Watasumi
Japan

Founder
David Simpson

Watasumi makes having your own on-site industrial wastewater treatment plant a reality.

www.watasumi.com

“I found the training to be excellent, I am thankful that I see the benefits of rehearsing the pitch and improving the story from the listener’s perspective.”
Regional spotlight: Africa

The world is in a race to limit climate change. Although it is an unprecedented global challenge, Africa is disproportionately impacted. Of the world’s 10 countries at the greatest climate risk, 5 are located in Africa. Climate change is a major multiplier of existing socio-economic vulnerabilities in the region.

Recognising the need for a blend of global and local action, the ClimateLaunchpad competition is run in partnership with passionate local National Leads (partner organisations) to train and support early-stage, climate-focused start-ups. The programme includes: climate-business education for start-ups; access to capital and networks; and a support system for these climate-focused start-ups.

1 Germanwatch, Global Climate Risk Index 2021. www.reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Global%20Climate%20Risk%20Index%202021_1_0.pdf

ClimateLaunchpad 2021 in Africa


Second Life Storage
Rwanda

Founders
Patrick Ntwari, Leandre Berwa, Chris Karera

Energy storage as a service using retired lithium-ion battery cells

“ClimateLaunchpad was very helpful in giving us a structure on how to think about our product and the market.”

Drop Access
Kenya

Founders
Norah Magero, James Mulatya, Abigail Mbula

Affordable and portable solar-powered cold storage
www.dropaccess.org

“ClimateLaunchpad made us see how our project was not just an idea but an initiative with a global impact.”

WaterWill
Egypt

Founders
Mohannad Hesham, Mohamed Fathy, Hesham Sadek, Nora Shake

Providing sustainable and innovative water solutions to both rural and premium markets
www.buymefilter.com

“The most rewarding moment was being a Global Finalist competing amongst great start-ups across Africa.”
Programme spotlight: GIZ sponsorship

To address the ever-growing need for climate innovations across the African continent, the ‘Accelerating Climate Tech Solutions for a Net Zero Africa’ programme was launched in 2021. This programme aimed to identify and support African climate innovators with technologies that have the potential to decarbonise developing countries. GIZ, Germany’s leading provider of international cooperation services, sponsored the ClimateLaunchpad competition in Egypt, Ghana, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, and Zambia.

More specifically, the GIZ-funded ClimateLaunchpad programme supported:

**Egypt**
Youthinkgreen
Applications 55
Teams trained 19
Average age 29.2

**Ghana**
Ghana Climate Innovation Centre
Applications 35
Teams trained 11
Average age 30.9

**Nigeria**
Nigeria Climate Innovation Centre
Applications 58
Teams trained 17
Average age 35.3

**Rwanda**
Impact Hub Kigali
Applications 70
Teams trained 16
Average age 27.3

**Senegal**
Makesense Africa
Applications 78
Teams trained 17
Average age 32.3

**Zambia**
Impact Hub Lusaka
Applications 56
Teams trained 19
Average age 28.5
**Where’s the Activity?**
ClimateLaunchpad Themes of the teams trained

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clean Energy</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Circular Economies</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adaptation &amp; Resilience</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban Solutions</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Systems</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable Mobility</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>97</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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**The project in action**

**LifeBox by NoorNation**
Egypt

*Founders*
Mohamed Khaled & Ragy Ramadan

*LifeBox is a solar-powered decentralised green infrastructure providing clean energy and safe water*
[www.linkedin.com/showcase/lifeboxsolar](http://www.linkedin.com/showcase/lifeboxsolar)

*“This green businesses incubation programme puts green start-ups on the path towards growth and impact.”*

**Modcoal**
Ghana

*Founders*
Matthew Baba, Dominic Ndla Ngagmayan, Wilson Ofori, Sarkodie

*We produce eco-friendly briquettes from Shea nut shells*

*“Participating in ClimateLaunchpad opened my mind to bigger goals and shaped my idea into better business opportunities.”*

**Vectar Energy**
Nigeria

*Founder*
Yetunde Deborah Fadeyi

*Our product Vectar Eco is designed to transition users from fossil fuel dependency and offer financial services to enhance energy access*

*“We came with an idea but we left with a business model.”*
Greenmeth Farm
Senegal
Founder
Cheikhna Thiam

“Before I applied, I knew my business could make a difference in terms of climate change, but I didn’t know to what extent."

Read the full Success Story here

Tell us a bit more about your business.
The ClimateLaunchpad programme allowed us to develop our project and benefit from strong mentoring.

Tell us a bit more about your business.
We turn food waste into sustainable, organic and inexpensive livestock feed and fertiliser for small- and medium-scale chicken, pig and fish farmers. We do this by farming the black soldier fly for its larvae, which feeds on food waste. Then we process it into our product, the livestock feed.

Why should anyone join ClimateLaunchpad?
Why wouldn’t you? For anyone who wants to learn how to make a positive change with your business, ClimateLaunchpad is your ticket. In my perspective, we are the first people to experience the effects of climate change, so we should be the first people to want to make a change and to be the change we want to see.

“ClimateLaunchpad Egypt managed to position the Egyptian cleantech innovations on the international stage and access a global network of investments, mentors, and experts. Going through our programme is one of the key milestones for cleantech innovations for scaling up and growth.”

Glassland Inc.
Rwanda
Founder
Jean Pierre Bucyensenge

Glassland Inc. turns post-consumer and industrial glass into unique, sustainable construction products
www.instagram.com/glassland.rw

“ClimateLaunchpad was an opportunity to learn, network and rethink our model of sustainable glass waste management and to refine our business plan while providing opportunities for growth, creating green jobs and supporting Rwanda’s green growth ambitions.”

Youthinkgreen Egypt, National Lead Egypt
www.ytg.eco

Nigeria Climate Innovation Center, National Lead Nigeria
www.nigeriacic.org

“ClimateLaunchpad not only created a platform for innovative ideas but has also equipped the innovators with the capacity to establish them.”

Entomo Farm
Zambia
Founder
Priscilla Musenge

“Before I applied, I knew my business could make a difference in terms of climate change, but I didn’t know to what extent.”

Transforming organic waste into green electricity and organic fertilizer
www.climatelaunchpad.org/glassland.rw

“ClimateLaunchpad was an opportunity to learn, network and rethink our model of sustainable glass waste management and to refine our business plan while providing opportunities for growth, creating green jobs and supporting Rwanda’s green growth ambitions.”

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Project Background

Accelerating Climate Tech Solutions for a Net Zero Africa is delivered by the Climate-KIC International Foundation, its partner organisation TU Delft, and funded by GIZ exclusively on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (‘BMZ’).

This project aimed to identify and support African start-ups with technologies that have the potential to decarbonise (“climate tech”) developing countries while building capacity of local climate-focused innovation ecosystems. The initiative played a catalytic role by lowering barriers to entry for entrepreneurs, strengthening the climate and social impact of their innovations and building networks with other key local ecosystem partners.

It strengthened the climate-focused innovation ecosystems of African countries by providing technical support to early-stage businesses with technologies, products, and services that have the potential to contribute to decarbonised development and building capacity of local entrepreneurship support organisations.

About the Climate-KIC International Foundation

The object of the Foundation is to contribute in the broadest possible sense to the protection of nature and the environment, including the enhancement of sustainability, in aid of the common good, both ecological and human, by way of innovation of climate change mitigation and adaptation, and by stimulation of education and research in the field of climate change mitigation and adaptation, and to do anything which is, in the widest sense of the word, connected with or may be conducive to the attainment of this object.

The Foundation’s entrepreneurship portfolio covers the development pipeline that starts at the activation and ideation stages and offers innovators the opportunity to incubate solutions into successful climate-positive start-ups.

For more information: www.climatekicfoundation.org/about
About Delft University of Technology (TU Delft)

TU Delft is built on strong foundations. As creators of the world-famous Dutch waterworks and pioneers in biotech, TU Delft is a top international university combining science, engineering and design. It delivers world-class results in education, research, and innovation to address challenges in the areas of energy, climate, mobility, health, and digital society.

For generations, our engineers have proven to be entrepreneurial problem-solvers, both in business and in a social context. At TU Delft we embrace diversity and aim to be as inclusive as possible. Together, we imagine, invent and create solutions using technology to have a positive impact on a global scale. Challenge. Change. Impact!

For more information: www.tudelft.nl

About the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (‘GIZ’)

GIZ is Germany’s leading provider of international cooperation services. As a federal enterprise, it supports the German Government in achieving its objectives in the field of international cooperation for sustainable development. GIZ is fully owned by the Federal Republic of Germany, represented as the shareholder by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the Federal Ministry of Finance (BMF). GIZ has more than 23,600 staff around the globe and operates in about 120 countries worldwide and has over 50 years of experience in a wide variety of areas, including economic development and employment promotion, energy and the environment, and peace and security.

For more information: www.giz.de