

# ASPIRE climatetech

5-week Investment Readiness Program



Program dates:

May 9 - June 3: Online workshop

June 8 - 9 : In-person workshop

Greentown Labs Houston

Are you a  
climatetech  
startup  
preparing for  
investment?



## Get ready for your seed round with ASPIRE!

VentureWell is seeking seed-stage climatetech startups to participate in an intensive 5-week hybrid workshop to prepare for the fundraising and company-building activities necessary for launch and realized impact. The first 4 weeks of the program will be held online and the final 5th week will be a culminating 2-day event held at Greentown Labs in Houston, TX.

We're seeking engineering and science innovations that create **positive environmental impact** through the innovation's application or design, especially ventures that address sustainability priorities including **climate change, air and water pollution, food and transportation systems, waste management, and energy use.**

**Learn more: [venturewell.org/aspire](https://venturewell.org/aspire)**

ASPIRE is open to startups that have previously received funding from VentureWell (E-Teams) or startups new to VentureWell. We strongly encourage those who identify as members of one or more of the following communities to apply: Black, Latinx, Indigenous, women, gender-fluid, nonbinary, and/or those with veteran status.

We have trained <b>129</b> startups since 2015	They have raised <b>\$217M</b> in seed funding	and have a <b>90%</b> persistence rate
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## WHY ASPIRE?

### Spend one-on-one time with investors

Learn from a group of investor-mentors who have funded startups like yours during our hybrid program.

### Vet your fundraising strategy

Refine your deal room materials and take part in a mock board meeting to prepare yourself for fundraising and investor conversations.

### Stress-test your startup

Work through real-world disaster scenarios with your team to discover how to best prepare for the unexpected.

### Collaborate and network

Connect with fellow founders and leverage the VentureWell investor network after the program ends.

“ASPIRE allowed us to talk one-on-one with mentors and learn from the other teams in the program. It gave us guidance for how to get our messaging right so that it made sense to investors... and put us in a really good position in terms of the materials we needed to prepare to be ready for that investment stage.”

- Adam Stager, TRIC Robotics  
ASPIRE Climatetech '21

Offered through the  
generous support of:



Greentown Labs



The Lemelson Foundation  
improving lives through invention

# Eligibility Requirements



VentureWell will select 10-15 climatetech startups launching inventions for positive environmental impact. Companies should be preparing to raise a seed round within the coming year.

## Science and engineering inventions with positive environmental impact

Clearly articulated assessment of how your technology will address key sustainability priorities through its direct application or design and manufacture.

## Team identified & startup formed

First-time founders with management team and key roles identified—no one-person teams. Incorporated as a legal entity by the beginning of the program.

## Intellectual property

Provisional patent(s) filed and assigned to the company or a clear pathway to the license.

## Actively fundraising

Company has raised at least \$25,000 (grants or equity) and is preparing for an equity investment round within 12 months.

## Technology validated

Initial prototype developed, pilot studies or field trials underway.

## Early market validation

Validated customer segments and initial evidence of product market fit. Articulation of economic value proposition and evidence of customer buy-in.

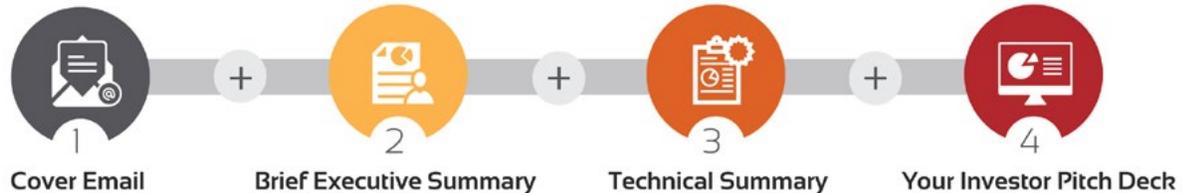
## Commitment

Management team, including CEO or founders, should commit to the full program. CEO must serve as the main point of contact and should attend all sessions. The program requires meeting participation on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays throughout the length of the program, for 1-2 hours each day. Additionally, we will host a in-person event over the course of two days at Greentown Labs Houston in which all participants will be required to attend. The startup must be your full-time focus.

## Program Cost

We are able to keep fees low thanks to generous support from our funders. There is a \$350 registration fee for each participant. Startups are also responsible for their own transport and accommodation costs for the in-person portion of the program.

# How to Apply



### 1) Cover Email

Clearly indicate that, if accepted, you can commit members of the startup's executive leadership for the entirety of the program. The individual acting as CEO should be attending, at minimum. This is required in order to get the most out of program activities and to build a strong, interactive cohort for the entirety of the program, including the in-person portion of the workshop.

### 2) Brief Executive Summary

You may use this template if you wish ([goo.gl/VE3Vru](http://goo.gl/VE3Vru)). Address all areas in the template, but edit the formatting to suit your brand. Elaborate in the Technical Summary as needed. (Maximum 2 pages)

### 3) One-page Technical Summary including:

The startup's product or service, and how it works; stage of development and testing, and next steps for achieving subsequent technical milestones; current IP status and next steps; and, diagrams or photos with a summary of any high-level data that demonstrates that the technology works.

### 4) Your Current Investor Pitch Deck

5) Visit [venturewell.org/aspire](http://venturewell.org/aspire), click "Apply Now" on the sidebar and submit your materials via our application portal.

**Application Deadline: March 28, 2022**

**Questions?** Contact Tricia Compas-Markman, Senior Program Officer at [tcompas@venturewell.org](mailto:tcompas@venturewell.org)