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.

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

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 129 startups since 2015
They have raised $217M in seed funding
and have a 90% persistence rate

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
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.

Eligibility Requirements

1) **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.

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

3) **Technology validated**
   Initial prototype developed, pilot studies or field trials underway.

4) **Early market validation**
   Validated customer segments and initial evidence of product market fit. Articulation of economic value proposition and evidence of customer buy-in.

5) **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.

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

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). 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**, 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