

Are you a cleantech startup preparing to raise a seed round?



APPLY NOW for ASPIRE!

Prepare your startup for investment

VentureWell is seeking seed-stage **cleantech startups** to participate in an intensive 7-week online workshop to prepare for the fundraising and company-building activities necessary for launch and realized impact.

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.**

ASPIRE is open to startups that have previously received funding from VentureWell (E-Teams) OR startups new to VentureWell that are led by at least one founder from a group underrepresented in science and technology. This includes founders who identify as women, persons with disabilities, and/or members from the following racial and ethnic groups—Black or African American, Hispanic or Latinx, and American Indian or Alaska Native.

go.venturewell.org/aspire2021

WHY ASPIRE?

Spend one-on-one time with investors

Learn from a group of investor-mentors who have funded startups like yours during our virtualized 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 BY THE NUMBERS

109 startups have participated in ASPIRE since 2015.

These teams have raised over **\$110M**

87% of these startups are still in business.

VentureWell will select **10-15 cleantech startups** launching inventions for **positive environmental impact**. Companies should be preparing to raise seed or Series A rounds within the coming year.

Eligibility Requirements

- **Science & 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 solo founders. 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 \$25K (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.

All industries considered. Engineering or science-based inventions that address key sustainability priorities are required. For example, solutions that work to improve water and air quality, food production systems, materials and manufacturing, energy and water use, or reduce waste or greenhouse gases production.

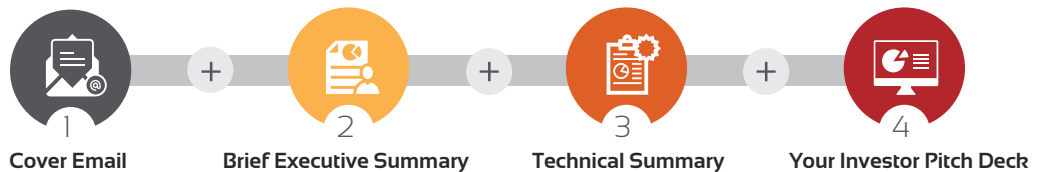
Commitment

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. 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.

How to Apply



1) Cover Letter

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.

2) Brief Executive Summary

You may use this template (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 go.venturewell.org/aspire2021, click "Apply Now" on the sidebar and submit your materials via our application portal.

Application Deadline: March 1, 2021

Questions? Contact **Christina Tamer** at ctamer@venturewell.org