

# Cleantech Open Midwest

Accelerate Your Business!



**APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED STARTING FEBRUARY 1, 2017!**

If you have an impactful idea that could help solve some of the greatest global challenges of the present and the future, we invite you to join the largest and longest-standing cleantech accelerator in the world.

Since its inception in 2006, the Cleantech Open has accelerated 1,036 startups, leading to \$1.135 billion in external capital and 3067 jobs created. The Cleantech Open provides start-ups with the resources to develop, validate, and launch successful companies in the clean technology and sustainability sectors. Our accelerator program provides participants with training, mentoring, infrastructure, relationships and funding opportunities to help transform innovative ideas into high-caliber companies.

## WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

Selected companies will have access to a suite of exclusive, top-tier resources, including:

- **PRIZES:** The US Cleantech Open offers over \$500,000 in cash, investment and in-kind services to regional and national showcase winners. This includes:
  - \$250,000 in cash prizes to winners of the regional and national showcase events
  - 5 awards of \$5,000 in cash at the regional level
  - 5 awards of \$10,000 at the national level
  - \$50,000 in investment for one U.S. National Grand Prize winner
  - \$300,000 of in-kind services to match aforementioned prizes*\*These values are based on current estimations, and are subject to change. Regional prize money is discretionary, and can be more or less than the amount indicated above.*
- **WORLD-CLASS MENTORING:** Receive intensive, specialized, and tailored mentoring from experienced business experts. Gain access to one of the world's only cleantech-specific expert networks, with hundreds of highly-skilled business professionals.
- **NETWORKING:** Plug into (and become part of) a powerful national network of influencers and entrepreneurs. Connect with potential mentors, investors, and partners as you grow your company.
- **VISIBILITY:** Showcase your startup to investors, strategic partners, and customers through a variety of events and media channels.
- **HANDS-ON TRAINING:** 12-week series of intensive workshops and boot-camps to prepare you for success at every stage of your company's development.

More than that, you're winning the opportunity to advance your company faster than you imagined, gain a reputation in the clean technology sector and create the world and the future that you envision.

## WHAT'S YOUR RETURN ON INVESTMENT?

Because corporate sponsors cover most of the costs and volunteers donate their time, your cost for the world's leading cleantech accelerator is only \$1,200 per company (\$950 for student-led teams). This investment provides:

- The chance to **win regional and national prizes** (as listed above - including cash and in-kind services).
- The opportunity to learn from, and speak directly with, **world-renowned cleantech experts and visionaries** – both at the National Academy (in San Francisco or Boston), and at the regional level (in Minneapolis/St. Paul).
- **Individualized attention** from 2-3 dedicated mentors that will help accelerate your business plan, solve technical and market challenges and provide guidance throughout the accelerator and competitions.
- **Access to high-profile regional and national events**, including International Cleantech Week in San Francisco (paid entry for your team to exclusive events)
- **Free and/or highly-discounted technologies and software programs** to support you design and development needs.
- A **global network** of CTO participants, graduates, and supporters to help advocate for your start-up and its success.
- Most meals at the National Academy, and the regional events (Business Clinic and Regional Competition).

## WHAT TYPES OF COMPANIES APPLY?

- Energy Generation, Distribution, Storage and Efficiency
- Chemicals and Advanced Materials
- Information and Communications Technologies
- Green Building & Materials
- Transportation
- Agriculture, Water & Waste

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

The Cleantech Open supports early stage startups. Most startups in our program have less than \$1.5MM in funding from private investors or less than \$10MM in funding from family, friends, and grants. There are exceptions, however, and we encourage you to apply even if your funding levels are higher. We'll evaluate your fit with the program holistically, considering your company's ability to benefit from the program.

- You must have at least two members on your team, and at least one must be a United States or Canadian resident, citizen or legal alien.
- You must have a physical U.S. or Canadian address and your company must have activities based there. You must apply within the region where the majority of your team works or is resident. To apply for the Cleantech Open Midwest, that means Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota or Wisconsin.

Cleantech Open Midwest

[midwest.cleantechopen.org](http://midwest.cleantechopen.org) | [cleantechopenmidwestalumni.com](http://cleantechopenmidwestalumni.com) | [vimeo.com/149195831](https://vimeo.com/149195831)

Steven Webster, Director | [steven.webster@stthomas.edu](mailto:steven.webster@stthomas.edu) | 517-290-4220

Nicole Matter, Regional Administrator | [nicole.matter@stthomas.edu](mailto:nicole.matter@stthomas.edu) | 651-962-4185

## WHAT'S THE 2017 TIMELINE? (Dates subject to change)

- **May 1:** Application deadline.
- **Late May:** First Round Judging: Selected participants announced.
- **June:** Participate in a national Academy, either in Boston or Silicon Valley.
- **July-September:** Webinars & Videos; one-on-one help from mentors in your field; and Regional Business Clinic & Mock Judging.
  - From the second week in July to mid-September you have access to webinars that provide an opportunity to ask questions that can further your business, and gain access to videos that cover each of the Cleantech Open's 10 focus areas.
  - In August you will attend at least one business clinic. These provide you the opportunity to meet one-on-one with subject matter experts in each area of your business model. You'll also pitch to a panel of judges who provide real-time feedback to help refine your pitch in preparation for final judging.
- **August 3-4:** Regional Business Clinic to meet one-on-one with subject matter experts in each area of the business model.
- **September:** Final submissions of business worksheets, executive summary and pitch presentations.
- **November 2-3:** Regional Judging and Awards – Present live to judges who will select the Finalist teams that go on to the Global Forum to compete nationally for the National Grand Prize.
- **February, 2018:** Global Forum: The Global Forum is the culmination of the year's accelerator. You will have opportunities to showcase, meet prospective investors and present to a live audience.

So, if you want to successfully build and launch an impactful cleantech start-up, we invite you to apply for the Cleantech Open and join one of the greatest, largest, and longest-standing cleantech accelerators in the world. Be a part of something great; be a part of creating something even greater.

For additional terms and information, please visit: <https://midwest.cleantechopen.org/en/challenge/2017-cleantech-open-accelerator-3>

*The Cleantech Open Midwest, a division of the Cleantech Open, was founded in 2010 and serves the clean technology community in a 13-state region.*

Cleantech Open Midwest  
midwest.cleantechopen.org | cleantechopenmidwestalumni.com | vimeo.com/149195831  
Steven Webster, Director | [steven.webster@stthomas.edu](mailto:steven.webster@stthomas.edu) | 517-290-4220  
Nicole Matter, Regional Administrator | [nicole.matter@stthomas.edu](mailto:nicole.matter@stthomas.edu) | 651-962-4185