

# 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

8<sup>th</sup> 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



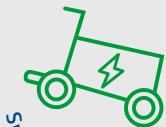
Circular Economy



Adaptation & Resilience



Next Big Thing



Sustainable Mobility



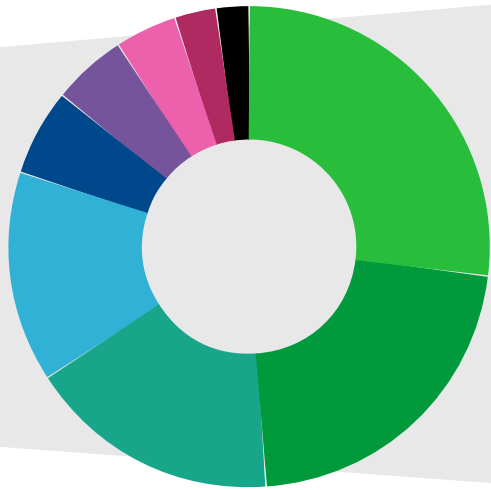
Urban Solutions



Food Systems

# Where's the Activity?

ClimateLaunchpad 2021 applications

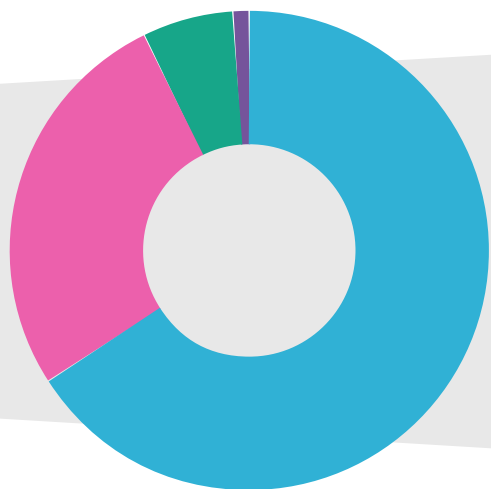
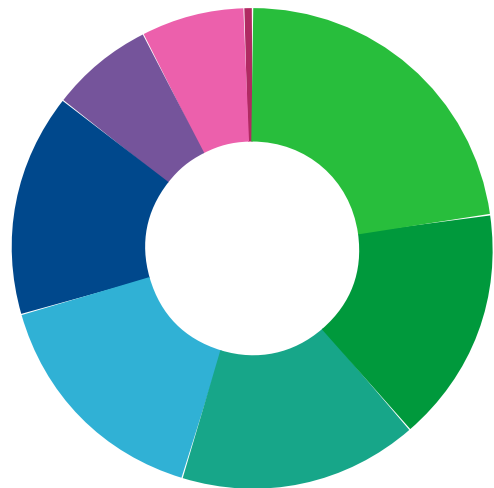


## Cleantech sectors

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	

## ClimateLaunchpad Themes

Circular Economy	491	23%
Adaptation & Resilience	335	16%
Clean Energy	330	16%
Food Systems	347	16%
Urban Solutions	322	15%
Sustainable Mobility	149	7%
Other	156	7%
The Next Big Thing	6	0%
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	

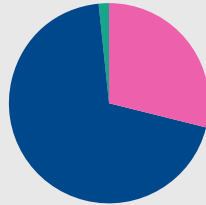
Average age of founder

31.9

# ClimateLaunchpad 2021 by Region

## Africa

Countries	15
Applications	920
Teams trained	214
Average age	30.6



Female	62	29%
Male	149	70%
Prefer not to say	3	1%



**Entomo Farm**  
Zambia

**Founder**  
Priscilla Musenge

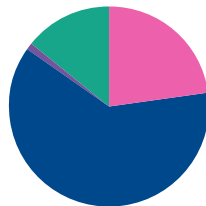
**Turning organic household waste into insect-based livestock feed**  
[www.entomofarm.biz](http://www.entomofarm.biz)

"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

Countries	7
Applications	307
Teams trained	79
Average age	34.8



Female	18	23%
Male	49	62%
Other	1	1%
Prefer not to say	11	14%



**SEOS Energy**  
Colombia

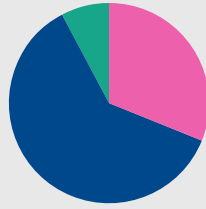
**Founders**  
Nadia Pfeiffer,  
Juan Pfeiffer

**Solar financing platform connecting users with top qualified installers, unlocking LATAM's USD 140 B residential energy potential**  
[www.seosenergy.co](http://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

Countries	10
Applications	206
Teams trained	93
Average age	31.5



Female	29	31%
Male	57	61%
Prefer not to say	7	8%

QAPTIS

CO<sub>2</sub> CAPTURE TECHNOLOGY



**Qaptis Sàrl**  
Switzerland

### Founders

Yves Loerincik,  
Masoud Talebi,  
Theodore Caby

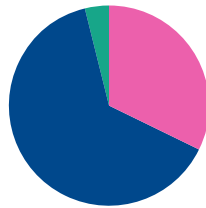
**Plug-in kit transforms fossil fuel trucks and ships into low-emission vehicles**

[www.qaptis.com](http://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

Countries	12
Applications	238
Teams trained	108
Average age	31



Female	35	32%
Male	69	64%
Prefer not to say	4	4%

SOYL GEL



**SOYL-GEL**  
Turkey

### Founders

Dr. Senem Seven,  
Ogeday Rodop,  
Yeşim Menciloğlu

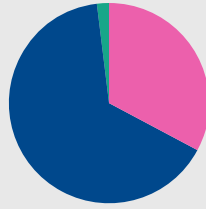
**A multifunctional hydrogel applied under the soil to increase effectiveness of irrigation**

[www.soylgel.com](http://www.soylgel.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

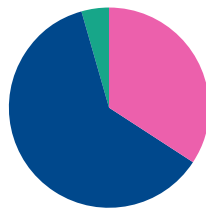
**Our iAC product is an AI-driven IoT designed for your existing air conditioner to cool your room and reduce electricity wastage**

[www.smdp.in](http://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](http://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<sup>1</sup>. 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.

<sup>1</sup> Germanwatch, Global Climate Risk Index 2021. [www.reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Global%20Climate%20Risk%20Index%202021\\_1\\_0.pdf](http://www.reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Global%20Climate%20Risk%20Index%202021_1_0.pdf)

## ClimateLaunchpad 2021 in Africa

Angola, Cape Verde, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia.

Regional Final no.1



**Drop Access**  
Kenya

**Founders**  
Norah Magero,  
James Mulatya,  
Abigail Mbula

**Affordable and portable solar-powered cold storage**

[www.dropaccess.org](http://www.dropaccess.org)

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

**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."

Regional Final no.2



**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](http://www.buymefilter.com)

"The most rewarding moment was being a Global Finalist competing amongst great start-ups across Africa."

Regional Final no.3



## 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 Egypt

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

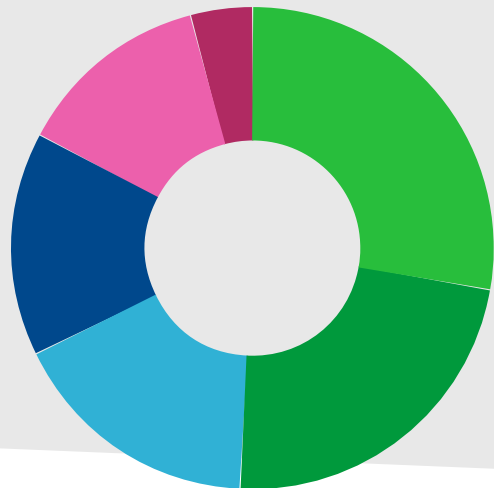
Applications **56**  
Teams trained **19**  
Average age **28.5**



# Where's the Activity?

ClimateLaunchpad Themes of the teams trained

	Clean Energy	27	28%
	Circular Economies	22	23%
	Adaptation & Resilience	16	17%
	Urban Solutions	15	15%
	Food Systems	13	13%
	Sustainable Mobility	4	4%
	Grand Total	97	



## 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  
Nanpuan, Dominic  
Ndela 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."

**Glassland Inc.**  
Rwanda

**Founder**  
Jean Pierre  
Bucyensege

**Glassland Inc. turns post-consumer and industrial glass into unique, sustainable construction products**

[www.instagram.com/glassland.rw](http://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."



**Greenmeth Farm**  
Senegal

**Founder**  
Cheikhna Thiam

**Transforming organic waste into green electricity and organic fertilizer**

"The ClimateLaunchpad programme allowed us to develop our project and benefit from strong mentoring."

**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."

**Read the full Success Story here**

[www.climatelaunchpad.org/entomo-farm-turning-organic-household-waste-into-insect-based-livestock-feed](http://www.climatelaunchpad.org/entomo-farm-turning-organic-household-waste-into-insect-based-livestock-feed)

**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.



**Nigeria Climate Innovation Center, National Lead Nigeria**

[www.nigeriacic.org](http://www.nigeriacic.org)

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

**Youthinkgreen Egypt, National Lead Egypt**  
[www.ytg.eco](http://www.ytg.eco)

"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."



## 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](http://www.climatekicfoundation.org/about)*

The logo for Climate-KIC International Foundation is displayed within a white circular graphic. The text "Climate-KIC" is in a dark blue font, and "International Foundation" is in a green font below it.

Climate-KIC  
International Foundation

## 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](http://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](http://www.giz.de)*

