MASS CLEAN ENERGY CENTER

Capital that de-risks innovation and attracts private investment.

Investments, grants, tax incentives and business development working together to drive innovation and economic growth in Massachusetts.

Mission

The Massachusetts Clean Energy Center's mission is to accelerate the clean energy and climate solution innovation that is critical to meeting the Commonwealth's climate goals, advancing Massachusetts as an international climate leader while growing the state's clean energy economy.



Getting Massachusetts to Net-Zero

Today's technologies, applications, and business models are insufficient to reach our climate goals. MassCEC is uniquely positioned to identify, support, demonstrate, and accelerate clean energy and climate solutions to the market.

Reducing Costs by Engaging Markets

Targeted public sector investment in cutting-edge climate solutions de-risks and attracts private sector investment, reducing the cost of achieving net-zero for all energy users.

Making MA a World-Class Climatetech Hub

When Massachusetts supports early-stage ideas and innovations from companies with a worldwide market, it increases our state's future competitiveness, economic prospects, and global impact.

Optimizing Implementation & Outcomes

Positioned at the intersection of industry and policy, MassCEC can iterate and optimize future policy solutions, accelerating policy outcomes and improving cost-effectiveness.

MASSCEC IMPACT DATA

$990M+

Awarded through clean energy programs and incentives.

$3B+

Attracted in private and federal capital

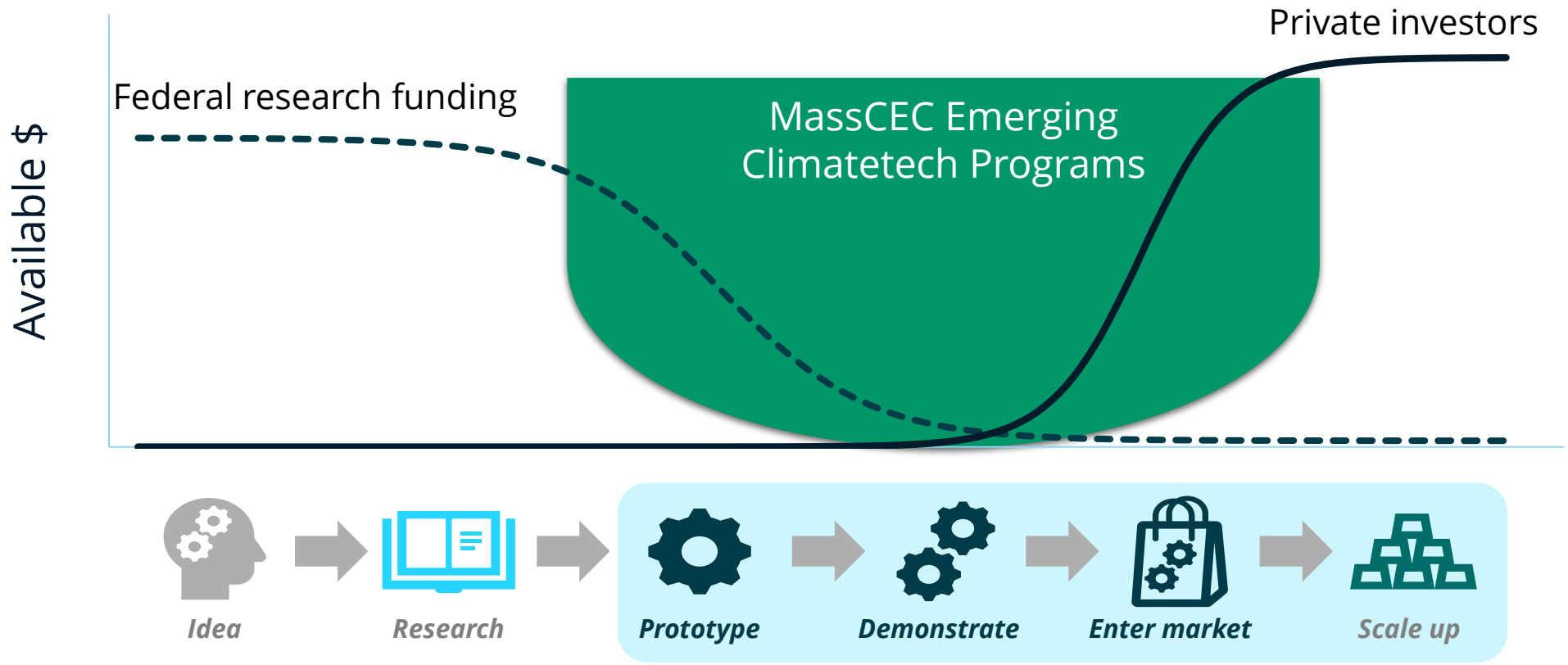
7,100+

College & Vocational Internships
65% are Women and Minorities

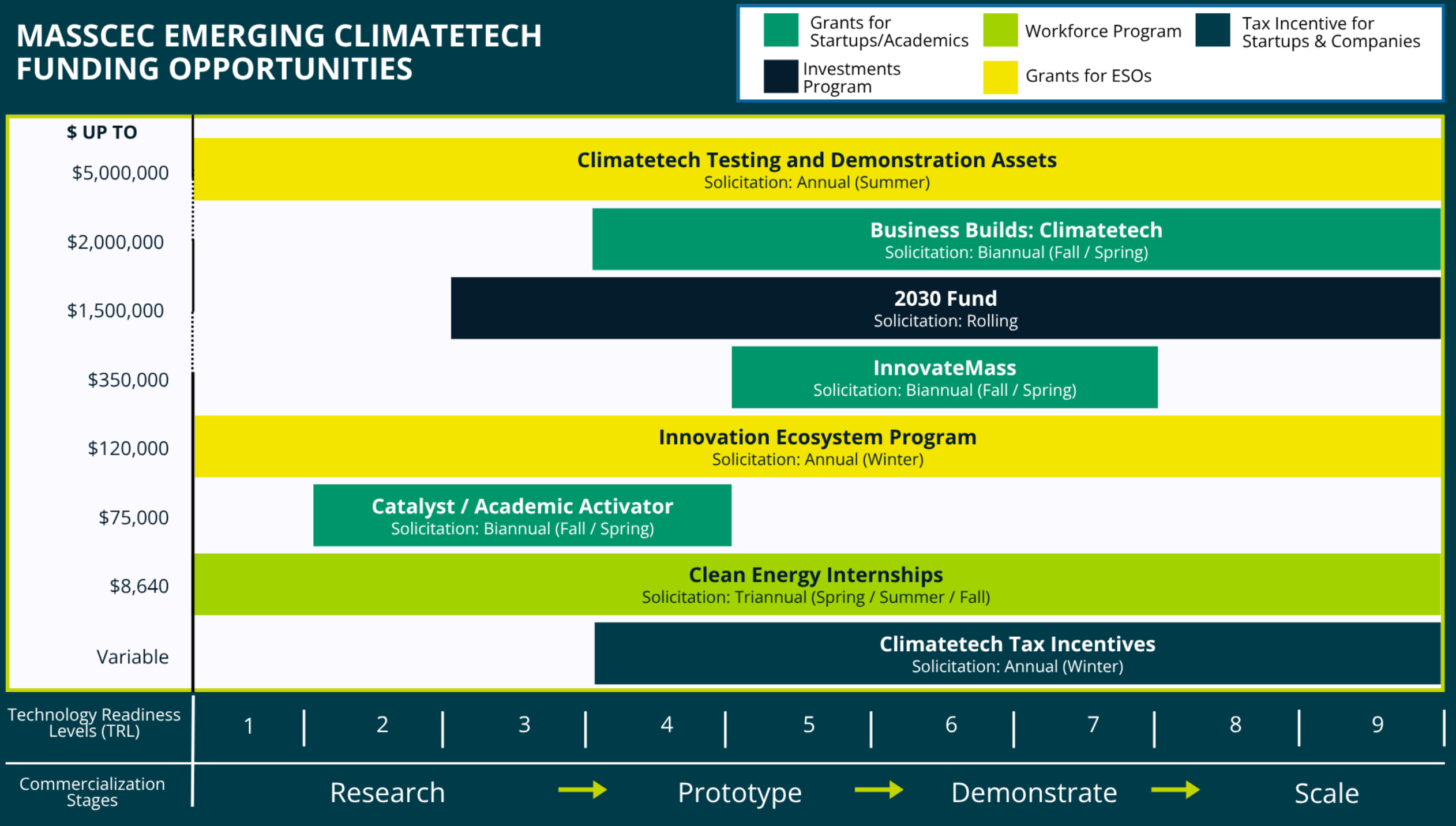
$39M+

Awarded to early-stage climatetech companies.

THE FUNDING GAP



MASSCEC EMERGING CLIMATETECH FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



EARLY-STAGE CAPITAL FOR MASSACHUSETTS CLIMATETECH

Start-up Benefits

- Able to invest countercyclically with founder friendly terms
- Value-add with other MassCEC programming (Grants, Workforce Development, Internship Funding)
- Connections to both government and private funding and resources
- Extensive co-investor network
- Business Development assistance

Investing to de-risk climate technologies, fill funding gaps, and generate financial returns.

$200K–$600K
Typical check size

35
Current portfolio companies

8–10
Investments made annually

Investment Thesis

Stage

- Pre-Seed, Seed, A Rounds

Technology

- Mitigation
- Adaptation
- Resilience



MassCEC portfolio page

HOW WE EVALUATE INVESTMENTS

Companies must clear two gates, then are assessed across eight criteria

1 Gate 1: Climatetech

The Company's product or service qualifies and will continue to qualify as "climatetech" or "climatetech research," as such terms are defined in the MA Leads Act.

2 Gate 2: Massachusetts presence

To qualify for investment, a company must maintain business functions within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

THEN ASSESSED ACROSS EIGHT CRITERIA

- Technology and product
- Business model and value proposition
- Financials and commercial plans
- Team and board
- Fit for MassCEC
- Deal terms
- Market and competition
- Risks

PORTFOLIO EXAMPLES

Early-stage Massachusetts companies across climatetech.

Luminous
Solar construction robotics

WHAT THEY DO
Robotic, automated platform for installing solar panels, so solar farms are built faster, more safely and at lower cost.

SNAPSHOT
Based in South Boston. Expanding into Australia with ARENA grants.

Lithios
Critical minerals

WHAT THEY DO
Electrochemical Advanced Lithium Extraction (ALE) to produce lithium from low-grade US brines once considered uneconomic.

SNAPSHOT
Scaling up in Medford. Selected for DOE ARPA-E SCALEUP Ready.

Clean Crop
Food & agriculture

WHAT THEY DO
Cold plasma technology that decontaminates seeds, nuts and grains to cut food waste and raise crop yields.

SNAPSHOT
Scaling up in Holyoke.

PORTFOLIO RESULTS

~$9

Private capital deployed alongside each $1 of MassCEC capital.

62M+

Metric tons CO_2e avoided

$1.3B

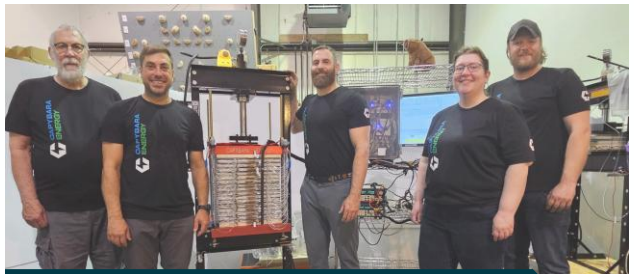
Capital raised by portfolio

500+

Jobs supported

NON-DILUTIVE FUNDING

Grants work alongside MassCEC investments at every stage.



CATALYST

- Up to $75,000 for prototypes
- TRL 2 - 4 startups and researchers
- Milestone-based payments



INNOVATEMASS

- Up to $350,000 for pilots
- TRL 5 - 8 startups
- 25% - 50% cost share required



BUSINESS BUILDS

- $500K - $2M for capital expenses
- Companies scaling or relocating in MA
- 50/50 match funds

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Support for climatetech companies in the Commonwealth.



Business Front Door

Online portal to identify statewide business programs and financing.

mass.gov/info-details/business-front-door



Climatetech Concierge

Warm introductions to customers, capital, and strategic partners.

bizdev@masscec.com



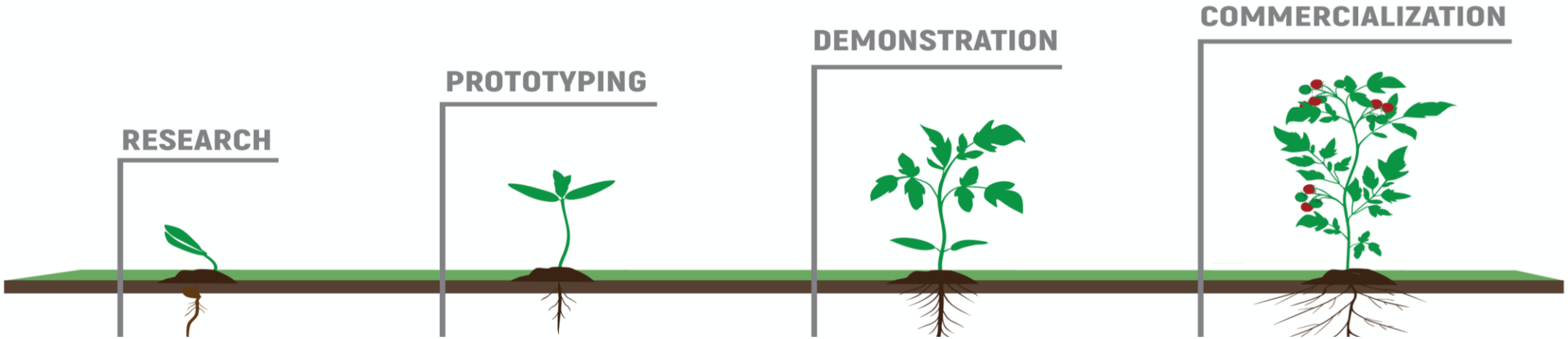
Climatetech Tax Incentives

Job creation and capital investment tax credits.

masscec.com/program/climatetech-tax-incentives-program

Our Real-World Impact – Via Separations

Enabling industrial decarbonization with novel chemistries.



The MIT Engine

$64K MassCEC Catalyst
$225K NSF
$100K USDA
$1.2M Equity Seed Fundraising

$250K MassCEC InnovateMass
$61K MassCEC Internships
$10M ARPA-E DOE

MassCEC invests in Via
$2.1M DOE
$46.6M DOE

Our Real-World Impact: Via Separations

Via Separations has developed a novel membrane separation technology to reduce the energy required for various industrial processes.

MassCEC programs have played important roles in Via's development:

- $61K in Internship program grants.
- A $65K Catalyst grant funded proof-of-concept development, customer engagement, and value proposition development.
- A $225K InnovateMass grant funded a demonstration of Via's membrane separation technology in Skowhegan, ME.
- Investments from MassCEC.

Via is partnering with Nippon Dynawave Packaging (NDP) Co. LCC to decarbonize a thermal process at NDP's Longview WA site. The project was awarded $46.6M by the DOE.

"MassCEC has been tremendously helpful to Via across various stages of the company's growth. MassCEC provided early grant funding through the Catalyst and Innovate Mass programs and supporting the first-ever field deployment of Via's technology. MassCEC's internship program connected us with energized students, helping form lasting relationships with local universities to recruit early career technical talent. Lastly, MassCEC has directly invested in the company since our Series A round with their funding directly catalyzing follow-on investment from venture investors during critical periods such as the deployment of our FOAK commercial project. Via is extremely grateful to MassCEC for their previous/ continued support and for contributing to the development of a deep climate tech ecosystem here in MA."

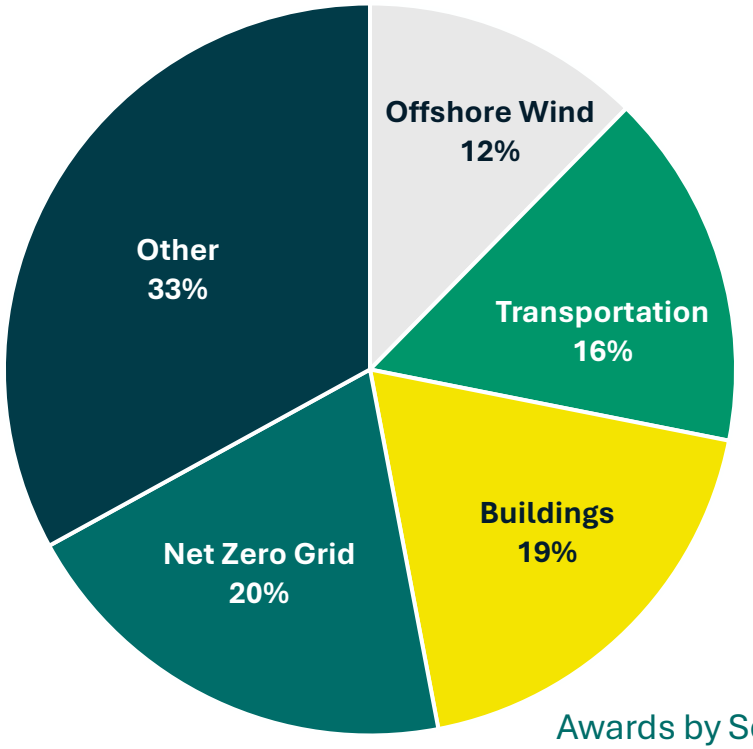


MASS CLEAN ENERGY CENTER

Building climatetech in Massachusetts? Talk to us.

lpolise@masscec.com

AWARDS
TO DATE



Awards by Sector

530+ Awards
In Grants and Investments

$66M+ Awarded

85% of Startups still in Business

CLIMATETECH

Technologies that reduce GHG emissions, reduce reliance on non-renewable energy sources, and/or help communities adapt to climate change through resilient infrastructure.

Energy & Electricity

Transportation

Buildings

Industry & Manufacturing

Agriculture & Water

Enabling Solutions

Mitigation

Adaptation & Resilience

Prepare for and respond to the impacts of climate change

Adaptation & Resilience

CLEAN ENERGY INTERNSHIPS

Employers are reimbursed for 12 weeks of an intern's work.



ELIGIBILITY

- Interns must be college or university students.
- International students are eligible.
- Interns must live in MA or attend a MA college/university.



AMOUNT

- Up to $4,320 per spring or fall session.
- Up to $8,640 per summer session.
- Up to 2 interns per session (1 extra for community college students)



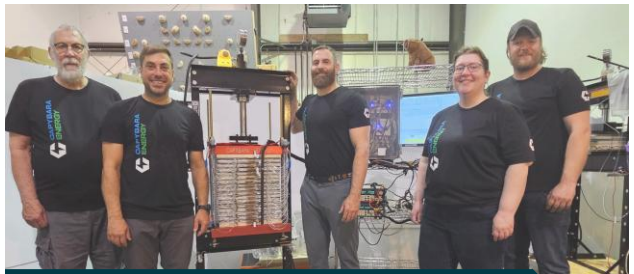
TIMING

Apply 2 months before a session start date:

- Spring (January – May)
- Summer (May – August)
- Fall (September – December)

CATALYST

Up to $75,000 to develop your prototype.



ELIGIBILITY

- MA-based startups or academic researchers
- TRL 2 – 4
- 4 or fewer full-time employees
- Have raised < $2.5M in the past 5 years



AMOUNT

- $75,000
- Build a prototype and test the feasibility of your technology
- Milestone-based payments



TIMING

- 2 solicitations per year (spring / fall)
- Two-step application process
- Decisions in 5 months

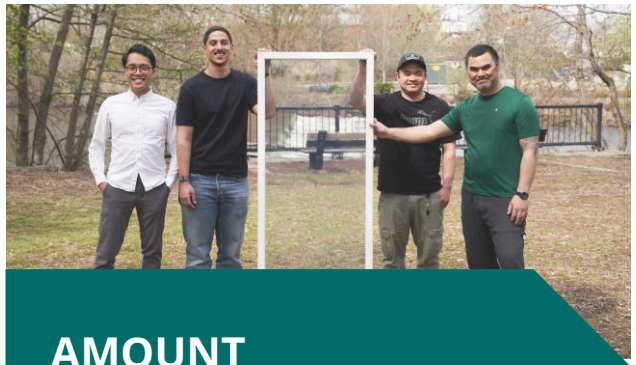
INNOVATEMASS

Up to $350,000 to help startups pilot their products.



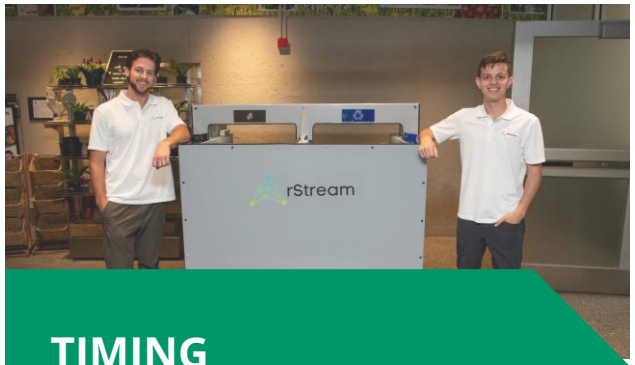
ELIGIBILITY

- MA-based startups with a demo-site anywhere
- TRL 5 - 8



AMOUNT

- Up to $350,000
- 25% - 50% cost share required
- Milestone-based payments



TIMING

- 2 solicitations per year (fall / spring)
- Two-step application process
- Decisions in 3-4 months

BUSINESS BUILDS: CLIMATETECH

Up to $2M in CapEx to help companies scale or relocate in MA.



ELIGIBILITY

For-profit climatetech companies scaling in or relocating to MA.

- Expect 50% job growth
- Expect to make $10M+ in capital investment



AMOUNT

- $500K - $2M for capital expenses
- 50/50 match funds
- Costs reimbursed after we receive invoices



TIMING

- 2 solicitations per year (**Oct 1 / Apr 1**)
- Decisions in 3-4 months