About SDTC

Clean technologies have the power to transform the world. Canadian companies have what it takes to lead that transformation. Where others see waste, they see source material. When others see broken systems, they see market gaps to be filled. And in this time of economic uncertainty, they are charging ahead.

Such companies need funding to help to commercialize their ideas and take them to the next level.

That’s where we come in. As an independent federal foundation and the largest funder of cleantech SMEs in Canada, SDTC provides non-repayable contributions to Canadian entrepreneurs. We find, fund and foster the entrepreneurs who will lead the transition to a net-zero economy.

Benefits of SDTC funding

We support companies attempting to do extraordinary things. This means we spend time getting to know the people who are instrumental to making those companies successful – entrepreneurs, financiers, policymakers – and finding out what we can do to champion their collective success. We also recognize that cleantech spans many sectors of our economy and covers a broad range of technologies.

By joining our portfolio, companies can benefit from our deep understanding of Canada’s entrepreneurial support systems and our extensive network of federal and provincial partners. We also create forums where companies can benefit from each other’s shared experiences and make connections with peers at different stages of business growth.

SDTC investments serve as a springboard to help companies unlock future investment, customers and support. We also work collaboratively with federal and provincial public funding partners to make it easier for companies to find additional sources of funding.

Our portfolio of star performers from across Canada are regularly cited as best in class. They are at the forefront of innovations in their sectors. From seed to scale-up, we are proud to support the entrepreneurs who will create the sustainable economy that Canada and the world needs.

To learn more about other companies we’ve funded: visit sdtc.ca

Encourage your accelerator to become our next partner simply by emailing seedfund@sdtc.ca.
Seed fund: Nurturing innovation in every corner of the country

All across Canada, small cleantech firms with big ideas are waiting for the chance to advance their innovations and take them to the next level. Our Seed Fund is catalyzing these ideas with the right funding at the right time.

How it works
The Seed Fund provides early-stage cleantech entrepreneurs with one-time grants of $50,000 to $100,000. We partner with a select group of Canadian accelerators and other entrepreneurial service organizations across Canada to identify the entrepreneurs who will become tomorrow's cleantech leaders. Potential applicants must be nominated by one of our accelerator partners.

For a complete list of our partners, please visit www.sdtc.ca/en/seed-fund.

Don't see your accelerator on the list? Encourage them to apply to SDTC to be a partner.

Once nominated, entrepreneurs like you are invited to a rapid-fire pitch session with SDTC's expert jury. This jury is made up of experienced seed, venture capital and entrepreneurial leaders from across Canada. This pitch session is your chance to tell the jury how you will use this funding to launch your product or service and what your ambitions are to deliver transformational, market-driven environmental solutions. The jury will recommend those who show a strong value proposition, an understanding of their market and a lot of entrepreneurial hustle to the SDTC board of directors for final approval.

With up to 100 companies funded annually, funding rounds open every 3-4 months. The timeline is just 8 weeks from application to receiving funds for business growth.

Is my company eligible for funding?
To be eligible for SDTC's Seed Fund you must:

- Be nominated by one of our partner accelerators and be a Canadian-owned company operating in Canada.
- Have an idea that brings technology to bear on a significant environmental problem and an entrepreneurial team with the skills to take that idea to the next level.
- Be able to describe how your idea will demonstrate quantifiable environmental benefits (i.e., GHG reduction, clean air, soil, or water, etc.).
- Have raised at least twice the amount of requested funding through private equity sources, not including funds from friends and family.

Think you may be a match?

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