

**About:** The Thurston EDC Center for Business & Innovation (CB&I) is a business incubator and accelerator that provides over a dozen resources to businesses through its entrepreneur ecosystem. These resources are provided by organizations located in the CB&I, which include: The Lacey MakerSpace, SBA Women's Business Center, Small Business Development Center, APEX Accelerator, and the THINK Investment Network. The CB&I is located in the South Puget Sound Region, however, many of the programs serve the entire State of Washington.

**MVP:** South Sound Ecopreneur Incubator

**Project Description:** The CB&I proposes an MVP that combines the prototyping equipment and training resources of the Lacey MakerSpace, the startup resources of the CB&I, and the funding resources of the THINK Investment Network. The combination of these programs will create a new ecopreneur incubator that provides cohort participants with access to high tech prototyping equipment and training and support on use of the equipment to bring their energy efficient and alternative energy products to life. While prototyping their products ecopreneurs will receive access to startup training modules to help them write business plans, create pitches, structure and license their businesses, and patent their invention. Once ecopreneurs have created their prototypes and started their businesses they will create pitches to access capital from a revolving loan fund and/or the angel investor network. When capital is obtained they will then will work with Impact WA, a CB&I partner, to identify a manufacturer for their product. Once the product is produced they will receive business advising support to effectively bring their product to market.

**Plan for Implementation:** **Phase 1** Step 1: Brand MVP Program → Step 2: Create application process and registration → Step 3: Recruit Participants → Step 4: Prototyping Training → Step 5: Begin Prototyping Product **Phase 2 and Cooperative Agreement:** Step 6: Complete Prototype → Step 7: Write Business Plan → Step 8: Structure and License Business → Step 9: Obtain Capital → Step 10: Patent Invention → Step 11: Manufacturing → Step 12: Product to Market