

Northwest Cleantech Innovation Network

Project Summary

With a focus on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) the Northwest Cleantech Innovation Network (NWCIN) provides a growing, regional entrepreneurial support system and network of resources for all entrepreneurs and small businesses. Founded in 2021 by VertueLab, the Washington Clean Energy Testbeds, and the CleanTech Alliance, NWCIN synergistically combines and grows regional programs and resources into a unified support network for burgeoning entrepreneurs and startup companies in the cleantech innovation ecosystem. with aligned missions of accelerating cleantech, climate tech and clean energy innovations in the Pacific Northwest.

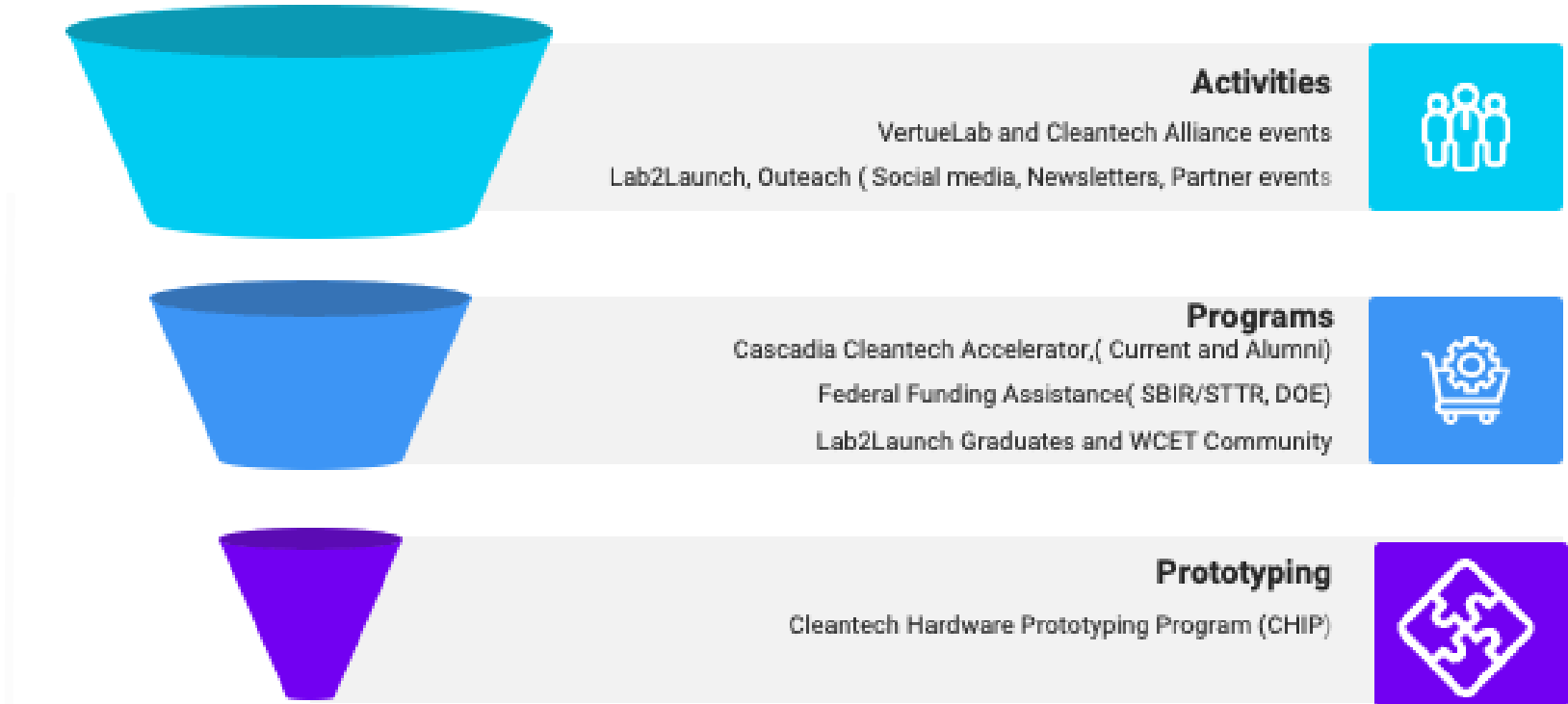
NWCIN continues to improve its programming to provide integrated outreach and education activities that purposefully include specific elements to address the needs of underrepresented individuals and communities within the Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Alaska cleantech ecosystem. NWCIN's four assistance programs include:

- Cascadia Cleantech Accelerator is an 18-week yearly cohort-based program providing business and technical mentorship.
- Lab2Launch is a program designed to educate and connect entrepreneurs to regional research institutions' energy testing & equipment resources and technologies available to license.
- Federal Funding Assistance is a program providing support to NWCIN cohort startup companies that are applying for SBIR/STTR and other federal grants.
- Cleantech Hardware Innovation Prototyping provides access to the Washington Clean Energy Testbeds for testing, and prototyping clean energy hardware technologies

Key Personnel/Organizations

Prime recipient:
VertueLab, Project Director: Juan Barraza , FFA Manager, Mary Phillips, Ph.D.,
 Co-director of Accelerator, Leo Ochoa.

Key Participants: Subrecipients:
CleanTech Alliance, Co-director of Accelerator, Rachele Ames, Program Coordinator, Blake Myer.
Washington Clean Energy Testbeds, Managing Director, Michael Pomfret, Ph.D., Program Manager & Senior Staff Scientist, Phillip Cox, Ph.D.



Key Milestones & Deliverables

1	Expanding the CHIP program to fund material costs for participating companies, partnerships with other facilities and no-cost workshops at WCET for underrepresented and rural communities to increase highly skilled talent available for hardware startups.
2	Piloting tailored FFA workshops for individuals from socioeconomically disadvantaged, rural and underrepresented communities.
3	Adding a new technology demonstration project curriculum and partnering event for CCA cohort members and alumni to find deployment partners.
4	Adapting L2L programming to provide partnering information for entrepreneurs interested in new regional consortia (ex. Hydrogen Hubs, NSF Engines).

Project Impact

NWCIN's impact focuses on increasing educational programs, support and access to critical resources urgently needed by underrepresented populations in cleantech and clean energy, as well as underserved populations that have been excluded from accessing the economic benefits of clean energy transitions. Our impact will enable increased flexibility to programs to ensure accessibility. greater access to materials, training, and facilities through the CHIP program, CCA participation via more periodic L2L programming, and tailor-made FFA programming.