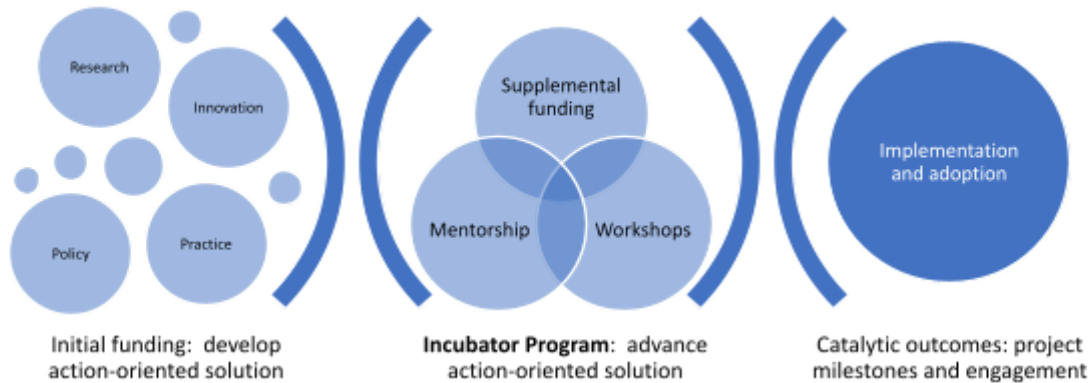


## Climate Action Solutions Incubator Program

### Overview

The Innovation & Business Engagement Hub’s **Climate Action Solutions Incubator Program** provides small-scale supplemental project funding and access to capacity-building workshops and mentorship in order to advance action-oriented solutions being developed at UC Santa Cruz that have the potential to address one or more of California’s most pressing climate challenges.



### Program Features

Each selected project will be awarded up to \$10,000 in supplemental funding to help accelerate solution implementation and adoption.

Project teams will receive training and consultation from [Campus + Community](#) to enhance meaningful and effective engagement with stakeholders and impacted communities.

Project teams will be able to request support from a network of technical mentors facilitated by the Innovation & Business Engagement Hub and external innovation program partners.

Project teams will also have access to lean launchpad and venture development workshops delivered by external innovation program partners focused on building scalable business models and new startup ventures.

### Application and Eligibility

Applications are accepted through the [online submission portal](#) on a rolling basis and will be considered until the \$50,000 of funding allocated to the Program is depleted.

Projects must be led by a current UC Santa Cruz faculty, staff member, or student.

Projects may cover research, innovation, policy, practice, and/or engagement related solutions and must be aligned with one or more of [California’s climate action priorities](#), including, but not limited to, zero-emission mobility, community resilience, wildfires, food security in the context of climate change, and drought.

Only projects that have received funding support from one or more of the following sources and have completed work that establishes the basis for an action-oriented solution will be considered:

- Federal, state, or local government or non-profit research grant
- Center for Coastal Climate Resilience pilot or implementation project funding
- Office of Research seed funding
- Innovation & Business Engagement Hub Innovation Catalyst Grant award
- CITRIS Interdisciplinary Innovation Program campus seed funding<sup>1</sup>
- Pitch competition prize or other innovation program funding

Supplemental funding can be used for the following activities:

- Customer discovery and validation (e.g., outreach tools, domestic travel, industry conference attendance, etc.)
- Community and stakeholder engagement (e.g., partner support, facilitated meetings, surveys, etc.)<sup>2</sup>
- Limited research and development (e.g., prototyping, coding, performance testing/demonstration, etc.)<sup>3</sup>

Eligible projects focused on de-risking and/or validating a *technology innovation* are encouraged to apply for the Innovation & Business Engagement Hub's [Innovation Catalyst Grant](#) proof-of-concept program. Students ideating on a business plan for an innovative solution are encouraged to participate in the [CIED](#) Launchpad pitch competition, which includes a special climate action award provided by the Innovation & Business Engagement Hub.

Funding is not intended to be used for the following:

- Capital equipment purchases
- Maintenance agreements
- Market research reports
- Campus or project administrative or operational costs
- International travel
- Academic conference attendance
- Faculty summer salary

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<sup>1</sup> Eligible CITRIS seed funding includes cycles, prior to the current 2023/24 climate resilience cycle for which associated funding has already been provided by the Innovation & Business Engagement Hub.

<sup>2</sup> If funding is allocated to community engagement, the application funding plan content should provide a summary of key stakeholders, identify specific existing or anticipated community partner collaborations, and discuss resources allocated to the community partner to support their associated efforts.

<sup>3</sup> Intellectual property developed using Climate Action Solutions Incubator Program funding may be assigned to UC and managed by the UC Santa Cruz Innovation Transfer team. Based on an assessment of the project by the Innovation Transfer team, some applicants may be asked to submit an Invention Disclosure Form as part of the proposal process. For questions regarding intellectual property, please contact Jeff Jackson, Director of Innovation Transfer ([jeffjackson@ucsc.edu](mailto:jeffjackson@ucsc.edu)).

The application form consists of three main sections described below.

1. Applicant information
  - a. Lead applicant and team affiliation, contact information, and brief bios
  - b. Contact information for at least two current UC Santa Cruz faculty or staff references that can speak to qualifications of the lead applicant and progress on work that forms the basis for the action-oriented solution
  - c. Statement of interest in program participation and commitment to engagement in all aspects of the program
2. Solution summary
  - a. Description of the action-oriented solution, including prior funding received and associated results that establish the basis for the solution (maximum 350 words)
  - b. Explanation of alignment with California climate action priorities and potential to help build resilience in that state's most vulnerable and impacted communities (maximum 350 words)
  - c. Overview of anticipated community engagement needed to facilitate implementation of the solution and summary of any prior or ongoing engagement efforts (maximum 350 words)
3. Funding plan
  - a. Budget summary and justification detailing how the supplemental seed funding would be used to advance the solution
  - b. Project timeline including a schedule of key project milestones to be achieved sequentially using the supplemental seed funding<sup>4</sup>
  - c. Explanation of how key milestones will advance the solution, building on previous funding and informing future work (maximum 350 words)

### Selection Process

Applications will be reviewed by the Innovation & Business Engagement Hub team based on the factors below and recommended projects will be advanced to the Associate Vice Chancellor for Research (Strategic Initiatives) for approval. In some cases, one or more external reviewers with technical and/or market knowledge may be asked to provide input on the application.

- Program fit – how closely does the application align with program objectives?
- Solution and technical merit – how well-established is the solution and does it have the potential to address the indicated climate challenge(s)?
- Community engagement – is there a clear recognition of the community engagement needed to facilitate implementation of the solution?
- Funding plan – will the funded work meaningfully advance the implementation and adoption potential of the solution and can it reasonably be achieved by the team and within the proposed time frame?

Applicants will be notified of the selection decision within 30 days of submittal.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> The funding plan schedule should reflect a reasonable timeframe for completing the funded work, but should not extend beyond a 12-month period.

<sup>5</sup> The review timeframe may change depending on the volume and complexity of applications received.

### Awardee Requirements

Awardees will be expected to provide a report summarizing the outcomes of the work conducted using the supplemental funding with delivery timing set for three weeks after the project's scheduled completion. In addition, awardees will be contacted on occasion to provide updates and applicable metrics on continued advancement of the solution.

Awardees will also be required to participate in community engagement workshops and consultations provided by Campus + Community and meet all workshop deliverable requirements. The first round of workshops, planned for the week of April 22, 2024 and early summer, will be delivered in two sections: one for teams with existing active community partners and the other for teams just getting started with community engagement.

### Questions

Please contact the Innovation & Business Engagement Hub team ([hub@ucsc.edu](mailto:hub@ucsc.edu)) with any questions about the Climate Action Solutions Incubator Program.