



Second Nature



cleanenergytrust

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For more information contact:

Michele Madia, Director, Education and Partnerships, Second Nature mmadia@secondnature.org

Emily Achler, Director, Marketing & Communications, Clean Energy Trust emily@cleanenergytrust.org

Leading Colleges and Universities to Help Accelerate Clean Technology Deployment

BOSTON, Mass. and CHICAGO, Illinois- (June 2, 2016) Second Nature, Clean Energy Trust (CET) and twelve higher education institutions in the Climate Leadership Network announced Campus Cleantech Pilots, a new partnership accelerating clean energy technology commercialization by using universities as testing and demonstration platforms for startup companies.

Second Nature is a Boston-based nonprofit that works to proactively build a sustainable and positive global future through leadership networks in higher education. The Climate Leadership Commitments, a signature program of Second Nature, addresses climate and resilience in higher education. The more than 600 signatories of these Commitments comprise the Climate Leadership Network, which spans every state and the District of Columbia. Clean Energy Trust is a cleantech accelerator that fuels innovation to create a healthier environment and more prosperous future. Clean Energy Trust launches, funds, and grows early stage clean energy businesses in the Midwest through direct investment, venture development, and advocacy.

Through this partnership, facilitated in part by the White House's Office of Science and Technology Policy, colleges and universities across the country will develop and implement a strategy for using existing campus infrastructure to test emerging energy-related technologies. Jointly announced at the Clean Energy Ministerial, this strategic partnership is a continued response to the Administration's call to action for a clean energy economy, and a result of the Climate Leadership Network's ongoing national work with higher education on bold climate action.

Over the coming year, these institutions, Second Nature, and CET will evaluate how to best leverage existing campus infrastructure to lower the critical "first demonstration" barrier that cleantech startups face in bringing new solutions to market. Campus Cleantech Pilots will allow universities to get a first look at innovative technologies they can deploy across their campus, providing them an opportunity for innovative classroom and research integration, and help them meet energy-related goals driven by their Climate Leadership Commitment, all while supporting emerging, leading-edge companies.

18 Tremont Street, STE 930, Boston, MA 02108 | 617.722.0036 | info@secondnature.org



“This initiative reflects the value of the Climate Leadership Network—a diverse national group of schools at the leading edge, with senior leaders driving innovation on their campuses to help solve the greatest environmental challenge of our time. The alignment around a shared Climate Leadership Commitment allows emerging solutions to be scaled and accelerated faster than in isolation,” noted Tim Carter, President of Second Nature.

Through a national network of partners, CET will identify startups, validate and verify their technological and business development, and select a group of finalists that best align with the identified technology areas and the universities’ key capabilities.

“One of the key barriers cleantech startups face is deploying their technology for the first time. Customers want to see proof that the technology works before it’s installed. Leveraging the existing infrastructure at universities gives these startups exactly the opportunity they need to demonstrate their product,” said Ben Gaddy, Director of Technology Development at Clean Energy Trust.

The finalist startups will deploy their technologies on-site at the universities, which may choose to include the deployment as part of the curriculum. The startups will then be able to use the qualified results of the pilot program as technical validation to secure a first customer or commercial pilot.

The project is finalizing funders interested in advising and underwriting the program, providing a unique opportunity for access to early innovation and clean technology scouting. Companies interested in being a part of this high visibility national initiative should contact Second Nature or CET.

The campus advisors are all signatories in Second Nature’s Climate Leadership Network and include:

- Agnes Scott College, President Elizabeth Kiss
- Ball State University, Interim President Terry King
- California State University-Northridge, President Dianne Harrison
- Central Community College, President Greg Smith
- George Washington University, President Steven Knapp
- Huston-Tillotson University, President Collette Pierce
- New York University, President Andrew Hamilton
- Portland State University, President Wim Wiewel
- Rochester Institute of Technology, President William Destler
- Spelman College, President Mary Campbell
- University of Minnesota-Morris, Chancellor Jacqueline Johnson
- Western Michigan University, President John Dunn

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The Climate Leadership Commitments include a Carbon Commitment (focused on reducing greenhouse gas emissions), a Resilience Commitment (focused on climate adaptation and building community capacity), and a Climate Commitment that integrates both. The institutions in the Climate Leadership Network have committed to take action on climate and prepare students through research and education to solve the challenges of the 21st century.

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About Clean Energy Trust:

Clean Energy Trust (CET) is a non-profit cleantech accelerator based in Chicago, IL. Through a revolving evergreen fund, CET has investments in 20 companies and supports 60 additional companies that have come through our annual CET Challenge event. In addition, through the Cleantech Innovation Bridge program, CET sources innovative startups on the behalf of Fortune 500 corporations. CET is also one of four commercialization partners of the Joint Center for Energy Storage Research (JCESR) the battery research hub at Argonne National Laboratory. For more information, contact: Emily Achler, Director, Marketing & Communications at emily@cleanenergytrust.org.

About Second Nature:

Second Nature works to proactively build a sustainable and positive global future through initiating bold commitments, scaling successful actions, and accelerating innovative solutions among leadership networks in higher education. The Climate Leadership Commitments, a signature program of Second Nature, is based on the premise that bold commitments to climate action and resilience by higher education leaders yield positive changes at their institutions, and beyond. For more information, contact: Michele Madia, Director, Education and Partnerships at mmadia@secondnature.org.

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