

Clean Cities Spain ClimAccelerator 2023 Call for startups

1. *What is Clean Cities Spain ClimAccelerator?*

Cities face an enormous challenge: They must become more resilient and healthy places to live while reaching net-zero-emissions in just a few short years. The Clean Cities ClimAccelerator is an accelerator program, launched in 2020 with the support of EIT Climate-KIC, with a strong focus on the impact of climate change in urban areas and the commercialization of clean technology (cleantech). It targets start-ups that are developing solutions with special focus on transforming city systems to become climate neutral—from mobility to waste, energy to health, and the built environment. The programme is looking for start-ups with the capability to contribute to systemic change in cities, and that can work in multi-stakeholder ecosystems. The accelerator focuses on system-level innovations that address the impact of climate change in urban environments.

This programme is directly linked to several cities around Europe. Additionally, we have participation from other actors from the ecosystem such as international corporates, investors and SMEs. These consortium represent different sectors which are compromised with initiatives such as this one. All these entities have been and are working in active strategies and policies related to sustainability and climate change.

This initiative is led by the Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, a relevant actor in the academic and technology-based research field, with a strong commitment to the SDGs and which also has more than 20 years of experience in deep tech entrepreneurship with a clear international focus. Additionally, this accelerator is supported by EIT Climate-KIC, the knowledge and innovation community working to accelerate the transition towards a zero-carbon and climate-resilient society.

2. *Which are the topics this accelerator is focused on?*

Cities are complex environments and there are many fields in which to act, but CCSCA focuses on these 5 major topics and their corresponding subtopics.

Topic 1: Community retrofit - District renewal systems

Community retrofit and district renewal includes retrofitting buildings to make them more energy-efficient and better at withstanding extreme weather induced by climate change, while also improving amenities for the buildings' occupants. Thermal-energetic upgrades and the optimization of building services are both key to improving energy efficiency.

- Reimagining supply chains to enable circular construction
- Assessing the carbon footprint and life cycle of buildings in order to achieve zero-emission buildings
- Efficient heating/cooling systems

- Heating/cooling systems based on electricity
- Energy storage systems for the building sector
- Sustainable building renovation solutions
- Low carbon embedded materials for construction
- Positive Clean Energy Districts

Topic 2: Green spaces, climate resilience & urban adaptation systems

Investing in nature can help to address climate risks, bolster public health, and improve community vitality. This can include, but is not limited to, strategic interventions using nature-based solutions in various areas around the city and using new models for engaging citizens.

- Efficient use and management of water in urban environments
- Nature-based solutions for the physical transformation of public spaces to improve the health and well-being of citizens
- Urban shade
- Income-generating activities related to natural spaces in cities (ecosystem services)
- Planning support tools
- Direct air capture technologies for urban environments

Topic 3: Mobility, logistics, & public space systems

Mobility, logistics, and public space systems are challenging topics for many cities. These topics give rise to important questions such as: How does public space affect the sustainability of urban mobility in contemporary cities? How does facilitating mobility contribute to livability? How can public-private partnerships trigger shifts in commuting and mobility that have a systemic benefit for all?

- Building sustainable infrastructure—physical and digital—that supports innovative mobility solutions
- Promoting public transportation and discouraging private driving and parking
- Electric mobility and charging infrastructure

- Solutions for a “15-minute” city

Topic 4: Renewable energy systems

Renewable energy sources—e.g. geothermal energy and low-temperature waste heat—are needed in order to upgrade district heating and increase the share of distributed electricity generation. The use of state-of-the-art technologies, high awareness about environmental and energy issues, and decentralized renewable energy supplies in urban neighborhoods will all play a crucial role in activating private households and local administrations.

- Photovoltaic technology
- Development of energy communities for the deployment of decentralized renewable energy solutions
- Tools for verifying the fulfillment of energy efficiency/carbon footprint standards for projects
- Mapping available building roofs for energy generation

Topic 5: Information & data systems

Cities have different strategies for decarbonization that typically involve a combination of different solutions, approaches, and economic sectors. However, information, data, tools, and processes are crucial to achieving their long-term goals. For example, data systems can help municipalities become more efficient, effective, and evidence-based. They could also be used to adapt or fundamentally change processes or regulations that contribute to the acceleration of decarbonization.

- Data management for decarbonization
- Life cycle and carbon footprint analysis to support urban decarbonization processes
- Methodologies and tools for carbon absorption assessment
- Data spaces: Assessment and forecasting systems for the design of environmental policies based on digital capabilities

3. *What are we looking for?*

If you are a startup that is acting or that can provide solutions in any of the previous topics and you also meet the following requirements, this is your accelerator!

- Startups must offer a scalable solution
- Potential high climate impact or significant climate adaptation

- Your company must be incorporated (or in the legal process of incorporation) before entering the programme
- Incorporated not more than 5 years ago
- Based in the European Union
- A dedicated team of minimum 2 persons

4. What do we offer?

As it is expected the participation from competitive startups, this programme will be mainly customized to the startups needs. However, these in-kind services could be:

- Access to different ecosystems in Spain and in Europe.
- Global network of investors, corporations, public institutions.
- Training sessions with international speakers in business and sustainability.
- Access to the EIT Climate-KIC ecosystem to boost your start-up.*
- Access to EIT Climate-KIC sustainability tool: Climate SAFE.*
- Visibility, marketing and communication.

*Note: these services will be covered only if you have signed the Climate SAFE agreement which is optional from the EIT Climate-KIC side. CCSCA organizers are not responsible for everything related to this agreement. Thus this is optional and not mandatory from CCSCA organizers. Any additional information, EIT Climate-KIC will provide further information. For extra information, please review section nº9

5. Criteria & Jury

The criteria in order to be selected and join this programme is indicated in the table below:

CRITERIA	Assisting Keywords e.g.:	Weighting
Product / Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • solution-problem fit • development stage • impact model 	15%
Market Validation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • scalability • competition • market potential / size • product-market fit 	15%
Business Model	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • revenue model • competitive advantage • risk & mitigation 	15%
Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • qualification / skills • experience • growth plan • external advisory 	15%
Investment Readiness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • scalability strategy • financial planning • clarity of funding / resources needs • traction to date 	40%

The jury will be constituted by profiles related to the investment field and of an international nature. The jury members can come from different types of institutions, both from the private and public spheres, but always with an investor or facilitator profile. It will be made up of an odd number of members to facilitate decision-making by it.

6. *How can I send my candidature?*

The application form is available via [Google Form](#). Within this application form you will be requested to complete several fields regarding your startup. Additionally, an updated deck will be requested. It is highly recommended to include a 1 minute motivational video (via hidden option in Youtube).

7. *Tentative timeline*

October 9th, 2023: Call launch.

October 30th, 2023: Application deadline until 23:59 CEST.

November 7th, 2023: Eligibility criteria, jury process and selected startups announcement.

November 9th, 2023: Kick-off.

March 7th, 2024: End of the program.

The final agenda will be sent to those selected startups. We kindly ask you to block your agenda on November 7th and November 9th just in case you're pre-selected and selected to join us this 2023.

Important note: Most of the activities will be online or hybrid. We reserve the right to carry out the activities in person.

8. *Maximum number of selected startups expected*

Based on the previous eligibility and criteria requirements, the top 8 rated startups will be selected to join the Clean Cities Spain ClimAccelerator. However, there exists the chance to increase from 1 to 2 more available spots for this cohort if the jury members decide it according to the quality and potential from the startups pre-selected.

9. *Climate-SAFE tool*

The Climate-SAFE has been designed as a founder-friendly, and efficient means for Climate-KIC to invest in Europe's most exciting Climate-tech companies. The Climate-SAFE is a simple agreement for future equity - a convertible investment.

The key terms of the Climate-SAFE are:

- €50,000 value

- 24 month long-stop date
- No valuation cap - we don't want to limit the valuation of any future funding rounds!
- 20% discount rate
- No most-favoured nation clause

The Climate-SAFE is structured as a cash + services investment and grants access to the following package of support:

- Carbon Impact Forecasting, Modelling and Validation
- Access to ClimateHIVE community
- Fundraising support & connections to Climate-KIC investor network
- Commercialisation Opportunities
- EU Policy & Affairs support
- A dedicated portfolio manager

This tool is optional. No mandatory request to join this agreement needed for this call. If you have any questions about this please contact the Climate-KIC Investment team on investments@climate-kic.org

10. Contact

In case you have any doubt, do not hesitate to contact the program's managers:

- Elisa Navarro: elisa.navarro@upm.es
- Ana Horta: ana.horta@upm.es