Unlocking innovation for an inclusive green economy

In the heart of the Los Angeles arts district lies a 3.2-acre campus with a 60,000 square-foot incubation lab and convening center where cleantech companies and municipal bodies work together to foster cleantech innovations. It all started more than 10 years ago when Los Angeles leaders had a vision for green economy innovation and growth within the city. After completing a number of studies, a memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed by major business organizations and universities with the goal to make Los Angeles the cleantech capital of the world. This led to the commitment of the city to create a campus to foster cleantech innovations. The Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator (LACI) then emerged and was selected to partner with the city to design and build the La Kretz Innovation Campus, home to LACI, which now manages the campus for the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

UNLOCKING INNOVATION

With support from LACI, startup founders have access to expert guidance commercializing technologies and facilitating access to capital and investment funding as well as customer and market development, business services, and other support through specific programming that is dependent on the stage of the startup. Following are just a few examples from among the 375 startup companies LACI currently supports.

CHARGERHELP! ELIMINATES THE HIGH COST OF EV STATION DOWNTIME FOR GREATER MASS EV INFRASTRUCTURE ADOPTION

Instead of requiring an electrician to maintain EV stations that need repairs—most often due to communication issues—ChargerHelp! diagnoses and maintains stations remotely. This remote approach also allows operators to fix malfunctioning charging stations that are not noticed unless reported by users. With simpler maintenance, more organizations can reliably add EV charging stations at their places of business. ChargerHelp! also supports EV training programs like the all-women EV supply-equipment training course LACI launched in 2022.

HYBRID-ELECTRIC AIRPLANES TAKE FLIGHT WITH AMPAIRE

Ampaire sees a new future in aviation powered by cleaner hybrid-electric technology. The benefit potential is dramatic: 90% less fuel is required, plus 50% lower maintenance, and a 60% decrease in noise. This enables more frequent and affordable flights with less emissions and noise pollution. The company is now on track to get U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) certification for one of its planes and has preorders from regional airlines.

(continued)
MARKET TRANSFORMATION: A CLEANER LA FOR THE OLYMPICS AND BEYOND

In addition to supporting startups through its incubator, LACI supports accelerating system change on key initiatives for transportation and mobility, energy, and sustainability. One way LACI is doing this is through its support of a cleaner 2028 Olympics.

When Los Angeles was selected to be the host city for the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games (LA28), municipalities and the private sector came together to establish a goal to reduce greenhouse emissions and air pollution by accelerating zero-emissions transportation before the events. This led to the 2028 Zero Emissions (ZE) Roadmap that identifies infrastructure, market signals, and other priorities through LACI’s work with industries, current incubator organizations, and disadvantaged community projects. From using electric vehicles to reducing emissions for goods movement through the busiest port in the U.S., the Roadmap provides goals to make LA28 emissions free for athletes, visitors, and the media and establish an emission-free infrastructure that benefits Los Angeles visitors and residents for years to come.

A GREEN ECONOMY THAT BENEFITS EVERYONE

LACI works to ensure that everyone can benefit from the green economy, through green jobs training and jobs, clean air, or accessing new zero emissions mobility or energy solutions. For example, the Advanced Prototyping Center (APC) Fellowship and Green Jobs Training Courses are high-touch, high-outcome workforce development programs that provide participants from underrepresented groups with technical training, interpersonal skills, industry-recognized credentials, and access to paid internships and green jobs.

ABOUT LACI

The Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator (LACI) is creating an inclusive green economy by unlocking innovation through helping scale cleantech startups, transforming markets through catalytic partnerships like the Transportation Electrification Partnership, and working with policymakers, innovators, and market leaders in transportation, energy, and sustainable cities, and enhancing communities through workforce development training, pilots, and other green jobs programs. Founded as an economic development initiative by the City of Los Angeles and Los Angeles Department of Water & Power (LADWP), LACI is recognized as one of the most innovative business incubators in the world by UBI. In the past ten years, LACI has helped 375 portfolio companies raise $697 million in funding and create 2,565 jobs in the Los Angeles region.

ABOUT ESG AT MUFG

MUFG is committed to empowering a brighter future. As a global financial leader, we believe that environmental, social, and governance (ESG) considerations are essential to achieving sustainable growth. Our corporate mission – and a key part of our identity – is to be a foundation of strength, committed to meeting the needs of our clients, serving society, and fostering a better world. The MUFG Carbon Neutrality Declaration pledges to achieve net zero emissions in our finance portfolio by 2050 and our own operations by 2030. By combining our ESG expertise and heritage of client-centricity, we provide our clients with wide-ranging and complementary products, services, and advice to help them meet their financial goals, while also staying true to their sustainability mandates.

Review our latest Sustainability Report and Carbon Progress Report for more on our goals and actions toward achieving sustainable growth.