Cambridge Cleantech celebrates its 15 year anniversary with forum connecting East of England with Europe's climate tech ecosystem

Chief Scientific Adviser for the Government's Department for Energy Security and Net Zero and Cambridge Professor, Emily Shuckburgh CBE *to open the* ***Cambridge Climate Tech Forum 2026*** *on 12 November, as climate start-ups pitch for investment in a tighter funding market*

Cambridge Cleantech will mark fifteen years of accelerating climate innovation in Cambridge and the East of England with the Cambridge Climate Tech Forum, taking place at West Hub, Cambridge, on 12 November. The Forum will bring the region's climate start-ups together with investors, corporates and ecosystem partners from across the UK and Europe.

The day will run in two streams: Cleantech Venture Day will put climate start-ups in front of investors and corporates, while the Ecosystem Builders' Forum, running alongside it, will bring ecosystem leaders, policymakers and investors from across Europe to Cambridge to work on how cleantech companies scale across borders.

Chief Scientific Adviser for the Government's Department for Energy Security and Net Zero and Cambridge Professor, Emily Shuckburgh CBE will deliver the opening keynote. Before joining the department in November 2025, Professor Shuckburgh was Director of Cambridge Zero, the University of Cambridge's climate change initiative.

The Forum comes at a difficult moment for young climate tech companies, with early-stage cleantech funding halving in 2025[1]. It also comes as climate and clean technologies are named as a priority in the UK Industrial Strategy[2] and in every local growth plan across the region – and Cambridge and the East of England have the research strengths, ventures and institutions to respond.

The pressure on early-stage climate tech stands in contrast to the wider UK venture market. UK venture capital funds raised a record $6.9bn in the third quarter of 2026, around four times the recent average, according to Dealroom and HSBC Innovation Banking3. Closer to home, Greater Cambridge early-stage companies have raised £9.1bn since 2015, and the average deal has grown five-fold over the decade, from £2m to £10m, according to new analysis from Cambridge Innovation Capital4. With capital available across the market, the gap for climate tech founders is access to the investors with the appetite and expertise to back them, and that is the gap the Forum is designed to close.

At **the Cleantech Venture Day stream,** 16 start-ups from Cambridge, the East of England will pitch to investors who back climate tech and corporates actively looking for new technology. Across four pitch sessions, each company will have four minutes to present, followed by a question from the chair.

In the morning, David Moore, Assistant Director for Business, Trade and Investment at event sponsor the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, and Jim Totty, Managing Director, Viridis Capital will discuss the investment case for climate tech in the region and what is needed to build globally significant climate tech businesses from Cambridge and the East of England.

In the afternoon, a panel chaired by venture builder Simon Hombersley will consider what climate tech companies can learn from the region's established success stories. Panellists include Anna Wise of Nyobolt and Keith Clarke, formerly of Arm, with further speakers to be confirmed. The

programme also includes a session on scaling for growth from event sponsor PEM, a Climate Connections session and reverse pitches from organisations setting out what they are looking for from climate tech companies.

Running in parallel, **the Ecosystem Builders' Forum,** led by Sam Goodall, CEO of Cambridge Cleantech and co-founder of the Climate Tech SuperCluster, will bring ecosystem builders, investors, corporates, policymakers and innovators from Cambridge and across Europe together to look at how policy, capital and practice can help cleantech companies scale. The morning will showcase the Cambridge ecosystem, from the organisations shaping its research and infrastructure to the capital and companies helping ventures grow, followed by speed networking.

In the afternoon, Rise & Scale: Europe Meets Cambridge, delivered with Start2 Group and its international Rise and Scale cohort, will open with European perspectives on policy, capital and practice.

Both streams will close with the Climate Tech Club from 4pm to 6pm – Cambridge Cleantech's monthly networking event co-organised with Carbon13 and Barclay's Eagle Lab, Cambridge.

Commenting on the event, Sylvie Russell, COO of Cambridge Cleantech, said: "The ideas that will change the course of the climate crisis already exist, in the labs of Cambridge, the workshops of Norwich and Peterborough and in start-ups right across Europe. The window to get them into the world is narrowing, and with funding harder to come by, what founders need most is speed of access to the investors, partners and expertise that can take them further. We have spent fifteen years making those introductions, one at a time. On 12 November the stage belongs to the founders of the region."

Full details are at www.cambridgecleantech.org.uk/cambridge-climate-tech-forum

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Sources:

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