



WOMEN IN CLEANTECH ACCELERATOR

APPLICATION GUIDE



What is the Women in Cleantech Accelerator?

The RBC Women in Cleantech Accelerator, powered by MaRS, supports women and women-identifying entrepreneurs in scaling their climate technology solutions.

This two-year program, guided by the principles of diversity, equity and inclusion, provides a support system for participants to overcome the barriers facing women working to scale their climate tech solutions.

This application guide provides a high-level summary of the application requirements. It is not meant to replace the official rules found at the bottom of the [application form](#).

By entering the accelerator, you agree to abide by the official rules of MaRS. You also agree to comply with the applicable laws. Please see official rules for details. If in the event of a conflict between this guide and the official rules, the official rules will prevail.



WHY APPLY?

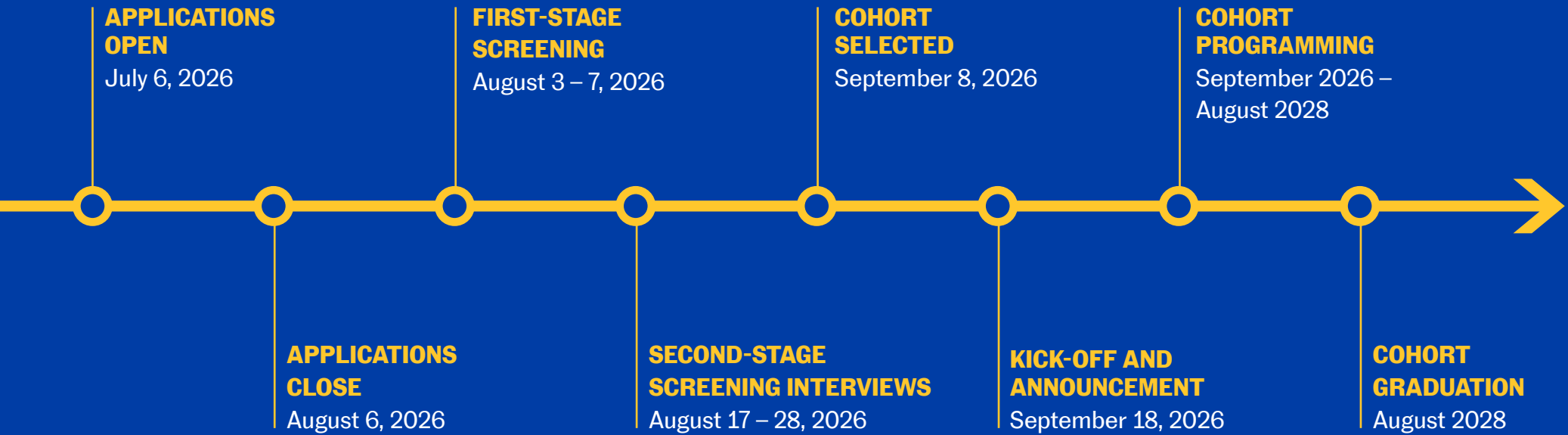
IF SELECTED FOR THIS EXCLUSIVE COHORT, PARTICIPANTS WILL RECEIVE:

- A MaRS business advisor with deep sector knowledge to guide their business and technical innovation.
- Enhanced public profile through the Women in Cleantech brand, including press releases and cleantech industry events.
- A curriculum designed by MaRS experts to help cohort members gain the business skills needed to succeed in a competitive market.
- Curated introductions to domestic and international investors and corporations.
- Access to mentor networks, investor showcases and events with influential women-identified leaders and industry experts.
- Opportunities to build relationships with the other selected ventures and previous Women in Cleantech cohort participants.
- Access to market intelligence, capital, talent and communications services offered through MaRS.
- Access to a federal government lab facility that is matched to the selected venture's specific research and development needs.

NOTE: All benefits and non-guaranteed benefits will be made available in English only.



KEY DATES



REGISTER

FOR OUR INFORMATIONAL WEBINAR:

MaRS Women in Cleantech programming leaders will walk you through the application process and answer any questions you may have!

WE'LL SEE YOU ONLINE
Tuesday, July 28

REGISTER FOR THE WEBINAR

SELECTION PROCESS

- Following the launch of a Canada-wide recruitment campaign, applications will be accepted from July 6 to August 6, 2026 at 11:59 p.m. (EST), at which time the application window will formally close.
- The judging process will be completed in two stages:
 - **First stage:** Judges will choose a minimum of 20 applicants during August 3 to 7, 2026. These applicants will be contacted by August 13, 2026
 - **Second stage:** Judges will conduct a more thorough screening review, including an interview with the prospective applicants from August 17 to 28, 2026:

The judges will seek answers to three key questions:

- Is the applicant coachable? Is she likely to benefit from the advisory support and workshops provided through the accelerator?
 - Can the applicant effectively articulate the importance of her innovation and business model, including potential for global impact?
 - Can the applicant effectively articulate what she hopes to get out of the accelerator program and does this align with program objectives?
- Judges will screen applications and select a minimum of 20 applicants. These applicants will be notified no later than August 13, 2026. A public announcement will be made on September 18, 2026.



ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

APPLICANTS MUST:

- Identify as a woman and/or non-binary person
- Be a leader (i.e., officer or executive) of a registered Canadian business engaged in cleantech, as defined below
- Regularly engage in technological innovation at the applicant company
- Be comfortable with, and agree to participate in, the public nature of this accelerator (i.e., speaking with the media, appearing at events, etc.)
- Be a MaRS venture before being provided any winner benefits, and must agree to [MaRS Discovery District's venture terms and conditions](#)
- Submit a full application in a manner consistent with the official rules

THE APPLICANT'S TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION SHOULD:

- Fall under MaRS Discovery District's definition of "cleantech," which for the purposes of this accelerator is defined as: "A company that is focused on the creation of intellectual property and new products that protect and/or increase efficient utilization of land, energy, water and natural resources while improving economic performance and reducing the environmental footprint relative to the baseline."
- Be proprietary and/or patentable

- Have the potential to scale globally for major impact
- Fall within TRL 3 and TRL 5, on the nine-point [Technology Readiness Level spectrum \(TRL\)](#), with:
 - TRL 3 — Active research and development is initiated
 - TRL 4 — Being basic testing to validate the technology in a laboratory/controlled setting
 - TRL 5 — Component and/or validation in a simulated environment

NOTE: Applicants may submit a technical innovation from work done in a university or college environment, as well as innovation spun out of and in settings such as corporate laboratories, innovation hubs, private businesses or personal workshops, in accordance with these official rules, including fulfilment of all eligibility criteria, and all applicable intellectual property laws.

NOTE: If desired applicant falls within TRL 6 to 9, but meets all other criteria, they are encouraged to apply to our venture services program: marsdd.com/apply



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW DO I APPLY?

Visit marsdd.com/women-in-cleantech and click on the [Apply Now](#) link, after which you will be walked through the application process. Late or incomplete entries will not be accepted. By accepting our official rules and entering a submission, you also agree to MaRS Discovery District's venture [terms and conditions](#).

WHEN WILL THE APPLICANT SELECTION PROCESS BEGIN?

Selection of applicants will begin once the application deadline has closed. Applications will not be reviewed prior to the deadline.

DO I/WE HAVE TO BE INCORPORATED IN CANADA TO APPLY?

Yes.

CAN I REQUEST ACCESSIBILITY ACCOMODATIONS?

MaRS wants to ensure fair and equal participation in this program and will provide necessary accommodations related to accessibility. To request an accommodation, please email Morgan Lorimer at mlorimer@marsdd.com with the necessary details. In some cases, MaRS may request more information to better understand your needs and determine how it can make the process accessible.

WHAT TECHNOLOGIES FALL UNDER CLEANTECH?

Generally, we are looking for potentially scalable technologies that use less material and/or energy, reduce waste and cause less environmental damage than industry standards.

The chart on the next page ([FAQ Table 1](#)) gives some examples of the types of technologies that would be considered.

HOW WILL THE INFORMATION I SUBMIT BE USED?

We value your privacy. The information and documents you submit will be kept confidential. If you are not selected, your submission information and documents will be deleted in a secure manner.

If you are selected, you will be asked to sign an agreement that will detail how your information will be treated by MaRS, subject to our official rules, and when this information might be shared. Your information will be kept confidential and will not be shared unless you have given us permission.

IS THERE A SCREENING PROCESS TO ENSURE THE TECHNOLOGY IS NOT INFRINGING ON OTHER PATENTS?

It will be the responsibility of applicants to ensure projects do not infringe on patented technologies.

DO YOU TAKE ANY EQUITY IN THE PROJECTS?

We do not take equity.

WHAT ARE YOUR SELECTION CRITERIA?

We are looking for entrepreneurial technical leaders who have the drive and ability to build a transformative technology and lead a team in its development. We also work to ensure that the initial project concept is technically sound, reasonably differentiated and addresses a well-framed problem with potential for significant long-term impact.

IF I HAVE OTHER QUESTIONS, WHO CAN I CONTACT?

We realize there are other questions you may have that are not answered here. If you'd like to ask us something, email Morgan Lorimer at mlorimer@marsdd.com.

FAQ table 1:

TYPES CLEANTECH TECHNOLOGIES

- Critical materials
- Direct thermal energy conversion materials, devices, and systems
- Wide bandgap semiconductors for power electronics
- Materials for harsh service conditions
- Advanced materials manufacturing
- Additive manufacturing
- Composite materials
- Roll-to-roll processing
- Process intensification
- Process heating
- Smart manufacturing: advanced sensors, controls, platforms and modeling for manufacturing (ascpmm)
- Waste heat recovery systems
- Combined heat and power (chp) systems
- Sustainable manufacturing
- Solar photovoltaics
- Wind energy
- Biogas
- Energy harvesting
- Microgrid controllers
- Superconductors
- Materials for high-voltage transmission
- Electric vehicle charging
- Grid-scale energy storage
- Forecasting technologies
- Sensors
- Customer side energy storage
- Energy efficiency
- Water efficiency
- Demand response & demand control technologies
- Industrial electrification
- Application specific integrated circuit (asic)
- System-on-chip (soc)
- Hardware accelerators
- Circuit design tools
- Heterogeneous integration
- Mixed-signal integrated circuits
- Novel materials
- Three-dimensional chips
- Novel computer architectures
- Semiconductor processing and fabrication
- Machine learning
- Data intensive-algorithms
- Printed circuit boards (pcb)
- System-in-package (sip)
- Physical design
- Circular economy technologies
- Alternative proteins

PARTNERS

