

Annual Booklet

2020



INTERNATIONAL
CLEANTECH
NETWORK

Prepared By:
ICN Secretariat, Copenhagen

01

Letter from the Chairman

COVID-19 has staggered the global economy in 2020. The ICN represents about 15,000 Green and Clean companies across that planet, and the impacts of country specific lockdowns, travel restrictions, illness and attendant economic slowdown have been felt acutely by the ICN and its members.

COVID-19 has also brought into sharp focus how much value the ICN provides to their members in responding, and building resilience to, an economic shock like this. Resilience provides us with useful vocabulary in the logical progression in response to an acute crisis: Survive. Adapt. Thrive.

Survive: Individual member of the ICN have played a variety of roles, intervening directly with the companies in their network to help with survival. These include the coordination of grant support bailouts, and the identification of key areas for support.



Adapt: The ICN secretariat has driven a system of engagements to drive the adaptation to a COVID impacted world, these include the Solar Impulse Foundation's 1,000 efficient solutions label, the CLEAN conversations series, best practice and business model sharing, collaboration events between clusters and member companies.

Thrive: The green economy will play a catalytic role in driving the economic recovery. Across multiple countries there have been stimulus packages, support programs and interventions to leverage a low carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive growth path

Looking ahead into 2021, the ICN is ideally positioned to leverage its collective 15,000 cluster member companies to collaborate, cooperate and provide solutions to specific challenges at a local and global level. Increasing trade, increasing learning and increasing access for opportunities and global partners will be the key focus areas for the ICN and its members.



Mike Mulcahy

Chairman of the Board of Directors,
International Cleantech Network



MISSION

ICN provides direct value for cluster members and their cleantech community through leveraging resources for common projects, engendering business opportunities for SMEs through partnerships with leading international organisations and global platforms, and facilitating knowledge exchange and best practice methods amongst ICN members.

VISION

ICN enables the world's leading cleantech clusters and their regional ecosystems to collectively develop and implement sustainable solutions that contribute to and stimulate the global green economy.

02

ICN In Numbers

The ICN is a global network of top cleantech clusters from all around the world, all based on the triple helix principles of connecting government, industry, and universities. The ICN works to leverage this strong global network to create global change towards a greener and better future.



Global Reach

Members across 4 continents and 16 countries

50+

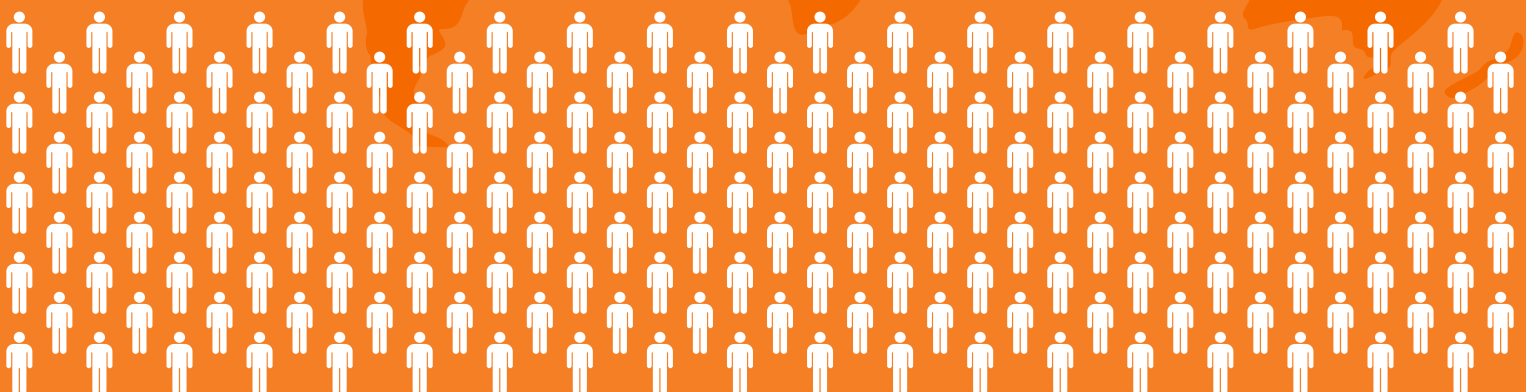
Knowledge Institutions



100+ Cities



15,000+ SMEs



Project Funding

€10.5m

Pipeline & Submitted

€19.5m

Ongoing ICN projects

€ 3.8m

Completed ICN Projects

Broad Cleantech Focus



Circular
Economy



Waste
Management



Air Pollution
Control



Water
Management



7,500

jobs created annually*



500,000

tonnes CO2 emissions
reduction annually*



Energy



*Estimated based on figures from a sample of ICN member clusters



68

Solutions Labeled

10 Countries represented

*Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark,
France, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland*

6 CLEAN WATER
AND SANITATION



7 AFFORDABLE AND
CLEAN ENERGY



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES



12 RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION



03

Growing the ICN Network

In 2020, the ICN has accepted four new members into the network. The ICN has expanded its presence in South America, Europe, and North America. The ICN is delighted to have welcomed leading cluster from across the world to be part of the network. It is a continuous goal for the ICN to grow our global presence and we look forward to welcoming more new members in 2021.



LAS BRUSQUITAS
GREEN & TECH

"Las Brusquitas joined the ICN to participate in the sharing of best practices for cluster management and to gain access to new business opportunities."

**- Rodrigo Espinosa,
Director, Las Brusquitas
Green Tech Cluster**

Las Brusquitas, Argentina

Brusquitas Green Tech Cluster (BQS) is the first hotspot in South America for innovative energy and environmental technologies. Based on a triple helix approach, they are located in the province of Buenos Aires, in the coastal city of Miramar. Las Brusquitas are a member of the triangle metacluster "ocean & mountain". The three hub cities of Mar del Plata, Miramar and Tandil configure one of the most innovative and dynamic ecosystems of technological SMEs in Argentina.



Aclima, Spain

"By being a member of the ICN, Aclima has strengthened our ability to support our members in their internationalisation process."

**- Olga Martinez
General Director, Aclima**

Aclima is an environment cluster with more than 20 years experience based in the Basque region of Spain. Aclima's mission is to drive forward public-private collaboration and they support their members in areas as internationalisation, innovation and activities designed to defend the sector. Circular economy is a strategic priority for Aclima, and Aclima works actively to reduce the environmental impact of processes, products, and services throughout their life-cycle.



**CLEANTECH
BULGARIA**

Cleantech Bulgaria, Bulgaria

"No efforts go unrewarded"

**- Mariyana Hamanova
CEO, Cleantech Bulgaria**

Cleantech Bulgaria is based in the Bulgarian Capital, Sofia. The cluster is focused on clean technologies, innovation, and sustainable development. Cleantech Bulgaria is a catalyst for green businesses in the fields of climate, energy, circular economy, and cities of the future. The cluster provides support to its members across a broad range of areas including sustainable innovation, technology transfer, development of business strategies, investment consulting, and entrepreneurship training. Furthermore, Cleantech Bulgaria is an official partner of EIT Climate-KIC and EIT InnoEnergy.



NECEC, USA

"We look forward to engaging with the network and helping to accelerate the transition to a clean energy future by sharing best practices with other network members and learning from their experience."

- Alistair Pim
Vice President of
Innovation & Partnerships,
NECEC

The Northeast Clean Energy Council (NECEC) is based in Boston, Massachusetts, USA. NECEC started in 2006 as a business association convening clean energy stakeholders to grow the region's clean energy economy. Today, NECEC's mission is to create a world-class clean energy hub delivering global impact with economic, energy and environmental solutions. NECEC brings together business leaders and key stakeholders to engage in influential policy discussion and business initiatives, and helps build the connections necessary to propel the clean energy industry forward.



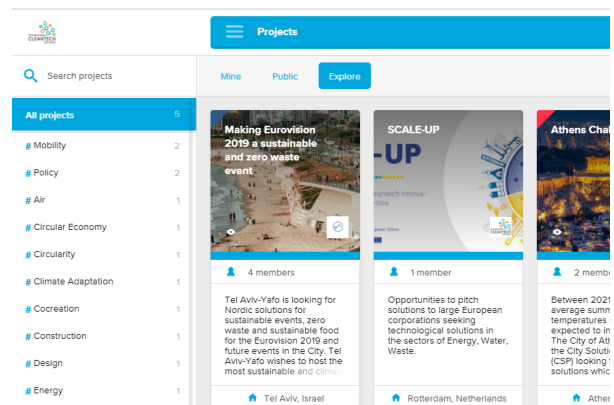
04 ICN Value

The ICN creates value for members through a broad range of activities. The ICN strengthens our members ability to assist SMEs' internationalisation activities, facilitate cooperate on international projects and enable the continuous learning and development of new skills by members. All with the aim of accelerating the global implementation of cleantech solutions to shape a more sustainable future.

Internationalisation

ICN Solutions

During 2020, the ICN has put a stronger focus on developing the ICN Solutions platform. The ICN Solutions platform serves as a dashboard for cleantech companies searching for international opportunities. While SMEs can use the platform as an internationalisation tool, it also gives challenge owners a unique opportunity to reach a large base of cleantech SME's when searching for innovative solutions. Throughout the year, SME's have been able to engage in a various opportunities, like a call for information on circular economy solutions for the City of Cape Town's dewatered sludges and future digestate cake, and an innovation challenge on sustainable wine and champagne glasses by Air France.



The ICN Solutions platform will be further developed in 2021, with the aim of making ICN Solutions the go-to platform for SMEs when searching for International opportunities.

Passport Service



ICN Passport is a service that allows interested members within the ICN network to request assistance at the local cluster in the targeted region when seeking new opportunities abroad. This allows member clusters to provide added value to their members through facilitating contact with partners abroad and possibilities for new business. The program has been a great success in the past with South Africa being the most popular destination. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic has made ICN Passport exchanges impossible during 2020. The ICN looks forward to hopefully facilitating more exchanges in 2021.

Knowledge Sharing

Knowledge sharing is a key activity of the ICN. In 2020, the ICN arranged a broad range of knowledge sharing activities. These knowledge sharing activities contribute towards improving the awareness of cleantech, exploring current topics, and facilitating cluster learning.

Cluster-2-Cluster Learning

With 16 different clusters across the world the ICN has access to a lot of experience and skills. Through sharing knowledge on cluster management and activities within the network the ICN acts as a knowledge bank enabling members to get advice on challenges they are facing as well as to share and develop best practices.

In 2020, the ICN successfully hosted an internal webinar on cluster funding with clusters from Canada, Denmark, and South Africa sharing their experiences. The ICN looks forward to further developing the internal knowledge sharing in 2021, as the internal knowledge sharing is a central way in which the network brings value to the member clusters.

Sharing our Knowledge with the World

In 2020, the ICN hosted several webinars on topics within cleantech, drawing on the knowledge of the network as well as of partners. By hosting open webinars, the ICN contributes to spreading the awareness of cleantech and inspires learning on current topics. Below are some examples of the webinars hosted in 2020, which can be viewed in full on the ICN webpage.

Clean Conversations

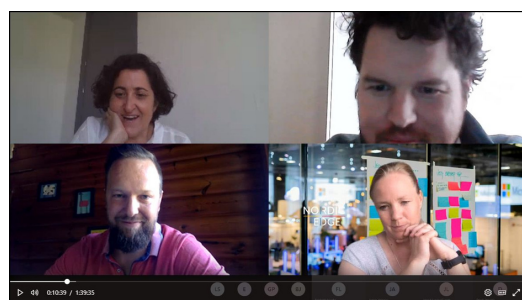
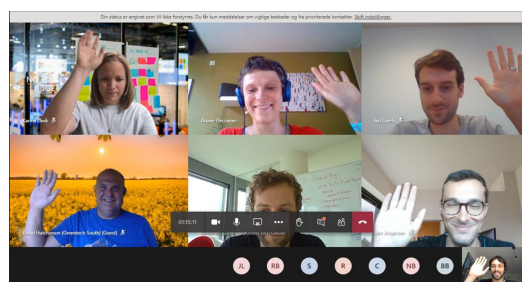
Three-part webinar series hosted with the Solar Impulse Foundation. The Clean Conversations webinar series were on Clean Recovery, Clean Procurement, and Clean Investment, while also addressing challenges and opportunities related to COVID-19.

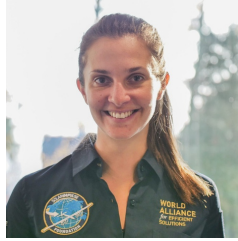
Future of Sustainable Plastics

Five innovative SMEs together with speakers from WWF and Plastic Pact South Africa, shared their views on how we best face the plastic issues of the future.

Circular Economy City Practices and Opportunities

Insights into clusters' support of circular economy in cities, through cases from the Netherlands, South Africa and a transnational city program (New York, Munich, and Singapore).





"It was crucial to collaborate with the International Cleantech Network in our search for 1,000 Efficient Solutions; we needed that partnership to increase the quality and geographical diversity of the portfolio. Now that this scouting objective has been reached, we foresee teaming up with ICN to anchor our Foundation's advocacy and implementation actions in the reality of challenges on the ground. I am looking forward to continuing leveraging that strong partnership to boost the adoption of cleantech".

**- Victoria Smaniotto
Head of Outreach,
Solar Impulse Foundation**



Partnerships

The ICN actively engages in partnerships with the aim of amplifying our impact and furthering the implementation of cleantech. The ICN looks forward to exploring new partnerships in 2021, and will as an example work on building a closer collaboration with C40. In 2020, the main partnership has been with the Solar Impulse Foundation.

Solar Impulse Foundation

ICN have teamed up with the Solar Impulse Foundation (SIF) in the search for 1,000 efficient solutions. The ICN has with its strong network of cleantech SME's been able to identify efficient solutions to build the SIF portfolio of efficient solutions, and at the same time the ICN clusters have been happy to be able to offer this great opportunity to SME's.

The partnership has resulted in 143 solutions in the pipeline, 32 solutions under assessment, and 55 labeled solutions. The ICN is proud to have been able to identify innovative solutions from all over the world, bringing SIF their first ever labeled solution from Argentina (and 4 more in the pipeline). Furthermore, the ICN has identified 10 new solutions from South Africa, 24 solutions from Denmark, and 84 solutions from Canada.

The ICN looks forward to continuing the strong partnership in 2021.

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The way forward

2020 has in all respects been a different year, and COVID-19 has also influenced the activities of the ICN. However, it has also forced us to improve our skills in online knowledge sharing and communication, and we look forward to further explore the opportunities of engaging online in 2021. Especially webinars and online conferences are great tools of increased engagement in a global network like the ICN.

Build Back Better

COVID-19 has been a challenge to all, but the COVID-19 crisis is also an opportunity to 'Build Back Better'. This means that recovery packages should factor in long-term emission reduction goals, resilience to climate impact, and increasing circularity of supply chains. The EUR 1 billion European Green Deal call is at the heart of the EU's green recovery plan. Likewise, Canadian Prime Minister, Justine Trudeau, has announced CAD 10 billion investment in cleantech, and France have put heavy focus on hydrogen in their recovery plan. The ICN is hopeful for the future of cleantech and hope that Building Back Better will mean a welcome opportunity for cleantech to play an instrumental role in the recovery.

ICN Cities

A priority for the ICN going forward is developing the ICN city network. The ICN through our members clusters represent more than 100 cities/local governments spread across the world. Therefore, the ICN is in a unique position to facilitate city led challenges and to facilitate more sustainable and innovative public procurement.



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Letter from the Head of Secretariat

The ICN is an extremely unique cluster network, which, now at over a decade old, proudly stands as one of the pioneers in cross-border cluster collaboration.

We have had an exciting year with the growth and acceptance of 4 new cluster members across Southern Europe and the Atlantic. At the same time, we have just passed our first-year of collaboration with the Solar Impulse Foundation, successfully mobilising our collective ecosystems to create new opportunities for companies in the green space.

The future for ICN looks bright as we continue to expand into new regions and work with other key global partners. As we deepen the connections across our regional ecosystems between cities and large corporates, we hope to unlock the job creation and innovation potential of our 15,000 strong SME base. Ultimately, our mission is to create new links between these sectors of society to accelerate the green transition and the race to zero.



James Armour
Head of Secretariat,
International Cleantech Network



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