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By Andy Coyne - Editor, West Midlands



Low Carbon Accelerator judges with Innovation Birmingham executives and entrepreneurs in residence

SOME £100,000 of initial investment cash is being shared across nine start-ups on [Innovation Birmingham](#)'s Low Carbon Accelerator programme, which is part of the European-funded Climate-KIC initiative.

A total of 16 low carbon start-ups pitched for the investment funding, in front of a panel of three industry judges. The process was facilitated by [Innovation Birmingham](#)'s Climate-KIC team and two of its entrepreneurs in residence.

The grant funding - circa £11,000 for each of the nine start-ups - will be used to pay for research and development, and other activity to enable the low carbon products and services to be launched to market in an accelerated timescale.

Katharine Fuller, [Innovation Birmingham](#)'s senior project manager for EU projects said: "Early stage grant funding makes such a difference to start-up businesses.

The timetable required for an entrepreneur to launch their product or service to market is critical, and the funding available through the European Climate-KIC initiative enables the best businesses starting up in the low carbon sector to receive a helpful grant.

"In addition to this grant funding, all of the businesses will continue to work alongside the three entrepreneurs in residence (at [Innovation Birmingham Campus](#)) who have been specifically appointed as advisers to the Low Carbon Accelerator programme.

"The ultimate aim is to help to launch as many sustainable start-ups as possible."

The nine low carbon start-ups being awarded grant funding are Full Grown, which is working to change wasteful mass production processes, 5L, a water and energy efficiency business, Unicorn Power, specialising in clean energy and environmental mitigation, Libralato, a hybrid powertrain specialist, Alkali Solutions, which specialises in industrial symbiosis, WRK Design & Services, an alternative energy provider, Petalite Battery, which reduces carbon in manufacturing and the product lifecycle, Greengineering, which specialises in resource and built environment efficiency, and Civico Online Exchange Tracker, a waste prevention solution.