

## ClimateLaunchpad 2023 Themes Description

These themes, chosen in consultation with EIT Climate-KIC, represent a selection of the most pressing and relevant focus areas of our time in our fight against climate change.

Establishing this already during the Recruitment phase (including adding these themes already into the application form) will help National Leads inform their selection.

*Please note: we cannot yet confirm whether there will be themed pitching tracks at the Regional Finals.*

### Adaptation and Resilience

Climate change creates worldwide challenges. Some regions, communities, and ecosystems are particularly vulnerable to climate volatility.

This theme focuses on ideas that provide products or services that build agility, response-readiness, and climate resilience. For example educational tools on climate risks and impacts; technologies or tools that prevent or reduce the effects of this climate impact; or solutions that facilitate a regions' resilience.

### Blue Economy

Not only will the Blue Economy be worth \$3 trillion dollars by 2030 (according to the OECD), 'blue carbon' sinks sequester more carbon per unit area than terrestrial forests, and protect coastal communities from floods and storms.

This theme welcomes ideas that ensure environmental sustainability of oceans and coastal areas while promoting economic growth and social inclusion. This can cover a wide range of maritime activities, including tourism, energy and mineral production, fishing, shipping, aquaculture, renewable energy and port activity.

### Circular Economies

Circular economies are regenerative by design and benefit businesses, society, and the environment.

This theme is aimed at innovations that decouple economic growth from unsustainable resources and greenhouse gas emissions. The three principles of a circular economy are to eliminate waste and pollution, keep products and materials in use and regenerate natural systems. In short: no more 'take-make-waste'.

### Urban Solutions

Cities consume 75% of the world's natural resources, produce half the planet's waste and generate 60-80% of global greenhouse gas emissions.

For this theme we are looking for business ideas that help transform urban environments into decarbonised beacons. We are also looking for innovations targeted at climate-resilient cities with nature-based urban infrastructure solutions to combat extreme heat and urban flooding.

### **Clean Energy**

The energy transition requires bridging today's systems to future ones. Hydropower, bioenergy, solar and wind energy add complexity that old systems have trouble to accommodate.

For this theme we need ideas that evolve around storage, smart power grids, integrating wind, solar and bioenergy, carbon capture, CO2 mitigation of chemical and industrial processes and efficient energy use in buildings.

### **Food Systems**

Food production is a key industry to achieve significant climate impact.

For this theme we are interested in start-ups pioneering the global transition to climate-smart food production. Think: new approaches that decarbonise the sector, making it more efficient and productive, such as new agricultural techniques or food innovation and solutions for healthier oceans.

### **Sustainable Mobility**

So much is still to gain in mobility: 29% of all greenhouse gas emissions are caused by transportation.

This theme supports ideas that catalyse the shift towards clean-energy mobility models. Focus areas: battery technology, smart energy management systems in vehicles and other forms of transportation, renewable energy use, innovative mobility solutions, and 'mobility-as-a-service'.

### **The Next Big Thing**

Game changing technologies are what we are looking for with this theme. Promising innovations with the potential to create massive impact on a global scale. The stuff that is not yet mainstream, but that could change markets, regions or societies. We are looking for ideas that make our jury members wonder if this is "The next big thing" to fix climate change.