

# ClimateLaunchpad Annual Report 2025

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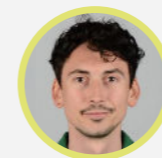


**Irish Aid**  
An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha  
Department of Foreign Affairs



# ClimateLaunchpad 2025: The world pitches in

## Letter from the Programme Director



**David Watt**  
Programme Director  
david@climatelaunchpad.org

**2025 was a year defined by boldness and collaboration**, from founders with daring new ideas to partners, volunteers, and funders who rallied to support them. ClimateLaunchpad has always been about unlocking the entrepreneurial spirit to tackle the climate crisis, and uniting changemakers from every corner of the world. With 40 countries participating this year, we once again proved that even the smallest spark of an idea can grow into a solution with real impact.

A programme of this scale comes with responsibility. We are proud that our community not only delivers high-quality ventures but also embodies values of inclusivity, diversity, and fairness. In 2025, we expanded into new territories across Asia-Pacific, strengthened our Pacific Islands cohort, and deepened partnerships in Europe, Africa, and the Americas. In October, our Global Grand Final in Vienna will bring together representatives from all participating countries – a true celebration of global climate innovation.

This has also been a year of renewal. Our team worked tirelessly behind the scenes to reimagine our programme, refresh our brand, and rebuild our digital tools. Their resilience and passion have brought new energy to ClimateLaunchpad, ensuring we are better equipped than ever to support entrepreneurs on their journeys.

The pages of this report highlight milestones, emerging innovation trends, and the stories behind the numbers. From regenerative agriculture and circular economy solutions to renewable energy breakthroughs, we see the landscape of climate innovation shifting toward systemic, long-term change.

Looking ahead, we are bold in our ambitions to grow this movement: from 40 countries today to 50 in 2026, and toward our vision of 100 countries by 2030. This is not scale for scale's sake – it is about ensuring every aspiring climate entrepreneur, no matter where they are in the world, can access the tools, training, and networks they need to thrive.

Thank you to all our partners, funders, volunteers, and start-ups for being part of this movement.

**Together, we pitch in for the planet.**

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## What is ClimateLaunchpad?

ClimateLaunchpad is the **world's largest green business idea competition**, uniting innovators from across the globe to turn bold climate ideas into thriving ventures.

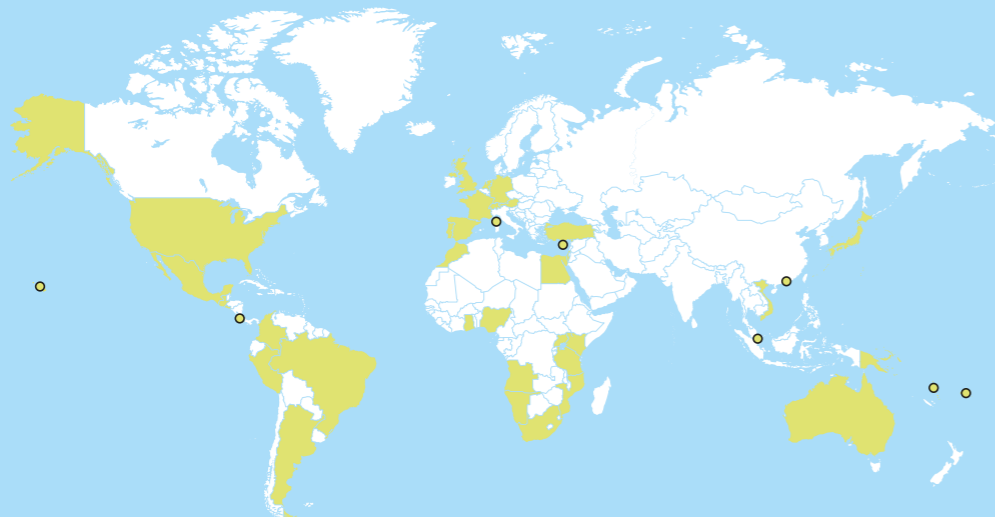
Together, our community proves that no one is alone in changing the world – we pitch in, side by side, **for the planet.**

### Programme structure

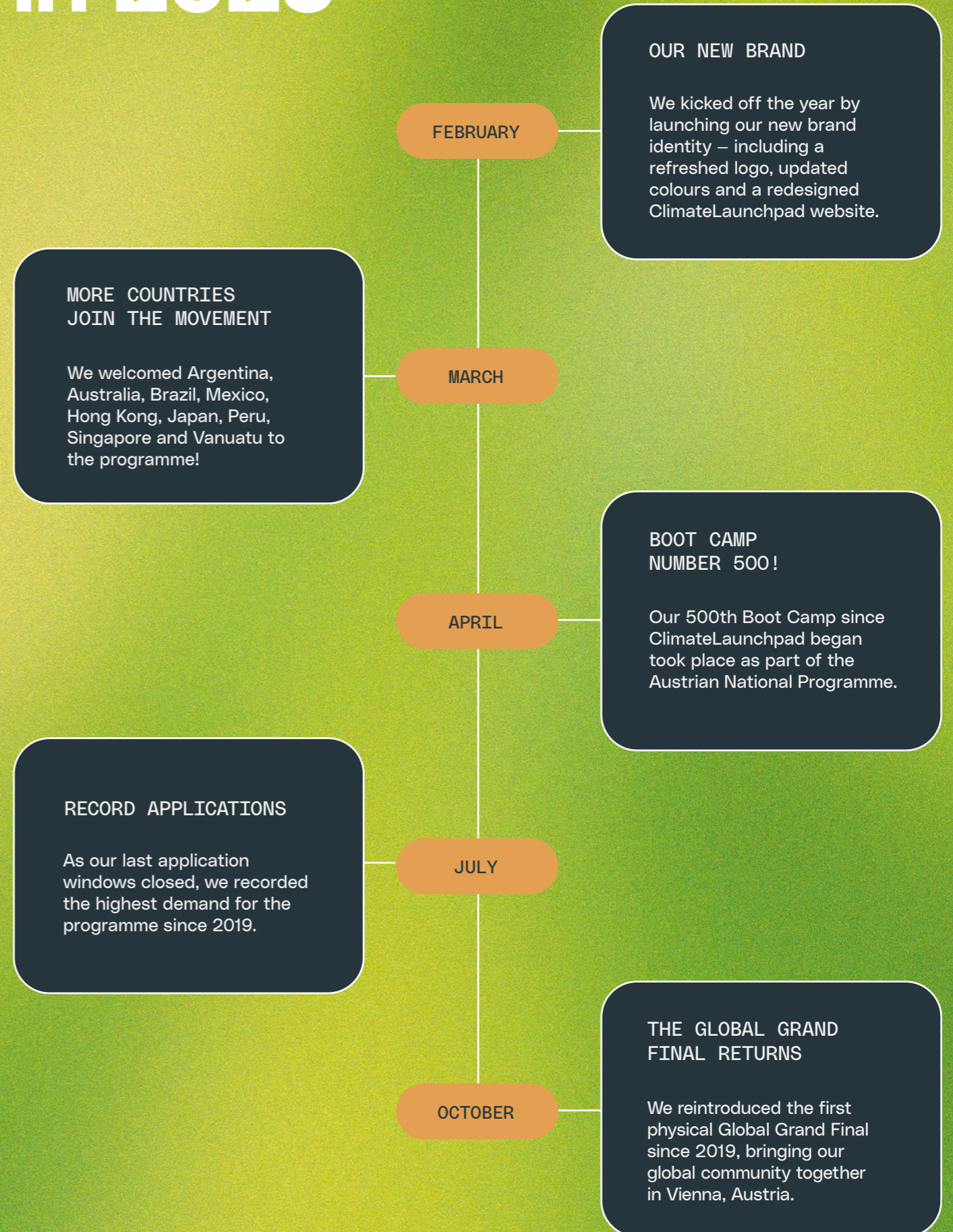


### Participating countries

Since its inception, ClimateLaunchpad has supported thousands of entrepreneurs across more than 70 countries. In 2025, we delivered the programme in 40 countries across our four regions: Africa, the Americas, Asia-Pacific and Europe.



# Key highlights in 2025



# Climate innovation trends 2025

With our global reach, ClimateLaunchpad has a unique insight into where climate innovation is heading. In 2025, we observed three major shifts:

- **Nature-based solutions are expanding rapidly.** From mangrove restoration to soil carbon farming, founders are tapping into ecosystems as powerful allies.
- **Circularity is going mainstream.** Waste-to-value models – plastics, textiles, and e-waste – are moving from niche ideas to investable ventures.
- **Decentralised renewables are surging.** Entrepreneurs are designing small-scale, community-owned energy solutions that leapfrog traditional infrastructure.

These trends show how climate innovation is diversifying – **beyond clean tech into systemic approaches that combine technology, community, and nature.**

# Our diverse community

**Diversity is one of ClimateLaunchpad's greatest strengths.** With founders spanning more than 40 countries and many from regions most affected by climate change, our inclusive community ensures solutions emerge where they are needed most, driving fairness, scalability, and impact.



50% WOMEN PARTICIPATION TARGET FOR 2026.



2 INCLUSIVE PROGRAMME DESIGN WORKSHOPS DELIVERED IN 2025.

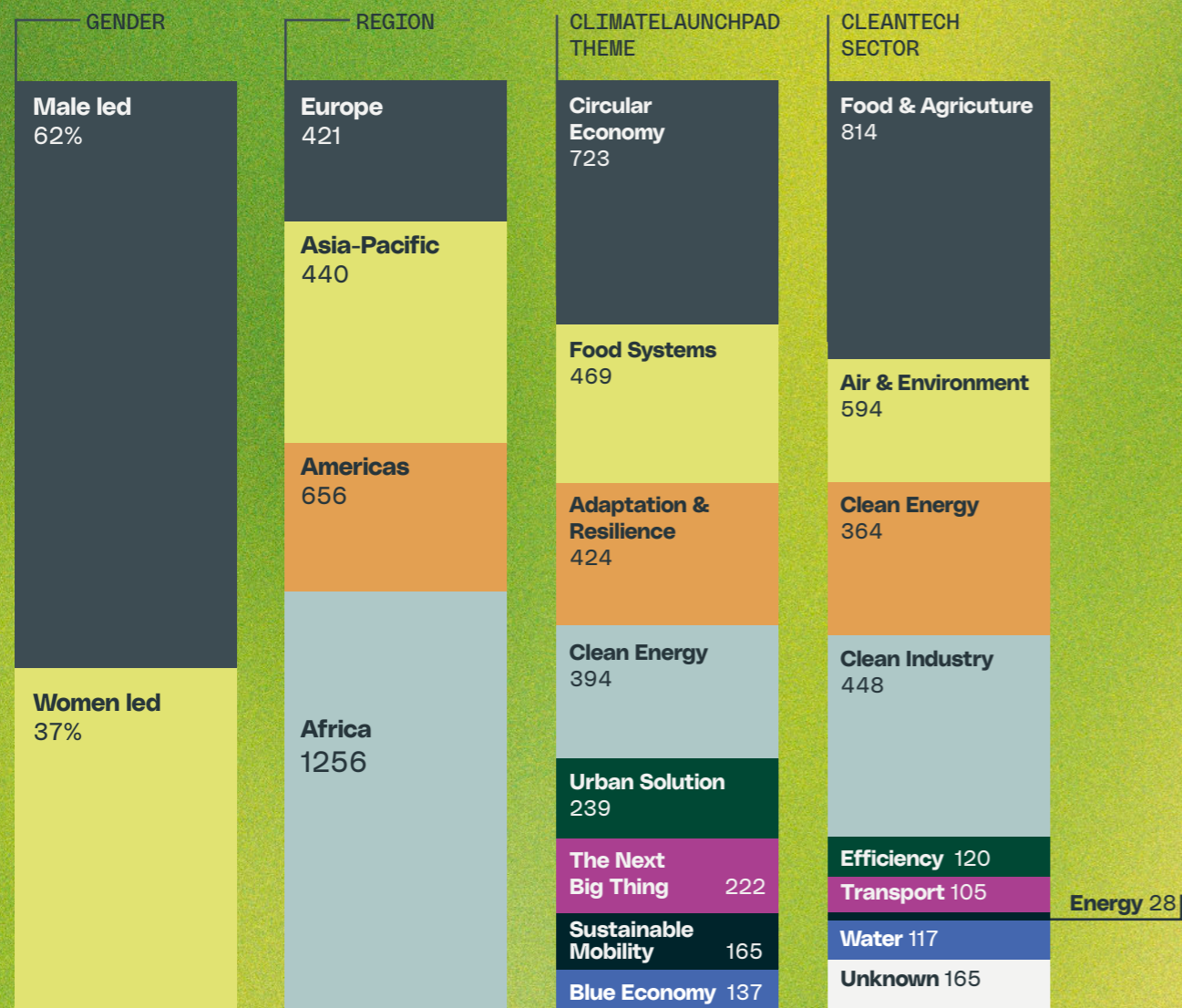


OVER 90% OF APPLICATIONS AIM TO POSITIVELY IMPACT UN-DESIGNATED VULNERABLE GROUPS.



37% OF APPLICATION IN 2025 WERE WOMEN-LED.

## Of 2773 global applications:



## Our focus in the Pacific

The Pacific Islands face rising seas and fragile ecosystems, yet continue to lead with innovation. In 2025, ClimateLaunchpad expanded its presence in Fiji, Papua New Guinea, and Vanuatu with local trainers, face-to-face Boot Camps, tailored pitch training, and new Pacific Prizes – supported by Irish Aid – to showcase regional solutions globally.



202 APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FROM ACROSS THE PACIFIC ISLANDS.



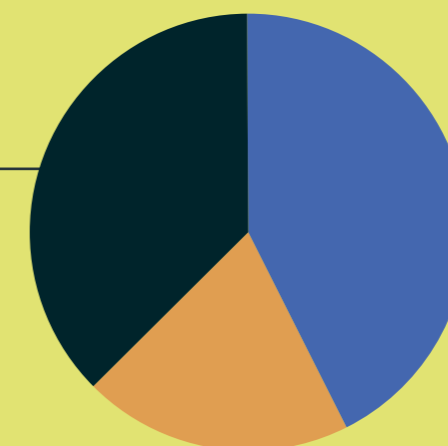
3 PACIFIC ISLAND NATIONS PARTICIPATING.



1 LOCAL TRAINER CERTIFIED IN FIJI.

## Participating countries by climate vulnerability

LOWER VULNERABILITY  
37.65%



HIGHER VULNERABILITY  
42.5%

MEDIUM VULNERABILITY 20%

# The stories behind the startups

## Our global top 8 for 2025

These eight start-ups are not just finalists – they are part of a global movement of over 2,700 ideas from 40 countries. On the Global Grand Final stage, they will showcase the solutions shaping our collective future.

### OUR 8 CLIMATELAUNCHPAD THEMES

- CIRCULAR ECONOMY
- ADAPTATION & RESILIENCE
- URBAN SOLUTIONS
- SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY
- FOOD SYSTEMS
- CLEAN ENERGY
- THE NEXT BIG THING
- BLUE ECONOMY



Chaja | [www.chaja.info](http://www.chaja.info) | Tanzania

Chaja Africa is transforming mobility in Tanzania with affordable electric motorcycles. By reducing costs and boosting riders' earnings, the company is accelerating the adoption of reliable and sustainable e-mobility solutions.

"We're building Africa's largest battery-swapping network to cut costs for riders and reduce emissions for our planet."

**SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY**



SeaH4 | [www.seah4.co.za](http://www.seah4.co.za) | South Africa

SeaH4 develops an algae-based replacement for fossil fuels, designed to power vessels within carbon-neutral fleets. Their product can be adapted for any combustion engine, extending its life in a net-zero CO<sub>2</sub> world.

"We want to lead sustainable innovation in the marine & aviation sector, harnessing ocean resources responsibly for future generations. We're committed to this vision."

**CLEAN ENERGY**



Griffin Research | Australia

Griffin Research repurposes hard-to-recover soft plastic (LDPE) waste using supercritical fluids to create laminated foam matrix boards. These boards not only provide building insulation but also sequester CO<sub>2</sub>, offering a sustainable construction solution.

"We divert waste soft plastic from landfill, reduce fossil fuel derived new plastic and sequester carbon in buildings."

**CIRCULAR ECONOMY**



Atierra | [www.atierraclimate.com](http://www.atierraclimate.com) | Japan

Atierra removes CO<sub>2</sub> using microalgae and transforms it into valuable materials, beginning with pigments and peptides. Using AI to optimise strain traits and bioreactor conditions, the company tailors biomass production for partners to enable scalable circular solutions.

"We are transforming CO<sub>2</sub> into low-carbon oils with microalgae to replace fossil and food-based feedstocks for Sustainable Aviation Fuel."

**CIRCULAR ECONOMY**



OneFly | Colombia

OneFly is a biotechnology company that converts organic waste into insect protein and natural fertiliser using Black Soldier Fly larvae. Their on-site solution is circular, scalable, and aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

"OneFlys biotech decarbonizes industries to feed the future. In just 7 days we upcycle organic waste with insects [...] Our mission is to connect and impact through nature."

**CIRCULAR ECONOMY**



EcoGrains | [www.ecograins.co](http://www.ecograins.co) | United States

EcoGrains uses patented microbial technology to convert waste distillers' grains, a by-product of ethanol production, into Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF). Their drop-in SAF is compatible with existing engines and can reduce carbon emissions by up to 75%.

"Our mission is to harness the hidden power of nature by transforming underutilized resources into low carbon, high performance fuels."

**CLEAN ENERGY**



Ecodetect | [www.ecodetect.co.uk](http://www.ecodetect.co.uk) | United Kingdom

Ecodetect is a marine science and technology company specialising in AI-enabled systems for detecting marine life. Their end-to-end solutions help ensure that marine infrastructure projects can coexist safely with nature.

"We set out to build technology that helps accelerate clean energy deployment while protecting the natural world."

**BLUE ECONOMY**



Neela Biotech | United Kingdom

Neela Biotech is developing a scalable, carbon-negative aviation fuel using AI and synthetic biology. Their process converts food, agricultural, and seaweed waste into drop-in jet fuel at the same cost as fossil fuels.

"We're powering the future of flight with carbon-negative fuel, transforming waste streams into low-cost, drop-in jet fuel."

**CIRCULAR ECONOMY**

# Reflections, impact and growth

**2025 was a year of renewal and momentum for ClimateLaunchpad.** With a refreshed global team at the helm, we reintroduced our Global Grand Final as an in-person gathering for the first time since the pandemic – bringing our community together to celebrate innovation, collaboration, and impact.

In addition to this, we launched our new brand identity, giving ClimateLaunchpad a modern look that reflects the energy of our founders and the urgency

of the climate challenge. We also upgraded our digital presence with a new website to better serve start-ups, partners, and volunteers worldwide.

Looking ahead to 2026, we will launch updated curriculum modules, new climate impact tools, and expanded learning opportunities. Our ambition remains bold: to reach more countries, empower more founders, and keep pushing the boundaries of green entrepreneurship.

## IDEAS SUBMITTED AND SUPPORTED

In 2025, ClimateLaunchpad received 2,773 applications from more than 40 countries.

Over 1,400 participants joined our mini-course, and around 500 teams advanced to Boot Camps and pitching competitions. Every participant – finalist or not – left with sharper skills, stronger networks, and clearer visions for their ideas.

By connecting innovators nationally, regionally, and globally, we create a ripple effect where every idea supported today helps shape tomorrow's climate solutions.

## SKILLED VOLUNTEERING

Our programme thrives on an extraordinary network of volunteers.

In 2025, more than 300 professionals gave their time as jury members, coaches, moderators, and mentors. Their expertise – spanning investment, policy, technology, and entrepreneurship – provided invaluable guidance to early-stage founders. Volunteers also benefit, gaining exposure to novel innovations and connecting with a global community of changemakers, making ClimateLaunchpad a powerful two-way platform for learning, growth, and shared climate impact.

## PREPARING FOR SCALE

ClimateLaunchpad is on a bold growth trajectory.

In 2025, we reached 40 countries and nearly 500 participants. In 2026, we aim to reach 50 countries and 600 participants, and by 2030, 100 countries and 1,200 entrepreneurs annually. Each new country brings fresh perspectives and new opportunities for collaboration.

With strong partnerships and sustained support, we will achieve this vision and create a truly global platform for climate entrepreneurship at scale.

## Our growth trajectory



# The road to 100 countries by 2030

ClimateLaunchpad is building a global community of green entrepreneurs and their supporters, and we need partners, funders, and champions to make it possible.

**Together, we can unlock thousands of ideas and scale solutions the planet urgently needs.**

## An invitation to join us

**Supporting ClimateLaunchpad is more than sponsorship** – it is an invitation to become part of our global community.

Beyond financial backing, you and your teams can engage as volunteers, mentors, or jury members, directly shaping the next generation of climate entrepreneurs while creating lasting global impact.



Through our continued partnership with ClimateLaunchpad, Irish Aid is proud to stand with entrepreneurs from the countries most affected by climate change, helping them build solutions that the world urgently needs.

**Brian O'Sullivan**  
Deputy Director - Climate Unit, Irish Aid



We are honoured to once again partner with Climate KIC. To see the innovation demonstrated by all teams throughout this competition has been truly inspiring.

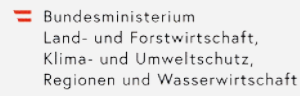
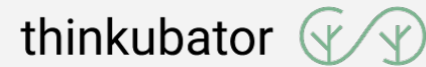
These ideas, developed by early-stage entrepreneurs, respond to some of the most pressing and challenging global issues and have real potential to become practical and tangible solutions, creating a more sustainable future for us all.

**Andrea Sullivan**  
International Head of Social and Environment,  
Global Community Opportunities at Bank of America



**Join us. Together, the world pitches in.**

# Thank you to our event sponsors



# See you in Singapore in 2026!



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