**Cambridge: Cleantech Overview**

Cambridge, UK, is known worldwide as a global powerhouse for innovation and technology. With 23 billion dollar companies and employment in tech having grown by at least 6% every year for the last 6 years, there is no sign of this excellence going anywhere but upwards.

In addition to life sciences, healthcare and innovation technology, a third wave of technology innovation is emerging strongly. Climate tech and cleantech are beginning to thrive as the established clusters adapt to include and support climate positive technologies. Cambridge is one of only a small number of global regions that is already positioned to both lead and capitalise on this opportunity.

Leadership in the development of the climate tech ecosystem in the region is apparent both locally and nationally.

One of the key strengths of the region is the ability to specialise. And we have seen in recent years the strong emergency of cleantech innovation, not least with the creation over a decade ago of Cambridge Cleantech, set up specifically to support national and international companies in this area: [www.cambridgecleantech.org.uk](http://www.cambridgecleantech.org.uk).

The Mayoral Combined Authority of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough has published an Independent Commission on Climate Change as well as a Climate Change Action Plan that details the regions approach to tackling climate change. The report highlights the ability to show leadership both nationally and internationally by harnessing the regions world-leading intellectual assets.

Key strengths of cleantech innovation in Greater Cambridge include:

1. Academic Excellence: Cambridge is home to the prestigious University of Cambridge, which is globally recognised for its scientific research and academic excellence. The University provides a strong foundation for cleantech innovation through its Cambridge Zero initiative – the University aims to maximise its contribution towards achieving a resilient and sustainable zero-carbon world. It is leading by example by supporting ambitious decarbonisation. In addition to its core of offering cutting-edge research facilities, expert faculty, and a collaborative environment for interdisciplinary studies
2. Research and Development: The city has a vibrant ecosystem of research institutions, including University of Cambridge and also leading science parks and innovation centres including Europe’s first ever Science Park: Cambridge Science Park, the Wellcome Genome Campus and many others. These institutions foster innovation, promote collaboration between academia and industry, and facilitate ground-breaking research in clean technologies
3. Entrepreneurial Culture: The Greater Cambridge area has over 135 cleantech/climate tech startups and scale ups that have raised over $500m in funding ((source Cambridge Cleantech). The cluster is particularly strong in advanced materials and manufacturing. Cambridge has a thriving entrepreneurial culture that supports startups and encourages innovation. The city hosts numerous technology-focused incubators, accelerators, and co-working spaces, such as the Cambridge Innovation Park and the Bradfield Centre. These platforms provide resources, mentorship, and networking opportunities for cleantech startups, helping them to grow and succeed
4. Industry Collaboration: The city has a strong tradition of collaboration between academia, industry, and government bodies. The Cambridge Cluster, also known as the "Silicon Fen," is a concentration of high-tech businesses, research institutions, and innovation centres. This ecosystem promotes knowledge exchange, collaboration, and the commercialization of research findings, facilitating the development and adoption of cleantech solutions. A great example is Cambridge Enterprise and both the CISL (Cambridge Institute for Sustainable Leadership) and the Maxwell Centre are key in this area.
5. In terms of acceleration, Carbon 13 selects and supports over 1000 entrepreneurs over 5 years to build scalable ventures with the potential to reduce carbon emissions by over 400m tonnes. The Impulse Programme is a catalyst for the development of high potential innovation in to commercial proposition and there are a range of other accelerators (Allia Climate Accelerator), Cambridge Future Tech and the Ignite programme from the Judge Business School as examples.
6. As well as the presence of fantastic cleantech companies, Cambridge is blessed with the presence of leading technology consultancies, who have been pivotal to the ecosystem’s global development. Specialist energy consultants now complement the multi-disciplinary tech consultancies that have been integral to the clusters growth. All the consultancies are now developing and strengthening their cleantech and climate tech service offering eg: industrial decarbonisation, hydrogen etc, which will continue to support both emerging technology from early stage companies as well as the internal innovation, decarbonisation and sustainable technology transformation programmes of large tech companies and multinationals. For example: Element Energy, LCP Delta, Cambridge Consultants, Sagentia, and TTP.
7. The technology cluster is also home to many leading institutions many of whom are directly involved in supporting the emerging climate tech cluster. The Institute for Manufacturing (IfM), part of the University of Cambridge Department of Engineering provides world leading research and education. We also have one of the worlds leading independent research and technology organisations with expertise in materials joining and engineering processes in TWI – with its Hydrogen Laboratory, they have a state of the art centre fro the testing of materials for corrosion as a result of exposure to hydrogen. The Global Sustainability Institute at Anglia Ruskin University focuses of 4 key areas of change:
* Global Risk and Resilience
* Consumption and Change
* Ecosystems and Human Wellbeing and
* Education for Sustainability
1. Access to Funding: Cambridge benefits from a range of funding opportunities for cleantech innovation. Government organizations like Innovate UK and the Green Investment Group provide grants, loans, and investment support to promote sustainable technologies. Additionally, venture capital firms, angel investors, and crowdfunding platforms actively invest in cleantech startups, recognising the potential for impact and financial returns
2. Talent Pool: The city attracts top talent from around the world due to its strong educational institutions, research opportunities, and innovation ecosystem. Skilled professionals and researchers in various fields, including engineering, materials science, and environmental sciences, contribute to the development of cleantech solutions. The presence of a talented workforce with diverse expertise accelerates the pace of innovation in Cambridge's cleantech sector.
3. Sustainable Infrastructure: Cambridge has made significant investments in sustainable infrastructure, including energy-efficient buildings, renewable energy projects, and smart city initiatives. This infrastructure provides a testbed for piloting and scaling up cleantech solutions, creating a conducive environment for innovation and attracting further investment.

These strengths collectively contribute to the growth and success of cleantech innovation in Cambridge, positioning the city as a leader in developing sustainable solutions to address global environmental challenges.

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