# Gaps in Financing Green Startups and Lessons from China

**IMPACTHUB ASIA PACIFIC** 



HUB

#### OUR PURPOSE

A just and sustainable world where business and profit are used to serve people and the planet.



#### - OUR NETWORK

A catalyst for entrepreneurial action since 2005, we are a locally rooted, globally connected network of 56 000+ members & program participants driving societal change in 120 locations across 70 countries.

#### **OUR MISSION**

# We build locally rooted and globally connected entrepreneurial communities for impact at scale.

- Growing impact enterprises that pioneer and scale solutions
- Establishing large-scale cross-sector collaborations to mainstream these solutions and the systems change they promote.

#### **OUR AMBITION**

# Towards 2030, we are models for the business of the future.

Harnessing diverse forces for good, we collectively lead the impact economy to be the present of our future.

#### **OUR DESIRED IMPACT**

A regenerative impact economy that is accelerating positive social and environmental change.





# - APAC Cluster 2023

14 Impact Hubs

1community partner – Spark Project

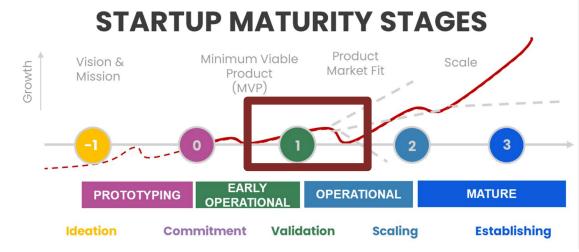
13 countries/regions (including CPs & Candidates)

1candidate (Melbourne)

HUB Waikato



# Startup Maturity Framework



#### Stages:

**Prototyping** - This stage includes startups that have built an initial prototype of their product/service and are currently testing it with potential clients. However, they have not yet generated any sales.

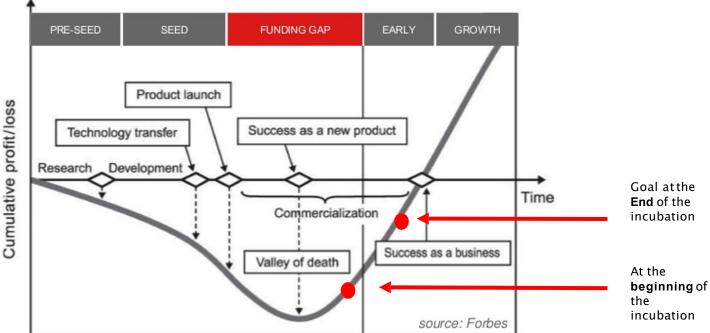
**Early Operational** - This stage includes startups that have generated some sales and gained market traction with their product/service but are not yet profitable.

**Operational –** This stage includes startups that have generated stable or increasing profits over a longer period of time.

Mature - This stage includes startups that are looking to expand their current operational base/market reach or want to establish one or more new branches locally or internationally.

# Funding Gap and the "Valley of Death"

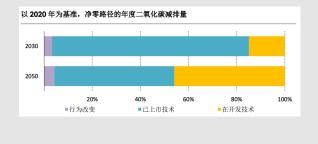
# the Valley of Death

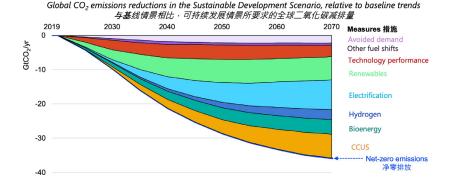


IMPACT HUB

# **3060 Goals and Opportunities for Climate Innovation**

With the 30 60 decarbonization goals, there is new momentum for innovation in the technologies needed for a zero carbon transition. According to IEA, if the world is to achieve net zero emissions by 2050, further rapid deployment of currently available technologies and widespread use of technologies that are not currently on the market will be required. Under this pathway, the majority of global CO2 reductions in 2030 would be achieved through technologies available today. However, by 2050, almost half of the carbon reductions will be achieved through technologies that are currently in demonstration or prototype phases.



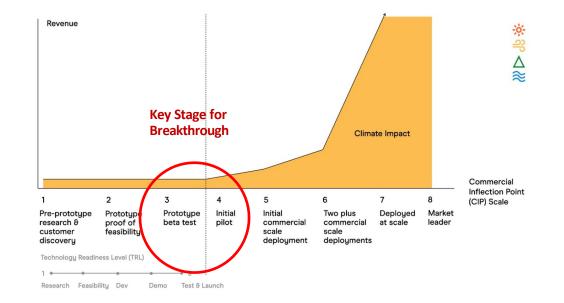


At the same time, achieving carbon neutrality will require technological innovation in many other industries, in addition to power and energy. In these areas, entrepreneurs will be provided with once-in-alifetime opportunities.

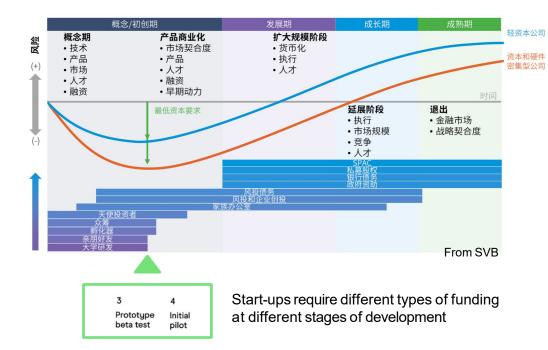


# Deployment of Climate Innovation Requires Longer Time Period and More Customers

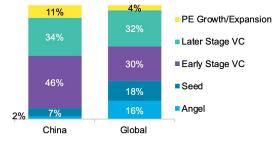
- With a decade of funding nearly \$50m across 130+ climate tech companies, Elemental has discovered a major funding and expertise gap begins at TRL 9, or what we call Commercial Inflection Point 4.
- This is when the really difficult work begins: deploying technology with customers in the real world. With climate technologies in particular, the path to scale often requires significant capital, involves numerous strategic and community partners, and calls for thoughtful, complex, and iterative deployments.



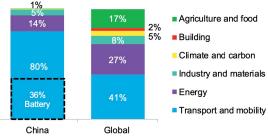
# Funding Gap at Key Stages



### Percentage of climate-tech startup deals by stage, China and global, 2021



Percentage of fundraising by climate-tech startups by sector, China and global, 2021



From BNEF

# Climate Innovation Innovation in Asia

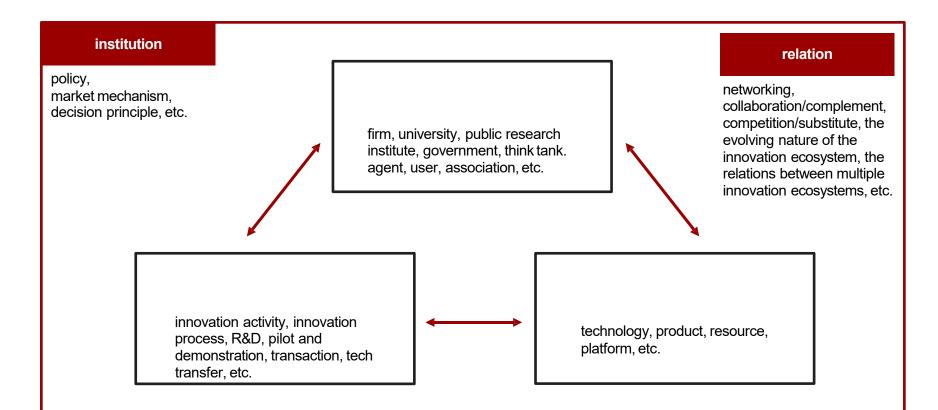
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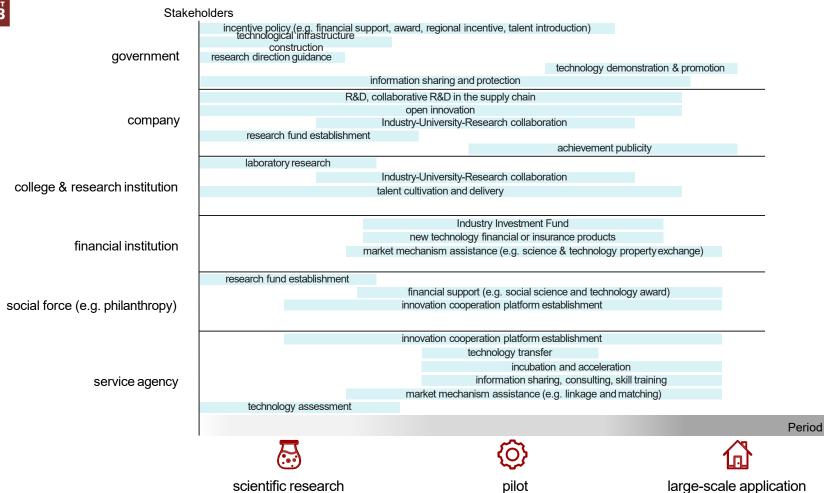
Distribution of Enterprise Quantity in Nine Areas



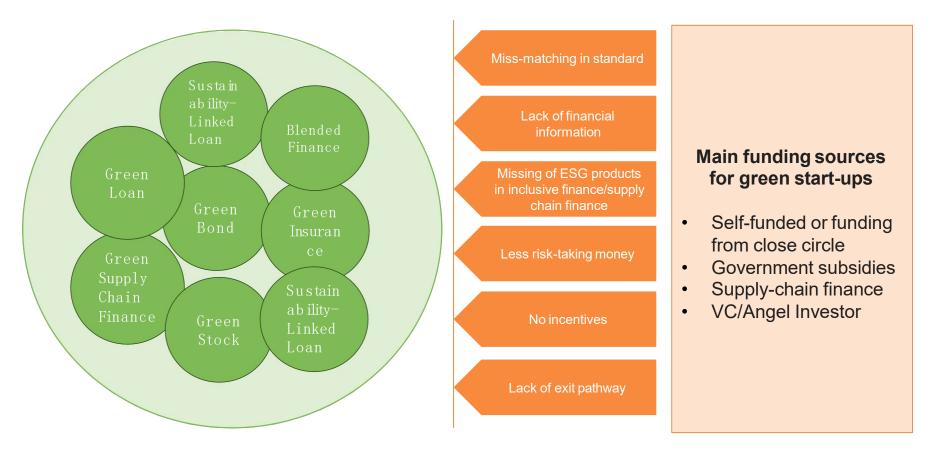
# Innovation Supporting Ecosystem



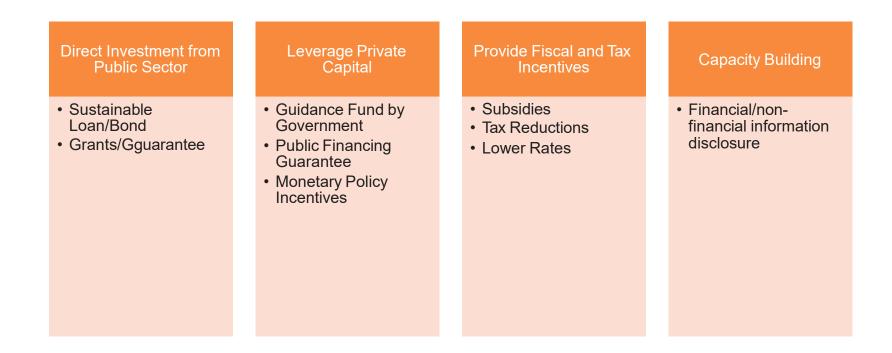




# Many financial tools but hardly support green start-ups



# **Possible Policy Tools to Increase Accessibility**



From 2024 CAFI Report: Financing SMEs for Sustainability in China: Current Status, Issues and Reflections

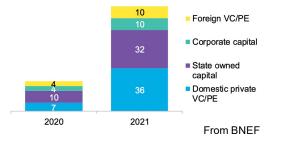


# Venture Philanthropy as a Leverage in Climate Innovation Investment

"Climate technology companies had to deploy their first pilot projects through expensive equity capital, and most investors who invest in growth stages need multiple commercial proof points from startups before they will get down to injecting capital."

### Number of investors in Chinese climate-tech startups with two or more deals, 2020-2021

Number of investors



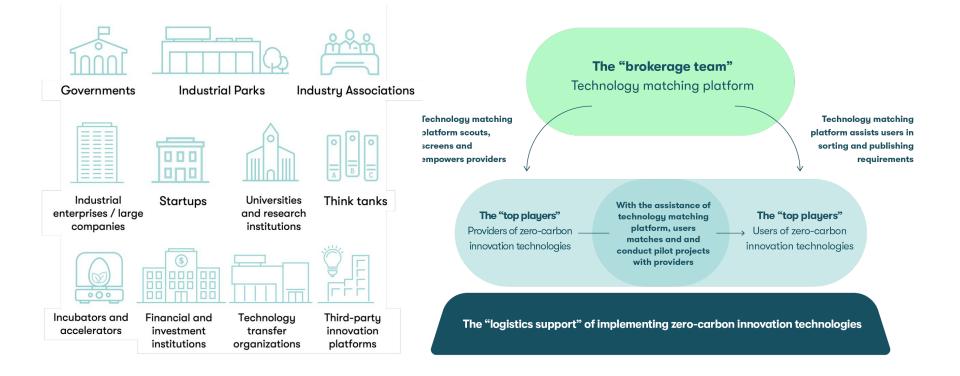
Evergreen pioneered its novel nonprofit Our Mission venture capital approach, the 501vc® Nexus for Development drives access to finance in developing economies across Asia to increase **Investment Fund** LACI is unlocking innovation through startups, transforming markets with partnerships and enhancing community inside our campus and out in our neighborhoods. This fund is structured as a revolving evergreen fund in investments. Over time, the 501vc® Fund creates a self-s resource stream for early-stage startups, while offering **LACI Values** the climate solution - we call that "compounding impac Catalytic Systemic Inclusive Impact-Oriented We are passionate We use a holistic systems-We drive economic, social and We work to ensure diversity + leverages equity, and inclusion of environmental results by Elemental Portfolio Policu Navigator Discover lerates historically underrepresented piloting and rewarding highred vision. populations and overburdened impact solutions, aligning ur team communities in the green market signals, and influencing han bax economy. We support the team's decision-makers through well-being and staff personal thought leadership and best maximize and professional growth. practices. We are on a mission to redesign the systems at the root of climate change. Philanthropic funding can In 2009, we launched a new non-profit model for support early-stage funding climate tech deploument. Breaking down barriers to innovation alongside entrepreneurs provides us unique insight into the policy, climate innovation from a market, and technology innovation needed to build systems to uplift people and communities around the world. Elemental has invested in over systemic and long-term 130 growth-stage companies and celebrated more than 20 exits, funded more than 100 technology projects, and built a platform for perspective to reduce the scaling equitable, market-driven solutions to climate change difficulty cost and of

for development

In China, LPs with government backgrounds are even more risk sensitive and cannot invest in early stage start-ups financing, thereby accelerating the advancement of key stages of breakthrough

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# Mission-driven Innovation Ecosystem as a solution



# Hero $\boxplus$ Solution: Affordable, Reliable , Sustainable and Modern Energy



Our Solution

#### Hero **EE**System:

Lithium Battery Storage System

First-ever single-cell ESS platform. capacity of 1 kWh220VAC output at 200W

- Off-grid: Solar panel dra 1 ging supported
- Lowcost Aimingatless than \$100
- Economical: Competitive utility gradeLFPcell
- Handy:tit in various household scenarios

#### Smart loTPlatform

- Managepower devices anytime. anywhere;
- Continuously expand and upgrade the functions for the business operation

Am ongall the alternatives olution. Her o EESystemisthemost cost effective



#### Sales Strategy

Low-end Subversion Strategy. Provide cost-effective sta ndard ized products to low- end users of micro and small merchants . and then expand entrep reneurs ' bus iness needs vert ically and BOPgroups' electricity needs horizontally.

#### Retail

The Hero EE series can be sold as appliances directly or through a  $\cdot$  pay-as-you-go  $\cdot$  option.

#### Cont-lacting

The Hero  $\boxplus$  series can be operated by a- $\parallel$ stributed electricity provide r". requiring customers to sign long-term contracts.

#### Trigger Point: Equipment DirectSales

Whikwhenergystorageproducts+productionequipment to supports mailshop owners in rural areas in Africa. South Asia and SFA to extend their business hours and develop diversified business formats to increase their income levels.



#### :;::r: ; ::i1t :;:l e : :e Revenue

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#### Adl the onal Service Revenue Sharing

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#### Prometheus Methodology: Energy Inclusive Finance to Create a Positive Economic and Social Cycle

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#### The basic consensus of Prometheus methodology

#### 1. Energy supply is a fundamental enabler of revenue generat ion:

Forexample: in the agricultural pr eduction unit, power+ agricultural equipment can enhance agricultural production efficiency, improve crop yield and quality; power + industry can enable the local provision of basic manufacturing capacity; in the micro-industrial and commercial unit, power + commercial equipment can enable micro-industry to realize more efficient production, so that micro-industry to provide a variety of paid services, lighting and cooling equipment can increase the efficiency of industrial and commercial work in a timely manner;

#### 2. Economic growth can lead to additional positive externalities:

Economic growth can lead to improved labor literacy and greater gender equality, and as incomes and productivity grow, levels of education and health care will also rise significantly;

### 3. Access to clean energy by micro and small production units in the target markets lacks only the first initial investment:

Once the first initial capital is available, micro and small production units can begin to apply clean energy, thereby raising income levels and driving economic growth

Prometheus will therefore focus on providing small and microproduction units (agricultural, commercial and industrial) in underdeveloped regions with initial funding for the procurement of their adapted clean energy products, which will serve as a pivot point for a series of changes that will lead to sustainable economic and social growth. Ensuring access to affordable, reliable and sustainable modern energy for all (SDG 7)





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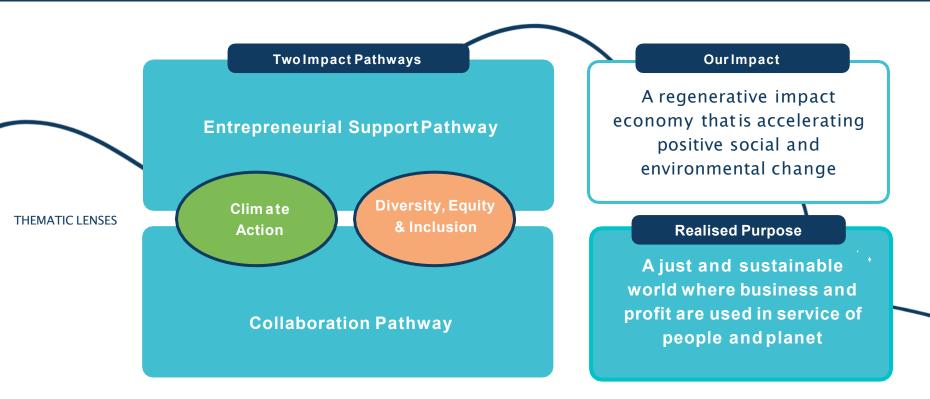
CIA

HUB

# **Our Model**



# **Theory OfChange**



Foundation

Locally rooted and globally connected network of 100+ Impact Hubs and 25k+ Community Members

# Delivering the Transition



To realize our purpose, we pursue our impact-making through two pathways of activity: **entrepreneurial support** and **collaboration**, through two thematic lenses: **climate action** and **DEI** 

The **impact pathways meet** where impact enterprises are **scaling tangible impact** and where collaborative efforts are **shifting systems** – together contributing to the **transition to a regenerative impact** economy.



# Focus Areas How do we do it?





**Removing barriers to entry** to **impact**driven entrepreneurship



Building a pipeline of social & environmental innovations



Serving as a platform to replicate & scale successful innovations translocally across 65 countries



Accelerating cross-sector collaboration with an entrepreneurial approach



#### **INCLUSIVE SUPPORT**

# Whom do we serve

Impact enterprises are **key drivers of social innovation** and a thriving impact economy depends on their growth and impact. At Impact Hub **we help underserved entrepreneurs start, grow, and scale organisations** that pioneer solutions toward a just and sustainable society and create inclusivejobs.

The majority of organisations that Impact Hub serves are impact-driven startups and microenterprises. Organisations can both be for-profit enterprises as well as non-profits. Increasingly Impact Hubs also work with small and medium sized enterprises, helping them transition to more sustainable operations and business models.





#### 315 new ventures founded peryear

49% of professional success attributed to Impact Hub

52.6% of supported ventures are woman-led

75% of founders supported are under 35



# **STRATEGIC PARTNERS**



# **PUBLIC SECTOR PARTNERS**



# **CORPORATE PARTNERS**









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# Thank youfor joining us on this journey!





**IMPACTHUB.NET** 



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