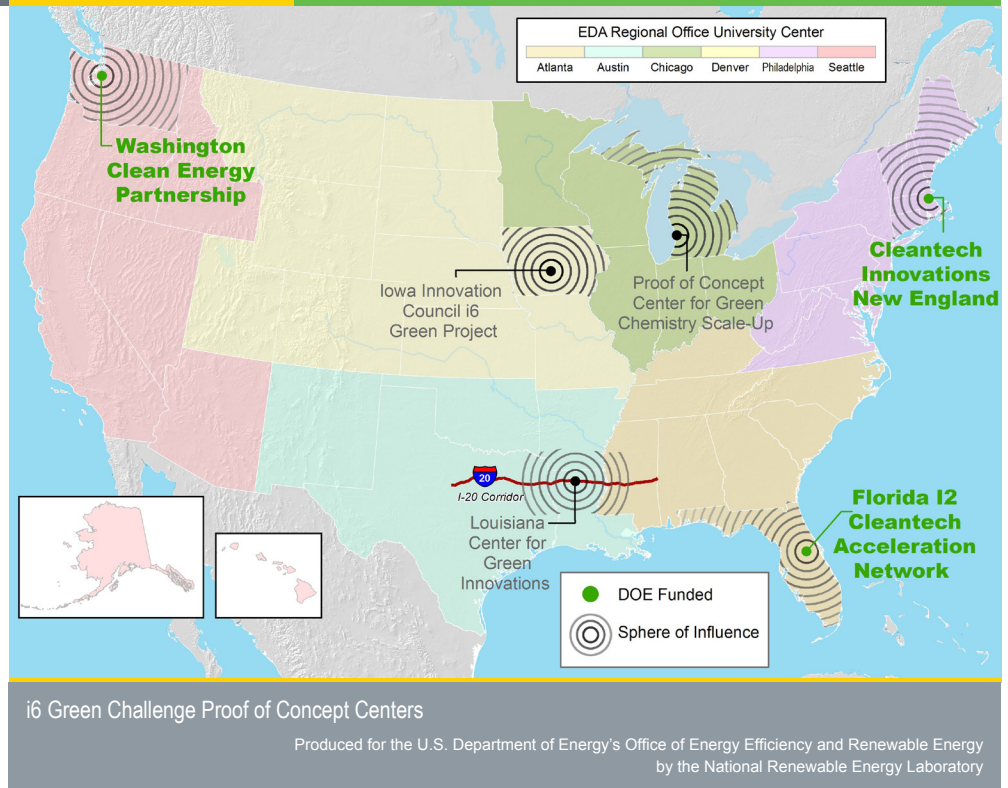


## i6 Green Challenge at the U.S. Department of Energy

The i6 Green Challenge, which builds on the success of 2010's inaugural i6 Challenge, is designed to encourage and reward innovative Proof of Concept Centers. Proof of Concept Centers accelerate technology commercialization by assisting entrepreneurs and existing companies, encouraging new venture formation, and sparking economic growth across the United States. The i6 Green Challenge focuses on the nexus between economic development and environmental quality. This challenge will reward communities that utilize Proof of Concept Centers in pursuit of a vibrant, innovative clean energy economy. This national initiative is part of Startup America, the Obama Administration's campaign to inspire and promote entrepreneurship, and supports regional partnerships that draw upon a wide range of public, corporate, university, non-profit, and philanthropic stakeholders to help create jobs, boost American competitiveness, and strengthen our economy.



The i6 Green Challenge funds regional innovation centers in areas that are distressed in one or more ways: where unemployment is above the national average, where income is below the national average, or where there is a “special need,” such as a major employer closing down or recovery from a natural disaster. Led by the Economic Development Administration (EDA) at the U.S. Department of Commerce, it includes partnerships with the U.S. Departments of Energy (DOE) and Agriculture, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the National Science Foundation, and the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. The project provides two-year seed funding to six centers nationwide—one in each of EDA's regions, which are named after the city where its regional office is based. DOE participates



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### Proof of Concept Centers

Proof of Concept Centers help bridge the gap between university research and private sector job creation. Surmounting this “valley of death” is a critical challenge in the innovation process. Key services these Centers offer include:

- Facilitating and fostering the exchange of ideas between university innovators and industry;
- Incorporating mentors and industry catalysts that provide advisory services and link technology and researchers to external networks;
- Providing seed funding to support the commercialization of promising research;
- Assisting with market evaluation and business plan development;
- Supporting educational programs to prepare students and researchers for entrepreneurial challenges and work environments; and
- Holding special events to showcase technologies and entrepreneurs, promote the exchange of ideas, and facilitate the formation of new collaborations.

in three Centers that emphasize either energy efficiency or the deployment of renewable energy.

The i6 Green Challenge is a public-private partnership. DOE's awards of approximately \$750,000 over two years are matched by more than \$2.5 million in non-federal funding. The Centers are also expected to identify other funding sources to sustain their efforts over time. Each Center has set forth a strategy specific to the strengths and needs of its target area:

### Philadelphia Region - Cleantech Innovations New England

Led by the New England Clean Energy Foundation, Cleantech Innovations New England is a six-state network of university researchers, innovators, public sector leaders, corporations, venture capitalists, and other stakeholders who are collaborating to provide promising cleantech lab and pre-venture projects with funding, business assistance, technical resources, and testing infrastructure. Cleantech Innovations NE will, over the two-year grant period, support 20-30 early-stage projects across New England, with the involvement of each state and inclusion of economically distressed areas. It will create or keep 100 jobs and leverage more than \$65 million in private cleantech investment. In addition, Cleantech Innovations NE will develop infrastructure to sustain the initiative over the long-term and serve as a regional proof of concept acceleration model for other parts of the country. The Massachusetts Clean Energy Center,

the Maine Technology Institute and the Rhode Island Renewable Energy Fund are contributing financial support, and will join partners from the other New England states in serving on the CINE Steering Committee. In addition to this direct financial support Cleantech Innovations NE has more than 40 active partner organizations.

### Florida Region - Igniting Innovation Cleantech Acceleration Network (I2CAN)

The I2CAN will seek to accelerate Florida's research-to-commercialization continuum, including identifying and prioritizing relevant cleantech research, validating market opportunities, providing gap funding and access to experienced early-stage executives, developing fundable business plans, establishing manufacturing relationships, and promoting promising technologies to established companies that have the expertise to commercialize and manufacture innovative research. It provides an opportunity to stem the substantial out-migration and underemployment of highly trained engineers, managers, and technicians because of the termination of the NASA Space Shuttle program, which is forecast to displace an estimated 23,000 jobs, including 9,000 at the Kennedy Space Center. It is a joint venture between the University of Central Florida, the Technological Research and Development Authority, and the Florida Energy Systems Consortium at the University of Florida, with additional support from Space Florida and the Florida High Tech Corridor Council.

### Seattle Region - Washington Clean Energy Partnership Project

Washington's Clean Energy Partnership Project will serve as a statewide clean energy economic development Proof of Concept Center. The Partnership will provide commercialization services to, and coordinate the activities of, a wide variety of other entities to ensure maximum leveraging of the state's relevant resources. In addition, the Partnership will take advantage of other major investments by the State of Washington and the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance—such as the development of a distributed test bed with locations across the state—to accelerate the commercialization of energy efficiency technologies. Their model—using Instrumentation, Integration, and Information to make Washington the global hub of Developing, Demonstrating, and Developing energy efficiency solutions (I3D3)—will have a catalyzing impact on both the local economy and the energy use of buildings around the world.