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Cleantech Open Names 17 Northwest Finalists

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Sustainable Business Oregon



The Cleantech Open's Northwest chapter announced the year's 17 semi-finalists.

The Pacific Northwest Cleantech Open announced Thursday its 2012 class of early-stage companies that will represent the region in the national startup competition.

The semifinalists — seven of them from Oregon and greater Portland — were selected from a pool of entrepreneurial companies from Oregon, Washington, Idaho and British Columbia.

The entrepreneurs will participate in a mentoring program to refine their businesses and attend an intensive training called the Cleantech Academy. In October, three of the entrepreneurs will be selected as winners, receiving prizes of up to \$20,000 each in cash and services and advancing to the national competition set for November.

One of last's year's regional winners, Portland-based Indow Windows, came in second at the national.

"The Cleantech Open and the 17 semifinalists are a strong representation of the Pacific Northwest's deep expertise and ambition in the clean technology and sustainability sector," said Byron McCann, Cleantech Open regional director for the Pacific Northwest, in a press release. "Our region and the entire nation need innovators and high-growth companies focused on sustainable solutions now more than ever."

The 2012 Pacific Northwest Cleantech Open semifinalists are:

- Ameristar Solar of Banks, which makes an efficient tracker system for solar panels designed for remote and off-grid solar installations.
- Earthfort of Corvallis, which has technology to deploy soil micro-organisms to recover contaminated agricultural soil.
- Emigh Design of West Linn, which as developed a novel design to improve efficiency of Stirling thermal engines.
- Distributed Energy Management of Bremerton, Wash., which has technology to project and compare the cost-effectiveness of various building energy efficiency improvement scenarios.

• GR Green of Burnaby, British Columbia, which has developed synthetic roofing and siding made from limestone waste and recycled milk bottles and grocery bags.

- Global Green Energy Corp. of Tumwater, Wash., with a high-efficiency converter to reduce loss experienced while drawing electricity from solar panels and other renewable energy sources.
- NADAC Systems of Portland, which has software and hardware for improved and efficient buildings systems management.
- Profile Composites of Bremerton, Wash., which has a method for forming carbon composite structures that use less heat and energy.
- Pterofin of Seattle, developers of a flow-energy technology, for use in wind or water, that mimics the natural pivot motion of a bird wing or a fish fin.
- Retrolux of Boise, Idaho, maker of software that collects data on existing lighting and proposed energy efficient lighting.
- Renergy365 of Hillsboro, which makes use of waste air flow from air conditioning and refrigeration systems to generate on-site electricity.
- Ryno Motors of Portland, maker of a one-wheel electric vehicle that travels at speeds of about 12 miles per hour.
- Solenshere of Klamath Falls, which is commercializing a patented technology for making cheaper, more efficient photovoltaic panels by making use of concentrated light.
- Sunreps of Redmond, Wash., which makes high-tech fabric that can supply solar-heated fresh air.
- TriboTeX of Pullman, Wash., maker of a proprietary bio-lubricant to increase the efficiency of machinery, including wind turbine gear boxes.
- Vyykn of Boise, Idaho, developer of a network-controlled water purification system.
- Wave Engine Solutions of Camas, Wash., which has a new engine design to achieve 30 percent to 50 percent improved thermal efficiency.