

Boulder Climate Ventures: Empowering Climate Tech Innovation

Overview

Boulder Climate Ventures (BCV), a program at the University of Colorado Boulder, Leeds School of Business, fosters climate tech entrepreneurship. Through a robust curriculum and a strong focus on community building, BCV allows students to take risks, explore breakthrough technologies, and understand the commercial viability of an idea in as real an environment as possible. The ultimate goal of Boulder Climate Ventures is that our students go on to launch or participate in a high growth, scalable climate tech company. Additionally, BCV will accelerate venture capital deployment to the Rocky Mountain West and create a regional hub for founders, researchers and investors focused on climate technologies. Led by the Center for Ethics and Social Responsibility (CESR) and the Deming Center for Entrepreneurship, BCV is funded by Breakthrough Energy, and modeled after the successful Stanford Climate Ventures program.

Program Structure

Part 1: *Business Opportunities in Climate Tech* (Fall 2025)

A 7-week seminar with lectures from experts on regional opportunities (e.g., mining, water, grid solutions, agriculture, wildfire resilience, housing). Includes class socials and discussions to foster community and identify scalable ventures.

Part 2: *Climate Tech Venture Discovery* (Spring 2026)

A semester-long, venture discovery class for student teams with a business idea. Features entrepreneurship lectures and mentorship, detailed curriculum on the fundamentals of launching a company, and a final pitch to judges.

Student Outcomes

A student going through the BCV program should gain the following: 1) an understanding of the gaps in climate innovation and open business opportunities 2) a platform to explore the development of launching new technologies and business models that could lead to the formation of new ventures 3) experience with customer discovery, product market fit, and techno economic modeling 4) an ability to collaborate with an interdisciplinary team 4) real world pitch and presentation practice and 5) access to a network of experts and investors who can help students launch successful businesses.

Target Audience

Graduate students from Leeds School of Business, Masters of the Environment, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, and College of Arts and Sciences with technical or business backgrounds. Exceptional senior undergraduates may inquire. External advisors, founders, and investors are invited to mentor.

Breakthrough Energy's Role

Founded by Bill Gates, Breakthrough Energy supports the clean energy transition through investments and programs. BCV benefits from their financial gift and network of speakers, mentors, and investors, joining programs at Stanford, MIT, TUM (Munich), and Singapore universities.

Get Involved

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Learn more: www.breakthroughenergy.org