

Clean Materials

EVENT SERIES

Clean energy, clean water, clean transportation, and clean materials are the lynchpins of a sustainable society.

Wait, Clean Materials? What is that?

The new "Clean Materials" paradigm offers a whole new approach to waste and recycling. Instead of managing materials only at end-of-life, we can rethink entire supply chains to dramatically reduce human health and environmental impacts, and generate more economic value, across the life cycle of materials and products. Clean materials companies reimagine product design, manufacturing processes, supply chains and reuse-repair-recycling systems to prevent waste, slash unwanted impacts, and create good jobs.

Clean Materials is the next frontier of climate solutions.

A study by Oregon's Department of Environmental Quality has found the materials and products we consume in a given year is a major, but largely ignored, component of our climate footprint. A state's total climate pollution, normally determined by in-state emissions, nearly doubles when the life cycle impacts of materials are counted. In fact, Bill Gates recently said of manufacturing "that's the sector that bothers me the most," when discussing his new book, "How to Avoid a Climate Disaster." Impacts of our use of materials on toxic loading, water quality and other urgent environmental challenges are equally serious.

The **CleanTech Alliance** and the **Center for Sustainable Infrastructure** are hosting a series of four events in 2021 to coalesce a new clean materials leadership for the Northwest economy. These conversations will bring together leading Northwest professionals to understand the opportunities, discover strategic partnerships, and begin to forge a shared vision for growing the Northwest's clean materials industry sector and accelerating a sustainably thriving future.

Can Clean Materials follow the same trajectory, twenty years later, as clean energy in the Northwest?

Let's find out!

Can the Northwest grow a vibrant clean materials industry sector that delivers solutions to the global materials crisis?

In short: Yes! The global market for these solutions will be huge, and the region already boasts a range of innovative clean materials companies. In the Northwest, the sustainability ethic is strong, and we are rich in talented public and private sector innovators.

Clean Materials can be the new Clean Energy.

In the 2000s, clean energy rose to the top of Northwest policymakers' agenda, because it offered tremendous economic and environmental benefits. In response to proactive policies, private investment poured into projects and companies. Now the Northwest boasts over 130,000 clean energy jobs delivering cost-effective solutions that reduce climate pollution.



www.SustainInfrastructure.org



www.CleanTechAlliance.org