

DOMINION ENERGY
INNOVATION
CENTER



2025

Impact Report



About Us

The Dominion Energy Innovation Center (DEIC) is a public-private partnership and hub for entrepreneurial growth and innovation, aimed at supporting a wide range of clean energy innovators to drive the energy transition and economic growth across the Commonwealth. Located in Ashland, VA, DEIC provides resources, mentorship, and a collaborative environment for entrepreneurs and startups. Founded in November 2009, the DEIC accelerates great ideas across a wide spectrum of industry sectors in addition to its focus on building the clean technology sector in Central Virginia. Founding partners of the Center include the signature sponsor, Dominion Energy, as well as Activation Capital, the Town of Ashland, and Hanover County.

The DEIC has been at the forefront of supporting clean energy initiatives through programs such as SPARK Virginia, DEIC Accelerate, Hyperscaled, Energy Innovation Road Trips, and the DEIC Greentech Network. With over 2,000 member-innovators and 60 accelerator alumni companies that have raised over \$719 million in capital, DEIC is nurturing a thriving community dedicated to driving clean energy solutions.



Letter from Chair

It is with great pride and enthusiasm that I share the 2025 Annual Report for the Dominion Energy Innovation Center (DEIC). This year marked continued momentum as DEIC strengthened its role as a leader in energy and technology entrepreneurship across Virginia.

As Board Chair, I am honored to support DEIC's mission to accelerate innovative energy solutions while driving economic development in Hanover County, the Town of Ashland, and across the Commonwealth. In 2025, the rapid growth of data centers and advanced technologies across Virginia placed unprecedented demands on energy systems—elevating the importance of grid resilience, infrastructure readiness, and workforce development. DEIC sits at the center of these challenges, supporting the entrepreneurs and solutions needed to power this growth responsibly and sustainably well into the future.

Throughout the year, DEIC expanded and strengthened its core energy-focused programs. Our accelerator platforms—Accelerate and Hyperscaled—supported companies advancing grid technologies, energy efficiency, digital infrastructure, and industrial innovation. These programs helped founders refine their business models, build utility and corporate partnerships, and move closer to real-world deployment at a critical moment for Virginia's energy future.

Energy Tech 2025 continued to serve as DEIC's flagship convening, bringing together close to 500 utility, startup, policymaking, and investor innovators to address practical energy challenges facing the Commonwealth. As part of the event, the SPARK pitch competition highlighted emerging energy and climate innovators, providing early-stage companies with visibility, feedback, and connections to advance their solutions.

The launch of DEIC's Energy Innovation Road Trips, funded through a Wells Fargo IN2 award, extended the Center's impact by connecting Virginia-based entrepreneurs with leading energy and research organizations in Tennessee, strengthening cross-state collaboration and opening new pathways for applied research, utility engagement, and commercialization.

In addition to its energy work, DEIC supported local entrepreneurship through targeted initiatives. The Ag-X program provided agricultural businesses with practical planning tools, while the Center Street Pitch Competition continued to spotlight community-based entrepreneurs and create pathways to mentorship and capital within the greater-Hanover region.

As Virginia navigates unprecedented growth in energy demand driven by data centers, electrification, industrial development and emerging technologies, DEIC's role in supporting applied innovation and early-stage companies has never been more important. The work highlighted in this report reflects both the impact achieved in 2025 and the foundation being built for a more resilient and competitive energy future.



Sincerely,

Brandon Turner

Board Chair

Dominion Energy Innovation Center

2025 At A Glance

January

Adam Sledd appeared as a panelist for a discussion on Green Energy and the Supply Chain at the Association for Supply Chain Management.

2024 Center Street Pitch Competition Winner, Meadowgate Alpaca purchases van with help from Center Street Pitch Competition Award.

February

Hosted Ag-X Building your Brand Workshop Series for 6 local producers and farmers.

Adam Sledd represented DEIC at Distributech in Dallas, serving as a judge for the Initiate startup competition.

March

The second annual Energy Tech Virginia conference was held at the Dewey Gottwald Center at the Science Museum of Virginia with close to 500 attendees.

Torev Motors and SCALED Technologies won the SPARK Virginia Innovation Challenge at Energy Tech 2025.

April

Braden Croy participated on panels for NC Ag Bio 2025 Conference and Virginia Solar Summit.

10 businesses pitched to a crowd of 100 at the Center St. Pitch Competition. \$35.5K awarded to finalists from DAA and DEIC.

May

Adam Sledd spoke about Emerging Energy Technology at the Virginia Energy Purchasing Governmental Association's Annual Meeting in Norfolk.

Five companies were featured at the Clean Energy Innovators Showcase at Tom Tom Festival. Featured companies: NearStar Fusion, Realta Systems, Rho Impact, Linebird, and Energy Equity Group.

September

Accelerate and Hyperscaled kicked off.

Adam Sledd attended RE+, connecting with energy innovators and catching up with portfolio companies. DEIC partnered with CSC Leasing to host a happy hour that welcomed 20 innovators.

DEIC hosted a webinar with the Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission's Jerry Silva to discuss the latest round of the Energy Ingenuity Fund.

November - December

DEIC and UT Spark Innovation Center hosted the Energy Innovation Road Trip in Knoxville. 17 people attended the road trip.

DEIC hosted the Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission, Commonwealth Center for Advanced Logistics, and Inland Valley Development Agency to showcase work supporting unmanned aircraft systems and to connect with portfolio company Linebird.

Adam moderated a panel on The Evolving Energy Landscape at the Convergence Conference in Williamsburg.

June - August

Dominion Energy Innovation Center announced 13 startups for Accelerate and Hyperscaled.

Braden and Adam attended the Virginia Accelerator Network summit hosted by VIPC in Charlottesville.

October

5 of the cohort companies attended the Dominion Energy CEA and Innovation Hub in Richmond.

Braden Croy spoke at the Virginia Clean Energy Summit as part of a session called Innovation Banks and Green Funding: Building Virginia's Clean Energy Economy.

2024 Center Street Pitch Competition winner Bravo Bakeshop opened brick and mortar in the Town of Ashland.

Coworking & Supporting Hanover's Business Community

The Dominion Energy Innovation Center's coworking space is more than a physical workspace—it serves as a central hub for entrepreneurship and economic activity in Hanover County and the Town of Ashland. Home to 24 companies in 2025, the space supports a diverse business community, with over 62% of member companies led by women and minority entrepreneurs. By providing flexible workspace, meeting space, and daily opportunities for connection, DEIC enables local businesses to grow and remain rooted in the region.

DEIC's impact extends across the broader Hanover community through programming, partnerships, and engagement. In 2025, DEIC hosted 10 Coffee & Connect events, welcoming more than 125 attendees to build connections across the local business community. In addition, DEIC has hosted tours and meetings for local and regional organizations, strengthening relationships and showcasing Hanover as a place for business growth. Through Ag-X and other agricultural initiatives, DEIC has supported dozens of agricultural entrepreneurs through hands-on education, mentorship, and business development resources. Together, these efforts position DEIC as both a physical space and a regional engine for business growth, workforce development, and community connection.



PARTNER FOCUS

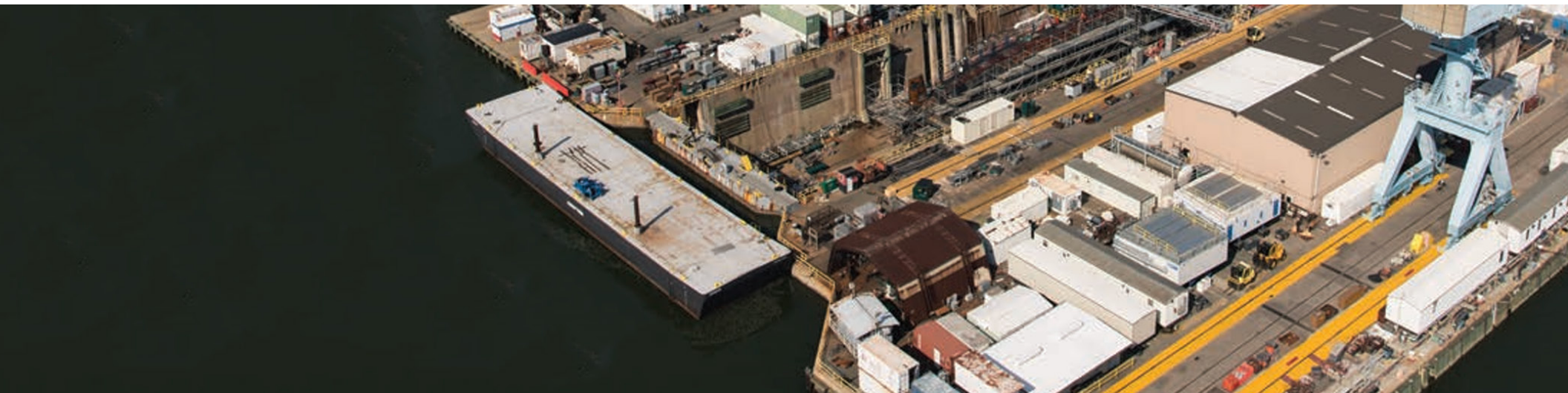
Secure Energy Future Center (SEFC)

The Secure Energy Future Center (SEFC), located at the Tech Center Research Park in Newport News, is emerging as a key hub for advanced energy innovation in Hampton Roads. Designed as a market-informed, industry-aligned platform, SEFC leverages the region's unique assets—including leading university research, defense and maritime infrastructure, and proximity to Jefferson Lab and NASA—to accelerate next-generation energy solutions. Anchored by Virginia Tech and the Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center, SEFC is positioned to translate innovation into scalable technologies that strengthen both regional competitiveness and national energy resilience.

The Dominion Energy Innovation Center (DEIC) collaborates closely with SEFC and the Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center to support the Center's development and early activation. Bringing experience across grid modernization,

hydrogen, energy storage, and decarbonization, DEIC contributes subject matter expertise and industry perspective to help inform program priorities, align initiatives with market needs, and identify high-impact opportunities. This partnership reflects a shared commitment to building a responsive, industry-connected energy innovation ecosystem.

Together, DEIC and SEFC work to translate strategy into action through coordinated programming, stakeholder engagement, and ecosystem convening. By connecting researchers, industry leaders, and public partners, the collaboration helps advance practical deployment pathways and accelerate the adoption of emerging energy solutions. This joint effort underscores a collective, market-driven approach to innovation that is delivering meaningful impact across Region 5 and beyond.



Stats and Program Milestones



\$279M Capital Raised by portfolio companies



13 companies complete Accelerator programs



259 Mentor Hours



64 Events



2102 Total Event Attendees



24 Coworking Member Companies



62% of coworking members are women or minority led businesses

2175 Social Media Followers



2598 Newsletter Subscribers



1 portfolio company acquired
(Aura Energy - Precursor 2024)

DEIC ACCELERATE

In 2025, the Dominion Energy Innovation Center (DEIC) supported seven startups through its signature Accelerate utility deployment accelerator program. Launched in 2020, Accelerate is DEIC's virtual program designed to help energy and sustainability startups engage with utility customers and advance toward real-world deployment.

Over an 11-week program, participating companies received targeted training and mentorship while working to develop pilot opportunities with DEIC partners, led by Dominion Energy. The cohort engaged with industry experts, navigated Virginia's energy ecosystem, and explored commercialization pathways across the Commonwealth. In 2025, Accelerate ran concurrently with DEIC's Hyperscaled program, enabling additional cross-program learning and collaboration.

The 2025 Accelerate cohort addressed a range of pressing energy challenges, including data center energy demand, grid reliability and modernization, vegetation management, hydropower, and other emerging technologies. Through hands-on engagement and utility-focused insight, the program continued to advance DEIC's mission of supporting entrepreneurs developing scalable solutions for the future of energy.

The 2025 cohort received a comprehensive, hands-on learning experience. We supported the cohort in building early connections among founders and program mentors. Participants then engaged in a series of sessions and executive meet-and-greets with Dominion Energy leaders, including Utibe Bassey and Emil Avram, alongside programming focused on key operational priorities such as supplier engagement and regulatory navigation. Founders also participated in the Dominion Energy Innovation Hub at Dominion's Richmond headquarters and joined a Darcy Partners session to deepen market and partnership insights. Additional programming supported company growth and readiness, including partner meet-and-greets with ODEC/REC, Virginia Energy's Clean Energy Innovation Bank and the U.S. Department of Energy Loan Programs Office (LPO). The cohort successfully expanded visibility and strengthened connections across Dominion's innovation ecosystem.

DEIC Accelerate Companies



ASSETCOOL
THERMAL METAPHOTONICS

AssetCool, based in Leeds, England, is revolutionizing grid modernization with a suite of advanced photonic coatings applied using its proprietary, automated robotic application.



DG Matrix, from Raleigh, North Carolina, is redefining the AI datacenter and electrification industries with revolutionary solid-state transformer solutions.



Emrgy, headquartered in Atlanta, is radically reimagining hydropower by decentralizing related power generation infrastructure.



HomeBoost, based in San Francisco, is a home energy platform founded to provide trusted partnership at every stage of the homeownership journey.



Mercury Computing, headquartered in Boulder, Colorado, works with utilities, grid and data center operators, and cloud providers to offer computing solutions for AI workloads.



Splight, a San Francisco-based startup, has developed and deployed a new software-based technology operational layer that utilizes real-time data streams from existing transmission assets to increase transmission capability up to 2x while adding enhanced reliability to the grid.



treeswift

Treeswift, from Philadelphia, empowers utilities with AI-augmented vegetation management that reduces risk, improves reliability, and helps maintain affordability.

DEIC HYPERSCALED

In 2025, the Dominion Energy Innovation Center (DEIC) supported six companies through Hyperscaled, its specialized accelerator program focused on energy- and infrastructure-related solutions for data centers. Now in its second year, Hyperscaled was created to advance technologies that improve the sustainability, efficiency, and resilience of data centers and the energy systems that support them.

As the first accelerator in the United States dedicated specifically to energy innovation in the data center sector, Hyperscaled reflects Virginia's unique role as the world's largest data center market. The program is designed to help startups address critical challenges related to power supply and management, infrastructure efficiency, resource optimization, and sustainable design.

The 2025 Hyperscaled cohort participated in an 11-week virtual program providing targeted education, mentorship, and exposure to pilot and partnership pathways with DEIC partners across Virginia, including Dominion Energy. Running concurrently with DEIC's Accelerate program, Hyperscaled enabled shared programming and meaningful cross-cohort collaboration, inviting Hyperscaled founders to join select Accelerate learning sessions to strengthen alignment between utility needs and data center-driven innovation.

Participants engaged in a curated set of ecosystem and subject-matter sessions with partners such as Darcy Partners, PowerHouse Data Centers, Endeavor AI, DNV, Cologix, and Accelevation. Founders also connected with ODEC/REC, Virginia Energy's Clean Energy Innovation Bank and the U.S. Department of Energy Loan Programs Office (LPO). Together, these experiences broadened founder networks, accelerated commercialization readiness, and reinforced DEIC's role in advancing scalable, energy-focused solutions for Virginia's rapidly growing data center sector.

DEIC Hyperscaled Companies



4EARTH

4Earth, based in Atlanta, is building advanced water reclamation technology for industrial and mission-critical applications.



AlumaPower

Aluma Power is a Sarnia, Ontario, Canada-based company. The company's Galvanic Generators™ run on energy-dense scrap Aluminum Fuel Discs™ to provide zero-emissions, long-duration, grid-independent power.



Claros, with offices in McLean, Virginia and Torrance, California, unlocks a next-generation power architecture for data centers through an integrated hardware-software platform that enables higher compute density, maximizes energy efficiency, and accelerates deployment timelines.



FLUIX, based in Silicon Valley, runs data centers on autopilot with AI software that optimizes HVAC, water, and facility systems and then anonymizes that data into a Physical AI Cloud, enabling utilities, engineers, and builders to predict, design, and scale faster.



Looq AI was established in San Diego in 2021 as a hardware-software survey technology platform company dedicated to advancing critical infrastructure digitization and analysis.



Palanquin Power, a Golden, Colorado-based early-stage hardware startup, is developing ultra-efficient server rack-level power supplies using novel architectures. Palanquin is a spin-out from the University of Texas at Austin.

Our Team



Adam Sledd
Executive Director



Braden Croy
Program Director



Ida Pierce
Program Manager



Bobbie Carey
Operations Manager



Kristin Berrier
Marketing Manager

Our 2025 Board

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Director, Economic Development
Hanover County, Virginia*

Josh Farrar

*Board Treasurer
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Daniel Thomas

*Economic Development
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Marco Rubin

*Senior Investment Director
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J. Dontrese Brown

*CEO + Co-Founder
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*Chief Strategy, Technology and
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Vida Williams

*Chief Data Officer
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Lynn McDaniel

*Program Director
Virginia Innovation Partnership
Corporation*

Nathan Frost

*Vice President - New Business and
Customer Solutions
Dominion Energy Inc.*

Energy Innovation Road Trip

In 2025, the Dominion Energy Innovation Center (DEIC) launched the Energy Innovation Road Trips as a new programmatic initiative supported by the Wells Fargo Innovation Incubator (IN2) Channel Partner Award. As part of a national network of leading energy and climate incubators, DEIC's immersion programs explore new models for connecting entrepreneurs, researchers, and industry leaders through immersive, place-based experiences that accelerate commercialization and real-world deployment.

The inaugural Road Trip brought a cohort of Virginia-based entrepreneurs, researchers, and ecosystem partners to Knoxville, Tennessee—home to one of the nation's most advanced energy innovation clusters. Participants engaged with leaders across the Tennessee Advanced Energy Business Council, Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), and the University of Tennessee Research Park. In-depth laboratory tours provided rare access to cutting-edge research environments, exposing participants to advancements in microgrid management, HVDC circuitry, and next-generation manufacturing processes shaping the factories of today and tomorrow.

A standout component of the trip was a behind-the-scenes tour of the TenHats data center, coordinated by DEIC portfolio company Fluix. During this visit, Fluix demonstrated its AI-driven platform, which autonomously orchestrates cooling, power, and facility systems to optimize performance in real time.

The TenHats experience highlighted how DEIC supports its portfolio companies beyond traditional programming—creating opportunities for founders to demonstrate their technologies in live environments and engage directly with potential partners and customers. More broadly, the Road Trips are designed to catalyze action. Early outcomes from the Knoxville and subsequent Richmond exchanges included pilot scoping discussions, new research collaborations, and strengthened relationships across national labs, universities, startups, and utilities—advancing a more connected, national energy innovation ecosystem.





ENERGY TECH 2025

Energy Tech 2025 was a milestone event for the Dominion Energy Innovation Center, highlighting DEIC's role as a connector across Virginia's energy innovation ecosystem. Co-hosted with Simple Thread on March 6 at the Science Museum of Virginia, the conference brought together nearly 500 thought leaders, innovators, utilities, investors, and policymakers from across the Commonwealth and beyond. The event created space for meaningful learning, discussion, and relationship-building around the technologies and partnerships shaping the future of energy.



The program featured a strong mix of keynotes, panels, solo talks, and Lightning Talks—one of the most popular elements of the day. Keynote speaker Andy Lubershane set the tone, and speakers throughout the agenda brought both technical depth and practical insight on topics ranging from grid modernization and data centers to advanced nuclear and emerging energy technologies. The Science Museum of Virginia provided a dynamic setting that supported both large-scale sessions and informal conversations, contributing to a highly engaged audience experience.



Energy Tech 2025 also celebrated innovation and leadership across the energy ecosystem. The SPARK Pitch Competition awarded \$10,000 in total prizes and showcased eight energy-focused startups from across Virginia, while the Energy Innovation Awards recognized individuals making meaningful impact on the Commonwealth's energy landscape. DEIC honored Alex Bazhinov as Startup Innovator of the Year, Jerry Silva as Institutional Innovator of the Year, and Joshua Guzman Bell as Enterprise Innovator of the Year.

The event was made possible through strong sponsor and exhibitor support, led by Principal Sponsor Dominion Energy. Additional partners—including Snowflake, Ampjack, Nalco Water, Data Society, BloombergNEF, and participating exhibitors—helped support the conference and enrich the experience for attendees by sharing expertise, products, and services.

Energy Tech 2025 Innovation Awards

Energy Innovation Awards went to three individuals who have impacted Virginia's energy landscape in big ways this year! We were pleased to recognize:



Startup Innovator of the Year

Alex Bazhinov was awarded Startup Innovator of the Year at Energy Tech 2025 for his work as the founder and former CEO of Lumin, a Charlottesville-based energy technology company developing smart panel and load management solutions that make distributed energy resources like solar and storage more efficient and accessible for homeowners and communities. His leadership in advancing residential energy innovation helped position Virginia as a hub for practical, scalable clean energy solutions, driving adoption of technologies that support electrification, resilience, and grid modernization.



Institutional Innovator of the Year

Jerry Silva was recognized with the Institutional Innovator Award at Energy Tech 2025 for his leadership advancing energy development across Virginia—particularly through his role directing the Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission's Regional Energy Development and Innovation efforts. In that capacity, he has been instrumental in launching and managing the \$12 million Energy Ingenuity Fund to support energy projects and economic growth in Southern and Southwest Virginia, helping communities attract investment, build infrastructure, and advance innovative energy solutions tailored to regional needs.



Enterprise Innovator of the Year

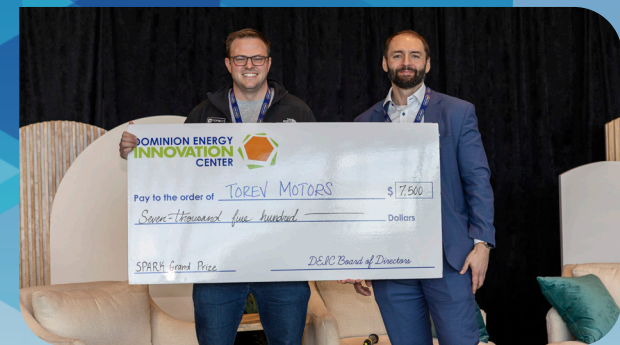
Joshua Guzman Bell P.E., MBA was recognized as Enterprise Innovator of the Year for his leadership advancing innovation within Dominion Energy's nuclear fleet. With 15 years of experience in nuclear power, he serves as Dominion Energy's Nuclear Technology and Innovation Consultant, where he identifies, pilots, and implements emerging technologies to enhance safety and operational effectiveness, including leading the company's recent robotic deployment efforts.

SPARK Virginia

In 2025, the Dominion Energy Innovation Center (DEIC) continued to grow SPARK VIRGINIA as a premier platform for showcasing and advancing the Commonwealth's most promising energy and climate technology companies. Anchored at Energy Tech 2025 and expanded through complementary programming at the Tom Tom Festival, SPARK connected early-stage innovators with investors, utilities, and industry leaders—creating meaningful pathways for visibility, validation, and commercialization.

At Energy Tech 2025, hosted at the Science Museum of Virginia, eight high-growth startups were selected to compete in the SPARK VIRGINIA Innovation Challenge. Finalists delivered live pitches to an audience of energy executives, investors, and ecosystem partners, highlighting innovations across grid infrastructure, electrification, and next-generation power systems. Torev Motors was awarded the \$7,500 grand prize for its rare-earth-free electric motor technology, while SCALED Technologies received the \$2,500 runner-up award for its cable-integrated medium-voltage power electronics. The competition underscored Virginia's growing leadership in energy innovation and its ability to support technologies critical to grid modernization and rising energy demand.

Building on this momentum, DEIC extended the SPARK platform into Charlottesville through the Clean Energy Innovators Showcase at the Tom Tom Festival. Five Virginia-based companies—NearStar Fusion, Realta Systems, Rho Impact, Linebird, and Energy Equity Group—were featured, demonstrating the breadth of innovation emerging across the Commonwealth. DEIC also contributed to Tom Tom's broader innovation programming, with Program Director Braden Croy joining portfolio companies for a featured panel on climate innovation. Together, these efforts reflect DEIC's commitment to creating a statewide stage for energy entrepreneurs—linking regional ecosystems, amplifying breakthrough technologies, and accelerating pathways from concept to deployment.



Greentech Network

Launched in 2020 to extend engagement beyond the DEIC Accelerate program, the Greentech Network continues to serve as a foundational platform for supporting energy and climate technology innovators across the world. Through curated programming, targeted convenings, and direct stakeholder engagement, DEIC connects startups with utilities, industry leaders, public agencies, and ecosystem partners—ensuring founders have access to the relationships, market insight, and deployment pathways needed to scale. In 2025, the Network expanded its reach through a series of strategic engagements, including hosting regional leadership groups such as the Hanover County and Town of Ashland Economic Development Authorities, PlanRVA, the CVWMA Board, and state and national partners interested in advancing grid resilience and energy innovation.

As part of its role as a trusted convener and thought partner, DEIC leveraged the Greentech Network to strengthen regional alignment and inform energy strategy. In collaboration with the GO Virginia Region 4 Council, DEIC developed a white paper that successfully supported the designation of energy as the region's fifth priority cluster—creating new opportunities for coordinated investment and economic development. The Network also served as a platform for

knowledge-sharing through a virtual Lunch & Learn series hosted in partnership with the Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission and the Virginia Department of Energy. These sessions provided entrepreneurs and stakeholders with practical insights into emerging funding opportunities, including the Virginia Grid Reliability Improvement Program (VGRIP), while fostering dialogue around commercialization and infrastructure challenges.

Beyond convening and education, the Greentech Network continues to create meaningful opportunities for ecosystem activation and collaboration. DEIC supported company growth through site visits, ribbon cuttings, and direct engagement with emerging energy businesses, while also facilitating strategic connections with national technology leaders. This included participation in a targeted engagement with TerraPower, contributing to Virginia Tech securing the first commercial TerraPower control room simulator at the Secure Energy Future Center. Through these combined efforts, the Greentech Network reinforces DEIC's role as a connector, advocate, and catalyst—advancing regional energy priorities while accelerating the deployment of innovative technologies across the Commonwealth.



Center Street

In 2025, the Dominion Energy Innovation Center partnered with the Downtown Ashland Association to host the Center Street Pitch Competition, bringing together entrepreneurs from across Ashland and the Greater Richmond region. The competition received 40 applications, with ten founders selected to pitch their businesses across three categories—Center of the Universe, Hanover & Beyond, and Agriculture & Forestry. A total of \$35,500 in prizes was awarded, supporting founders as they grow and scale their businesses. A panel of judges with expertise in entrepreneurship, finance, and community development evaluated each pitch based on clarity, feasibility, and potential local impact.

In the Center of the Universe category, which is reserved for businesses located in Ashland's Main Street District, Monique's Crepes earned first place, followed by Ash & Olive in second place and Free Jambalaya Studios in third. The Hanover & Beyond category, open to businesses across the Greater Richmond Region, awarded first place to Revival Spa, second place to T.Lo Noticias e Información, and third place to Haven House Florals.

The Agriculture & Forestry category showcased the strength of the region's farm and land-based businesses, with Davis Natives taking first place, Rhythm Ranch Homestead earning second, Breemar Flower Farm placing third, and Power Up Productions receiving fourth place recognition.

The 2025 Center Street Pitch Competition reflects DEIC's continued commitment to fostering entrepreneurship, supporting small business growth, and strengthening the local and regional economy through targeted, community-centered programming.



Center of the Universe

Monique's Crepes, winner of the 2025 Center of the Universe category at the Center Street Pitch Competition, pitched for funding to enhance her mobile crepe business, which brings a taste of France to Virginia through onsite catering at public and private events. She plans to use her award to upgrade her trailer's HVAC system, replace a commercial freezer, and complete essential repairs—expanding capacity and strengthening year-round operations.



Hanover and Beyond

Revival Spa, winner of the 2025 Hanover & Beyond category at the Center Street Pitch Competition, pitched for funding to build a halotherapy salt cave as part of its broader vision to expand wellness offerings and create a peaceful, non-judgmental third space for the community.



Agriculture & Forestry

Davis Natives, winner of the 2025 Agriculture & Forestry category at the Center Street Pitch Competition, pitched for funding to expand production of Virginia-native plants and launch the Virginia Native Seed Company. Award funds will support construction of a greenhouse to extend the growing season and investment in seed-cleaning equipment to increase output and expand native seed sales.

Ag-X and Ag Connect

In 2025, the Dominion Energy Innovation Center (DEIC) continued to expand its support for agricultural entrepreneurs as part of a broader commitment to cultivating a connected community of makers, doers, and business builders across the region. Through partnerships with Virginia Tech Extension in Hanover County, the Hanover County Economic Development Department, and local industry leaders, DEIC's agricultural programming blends practical business development with peer-driven learning—helping producers strengthen their operations while building meaningful connections across the local food and agriculture ecosystem.

The Ag-X workshop series remains a cornerstone of this effort, providing structured, hands-on programming designed to help agricultural entrepreneurs grow more resilient and market-ready businesses. In 2025, the Ag-X: Building Your Brand cohort worked with experienced operators and subject matter experts to refine brand identity, improve customer engagement, and better

navigate pricing, sourcing, and go-to-market strategy. Led by local entrepreneur Jett Odle of River's Edge Coffee, the program emphasized real-world application—equipping participants with tools and insights they could immediately implement within their businesses.

Complementing this structured programming, DEIC's Ag Connect gatherings continue to serve as an accessible entry point for relationship-building and knowledge exchange within the agricultural community. Featuring local producers such as Breemar Flower Farm, these sessions create space for candid dialogue around operational challenges, emerging opportunities, and collaborative growth. Together, these efforts reflect DEIC's approach to agricultural innovation—not only supporting individual businesses, but fostering a durable, locally rooted ecosystem where entrepreneurship, craftsmanship, and community intersect.

AG-X 2025: Building Your Brand WORKSHOP SERIES FOR AG-ENTREPRENEURS

4 WORKSHOP SERIES - FEBRUARY 13 - MARCH 6, 2025
DOMINION ENERGY INNOVATION CENTER, 201 DUNCAN ST., ASHLAND, VA

Cultivate Your Brand in 2025!

- Learn to create a powerful brand that stands out
- Craft a compelling message
- Leverage modern marketing tools to grow your presence

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Alumni Update



Independence Hydrogen (Accelerate 2023) offers customers in the Eastern US a local hydrogen sourcing option through the first decentralized H2 platform. The IH farm-to-table business model and turnkey solutions enable the adoption of clean hydrogen fuel for mobility now, not in some distant future. The company partners with fuel cell producers, hydrogen-powered

vehicle manufacturers, and others to provide bespoke solutions to customers' hydrogen and clean energy needs.

Recently, the company held a National Hydrogen Day event, welcoming Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin, the Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission team, representatives from Virginia's Gateway Region and Richard Bland College, the Commonwealth Center for Advanced Logistics Systems, and more. The day included a ribbon cutting for the company, panels on the industry, and demonstrations of hydrogen-powered equipment.



GridWrap (Accelerate 2023) is a company built on the need to restore aging grid infrastructure cost-effectively, safely, and reliably, without downtime.

Their groundbreaking advanced materials products work to support electrical grid infrastructure and increase power transmission capacity. The products have shown proven effectiveness under wildfire conditions and extreme weather events, and can form a protective barrier against wildlife. Service life of aging utility poles can be extended by up to 30 years. Recently, the company was selected to the Launch Alaska Tech Deployment Track accelerator program, was named to Cleantech Group's 2025 Cleantech 50 to Watch list, and was named Best Exhibitor at the CEATI Strategy & Innovation Conference.



SparkCharge (Accelerate 2023) is the world's largest off-grid EV Fleet Charging Network, delivering fast, reliable energy wherever your fleet operates. The company mission is to revolutionize the EV charging industry by making charging faster,

more accessible, and more sustainable. SparkCharge offers permanent charging infrastructure, off-grid power hubs for remote or temporary sites, and mobile battery chargers. Recently, the company was awarded a \$1M CriticalMass grant from the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center.





Thanks to our sponsors

