

Dedicated Support for Early-Stage Founders at the Nexus of Food, Energy, & Water in the Rocky Mountain and Great Plains Region

Problem: Commercializing food, energy, and water co-production systems, products, and services is critical to our region but a complex process. Support from subject matter experts to help startups create circular economy solutions is necessary but beyond the capacity of founders and accelerators serving them.

Example Areas of Focus



Agrivoltaic
Coproduction
Systems

Ag. Waste
to Energy
Production

Beneficial Reuse
of Produced
Water for Food

MVP: REACH will develop programming that surrounds food, energy and water startups with experts and students from our network of universities and national labs to:

- provide early design advice and modeling support;
- help founders navigate barriers hindering cross-sector supply chains;
- aid founders dealing with a lack of interlinked data and siloed thinking across sectors,
- facilitate collaboration, decision-making, and community buy-in, and
- create a well-trained workforce.

Implementation Plan:

Phase 1 - host workshops to identify & develop accelerator content; conduct customer discovery interviews; develop processes to engage experts and embed students in startups.

Phase 2 - Work with FEW startups to pilot programming (deliver content and embed students) and modify content based on feedback received.

Phase 3 - recruit, select, engage, deliver, and assess programming for a cohort of 10 or more startups across the 14-state region focusing on team and geographic diversity and inclusion of rural/disadvantaged communities.



This proposal is submitted by the Rockies/Plains Energy Accelerator for Commercializing Hardtech (REACH) – an ongoing accelerator led by Colorado State University and Innosphere Ventures including 20 universities & USDOE National Labs across 14states.