

Inspire

**Educate** 

Seed

Launch

SPARK VIRGINIA will help Virginia outpace decarbonization goals by accelerating the commercialization of advanced energy systems, including advanced nuclear and clean hydrogen. SPARK builds an innovation cluster creating solutions for the entire energy economy – making it safer and easier to build, generate, transmit, and consume energy that will help decarbonize heavy industry, long-haul transportation, and other hard to abate sectors.

DEIC proposes a series of statewide energy entrepreneurship programs that are designed to inspire, educate, seed, and launch a cohort of advanced energy hard-tech<sup>-</sup> startups.

## **Regional Innovation Challenges**

A series of innovation challenges that will be hosted at select high research output institutions in the State's 9 GO Virginia economic development regions.

## Energy Entrepreneurship Certificate Program

Topics will also include early stage venture creation, utilizing existing DOE & government siting/modeling tools, capital stack structuring with tax benefits, and more.

## Statewide Business Plan Competition

Entrepreneurs who successfully complete the EEC or other DEIC program will compete in the state business plan competition finals vying for significant non-dilutive grants.

## Virginia Accelerator Network Program Entry

Winners from the State Business Competition Finals will be given priority access to Virginia's renowned network of economic development startup accelerators.



