# Apple Impact Accelerator
## A program for Black-, Hispanic/Latinx-, and Indigenous-owned businesses

Gilliam County, Oregon

**We believe that all businesses have a responsibility to work toward advancing a carbon neutral future.**

To ensure that our work to protect the planet also helps advance equity, Apple developed the Impact Accelerator for Black-, Hispanic/Latinx-, and Indigenous-owned businesses. The Apple Impact Accelerator aims to expand access to opportunity through our investments in environmental sectors — such as renewable energy, carbon removal, recycling innovation, and smarter chemistry — which also help fight systemic barriers that impact communities disproportionately affected by environmental issues.

## The Impact Accelerator

The Apple Impact Accelerator is a capacity-building program designed for Black-, Hispanic/Latinx-, and Indigenous-owned businesses that share our focus on innovation and our commitment to the environment. With customized training and access to Apple experts, our Impact Accelerator helps companies achieve their next stage of development.

The program is open to environmental solution and service providers that are headquartered in the United States and are at least 51 percent owned, operated, and controlled by an African American, Hispanic/Latinx American, or Indigenous American individual, as validated by their Supplier Diversity certification.

Join us as we redefine business as usual.

# Our Program

"Inequality can't be ignored. We're committed to helping create the positive outcomes communities of color deserve."

**Lisa Jackson**
Vice President, Environment, Policy and Social Initiatives

To reduce Apple's impact on the planet, we've set an ambitious goal:

By 2030, Apple is committed to becoming 100 percent carbon neutral — going beyond our corporate emissions to our entire product supply chain and the lifetime use of our devices. Our Impact Accelerator is a key part of this strategy.

The program includes:

## Targeted training

Customized training and coaching provides the knowledge and tools that organizations need to succeed as Apple suppliers.

## Access

Direct access to Apple experts helps providers identify strategic partnership opportunities that align their business priorities with Apple's environmental goals.

## Executive skills

Executive training and one-to-one mentorship will support leaders as they position their companies for growth.

## Alumni network

The Impact Accelerator is just the beginning. After completing the program, companies are invited to join our Supplier Success community. Apple Impact Accelerator alumni will receive ongoing professional growth opportunities, including access to Apple experts, invitations to private networking events, and connections with previous program participants.

# Join Us

The Impact Accelerator is a 12-week capacity-building program for entrepreneurs that are developing next-generation innovations in clean energy and green technologies. This unique program is designed to expand opportunities within Apple's supply chain and beyond.

This year's Impact Accelerator will take place from August 21 to November 17, 2023.

## Eligibility

The Impact Accelerator is designed for companies that are:

· Headquartered in the United States

· In the environmental sector

· At least 51 percent owned, operated, and controlled by an African American, Hispanic/Latinx American, or Indigenous American individual

· Late-stage startups or mature firms

Priority will be given to companies with innovative environmental solutions, applications, or processes that:

· Are in late-stage development or have reached commercial-scale deployment

· Can contribute to one or more of Apple's three environmental priority areas, as described on the following pages

To be considered for participation, applicants must agree to the Apple Impact Accelerator Application and Attendance Policy.

## Cost

The program is free for participants.

## Evaluation criteria

All applications will be reviewed by the Apple selection committee. Finalists will be evaluated based on the following:

· The submitted application

· Alignment of the company's solution or service with Apple's environmental priorities

· A presentation to the Impact Accelerator team

## Application deadline

Companies must submit their applications through Apple's online Prospective Supplier Portal by May 1, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. PT.

## Questions?

Check out the FAQ on , or email ImpactAccelerator@apple.com.

# Solution Categories

Our environmental priorities — addressing climate change, conserving resources, and advancing smarter chemistry — outline what we want to achieve, as well as the types of solutions and service providers we're seeking to help us meet these goals. For more details on Apple's environmental initiatives, check out our Environmental Progress Report on our website.

## Climate change

Today, Apple is carbon neutral for our corporate emissions. And by 2030, we're committed to becoming carbon neutral across our entire supply chain and products. We'll get there by reducing our emissions by 75 percent compared with 2015, and by investing in high-quality carbon removal solutions for the remaining emissions.

### Energy efficiency

The cleanest energy is the energy we don't use. To increase energy efficiency at our offices, data centers, and retail stores, we start by designing buildings to optimize energy use. Then we maintain building efficiencies throughout the life of a facility.

Our suppliers provide another important opportunity to make an impact on energy efficiency. We prioritize suppliers that optimize their energy use while shifting to renewable energy sources, as we do with our own facilities.

In the area of energy efficiency, Apple seeks companies that offer:

- Design, delivery, and optimization of high-efficiency building systems and energy demand management
- Expertise in energy modeling and analysis
- Carbon reduction program design
- Innovative energy efficiency educational programs



All Apple data centers are powered by 100 percent clean energy.

## Renewable energy

The burning of coal, natural gas, and oil for electricity and heat is the single largest source of global greenhouse gas emissions. By switching to renewable sources of electricity and investing in energy storage, we have a significant opportunity to reduce our impact on climate change and contribute to cleaner air for the communities we operate in.

Our retail stores, data centers, and offices around the world currently source 100 percent renewable energy. Now, we're working on transitioning our entire supply chain to 100 percent renewable energy, too.

Companies that are strong candidates for the Impact Accelerator program are developing solutions such as:

• Long-term renewable energy power purchase agreements

• Strategic investments in technologies like solar and wind

• Innovative applications for microgrids, energy storage, community solar, and utility-scale operations and maintenance

## Direct emissions abatement

In instances where we can't reduce the demand for a specific process or material, we tackle emissions reduction through technological improvements. This could mean point-of-use abatement, altering a process to significantly reduce its associated emissions, or switching fuels to a low-carbon source.

Companies that are strong candidates have deployed or are developing one or more of the following technologies:

• Emissions elimination and reduction for manufacturing processes

• Low-carbon transport innovations

• Building systems electrification

• Supply chain emissions tracking tools

## Carbon removal

Nature provides some of the best tools to remove carbon from the atmosphere, including forests, wetlands, and grasslands. When we look at the portfolio of solutions that will be required to become carbon neutral — not only for Apple but for the entire planet — we know that high-quality nature-based solutions will play a critical role.

We welcome candidates that are advancing the creation of carbon removal projects using methods such as:

• Nature-based solutions, including sustainably managed forests, wetlands, and grasslands

• The expansion of green urban landscapes

• New carbon removal technologies

Daisy, Apple's recycling robot, can disassemble up to 1.2 million phones each year.

## Resources

We aim to make products and packaging using only recycled or renewable materials. We're also committed to stewarding water resources and sending zero waste to landfills.

### Recycling technologies and automation

We don't believe that the limitations of current recycling technologies should hold us back from conserving resources. When an Apple device can no longer function as originally intended, its parts and accessories may still have more to give. For the parts that can't be reused or repaired, we're designing new technologies to unlock the useful materials inside them.

Candidates for our Impact Accelerator program include businesses that are leading in developing and deploying innovative recycling solutions, such as:
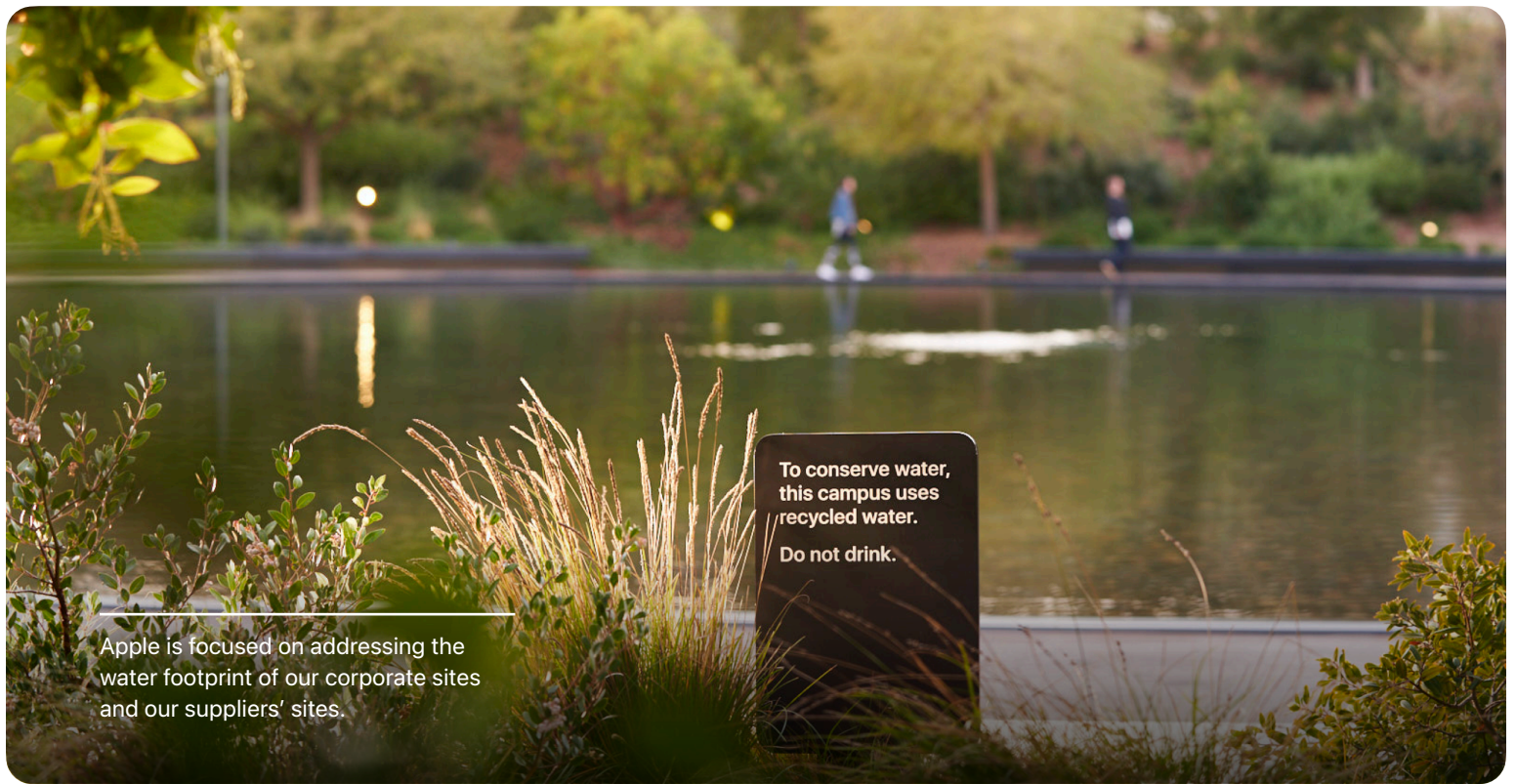
- Automation components and systems integration for recycling
- Recycling applications of computer vision, data science, software development, machine learning, and robotics
- Scrap material size reduction techniques, commodity separation systems, material conveyance solutions, and maintenance and repair

### Recycling operations and services

In addition to partnering with companies that are developing technologies for the future of recycling, we'll work with companies that are using those innovative technologies to provide leading recycling operations and services.

We're looking for companies that offer:

- Successful electronic waste recycling or ITAD operations
- A strong focus on high recovery rates
- Excellence in operational efficiency, such as through the use of Lean methodologies
- Adherence to the highest standards of environmental compliance and employee health and safety

To conserve water,
this campus uses
recycled water.

Do not drink.

Apple is focused on addressing the water footprint of our corporate sites and our suppliers' sites.

## Water stewardship

We give a lot of thought to how we use water at Apple. Our operations use water in many different ways, from our relatively low-impact retail stores to our more water-intensive data centers and suppliers' manufacturing facilities. And, as climate change increasingly impacts the availability of, quality of, and access to global water resources, we are continually enhancing our water stewardship to keep watersheds healthy for all who rely on them.

To support our ongoing efforts to reduce water use at our facilities and our suppliers' facilities, we're interested in companies that have the following:

- Water treatment, efficiency, and reuse solutions for process water, cooling, irrigation, and domestic use applications
- Experience in developing nature-based replenishment projects to help restore ecosystems

## Zero waste

The work we're doing at Apple to rethink how we use materials isn't limited to our products. We take a comprehensive view of what we consume as a company, from coffee cups and hard drives to shipping pallets. When we think of the use of these items circularly — finding ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle — we better serve our ultimate goal of keeping waste out of landfills.

We've established the Supply Chain Zero Waste and the Corporate Zero Waste programs to help us reach our goals. To support these programs, we're building partnerships with firms that offer:

- Zero-waste design and alternative packaging solutions
- Take-back solutions
- Certification to reduce material consumption and introduce more recycled and recyclable materials into our products

# Smarter chemistry

Safer materials make for safer products — and a better world. This belief has driven our efforts to remove harmful chemicals from our products, as well as from the processes of designing, making, using, and recycling them.

## Product chemistry

Each Apple product is the result of an intentional design process that prioritizes the safety of our materials and manufacturing processes. In fact, safer products are also more sustainable products — their materials can be more readily recycled without locking harmful chemicals into circular recycling loops. We're continually innovating to create products that meet our high standards of safety, and we place special attention on materials that come into contact with skin.

We're looking for partners that provide solutions and services for safer products, such as:
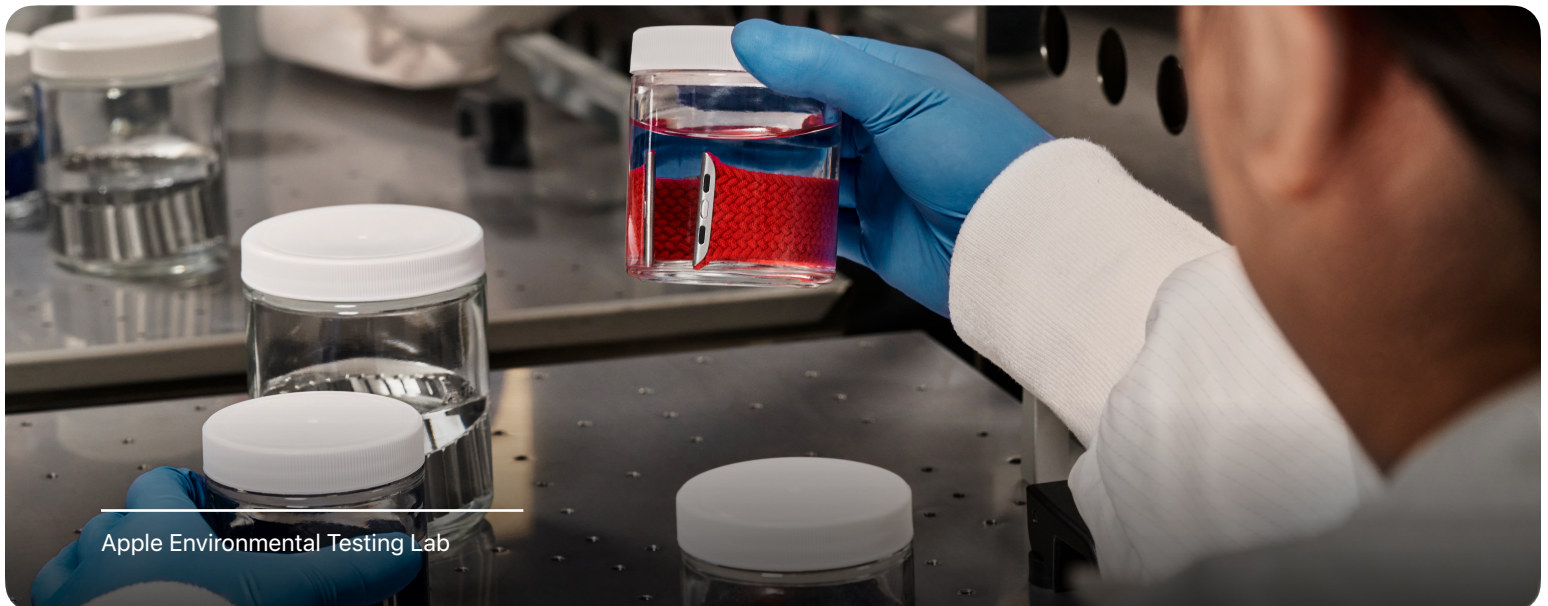
- Chemical alternatives and innovative material technologies
- Identification and reduction of the life cycle environmental health and justice impacts of product and material design

## Health and safety

Protecting the health and safety of people working in our supply chain requires closely examining the chemicals used in our manufacturing processes, implementing rigorous safety measures in our facilities, and selecting safer materials from the start.

In support of these efforts, we're aiming to collaborate with research partners and laboratory services that provide solutions in:

- Materials testing
- Analysis of potential environmental health and justice impacts of materials used in our manufacturing
- Design of safer process chemical formulations for manufacturing applications
- Comprehensive chemical hazard reviews and risk assessments
- Chemical reference systems and chemical environment, health, and safety (EHS) training applications
- Integrated chemical EHS management systems



Apple Environmental Testing Lab

Apple Park

# Additional Opportunities

Innovation is at the center of everything we do at Apple. For the Impact Accelerator program, we're excited to collaborate with universities, nongovernmental organizations, and incubators around the U.S. to create a robust network and ecosystem of growth opportunities for environmental innovators.

If organizations — including minority-serving institutions (MSIs) — that lead in any of the environmental areas outlined in these pages are interested in a strategic partnership with the Apple Impact Accelerator, they can send their proposal to reji@apple.com.

# Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the Impact Accelerator?

The Impact Accelerator is a virtual 12-week capacity-building program for entrepreneurs that are developing next-generation innovations in clean energy and green technologies. This unique program is designed to expand opportunities within Apple's supply chain and beyond.

The Impact Accelerator is part of Apple's Racial Equity and Justice Initiative, which focuses on efforts that address education, economic empowerment, and criminal justice reform in the United States. The Apple Impact Accelerator supports Black-, Hispanic/Latinx-, and Indigenous-owned businesses that drive innovation and positive outcomes in our supply chain — so that together, we can work to support communities disproportionately impacted by environmental issues.

### What types of businesses are eligible?

The Impact Accelerator is open to United States–headquartered environmental solution and service providers that are at least 51 percent owned, operated, and controlled by an African American, Hispanic/Latinx American, or Indigenous American individual, as validated by their Supplier Diversity certification.

### Will the Impact Accelerator provide funding for projects?

Apple will assess investment opportunities on a case-by-case basis.

### Is there a cost to participate?

The Impact Accelerator program is offered at no cost to participants.

### How long does the engagement last?

The Impact Accelerator is a 12-week commitment. All businesses that complete the Impact Accelerator will be invited to join other program alumni in our Supplier Success community.

### Where can I learn more about Apple's environmental initiatives?

For more information about Apple's commitment to protect the planet, visit apple.com/2030. You can also view Apple's annual Environmental Progress Report for details on our latest efforts to reduce our remaining carbon footprint, fight climate change, and support equity.

### How can companies apply?

Companies that meet the program criteria are invited to submit an application through Apple's online Prospective Supplier Portal by May 1, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. PT.