



The Next Generation of Transformative Energy Technologies

The Shell GameChanger™ Accelerator Powered by NREL (GCxN) is a multimillion-dollar, multiyear program developed in collaboration between Shell and the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL).

GCxN discovers and advances promising energy technologies, connecting startups with the resources, expertise, and facilities at NREL and Shell to reduce technology development risk and accelerate tech to market.



Selected participants receive **up to \$250,000 in nondilutive funding** in the form of hands-on technical assistance from one of the United States' premier research laboratories.

Impact at a Glance

Since 2019, GCxN has supported 29 startups with measurable results across the portfolio.



Raised more than
\$940 million in funding

Achieved a **\$164:\$1 leverage ratio** for Shell's GCxN project investments



Increased **average technology readiness level from 4 to 6+**

Benefits of Participation

NREL's independent technology de-risking and Shell's global energy expertise build credibility with partners and investors.

Technical assistance may include:

- Prototype testing and performance validation
- Design, development, and characterization
- Modeling and simulation
- Techno-economic and life cycle analysis
- Hardware, software, and systems integration.



Applications

GCxN identifies emerging technologies in focus areas spanning the full energy generation, transmission, and distribution continuum that change with each cohort.

Past cohort themes include:

- Biological Energy and Chemical Products
- Electrochemical Pathways to Fuels
- Energy Storage
- Future Feedstocks
- Grid Integration.

Startups must be referred by Channel Partners—a nationwide network of incubators, accelerators, and universities. Applicants are evaluated by NREL researchers and Shell experts on both their technical merit and their business proposition.

Ideal candidates are early-stage startups (technology readiness levels 2–5) with:

- A novel technology concept
- A provable prototype or process
- Demonstrable potential value and market relevance.

To contact program leadership,
email GCxN@nrel.gov.

Feedback From Participants

"If we were to do all these things in isolation, it would require working with three to four different groups and then piecing that together. NREL also adds a source of validation for our investors and our strategic partners."

**Chief Technology Officer,
DTE Materials (Cohort 6)**

"Having the credibility from a partnership with an entity like NREL is invaluable. We've proven the viability and value of our product. We are now focused on accelerating adoption."

**Vice President of Business Development,
SPAN (Cohort 2)**

"With the support of Shell's GameChanger award, we will be able to supercharge our...scaling efforts, including identifying potential bottlenecks and the best ways to resolve them."

**Co-founder and Vice President of Research,
eXoZymes (Cohort 6)**

