Start Up
Energy Transition
Global Innovation Platform

The SET100 List 2026

100 International Energy & Climate Tech Innovators to Watch in 2026

#SET100 #SET26
startup-energy-transition.com

A project by
dena

Greetings from the Initiative Board

'We are proud to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the SET platform. Since 2016, SET has evaluated 4,500 applications from over 100 countries, establishing itself as a leading global benchmark for energy and climate technology innovation. The SET100 List 2026 reflects this decade of progress by showcasing a cohort that maintains our highest standards of excellence. These start-ups provide the sophisticated, scalable business models required to address the world's most urgent energy issues and transform climate commitments into tangible outcomes.'

Corinna Enders
CEO
dena - German Energy Agency

'It is rewarding to see how the SET ecosystem has matured over the last ten years. This year's list is particularly notable given the advanced technical readiness of the participants; many start-ups are now at TRL 7–9, indicating solutions that are ready for immediate deployment in the market. As a platform at the intersection of the public and private sectors, SET serves to amplify the impact of these market-ready innovators. Their success is vital for achieving a resilient, global net-zero economy.'

Philipp Richard
General Director Digital Technologies & Start-up Ecosystem
dena - German Energy Agency

Start Up Energy Transition [SET]

Since its inception in 2016, the SET platform has dedicated ten years to fostering exchange between corporate players, the public sector, and energy innovators. Initiated by the German Energy Agency (dena) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWE), the platform addresses the need to rapidly scale clean energy technologies.

Occupying a unique position at the intersection of private enterprise and public policy, SET works to increase political will and cross sectoral uptake of innovation in the energy transition. Now in its tenth year, the platform continues to operate through three primary pillars: the SET Award, the SET Tech Festival, and the SET Newsroom.

The SET100 List

What is the SET100 List?

The SET100 list is a compilation of the top 100 SET Award start-up applications of each year. The initiative was first launched in 2017 with the aim of offering young companies a platform to showcase their forward-thinking solutions.
The Start Up Energy Transition Award is an international competition for start-ups and young companies worldwide working on impactful ideas accelerating the global energy transition and mitigating climate change. Over the past ten years, the award has received more than 4,500 applications from over 100 countries.

SET Award 2026

Entering the tenth year, SET is thrilled to present the top 100 international start-ups from the SET Award 2026 competition. 475 start-ups from 79 countries applied across five categories to showcase their game-changing solutions.

The SET Award Categories

Clean Energy & Storage

Mobility & Transportation

Industry

Buildings & Construction

Quality Energy Access & SDG-7

SET100 Voices

'I would definitely recommend that other start-ups apply for the SET Award. It's a fantastic way to share your technology and vision on a global stage. The opportunity to collaborate and connect with like-minded venture capitalists, other start-up companies and investors is also amazing. [...] Opportunities like this, where like minded companies and individuals come together is key.'

Annie Wechter

Nyobolt - SET Award Winner 2025

'I met many other innovative companies and we are all dealing with different kinds of questions and solutions. It is a very good synergy to be here at the SET Tech Festival and see other people working on the same goal but just at a different pace.'

Hsin-Hsin Fan

ROSI - SET Award 2025 Finalist

'I totally recommend other start-ups to apply, especially start-ups in Africa. I think a lot of African founders are really tackling very difficult challenges and very difficult terrain. We really have very little support as founders. So I would encourage them to apply to a platform that will give them visibility recognition.'

Chinwe Udo-Davis

Instollar - SET Award 2025 Finalist

Methodology

SET designed its evaluation process to provide a fair and holistic assessment of energy and climate tech start-ups. It was guided by international, cross-sector experts from the energy and start-up communities. The evaluation was conducted in four distinct phases:

1. Criteria Check

The SET team reviewed all 470+ applications to ensure they met the minimum eligibility criteria. To qualify for the SET Award, start-ups had to meet the following requirements:

- The company must not have been founded more than 10 years ago
- There must have been a functioning prototype
- The company must be registered or be in the process of becoming registered
- The applicant must be able to present a proof of concept, a client, and/or an industrial/corporate/institutional partner

2. ScaleX Model

Eligible start-ups were then evaluated using the SET-specific ScaleX model, developed by our French partners at ScaleX. This model assessed each start-up based on their application data and SET Award categories. Key evaluation metrics included: growth, impact, adoption, scalability, market penetration, and of course – innovation.

3. High-level Jury Evaluation

The top third of start-ups, as ranked by the ScaleX model, were evaluated by a high-level jury consisting of prominent experts from the energy and climate tech ecosystems. Each application was scored on a 10-point scale based on: their relevance, business model, innovation level, market awareness and potential, capacity to execute their strategies (finances, network, leadership, etc.) and diversity.

4. Quantitative & Qualitative Score Weighting

Finally, the scores from the ScaleX model and the high-level jury were compared, analysed, weighted, and combined. This thorough process resulted in the final SET100 list.

5. Transparency disclaimer

The order in which the finalist start-ups and SET100 start-ups are listed in the categories is deliberately random and does not reflect the SET scoring.

The SET Award 2026 Jury

The jury is made up of an international panel of experts representing the investment, corporate, and policy sectors. Their collective expertise spans critical thematic areas including renewable infrastructure, industrial decarbonisation, sustainable mobility, and the built environment.

This multidisciplinary background allows for a precise evaluation process that directly corresponds to the SET Award categories. By combining technical assessment with an analysis of market feasibility and financial viability, the panel is equipped to identify start-ups that demonstrate both the innovation and the scalability necessary to effectively support the global energy transition.

Corinna Enders
CEO
German Energy Agency

Michael Hackethal
Head of Division
Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy

Pia Dorfinger
Director Start-up Ecosystem
German Energy Agency

Bruce Douglas
CEO
Global Renewables Alliance

Freerk Bisschop
Venture Partner
Inven Capital

Ann Mettler
Board Member
European Innovation Council (EIC)

Felix Krause
Managing Partner
Vireo Ventures

Julia Padberg
Partner
SET Ventures

Marie-Line Vaiani
Secretary General
French Committee of the World Energy Council

Andreas Kuhlmann
Initiator
Start Up Energy Transition

Glory Oguegbu
Founder & CEO
Renewable Energy Technology Training Institute

Ulderico Ulissi
Principal - Head of Global Climate Ventures
CATL

The SET Award 2026 Jury

David Arinze
Senior Portfolio Officer
Energy Transition
Challenge Fund

Patricia Tatto
President
MERM Women in
Renewable Energy Mexico

Niclas Carlsson
Director of International
Market Development
Swedish Energy Agency

Dr. Isabelle Canu
Partner
GET Fund

Pavina Adunratanasee
Managing Partner
ArkTerra Partners

Luis Sperr
Managing Partner
kopa ventures

Dr. Anne-Kathrin Hinze
Investment Manager
DeepTech & Climate Fonds

Gary Soleiman
Manager Global Partnerships
Startup Nation Central

Samuel Gerlach
Senior Innovation & Venture
Development Manager
E.ON

Jane We
Executive Director
Venture Cup

David Wortmann
Founder & Managing Director
DWR Eco

Veronika Brandmeier
Director
UnternehmerTUM Energy

Janayna Bhering Cardoso
Executive Coordinator
PNME & Business Development
Fundep

Norela Constantinescu
Acting Director
IRENA Innovation and
Technology Center Germany

Surya Fackelmann
Investment Officer
European Investment Bank (EIB)

Lars Eiermann
Chief Sustainability Officer
TUM Venture Labs

The SET Award 2026 Jury

Raamu Moneyam
Partner
VNT Management

Molly Webb
Founder
Energy Unlocked

Franz Zöchenbauer
Director of Corporate Innovation & New Business
VERBUND AG

Aneri Pradhan
Founding Partner
Klimatic Group

Johannes Weber
Principal
HTGF

Anita Otubu
Senior Director
Sustainable Energy for All (SEforAll)

Justice Ohene-Akoto
Executive Director
Africa Sustainable Energy Centre (ASEC)

Virginia Klausmeier
President & CEO
Sylvatex, Inc.

Asimina Syriou
Energy Lead
ACCESS BASS programme
European Space Agency (ESA)

André Eckermann
Head of the Competence Center for Energy and Transport
GIZ

Nidhi Pant
Co-Founder
Science For Society

Cindi Bough
Managing Director
Climate Investment

Tess Dury
Director of Impact and ESG
Extantia Capital

Anne-Lise Laurain
Europe Lead
Technology & Innovation
Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI)

Robina von Stein
Investor
Contrarian Ventures

SET100 2026 Start-up Map

SET100 2026 Finalist Overview

Clean Energy & Storage

Alterno FLOWER tilt

Buildings & Construction

BIRDSVIEW mykor WAS Co. WORLDWIDE ACCOUNTABILITY SOLUTIONS

Industry

Cyclic Materials encentive InPlanet Carbon Removal as Nature Intended

Mobility & Transporation

CLIP Finmile Gridio

Quality Energy Access & SDG-7

ACECORE BioMassters The Clean Cooking Solution SUN 4 Every ONE IMAGINE POWERTREE

Regions

This year's SET Award finalists represent 14 different countries across Europe, Asia, North America and Africa.

Clean Energy & Storage	Singapore Vietman	Sweden	France
Buildings & Construction	Norway	United Kingdom	Mexico
Industry	Canada	Germany	Germany
Mobility & Transportation	United States	United Kingdom	Estonia
Quality Energy Access & SDG-7	Nigeria	Rwanda	India

SET100 2026 Finalist Overview

Funding, Revenue & Technological Readiness Level

€11.7M
Average Funding

60% generate revenue >€250K

73% are deployment-ready (TRL 7-9)

€176.5M
Total Funding

SET Award finalists are commercially mature: 73% are Late Stage (TRL 7-9), 80% have products beyond MVP, and 60% generate revenue exceeding €250K. All finalists are past pre-revenue stage and all have paying customers or active pilots.

Industry finalists raised €93.6M (53%), more than half of all finalist funding.

Employment

Total employment among finalists reached 521 (+61.3% YoY), with women representing 35% (183 employees). Growth is strongest in Clean Energy and Industry, while Buildings & Construction leads on gender diversity.

521
Total Employees

35%
Female Employees

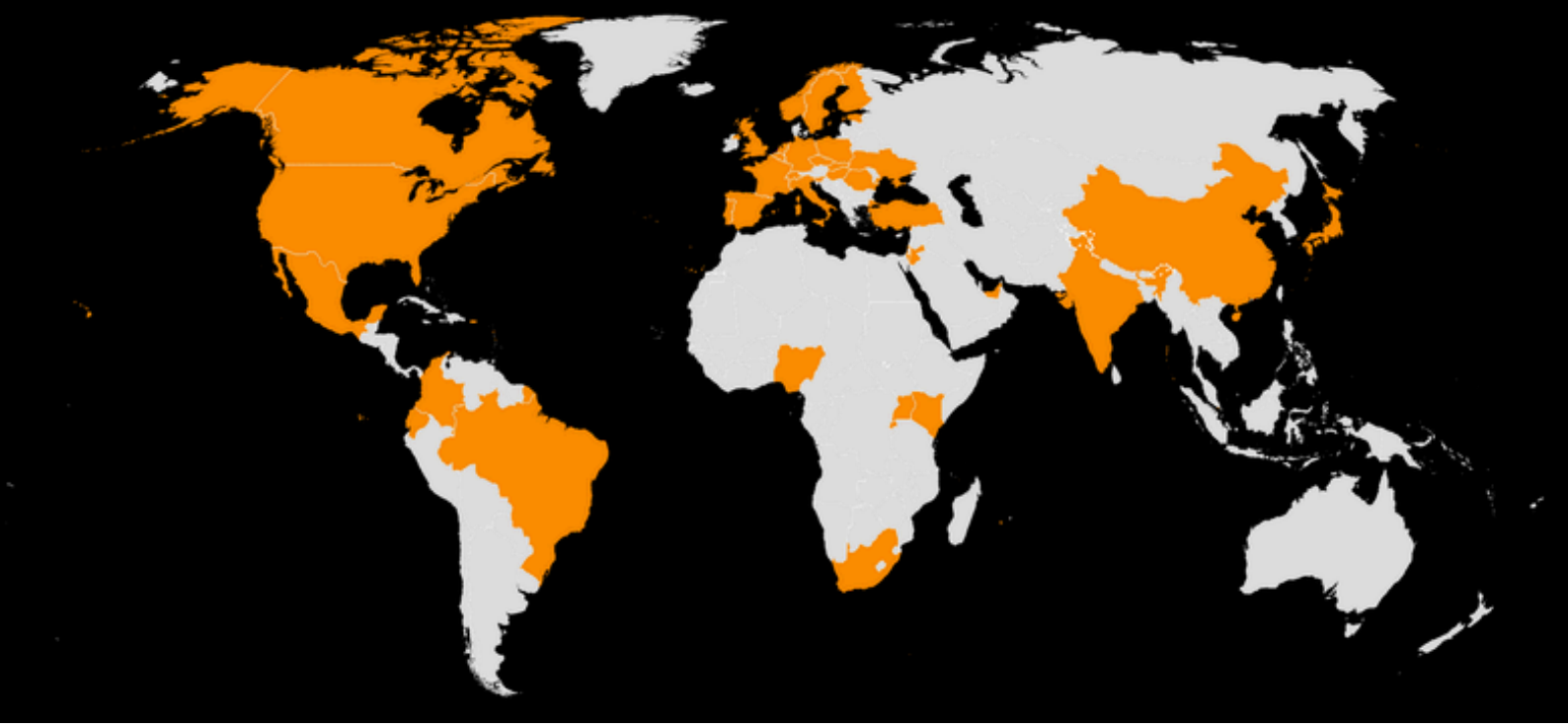
Business Models

Across five categories, the finalists address core challenges of the energy transition: emission-intensive buildings, grid flexibility, hard-to-abate industry, transport emissions, and access to clean energy. The solutions range from AI-driven efficiency and flexibility (Buildings, grids, mobility) to material circularity and carbon removal (Industry), and decentralised, affordable energy systems for underserved regions (SDG-7).

Clean Energy & Storage	Sand-based thermal storage · Battery storage trading · AI demand response
Buildings & Construction	AI concrete diagnostics · Mycelium insulation · Waste-to-materials
Industry	Rare earth recycling · AI energy management · Carbon removal (ERW)
Mobility & Transportation	E-bike upgrade · AI logistics optimisation · Smart EV charging
Quality Energy Access & SDG-7	Smart solar batteries · Clean cooking solutions · Solar Trees & BIPV

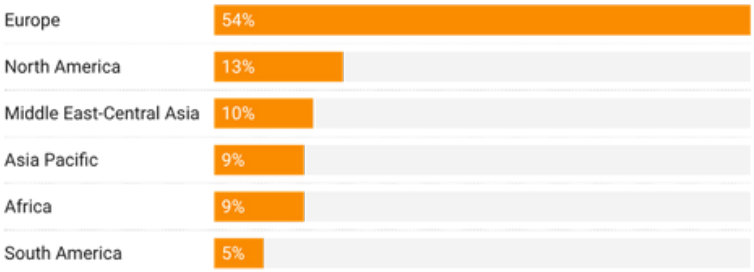
SET100 2026 Metrics

Overview of all SET100 2026 countries



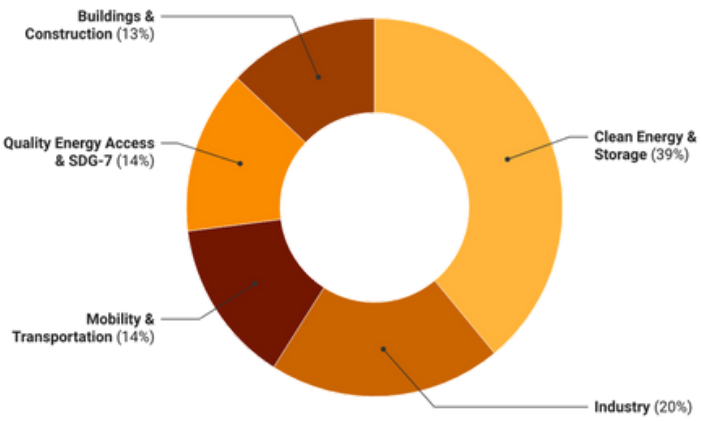
Regions

The SET100 start-ups span 30 countries across six continents. European start-ups make up the largest share, accounting for 54% of the total, while the remaining companies are distributed across all other continents.



Categories

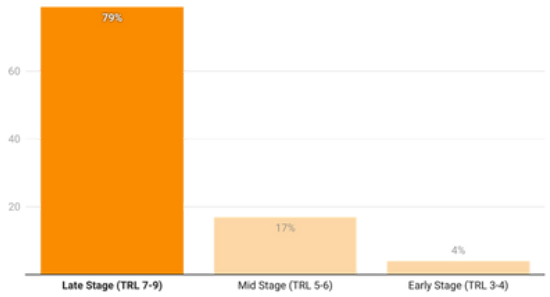
Clean Energy & Storage at 39% reflects where energy innovation remains most concentrated. Industry ranks second at 20%, signaling growing attention to hard-to-abate sectors.

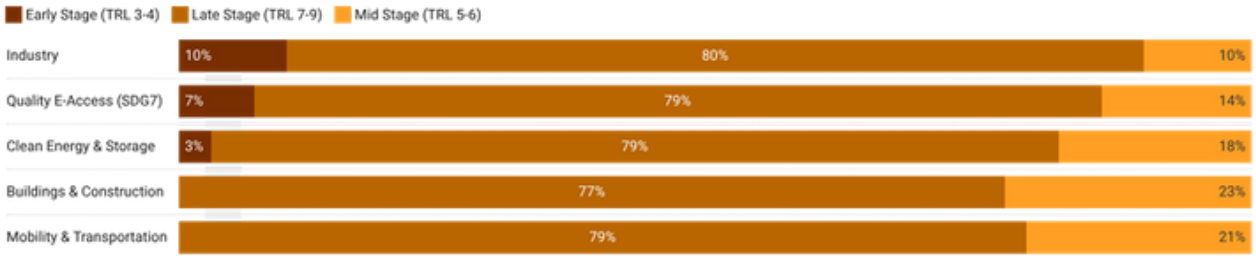


SET100 2026 Metrics

Technology Readiness Level

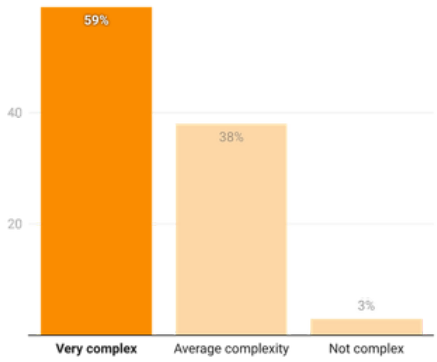
79% of the 2026 SET100 start-ups describe their innovation at late stage technology readiness level (TRL 7-9): the 2026 start-ups skew heavily toward market-ready solutions.



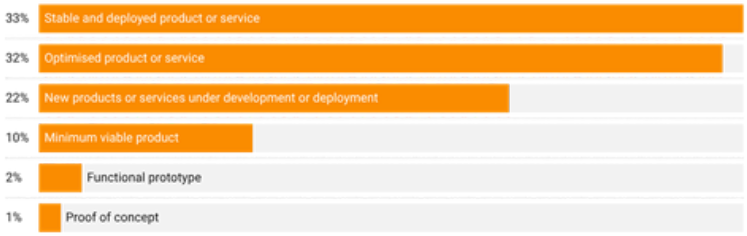


Buildings & Construction and Mobility & Transportation show zero early-stage start-ups, focusing on retrofit-ready solutions for immediate adoption. Clean Energy follows at just 3%, reflecting a mature technology base. Industry's 10% early- stage share signals that we are still seeing important R&D activity happening in hard to abate sectors.

Product Complexity & Technical Maturity

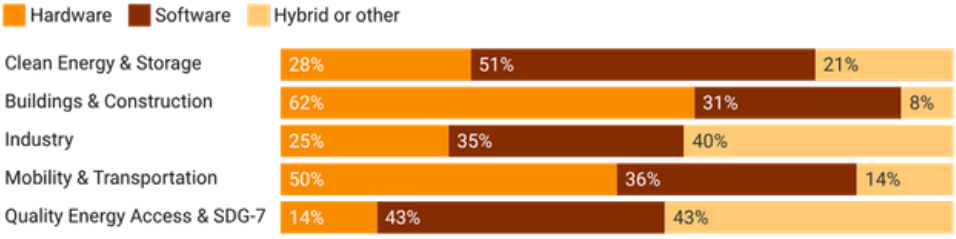


High complexity (59%) paired with high maturity (65% stable or optimised) suggests these start-ups have moved past the hardest development hurdles.



Product Type

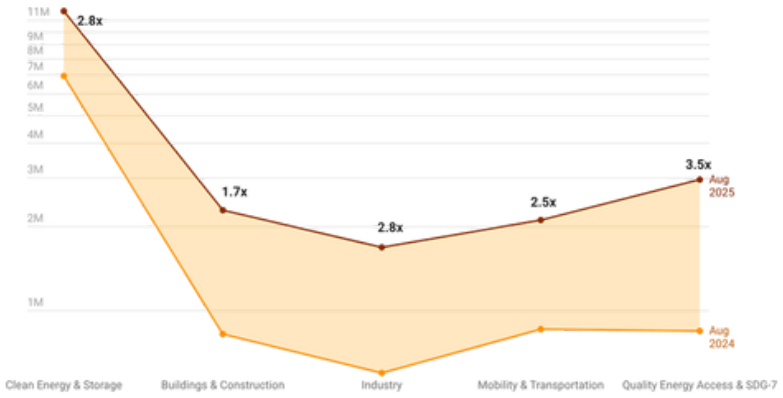
Hardware solutions dominate the Buildings & Construction (62%) and the Mobility & Transportation (50%) categories . In contrast, the Clean Energy & Storage category shows a leaning towards software-based solutions (51%), while the Industry and Quality E-Access & SDG-7 categories are characterised by a stronger emphasis on hybrid product approaches.



SET100 2026 Metrics

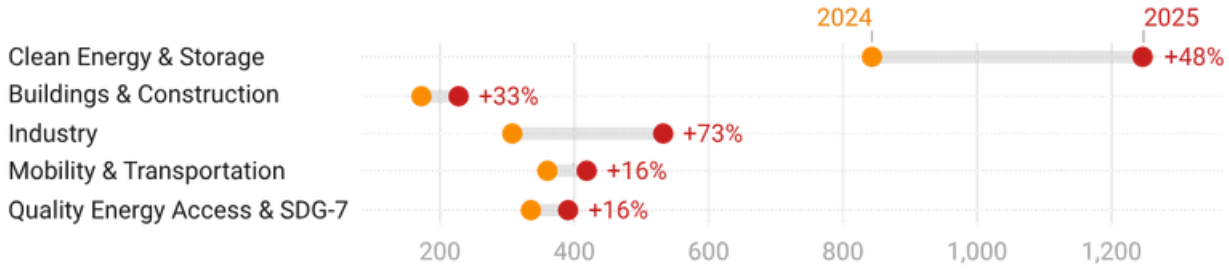
Monthly Revenue

SET100 monthly revenue doubled from August 2024 to August 2025: From €10.1M in 2024 to €20.9M (+107%) in 2025. Quality Energy Access & SDG-7 leading at 3.5x. Buildings & Construction and Industry both grew 2.8x. Clean Energy & Storage shows the lowest multiplier (1.7x) but started from the highest base (€6.9M), adding nearly €5M in absolute terms, more than any other category.



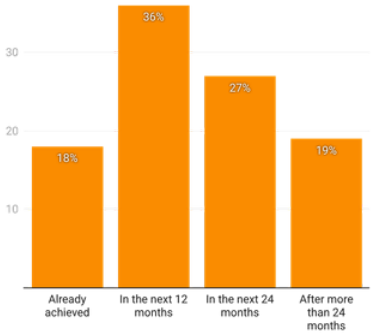
Employee Growth

SET100 added nearly 800 jobs in one year. Industry grew fastest (1.7x), scaling teams to match capital-intensive operations. Clean Energy added the most in absolute terms (+404) and remains the largest employer.



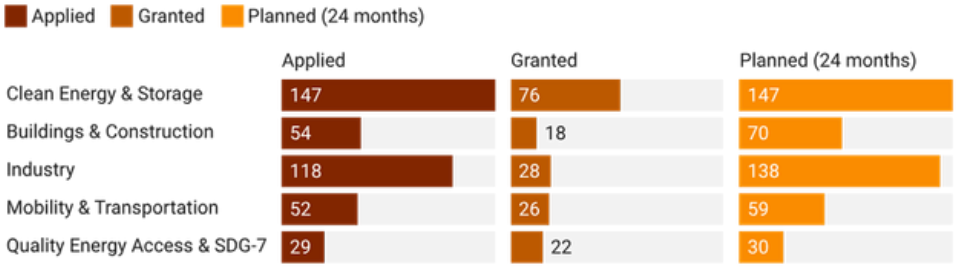
Breakeven Expectations

The SET100 start-ups show a strong path to profitability: 18% have already achieved breakeven, 36% expect it within 12 months, and another 27% within 24 months. Only 19% anticipate waiting beyond 2 years.



Patent Activity

The SET100 start-ups filed 400 patent applications. 170 were granted with 444 more in the pipeline.



Clean Energy & Storage

With 39 companies in the SET100 List 2026, the Clean Energy & Storage is the largest category. Recent climate-tech funding data show energy generation and storage now rivalling transport and mobility as the largest investment area, while transport's share has declined since 2020. Software solutions lead at 51%, followed by hardware solutions at 28% and hybrid once at 21%, consistent with investors favouring capital-efficient, asset-light business models. Product complexity is high: 69% classify as "very complex", the highest of any category, with 28% average and just 3% not complex. Technical maturity skews toward deployment: 33% stable and deployed, 32% optimised, 22% under development, and 10% at MVP stage. Just 3% remain early stage, with 79% late stage and 18% mid stage.

Europe dominates with 56% of the applications, led by Germany (15%), United Kingdom (8%), and Finland (5%). North America accounts for 15%, Asia Pacific 10%. Direct B2B sales are nearly universal (95%), complemented by SaaS subscription at 64%, the highest of any category. This recurring revenue emphasis aligns with Energy-as-a-Service, a fast-growing niche with multiple market studies projecting double-digit annual growth this decade. Licensing sits at 18%, service & maintenance at 15%. Target customers skew institutional: 95% target large corporates, 87% mid-sized companies, 51% public sector. Consumer focus is limited at 18%, confirming that corporate power purchase agreements drive demand, with BloombergNEF highlighting Amazon, Meta, Google and Microsoft as the largest buyers globally.

Revenue grew by a factor of 1.7 within one year (from August 2024 to August 2025), which is the lowest multiplier, but from the highest base of €6.9 million. This equates to an increase of nearly €5 million in absolute terms. This steady scaling typifies mature technology sectors. Breakeven outlook is strong: 18% already profitable, 36% within 12 months, 27% within 24 months, only 19% beyond. Headcount grew 48% (from 750 to 1,108 employees), averaging 28 per company, the largest teams in the SET100. IP activity leads: 147 patents applied, 76 granted (52% conversion), 147 more planned.

Challenges: Adapting to policy and regulation (4.9/10) ranks highest of any category, reflecting grid connection backlogs that delay renewable projects across regions. International expansion (5.3) and talent acquisition (5.3) follow. Converting pilots (4.6) and landing first clients (3.8) are moderate.

The category clusters around three innovation themes. Grid flexibility platforms dominate, with virtual power plants, demand response aggregation, and AI-powered forecasting enabling utilities to orchestrate distributed assets across day-ahead, intraday, and balancing markets. Energy storage spans thermal (sand-based batteries for multi-day storage), electrochemical (direct cathode regeneration, novel electrolytes extending cycle life), and grid infrastructure (photonic coatings boosting transmission capacity, turboexpanders recovering pressure energy). A cybersecurity layer is emerging as grids digitise, with platforms addressing operational technology vulnerabilities.

Clean Energy & Storage

The 3 SET Award 2026 Finalists

Alternō Pte. Ltd. | Singapore & Vietnam | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
The SET Award 2026 finalist develops energy storage systems that convert renewable energy into heat and electricity for industrial use. By utilising abundant materials such as sand, salt and steel, it provides non explosive alternatives to traditional batteries. The business model focuses on delivering efficient thermal storage for sectors like agriculture and large scale data centres.

Flower | Sweden | Early Stage (TRL 3-4)
Focusing on grid stability, this year's finalist utilises artificial intelligence to manage renewable power supplies. It optimises and trades energy assets including wind farms and battery systems to ensure a reliable electricity flow. Through this smart optimisation, Flower makes green energy more predictable for the future power system.

Tilt Energy | France | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
By enabling commercial buildings to monetise their electricity consumption, the third SET Award 2026 finalist creates new revenue streams through grid flexibility. It employs artificial intelligence for real time demand forecasting and control. This approach helps to balance the energy grid while supporting the transition to a low carbon economy.

SET100 2026 List Category Start-ups

Aevy | Norway | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
This enterprise provides a digital platform for the management and due diligence of renewable energy infrastructure. By improving efficiency and returns for investors, Aevy helps to streamline the oversight of large scale projects. The business model centres on software tools that enhance the quality of asset management across the energy sector.

AGEERA | Israel | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
Focusing on the microgrid sector, AGEERA offers an artificial intelligence platform to optimise energy storage operations. It assists industrial consumers in reducing power costs while enhancing energy resilience. The company generates value by enabling users to participate in grid services and earn revenue from their flexible energy assets.

AssetCool | United Kingdom | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
Designed for power grid infrastructure, this firm produces robotics and functional coatings to improve electricity transmission. AssetCool uses thermal management nanomaterials to increase the capacity of power lines through external application. The business model also addresses operational issues like noise and corrosion to extend the life of grids.

ChemiTek | Portugal | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
To improve the efficiency of solar assets, this specialist developer produces biodegradable chemical solutions for panel maintenance. ChemiTek provides products that protect and clean photovoltaic modules to maintain peak performance. By reducing water use and costs, the firm offers a sustainable maintenance model for solar operators globally.

Cyber Energia | United Kingdom | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
With a focus on cybersecurity for the clean energy sector, this provider offers a software platform for critical infrastructure. Cyber Energia features real time monitoring to protect operational technology from digital threats. The service model ensures that energy operators stay compliant with international security regulations during the transition.

Darb | Jordan | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
This manufacturer creates automated robots for cleaning solar panels to prevent energy loss from dust. The solution from Darb Trading Co. includes an internet of things platform for remote control and monitoring of soiling levels. Its model helps maintain maximum energy output for solar installations located in challenging or arid environments.

Clean Energy & Storage

SET100 2026 List Category Start-ups

Delta Green | Czech republic | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
Connecting household batteries into a virtual power plant, this start-up provides balancing services to energy suppliers. Delta Green aggregates private energy resources to cut emissions and reward users for their participation. This model drives the path towards a zero carbon electricity grid by linking residential storage into a unified network.

Einklang | Germany | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
By integrating batteries with intelligent software, this company helps businesses transition to renewable energy through optimised tariffs. Einklang bridges the gap between green generation and industrial consumption using market based pricing. This model turns renewable energy into a manageable and cost effective commodity for corporate users.

Elementium Materials | USA | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
Focused on battery performance, this chemical developer produces novel molecules that are used as electrolytes. Elementium Materials creates products that increase battery life and improve safety by preventing fire risks. The firm supplies these advanced materials to manufacturers to enhance battery stability at both high and low temperatures.

ENVIRIA Energy | Germany | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
This provider offers a full service renewable energy solution including solar installations and smart management systems. ENVIRIA allows businesses to adopt green technology with no upfront costs through a flexible financing model. This approach creates resilient energy hubs that lower electricity bills and reduce carbon emissions for companies.

flexa | Germany | Mid Stage (TRL 5-6)
Building a virtual power plant for the residential sector, this venture links private energy resources like solar panels and storage. Flexa uses artificial intelligence to trade this aggregated energy on the market to lower costs for households. The model encourages private consumers to participate actively in the European energy transition.

Fuel Switch | South Africa | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
Using blockchain technology to bring transparency to the carbon credit market, this trading firm connects investors with producers. Fuel Switch facilitates the trading of renewable certificates to fund rural electrification projects. The business model focuses on using these market mechanisms to support energy access across the African continent.

Clean Energy & Storage

SET100 2026 List Category Start-ups

GridBrid | Belgium | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
This software firm provides an artificial intelligence platform that automates the feasibility of renewable power plants. GridBrid allows developers to model complex energy systems and simulate various revenue scenarios quickly. The company generates bankable insights that support informed investment decisions in the renewable energy sector.

enline | Portugal | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
By providing digital twin solutions, enline empowers the energy sector to monitor and maintain assets through data simulations. This technology drives efficiency and sustainability across global infrastructure by providing precise performance insights. The business model focuses on helping grid operators manage their networks more effectively.

KLIK ENERGY | Colombia | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
Turning electricity consumption into a profit engine, this digital firm uses artificial intelligence to optimise energy usage. Klik Energy transforms electricity into a growth lever for businesses rather than a fixed expense. The platform commercialises flexibility to generate new revenue streams for industrial and commercial consumers.

M2Tech (atmio) | Germany | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
In the sector of environmental monitoring, this start-up provides a software platform for the detection of methane leaks. atmio connects smart sensors and digital twins to automate compliance reporting for utility companies. The model helps businesses meet their environmental goals and adhere to European Union regulations more effectively.

NantG Power | USA | Mid Stage (TRL 5-6)
This pioneer in battery technology develops next generation solutions using artificial intelligence and advanced materials. NantG Power creates fast charging systems for electric vehicles and renewable energy storage. The model focuses on doubling battery performance while reducing production costs and the overall environmental impact.

Neara Software | United Kingdom | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
By building physics enabled digital twins, this enterprise platform revolutionises the management of energy networks. Neara unifies complex data to help utilities optimise grid capacity and improve resilience against weather. The service transforms manual operations into proactive and predictive digital workflows at a global scale.

SET100 2026 List Category Start-ups

NEU BATTERY MATERIALS | Singapore | Mid Stage (TRL 5-6)
Founded to improve battery sustainability, this climate technology firm uses an electrochemical method to recycle batteries. NEU Battery Materials recovers critical lithium for reuse in electric cars and storage systems. The business model supports material security while reducing the carbon footprint of battery manufacturing processes.

Ogre Artificial Intelligence | Romania | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
Helping energy companies reduce balancing costs, this forecasting specialist provides high accuracy data for the grid. The platform from Ogre AI covers renewable generation and demand to improve power reliability. The company delivers significant savings for clients by minimising errors in energy flow predictions across Europe and Asia.

Pix Force | Brazil | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
To extract value from visual data, this provider delivers artificial intelligence and image processing solutions for industry. Pix Force serves the energy and mining sectors by automating complex workflows and processes. The business model enables strategic decisions that drive innovation and reduce operational costs for large companies.

Polar Night Energy | Finland | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
Developing high temperature thermal storage, this start-up uses sand to store renewable electricity as heat. Polar Night Energy provides a solution that replaces combustion in local heating networks for days or weeks. The model utilises low cost and circular materials to provide sustainable heat production for residential and industrial areas.

Powernaut | Belgium | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
This company provides a software workspace that helps energy firms manage their flexibility operations. By connecting smart devices and batteries, Powernaut creates a virtual power plant for retailers and producers. The business model allows users to select modular components to enhance their existing technology and create value from assets.

PowerUP Fuel Cells | Estonia | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
Focused on zero emission power, this company develops portable hydrogen fuel cell generators. PowerUP offers a clean alternative to diesel engines for off grid and backup needs in sectors like healthcare and construction. The model aims to boost energy security while reducing noise and fossil fuel dependency in mobile power applications.

Clean Energy & Storage

SET100 2026 List Category Start-ups

Previse Systems | Switzerland | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
By offering a cloud native platform, this provider revolutionises energy trading and risk management. Previse Systems features an open application ecosystem that allows customers to innovate and adapt their trading strategies. The business model provides a scalable and agile alternative to traditional legacy software for energy traders.

Rebasian Technologies | Sweden | Mid Stage (TRL 5-6)
Creating an easier way to monitor energy forecasting, this firm provides a platform for data scientists to work at scale. Rebasian Technologies offers tools for automated decisions to help balance and sustain a fossil free grid. The model supports the management of decentralised energy systems through artificial intelligence ready data.

ReCatalyst | Slovenia | Mid Stage (TRL 5-6)
Developing a nanotechnology platform, this enterprise produces advanced catalysts for fuel cells and electrolysis. ReCatalyst focuses on maximising the efficiency of platinum use to decarbonise the transport and energy sectors. The company provides scalable catalyst materials that support the growth of green hydrogen technology worldwide.

SaiFlow | Israel | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
To secure the future of energy, this cybersecurity firm provides contextual runtime protection for electrification projects. SaiFlow fuses power data with network telemetry to deliver real time threat detection for energy assets. The model ensures the security and functionality of critical infrastructure during the global energy transition.

Sapphire Technologies | USA | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
This firm manufactures modular power generation equipment designed for pressure energy recovery projects. Sapphire Technologies develops technology that converts wasted pressure in industrial systems into clean electricity. The business model focuses on helping global industries reduce emissions through efficient energy recovery hardware.

Solfium | Mexico | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
By aiding companies in decarbonising their value chains, this provider offers a mobile solution for solar energy adoption. Solfium simplifies the customer journey for solar installations for both commercial and residential clients. The company also provides a corporate dashboard to automate and streamline environmental reporting tasks.

SET100 2026 List Category Start-ups

SPiNE | Germany | Mid Stage (TRL 5-6)
Building the operating system for decentralised energy, this venture connects solar and battery devices across different brands. SPiNE enables interoperability to create an intelligent and data driven energy network. The model provides the digital backbone required for a flexible and sustainable power grid on a global scale.

Tether | Spain | Mid Stage (TRL 5-6)
Predicting electric vehicle charging patterns, this start-up turns parked cars into a large scale battery resource. Tether uses artificial intelligence to optimise available power and provide flexibility to the grid. This business model reinforces grid stability and reduces the overall reliance on fossil fuel power for electrification.

WeavAir | Poland | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
Driven by the energy transition, this provider utilises satellite data and artificial intelligence to create digital twins. WeavAir enables real time monitoring to reduce energy use and carbon emissions in buildings and industry. The business model generates value through operational savings and the verification of carbon credits.

WERER ENERGY | Türkiye | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
Developing scalable lithium battery packs, this firm provides hybrid energy storage systems for industrial and home use. WERER Energy integrates smart management technology to ensure a reliable and sustainable power supply. The business model accelerates the clean energy transition by removing infrastructure barriers to storage and mobility.

Zählerfreunde | Germany | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
Arming traditional utilities with digital tools, this white label platform helps providers compete with new energy challengers. Zählerfreunde lets companies launch user centric apps that bridge the gap between regulation and technology. The model helps utilities unlock the energy transition through better consumer data engagement.

Zhejiang Huayou Green Energy Technology | China | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
With a breakthrough in battery recycling, this company uses direct technology to recover materials efficiently. Huayou Green Energy reduces chemical consumption and carbon emissions compared to traditional methods. This business model lowers the cost of materials for use in electric bicycles and large scale energy storage systems.

Buildings & Construction

This year's Buildings & Construction category features 13 companies. Hardware solutions dominate at 62%, the highest of any category, with 31% software solutions and 8% hybrid. Products are complex (54% "very complex," 46% average), yet technically mature: 31% optimised, 23% stable and deployed, 23% new products under development, and 23% at MVP stage. All start-ups are mid or late stage with zero in early R&D, reflecting construction's risk-averse nature, where safety, liability, and reputational stakes demand proven solutions before adoption.

Geographic clustering is tight: Europe accounts for 62% of start-ups, led by Germany, Norway, and the UK. Direct B2B sales dominate (92%), with SaaS subscription as a secondary channel (39%) and licensing at 23%. Targets are overwhelmingly institutional: large corporates (92%), mid-sized companies (92%), and public sector (85%), making this the highest public sector orientation in the SET100. Only 23% target consumers, confirming adoption runs through procurement and technical specification rather than consumer demand.

Revenue grew by a factor of 2.8 within one year (from August 2024 to August 2025). Breakeven outlook is solid: 15% already profitable, 31% within 12 months, 31% within 24 months. However, 23% still expect to wait beyond 24 months. Headcount grew 33% (from 170 to 226 employees), averaging 17 employees per company and representing the smallest teams of any category. 54 patents applied, 18 granted (33% conversion). Pipeline is accelerating: 70 more planned, representing a 30% increase and the largest IP growth rate across categories.

Challenges: Converting pilots to long-term contracts (5.5/10) is the top challenge and the highest conversion difficulty of any category, reflecting long sales cycles and conservative procurement. International expansion follows (5.2). Landing first clients ranks low (3.5); early traction exists, but scaling is hard.

The category clusters around two innovation themes. Digital optimisation platforms leverage AI for dramatic efficiency gains: structural design optimisation, drone-powered 3D modeling, thermal imaging for retrofit planning, and urban heat intelligence, promising 90% time savings and order-of-magnitude accuracy improvements. Novel materials tackle embodied carbon directly: mycelium-based panels (60% lower embodied carbon), biomimetic wood composites (78% less raw wood), biochar-based concrete, and passive systems like radiative cooling films and ultra-thin insulation. A circular economy thread runs through both, converting waste streams into construction materials while extending building lifecycles through non-destructive assessment.

Buildings & Construction

The 3 SET Award 2026 Finalists

Birdsview | Norway | Mid Stage (TRL 5-6)
Combining artificial intelligence with advanced sensors, this start-up provides instant visual assessments of concrete structures. 2026 SET Award finalist Birdsview helps engineers evaluate reinforcements and structural health to extend the life of buildings. This climate tech innovation reduces the need for carbon intensive demolitions and new construction by enabling better maintenance of existing infrastructure.

Mykor | United Kingdom | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
Pioneering the future of sustainable construction, this start-up utilises advanced biotechnologies to create materials that prioritise planetary health. SET Award 2026 finalist Mykor offers solutions with low embodied carbon and enhanced thermal performance for the building sector. This climate tech innovation addresses the pressing need for carbon conscious materials that improve the efficiency of our homes.

WAS Company | Mexico | Mid Stage (TRL 5-6)
This year's finalist transforms complex industrial waste into high performance construction materials to reduce carbon emissions. WAS Co diverts plastics and mining byproducts from landfills through science driven innovation. This climate tech innovation offers scalable circular solutions for industries seeking cost efficiency while significantly lowering the environmental impact of new buildings.

Buildings & Construction

SET100 2026 List Category Start-ups

Airteam Aerial Intelligence | Germany | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
Converting aerial imagery from drones into 3D building models, this start-up provides AI powered software for the solar and roofing industries. Airteam enables contractors to survey and plan projects quickly and cost effectively. This energy innovation accelerates the deployment of rooftop solar by providing precise digital insights for planners and installers across the globe.

ecoLocked | Germany | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
This start-up turns buildings into permanent carbon sinks by converting local biowaste into CO2 negative building materials. ecoLocked reduces the reliance on fossil raw materials and enables the construction industry to store carbon in the built environment. This climate tech innovation helps firms compensate for historical emissions by using carbon neutral concrete in their projects.

FortyGuard | United Arab Emirates | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
Hosting the largest collection of urban heat intelligence, this start-up pioneers AI models called Large Temperature Models. FortyGuard provides hyperlocal and predictive data to help cities manage heat and energy more effectively. This climate tech innovation serves the commerce and energy sectors by providing the insights needed to mitigate the effects of rising urban temperatures.

Haus.me | USA | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
Designing autonomous and self sustainable homes, this start-up combines prefabricated construction with AI controlled energy management. Haus.me delivers off grid living solutions that achieve up to eighty per cent savings in energy and water use. This climate tech innovation enables affordable and carbon neutral housing by utilising 3D printing and recycled composite materials.

Kestrix | United Kingdom | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
Acting as a digital map for heat loss, this start-up captures aerial thermal imagery to help cities improve building efficiency. Kestrix uses AI to map energy leaks and deliver actionable retrofit plans for entire neighbourhoods. This climate tech innovation accelerates the net zero transition by providing the data needed to scale up building renovations and reduce heating demand.

Buildings & Construction

SET100 2026 List Category Start-ups

Over Easy Solar | Norway | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
Unlocking the potential of underutilised rooftops, this start-up provides plug and play units with vertical bifacial solar panels. Over Easy Solar offers a lightweight and maintenance friendly solution designed for flat and green roofs with limited load capacity. This energy innovation enables solar power on buildings where traditional installations were previously impossible or too heavy.

SPACECOOL | Japan | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
Turning the science of radiative cooling into real world impact, this start-up offers innovative optical films for zero energy cooling. SPACECOOL lowers surface temperatures naturally to reduce energy use and carbon emissions in buildings. This climate tech innovation brings the coolness of shade to cities through a platform model that addresses the rising demand for sustainable cooling.

Strong by Form | Spain | Mid Stage (TRL 5-6)
Addressing emissions in the construction industry, this start-up has developed Woodflow core, a biomimetic slab that uses significantly less timber. Strong by Form provides a system that is fifty per cent lighter than traditional alternatives while enabling long spans. This climate tech innovation cuts embodied carbon by seventy per cent, offering a scalable alternative to heavy concrete.

Structure Pal | Israel | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
Optimising reinforced concrete designs for high rise buildings, this start-up uses an AI platform to drastically cut material waste. Structure Pal helps developers reduce embodied carbon and boost efficiency without sacrificing safety. This climate tech innovation ensures that design optimisation happens where it matters most, saving costs and resources in the global construction sector.

Wallrus | France | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
Reinventing insulation for modern living, this start-up offers patented decorative panels that are only three centimetres thick. Wallrus combines aesthetics with eco friendly materials to reduce energy use by up to sixty per cent in homes. This climate tech innovation provides a fast and elegant retrofit solution that helps businesses and homeowners worldwide improve their energy efficiency.

Industry

The Industry category features 20 companies in the SET100 List 2026, tackling what remains cleantech's most underfunded opportunity. The hybrid model dominates at 40%, the highest of any category, reflecting that industrial decarbonisation requires both physical intervention and digital optimisation. Software solutions sit at 35%, hardware solutions at 25%. Complexity is substantial: 65% "very complex," 30% average, 5% not complex. Maturity is balanced: 30% stable and deployed, 25% optimised, 35% under development, 10% at MVP stage. 10% remain early stage, 80% late stage, 10% mid stage.

Geographic spread is the most diverse: Europe at 40%, Latin America at 15% (highest of any category), Asia Pacific and Middle East/Africa each at 10%. This distribution reflects industrial decarbonisation's local nature, requiring integration with existing facilities and supply chains. Direct B2B sales are universal (100%), with SaaS at 50%, licensing at 35%, service & maintenance at 25%. Targets are exclusively institutional: 100% large corporates, 80% mid-sized, 50% small companies, 45% public sector. Consumer focus is minimal at 25%.

Revenue grew by a factor of 2.8 within one year (from August 2024 to August 2025), outpacing Clean Energy's 1.7 factor. Breakeven outlook is favorable: 10% already profitable, 40% within 12 months, 35% within 24 months, 15% beyond. Headcount grew 73%, the fastest of any category, averaging 26 employees. IP activity reflects complex hardware cycles: 118 patents applied, 28 granted (24% conversion), the lowest rate likely due to longer review cycles for novel industrial processes. 138 more planned.

Challenges: Talent acquisition (5.0/10) ranks highest of any category, reflecting competition for specialised engineering expertise. Private funding access (4.8) and international expansion (4.6) follow. Supply chain disruptions (4.0) rank highest, underscoring hardware dependencies: IEA's Energy Technology Perspectives 2023 finds that China dominates the manufacturing and trade of most clean energy technologies, holding at least 60% of global manufacturing capacity for solar PV, wind systems and batteries. Landing first clients (4.1) is moderate, indicating longer enterprise sales cycles.

The category clusters around three innovation themes. AI-powered optimisation transforms energy-intensive operations in data centers, manufacturing, and cold storage, delivering 30-50% efficiency gains without hardware replacement. Carbon removal technologies address hard-to-abate emissions through direct air capture and enhanced rock weathering, targeting permanent geological storage. Circular economy solutions close material loops through rare earth recycling, polymer upcycling, and battery cathode regeneration, reducing both emissions and critical mineral dependencies.

Industry

The 3 SET Award 2026 Finalists

Cyclic Materials | Canada | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
Recognised as a leader in the circular economy, this year's SET Award finalist enables the large scale recovery of rare earth elements from end of life products. Cyclic Materials supports industries such as electric vehicles and defense by providing critical materials that compete with mining on both quality and price. This climate tech innovation reduces environmental impact while securing a sustainable supply chain for modern technology.

encentive | Germany | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
To help industrial firms cut costs, this energy innovation offers an AI powered management platform called flexOn. The SET Award 2026 finalist automatically optimises electricity consumption so that factories use power when it is at its greenest and cheapest. By synchronising demand with renewable availability, this start-up significantly reduces the carbon footprint of heavy industry without disrupting production.

InPlanet | Germany | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
By utilising enhanced rock weathering to permanently remove carbon dioxide from the air, this climate tech innovation regenerates tropical soils. InPlanet applies basalt rock powder to farmland to boost yields and reduce the need for synthetic fertilisers. This year's finalist delivers high quality carbon removal credits that help global organisations reach their net zero goals through nature based solutions.

SET100 2026 List Category Start-ups

agriportance | Germany | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
Acting as a leading provider in the European biomethane market, this start-up offers software solutions for greenhouse gas balancing. agriportance supports certification processes and brokers sustainable fuels through a qualified network. This energy innovation helps companies achieve their sustainability targets by streamlining the management and trade of LCO2 and biomethane.

DAITABLE | Slovakia | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
Eliminating blind spots in industrial facilities, this start-up provides an AI energy platform for real time insight and control. DAITABLE predicts demand and prevents overloads to optimise energy use across complex sites. This climate tech innovation helps operators save money and cut emissions by transforming passive data into actionable efficiency gains for modern manufacturing.

Earn | USA | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
This climate tech innovation provides a sustainability registry that supports insetting over offsetting through traceable digital certificates. EarnDLT enables regulators and verifiers to trust decarbonisation outcomes using fully auditable and science driven transparency. This start-up ensures that sustainability claims are backed by rigorous data to foster trust in green markets.

EPVI NEW TECHNOLOGICAL EPOCH (Enlog) | India | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
Providing AI powered energy intelligence for commercial and industrial facilities, this energy innovation combines IoT devices and analytics. Enlog monitors and controls energy use in real time to reduce wastage and cut costs. This start-up transforms passive management into actionable efficiency to support sustainability goals. Its climate tech solution delivers a data driven impact for large scale infrastructure.

etalytics | Germany | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
Through its AI driven platform etaONE, this start-up enables infrastructure operators to reduce energy use and emissions. etalytics analyses complex systems in real time to deliver efficiency gains without requiring hardware replacement. This climate tech innovation is already deployed in data centres and manufacturing plants to provide a scalable and immediate impact on global carbon levels.

SET100 2026 List Category Start-ups

Gigablue | USA | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
Providing a science based marine carbon removal solution, this start-up exports CO2 to the deep ocean for long term sequestration. Gigablue uses engineered substrates seeded with microalgae to deliver durable and verifiable carbon credits. This climate tech innovation helps heavy industries meet net zero goals while simultaneously working to restore the health of global ocean ecosystems.

Gyre Energy | United Kingdom | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
To reduce costs for cooling intensive operators, this energy innovation leverages advanced AI and low cost thermal storage. Gyre Energy provides a platform that reduces energy use and enables large scale flexibility for cooling assets. This start-up helps balance the grid while cutting emissions, making it an essential tool for sustainable climate control in commercial buildings.

HYTING | Germany | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
This energy innovation offers a breakthrough technology for CO2 free heating powered by hydrogen. HYTING provides simple and safe solutions for peak load management in buildings and industrial processes up to three hundred degrees. This start-up enables reliable and emission free heat generation wherever fossil fuels need to be replaced, offering a clean alternative for the thermal sector.

ICARBON | Türkiye | Early Stage (TRL 3-4)
Working on advanced recycling technologies, this start-up ensures that waste from the polymer industry is reused with high efficiency. ICARBON enables production cycles where over ninety per cent of material is recovered for new use. This climate tech innovation promotes a circular economy by transforming industrial waste into valuable resources for the manufacturing sector.

Litus | Canada | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
As an emerging leader in advanced chemistry, this start-up utilises nanotechnology for the effective extraction of lithium. Litus has secured a niche with its one step approach that recovers lithium from lower concentration brines once deemed uneconomical. This energy innovation supports the battery supply chain by providing a more sustainable and efficient way to source critical minerals.

SET100 2026 List Category Start-ups

Lucend | Netherlands | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
Uncovering hidden efficiency in data centres, this start-up provides an AI powered operations platform that reduces power usage. Lucend cuts operational expenses and improves sustainability without requiring new hardware. This climate tech innovation is used daily by global operators to boost reliability and achieve significant reductions in energy consumption across their facilities.

Nina Energy | Ecuador | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
This start-up builds modular pyrolysis biorefineries that transform organic residues into clean industrial fuel and biochar. Nina Energy focuses on co locating its systems at treatment plants and factories to secure low cost feedstock. This energy innovation delivers energy prices that rival fossil fuels while permanently locking carbon away in a durable and useful form.

Octavia Carbon | USA / Kenya | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
As a pioneering direct air capture firm in the Global South, this start-up designs machines that filter carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Octavia Carbon integrates geothermal energy to power its systems and store captured carbon in geological formations. This climate tech innovation focuses on deploying scalable carbon removal solutions while leveraging local renewable resources.

Skye | Sweden | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
By delivering factory floor to market integration, this energy innovation turns production and market signals into immediate savings for industrial players. Skye Energy helps factories optimise power use and integrate renewable sources to reduce both costs and emissions. This start-up translates complex data into clear and measurable impact to support the transition toward more sustainable and automated manufacturing.

SET100 2026 List Category Start-ups

Stellaria | France | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
Reinventing sustainable nuclear power, this start-up is developing the world first liquid core reactor capable of fuel renewal during operation. Stellaria aims to incinerate high level waste while achieving revolutionary levels of safety. This energy innovation provides autonomous and robust power for mines and data centres, offering a durable alternative to traditional energy sources.

TMA | Germany | Mid Stage (TRL 5-6)
Helping energy firms digitise their inventory, this start-up uses AIoT technology to manage hazardous goods and reusable assets. TMA provides the Hazardous Goods Companion to optimise operations and maintenance for large scale industrial players. This energy innovation improves safety and efficiency by providing a clear digital overview of complex and sensitive logistics chains.

Yama | France | Mid Stage (TRL 5-6)
Developing next generation direct air capture technology, this start-up removes carbon dioxide from the atmosphere efficiently and affordably. Yama uses a hybrid electrochemical process powered by low grade heat to cut energy use by sixty five per cent. This climate tech innovation aims to remove millions of tonnes of CO2 at scale to address the urgent challenges of global warming.

Mobility & Transportation

The Mobility & Transportation category features 14 companies in the SET100 List 2026. Climate-tech venture funding has cooled since its 2021 peak, and transport and mobility's share of total climate-tech investment has steadily declined, reflecting sector consolidation and investor rotation towards energy generation and storage. Hardware solutions lead at 50%, software solutions at 36% and hybrid once at 14%. Complexity is evenly split: 50% "very complex," 50% average, with none not complex. Maturity is deployment-ready: 29% stable and deployed, 36% optimised, 21% under development, 14% at MVP stage. None remain early stage, with 79% late stage and 21% mid stage.

Geographic distribution reflects diverse mobility needs: Europe at 36%, Africa at 21% (highest of any category), Asia and North America each at 14%. This emerging market presence enables start-ups to capitalise on growth in regions where the electrification of transport can bypass the need for traditional car ownership. Direct B2B sales dominate (86%), with SaaS at 50% and licensing at 43%, the highest rate, reflecting proprietary hardware IP monetisation. Service & maintenance sits at 21%. Consumer focus reaches 64%, tied for highest, distinguishing mobility from other categories' institutional orientation.

Revenue grew by a factor of 2.5 within one year (from August 2024 to August 2025), solid given sector headwinds. Breakeven outlook is mixed: 14% already profitable, 43% within 12 months, 21% within 24 months, 21% beyond. Headcount grew just 16%, the slowest rate, averaging 28 employees. This capital efficiency reflects funding constraints: private funding (5.8/10) and public grants (5.6) rank as the most acute challenges of any category. IP activity is moderate: 52 patents applied, 26 granted (50% conversion), 69 planned. IP protection ranks low (3.6), suggesting competitive moats lie in operational scale and network effects rather than patents.

The category clusters around two innovation themes. EV charging infrastructure addresses the grid bottleneck constraining electrification: battery-integrated fast chargers for weak grids, building-connected curbside solutions bypassing utility queues, and AI platforms transforming parked vehicles into grid-balancing assets. Clean mobility hardware targets emerging markets and specialised applications: electric motorcycles for African logistics, hydrogen fuel cell generators replacing diesel, retrofit kits converting existing fleets to electric, and advanced materials like carbon-nanotube heating for vehicle efficiency.

Mobility & Transportation

The 3 SET Award 2026 Finalists

CLIP.bike | USA | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
As the only five second e-bike solution in the world, this start-up motorises existing bicycles without the need for tools. This year's finalist CLIP aims to eliminate significant carbon emissions by making electric mobility accessible to the billions of bikes already in circulation. This climate tech innovation also offers a cost effective version called BOLT to accelerate adoption in emerging markets globally.

Finmile | United Kingdom | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
Transforming last mile delivery into an engine for efficiency, Finmile provides an AI logistics platform for global brands. The SET Award finalist cuts fleet energy use and emissions by up to forty per cent through route and parcel optimisation. This climate tech innovation helps couriers transition to cleaner mobility while ensuring that deliveries remain fast, smart and sustainable for the future.

Gridio | Estonia | Mid Stage (TRL 5-6)
Transforming electric vehicle charging into grid intelligence, the 2026 SET Award finalist shifts power use to the cheapest and cleanest hours. Gridio requires no extra hardware and integrates directly with major car brands like Tesla and BMW. This energy innovation reduces grid strain and lowers costs for users by aligning vehicle charging with the availability of renewable energy generation.

Mobility & Transportation

SET100 2026 List Category Start-ups

Circa Biotech | United Arab Emirates | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
Turning food waste into sustainable aviation fuel at an industrial scale, this start-up utilises insects as a core part of its process. Circa Biotech addresses the urgent need for cleaner air travel by providing a circular solution for waste management. This climate tech innovation reduces the carbon footprint of the aviation sector while creating a valuable resource from urban organic waste.

Ecofactor | Ukraine | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
Building renewable powered EV hubs, this start-up provides fast charging infrastructure integrated with solar and battery storage. ECOFACTOR has deployed thousands of chargers across multiple countries to ensure reliable and clean mobility. This energy innovation reduces grid pressure and carbon emissions by delivering scalable and energy independent power solutions for electric drivers.

It's Electric | USA | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
Operating curbside charging for cities, this start-up uses hardware that taps into the electrical supply of nearby buildings. it is electric circumvents the need for direct grid connections, making it easier to install chargers in urban areas. This climate tech innovation allows property owners to earn passive income while providing the community with essential access to clean power.

IX Energy | India | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
Revolutionising clean mobility by converting diesel trucks and buses, this start-up offers affordable electrification through retrofit technology. iX Energy helps fleet operators cut emissions and save resources by giving existing vehicles a second life as hybrids or EVs. This energy innovation drives a circular transition that prevents waste and makes sustainable transport accessible.

Paren | USA | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
Providing a real time data platform for electric vehicle charging, this start-up standardises insights on reliability and pricing. Paren helps automakers and map makers improve the driver experience by enriching millions of charging sessions each week. This climate tech innovation gives government entities the data they need to expand infrastructure and accelerate the adoption of EVs.

Mobility & Transportation

SET100 2026 List Category Start-ups

Roam | Kenya | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
Transforming African mobility with locally built electric motorcycles, this start-up focuses on performance and affordability. Roam combines clean technology with hub charging and accessible financing to empower riders. This energy innovation drives economic growth and zero emission transport by creating a sustainable ecosystem for motorcycles and businesses across the continent.

The Farmer's Sons Cargo Bicycles | Nigeria | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
Designing durable cargo bicycles tailored for the African market, this start-up supports first and last mile logistics. TFS Cargo Bicycles offers both pedal and electric options to eliminate the need for headloading goods. This climate tech innovation reduces post harvest losses and empowers small businesses by providing clean and efficient transport solutions for rural communities.

Voltcore | Luxembourg | Mid Stage (TRL 5-6)
Developing ultra light conductive composites, this start-up replaces metal wires in heating systems with recyclable materials. Voltcore utilises polymers to deliver energy efficient heating for mobility and construction. This climate tech innovation cuts carbon emissions by up to fifty per cent while enabling the creation of intelligent thermal materials for wearables and industrial use.

Weenav | France | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
Integrating electric and hybrid engines for the maritime sector, this start-up offers sustainable propulsion for boats. Weenav replaces polluting combustion engines with high performance solutions that improve sailing comfort. This energy innovation adapts to both new and retrofitted vessels to reduce carbon emissions and protect the health of rivers and oceans globally.

Yellow Haze Sustainable Technologies (YoCharge) | India | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
Driving the electric transition for businesses, this start-up enables the electrification of fleets at scale. Yellow Haze provides smart energy management and digital infrastructure to help organisations reduce their emissions. This climate tech innovation uses data driven insights to optimise operations and accelerate the shift toward a sustainable and zero carbon future.

YEDT | Türkiye | Mid Stage (TRL 5-6)
Manufacturing battery integrated fast charging systems, this start-up provides modular solutions for sustainable mobility. YEDT develops advanced components like power distribution units to enable grid independent vehicle charging. This energy innovation optimises energy management and supports the rapid expansion of electric transport infrastructure across Türkiye and beyond.

Quality Energy Access & SDG-7

This year's Quality Energy Access & SDG-7 category features 14 companies. The IEA shows a major imbalance: Emerging Market and Developing Economies outside China receive only around 15% of global clean-energy investment, even though they account for roughly two-thirds of the world's population. Hybrid and software solutions oh this category each account for 43%, hardware solutions just 14%, reflecting the pay-as-you-go model's dominance where physical products require software for mobile payments and remote monitoring. Complexity prioritises deployability: only 36% "very complex," 57% average, 7% not complex, the highest simplicity rate. Maturity is deployment-focused: 43% stable and deployed (highest rate), 14% optimised, 29% under development, 14% at MVP. 7% early stage, 79% late stage, 14% mid stage.

Geographic distribution embodies the mission: Africa leads with 43% of the applications (highest of any category), Europe at 21%, Asia Pacific and Middle East each at 14%. The business model differs fundamentally from developed-market cleantech: only 50% target large corporates (lowest), while 79% target small companies and 64% individuals. Service & maintenance at 29% (highest) reflects ongoing support models essential for last-mile delivery. Direct B2B at 79%, SaaS at 50%.

Revenue grew by a factor of 3.5 within one year (from August 2024 to August 2025), the highest multiplier, demonstrating affordability innovation scales rapidly despite smaller bases. Breakeven outlook is strong: 21% already profitable, 43% within 12 months, 21% within 24 months, 14% beyond. Headcount grew 16%, averaging 20 employees, lean teams consistent with partner-enabled distribution. IP conversion leads: 29 patents applied, 22 granted (76% rate), 50 planned. High conversion reflects focused, deployment-ready innovations.

Challenges: Private funding (6.1/10) is the most acute of any category, revealing investor hesitancy toward emerging market deployment despite strong unit economics. International expansion (5.5) follows. Landing first clients ranks lowest (2.9), indicating validated demand. Regulatory adaptation (3.5) and supply chain (3.5) rank low, reflecting simpler compliance environments.

The category clusters around two innovation themes. Integrated energy access platforms combine hardware, fintech, and software: solar home systems with lease-to-own financing, AI-powered biodigesters converting waste to cooking gas, and blockchain-based energy community platforms enabling peer-to-peer sharing. Productive use applications extend impact beyond lighting: solar-powered cooling hubs reducing post-harvest losses, biomass pellet systems replacing charcoal at lower cost, and solar cargo bikes combining clean mobility with agricultural logistics. A workforce development thread addresses installer shortages constraining cleantech globally.

Quality Energy Access & SDG-7

The 3 SET Award 2026 Finalists

Acecore | USA & Nigeria | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
Revolutionising energy access in Africa, the 2026 finalist Acecore manufactures AI powered solar battery systems for homes and businesses. Acecore provides reliable and clean electricity while reducing the reliance on expensive diesel generators. This energy innovation empowers local communities toward a sustainable future by offering indigenous technology that enhances resilience and reduces carbon emissions.

BioMassters | Rwanda | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
Established to prove that positive impact and profitability go together, the SET Award 2026 finalst produces pellet fuel from biomass waste. BioMassters supplies efficient gasification stoves to customers in Rwanda to replace traditional cooking methods. This climate tech innovation provides a clean and affordable energy source that improves health outcomes and reduces the environmental footprint of households.

Imagine Powertree | India | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
Transforming urban spaces into clean energy assets, this year's finalist specialises in building integrated photovoltaics. Imagine Powertree offers patented solar trees and tiles that seamlessly blend into architecture. This energy innovation enables solar adoption in cities without traditional rooftops, accelerating the transition toward net zero urban environments and sustainable architecture.

SET100 2026 List Category Start-ups

ClimaVault | Uganda | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
Reducing food waste through solar powered IoT cooling hubs, this start-up enhances food security for smallholder farmers. ClimaVault Africa uses an edible coating to extend the shelf life of produce and reduce post harvest losses. This climate tech innovation empowers agricultural communities across East Africa by supporting sustainable practices and improving the livelihoods of rural producers.

DEER Nigeria | Nigeria | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
This energy innovation provides a hybrid energy tech platform that ensures dependable power on demand in Nigeria. DEER Nigeria offers digital management of solar systems, LPG and energy auditing to optimise consumption. This start-up drives efficiency and provides stable, sustainable access to electricity for businesses and communities that lack reliable grid connections.

D-Olivette Labs | Nigeria | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
Turning everyday organic waste into opportunity, this start-up uses AI powered biodigesters to create clean cooking gas. D-Olivette helps rural women and farmers save money and protect the planet by producing electricity and fertiliser locally. This climate tech innovation makes clean energy simple and life changing by transforming waste into a valuable resource for rural development.

Greatlakes Feeds | Kenya | Early Stage (TRL 3-4)
On a mission to make aquaculture sustainable, this start-up produces eco friendly fish feeds from local raw materials. Greatlakes Feeds helps protect oceans from pollution while removing entry barriers for women in the industry. This climate tech innovation reduces the environmental impact of fish farming and empowers rural communities by creating a circular and resilient food system in Kenya.

Greenworkx | United Kingdom | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
Building the workforce for a resilient future, this start-up is an edtech platform on a mission to power millions of green jobs. Greenworkx helps employers hire and upskill the talent needed for the energy transition. This climate tech innovation has already built a large community of aspiring green workers, providing them with the qualifications and roles essential for a sustainable economy.

HexErgy | Italy | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
This start-up has developed an all in one blockchain platform to support the lifecycle of renewable energy communities. HexErgy reduces the time required to design and manage these communities by seventy five per cent. This energy innovation makes the social impact of decentralised power tangible, helping projects in Italy and abroad become more accessible and efficient for everyone involved.

SET100 2026 List Category Start-ups

METER Solutions | Hungary | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
Powering decentralised energy communities, this start-up provides a blockchain based platform for the control of data and energy flows. Meter Solutions combines IoT with tokenised data to enable real time grid modelling and energy autonomy. This energy innovation has already proven its potential in rural Hungary by creating transparent and resilient local energy ecosystems for households.

MPower Ventures | Switzerland | Mid Stage (TRL 5-6)
Providing affordable clean energy in Sub Saharan Africa, this start-up utilises a business model that integrates solar hardware with flexible financing. MPower Ventures has already empowered thousands of people and significantly reduced carbon emissions. This energy innovation addresses the challenge of unreliable power supply by offering expert support and high quality technology to those off the grid.

Re Earth Industries | India | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
Transforming agricultural waste into clean biomass fuels, this start-up replaces coal in industrial processes. Re Earth Industries combines decentralised production with carbon tracking and rural employment to deliver profitable decarbonisation. This climate tech innovation reduces emissions while empowering farmers and advancing the clean energy transition through sustainable and local energy sources.

SmartEye | Jordan | Late Stage (TRL 7-9)
Delivering AI powered energy management systems, this start-up makes electricity affordable and reliable for industries and refugee camps. SmartEye drives impact by cutting costs and ensuring a sustainable power supply for vulnerable communities and large scale operators. This energy innovation focuses on providing the tools needed for efficient energy use in even the most challenging environments.

Uwana Energy | Nigeria & USA | Mid Stage (TRL 5-6)
Building a facilitator for clean energy in Africa, this start-up provides an ecosystem for installers and end users to thrive. Uwana Energy helps Nigerians find and finance solar solutions through its platform UwanaConnect. This energy innovation connects clean energy companies with the resources they need to provide affordable power, creating value for stakeholders across the entire continent.

Legal information

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