Apple Impact Accelerator
A program for Black- and Brown-owned businesses

Worker inspecting solar array, United States

We believe all businesses have a role to play in building a carbon neutral future.

To ensure that our work to protect the planet also helps advance equality, Apple is launching an Impact Accelerator for Black- and Brown-owned businesses. The Accelerator will expand access to opportunity by ensuring that our investments in sectors like renewable energy, carbon removal, and recycling innovation also help fight systemic barriers impacting communities that are disproportionately affected by environmental issues like climate change.

The Impact Accelerator

Apple's Impact Accelerator is designed for Black- and Brown-owned businesses that share our focus on innovation and our commitment to the environment. With customized training, access to Apple experts, and an expanding alumni community, our Impact Accelerator is tailored to support companies as they achieve their next stage of development.

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

Join us as we redefine business as usual.

We source the electricity used at our facilities from 100 percent renewable energy, prioritizing the creation of new renewable energy projects through direct equity investments and power purchase agreements.

Our Program

"Systemic racism and climate change are not separate issues, and they will not abide separate solutions."

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

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We've set an ambitious goal to reduce our impact on the planet we all share: By 2030, Apple has committed to becoming carbon neutral—going beyond our corporate emissions reductions to our products and supply chain. Our Impact Accelerator is a key part of this strategy. Participants will benefit in the following areas:

Targeted training

Customized training and coaching focused on the knowledge and tools needed to succeed as an Apple supplier. We'll work with companies to tailor the Impact Accelerator experience to specific needs.

Access

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

Executive skills

Executive training in support of leaders. Participants will have the opportunity to design the program to meet their needs and interests.

Alumni network

The Impact Accelerator is just the beginning. After completing the program, companies will transition into our Supplier Success community. Accelerator alumni will have access to an Apple Mentor for up to one year, as well as invitations to networking events and other continuous growth opportunities.

Join Us

Key dates

As you complete your application to the Impact Accelerator, refer to these important dates:

February 1, 2021	Opening date for applicant submissions
April 30, 2021	Submissions due no later than 11:59 p.m. Pacific time
May 31, 2021	Shortlisted candidates notified for interviews
June 30, 2021	Finalists notified
July 16, 2021	Accepted candidates confirm participation
August 2–October 29, 2021	Accelerator program period

Eligibility

The Impact Accelerator is a capacity-building program for United States–headquartered companies that are at least 51 percent owned, operated, and controlled by an African American, Hispanic American/Latinx, or Indigenous American individual. Eligible companies are late-stage startups or mature firms and organizations with innovative solutions, applications, or processes that are in late-stage development or have reached commercial-scale deployment and can contribute to one or more of Apple's environmental priority areas. To be considered for participation, all applicants must agree to the Apple Impact Accelerator Application and Attendance Policy.

Cost

There is no cost to participants.

Evaluation criteria

Finalists will be evaluated based on the following:

- Your submitted application
- Alignment of your company's proposed solution or service with Apple's environmental priorities
- An interview with the Accelerator team

How to apply

Please click here to submit your application.

Questions?

ImpactAccelerator@apple.com

Solution Categories

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

Climate Change

Today, Apple is carbon neutral for our corporate emissions. By 2030, we've 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 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. And we maintain building efficiencies throughout the life of the facility.

Apple is seeking partnerships with companies that design, deliver, and optimize high-efficiency building systems. Candidates who offer expertise in energy modeling and analysis and carbon reduction design are also encouraged to apply.

Renewable energy

The burning of coal, natural gas, and oil for electricity and heat is the largest single 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 communities where we operate.

Apple Park is powered by 100 percent renewable energy from multiple sources, including a 17-megawatt onsite rooftop solar installation.
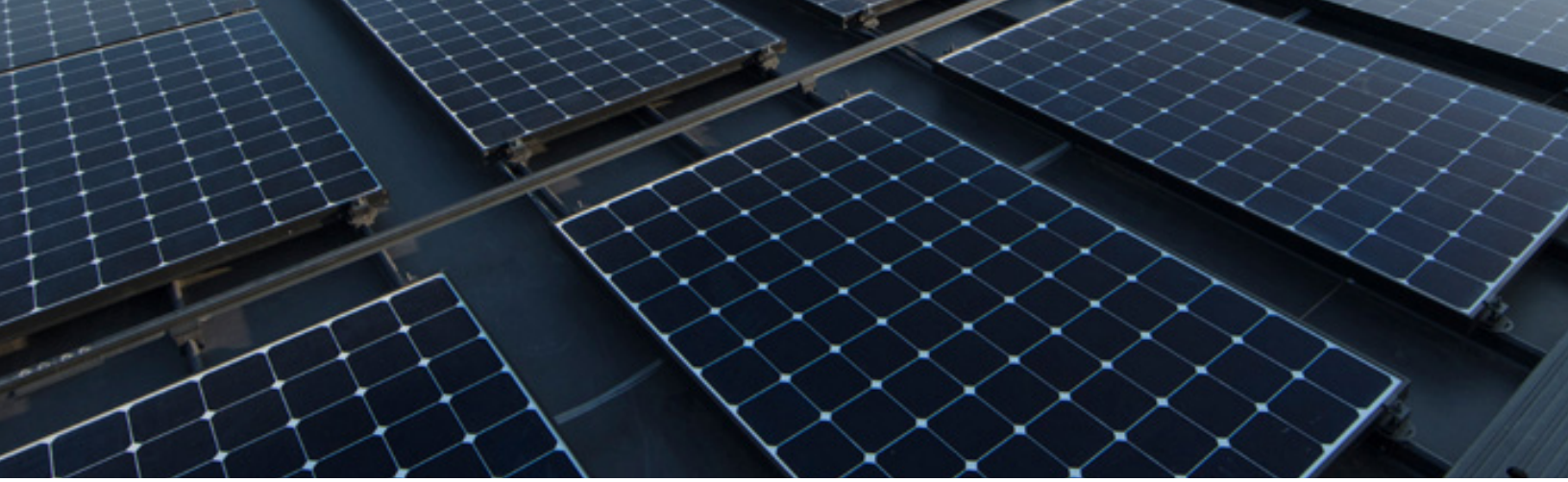
Strong candidates for the Impact Accelerator program are ready to partner with Apple to develop solutions, such as long-term renewable energy power purchase agreements as well as strategic investments in technologies like solar and wind. Firms that are developing and delivering innovative applications for solutions like micro grids, energy storage, community solar, and utility-scale operations and maintenance are also encouraged to apply.
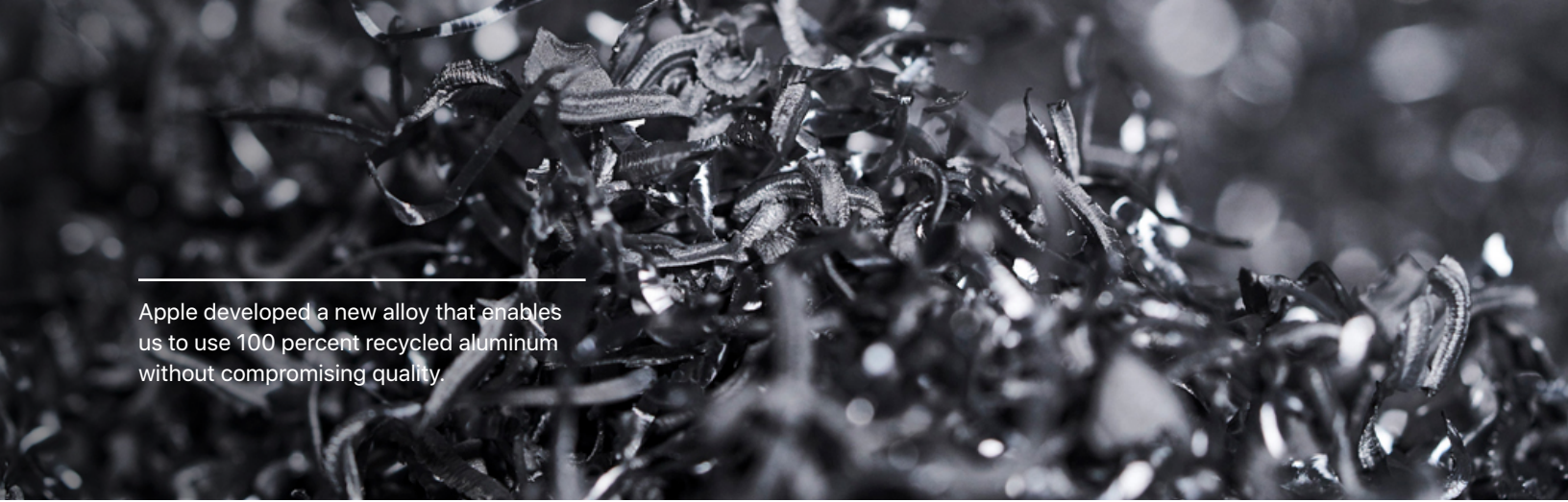
Direct emissions abatement

In instances where we cannot 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 the associated emissions, or switching fuels to a low-carbon source.

Companies that have deployed or are developing technologies in emissions elimination and reduction for manufacturing processes, low-carbon transport innovations, or supply chain emissions tracking tools are strong candidates for the program.

Carbon removal

Forests, wetlands, and grasslands are nature's best tools to remove carbon from the atmosphere. 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 nature-based solutions will play a critical role.

We welcome candidates that are leading in the creation of nature-based carbon removal projects, such as through sustainably managed forests, wetlands, and grasslands and the expansion of green urban landscapes. Companies focusing on new carbon removal technologies would also be good candidates for the Accelerator program.

Apple developed a new alloy that enables us to use 100 percent recycled aluminum without compromising quality.

Resources

We aim to make products and packaging using only recycled or renewable materials. At the same time, we're committed to stewarding water resources and sending zero waste to landfills.

Automation

We don't believe a lack of technology 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 cannot be reused or repaired, we're designing new technologies to unlock the useful materials inside them. Our robots Daisy and Dave are two examples of the innovative approach Apple is using to disassemble devices to recover the important materials our products rely on.

Candidates for our Impact Accelerator program include businesses leading in the development and deployment of innovative solutions such as automation components, automation system integration, computer vision, and machine shop and fabrication services. We're also seeking partnerships with organizations that have expertise in data science, software development, machine learning, and robotics.

Recycling innovation

With linear supply chains, new raw materials are continually extracted from the earth and materials from old products are not always recovered. We envision a future where our devices are made with materials that follow a circular supply chain model—using only recycled and renewable sources—eliminating our reliance on mining.

The Impact Accelerator program is looking for companies that are developing or have deployed recycling solutions in the form of scrap material size reduction techniques, commodity separation systems, material conveyance solutions, or maintenance and repair.

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 data centers and suppliers' manufacturing facilities, which rely more heavily on water. And, as climate change impacts global water resources, we continually examine our usage in each of these contexts.

In support of Apple's ongoing efforts to reduce water use at our facilities and suppliers' facilities, we're partnering with engineering firms that provide services in support of water use efficiency, onsite recycling, and innovative cooling-related technologies, as well as with organizations that are developing water replenishment projects.

Zero waste

The work we're doing 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 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.

In support of our zero waste goals, we've established the Supply Chain Zero Waste Program and the Corporate Zero Waste Program. In support of these programs, we're expanding partnerships with zero-waste design firms, alternative packaging solution providers, take-back providers, and certification firms to reduce material consumption and introduce more recyclable materials into our products.

Our water strategy focuses on understanding watershed context, prioritizing areas of high water risk and use, and recognizing that each location requires its own solution.

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—and from the processes of designing, making, using, and recycling them.

Product chemistry

Each Apple product results from an intentional design process that prioritizes the safety of our materials and manufacturing processes. In fact, safer products make for more sustainable products—their materials can be more readily recycled without concern for future exposure to harmful chemicals. To this end, we continually work to create innovative products that meet our high standards of safety, and we place special attention on materials that come into contact with skin.

In this area, we're looking for partners that provide solutions and services in chemical alternatives and innovative material technologies, as well as partners that are leading in identifying and reducing the life-cycle environmental health and justice impacts of product and material design.

Protecting people and the environment through green chemistry

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 exploring collaboration with research partners and laboratory services to test materials, analyze the potential environmental health and justice impacts of materials used in our manufacturing, and design safer process chemical formulations for manufacturing applications. We are also seeking partners that provide solutions in comprehensive chemical hazard reviews and risk assessments, chemical reference systems, and chemical Environment, Health, and Safety (EHS) training applications.

We test all our products, and place special attention on materials that come in contact with skin.

Additional Opportunities

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

Organizations, including minority-serving institutions (MSIs), that are leading in any of the environmental areas outlined above and are interested in exploring strategic partnerships with Apple on the Impact Accelerator may send their proposal to reji@apple.com.

Distribution center, United States

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Apple's Impact Accelerator?

The Impact Accelerator is part of Apple's Racial Equity and Justice Initiative, which focuses on efforts that address education, economic equality, and criminal justice reform in the United States. Apple's Impact Accelerator will support Black- and Brown-owned businesses and innovations that drive positive outcomes in our supply chain, while empowering communities that are disproportionately impacted by environmental issues.

What types of businesses are eligible?

The 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 American/Latinx, or Indigenous American individual, validated by their Supplier Diversity certification.

Will the Impact Accelerator provide funding to projects?

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

Is there a cost to participate?

The Impact Accelerator program, which will be delivered remotely in 2021, is offered at no cost to participants.

If a company is accepted into the Impact Accelerator, how long should they expect the engagement to last?

On average, the Accelerator will be a three-month engagement for participants. The specific engagement timeline may differ among companies depending on coursework of interest and assigned curriculum. It is our intention to design the Accelerator experience in a way that is tailored to a company's specific needs.

Will the Impact Accelerator be an online experience?

In light of COVID-19, Apple has adopted flexible arrangements for its offices around the globe. The Impact Accelerator program will be an online experience in 2021. Similar to the innovation that Apple applies to its products, our priority for the Accelerator will be to create an engaging experience for companies that are accepted into the program.

How can companies apply?

Companies that have a solution that meets the criteria outlined above may submit an application here by April 30, 2021, at 11:59 p.m. Pacific time.