Deadline: **Friday, October 2nd**
Submit to info@sustainsocal.org

Sustain SoCal

Cleantech Startup of the Year

2026

Sustain
Southern California

Introduction

As demonstrated by our myriad of Startup initiatives—including our Sustainerator Accelerator, our role with Elevation Ventures, and foundational Startup/Investor Vertical—**Sustain SoCal** has a longstanding history of supporting cleantech innovators. The **Cleantech Startup of the Year Award** recognizes the outstanding technologies of new clean/climate tech businesses. For the purpose of this application, Startups are defined as Series B and earlier.

The winner will be presented with the **2026 Cleantech Startup of the Year Award** at Sustain SoCal's 17th Annual Energy Event on October 22nd, 2026.

Eligibility

Clean/climate tech startups who provide an environmentally-focused product or service may nominate themselves for consideration.

Nominees must be willing to:

- ❒ Agree to share the measured impacts of their product, service, or technology with the Sustain SoCal ecosystem
- ❒ Provide details on their target market sector

Third-party nominations must be accompanied by a written authorization from the nominated party agreeing to be considered for the award.

Application

Directions: Please fill out the information below completely. All applications must be received by Friday, October 2nd at 11:59pm. All responses are reviewed by the Awards Committee unless otherwise noted. Only submissions completed in full are eligible. Supplemental documents are allowed, but it is at the discretion of the reviewers to review them. Confidential or proprietary processes, technologies, or business practices should be clearly identified.

Nominee Name:	
Address:	
Contact Name:	
Phone:	E-mail:
Are you a Sustain SoCal Member? If not, how did you hear about us and this award?	

Attach written responses addressing all topics listed below. Submissions that do not address every point within each section will be less competitive. These narratives are the most crucial aspect of the application and should shed light on why the nominee deserves this recognition.

I. About the Nominee (500 Words Max)
   a. Provide details on the technology that your startup provides. How does it tie into climate resiliency, adaptation, or mitigation?
   b. What major obstacles, beyond funding needs, have you encountered in the process of getting your idea up and running?
   c. Is the company based in Orange County? If so, why? If not, explain why the company has chosen OC as a market.
   d. Who is the founder(s)? Please provide a staff roster. Biographical information does not count towards the word count.

II. Looking Forward (500 Words Max)
   a. How will this technology make a positive difference? Consider predicting the impact on GHG accounting, cost savings, or community resiliency.
   b. What does your traction look like? Have you secured any customers or revenue?
   c. How can Sustain Southern California help? Do you have any interest in our Startup Sustainerator?

III. Further Considerations (400 Words Max)
   a. What are other benefits or unique aspects of your tech product or service that do not fit into the above sections?
   b. How will your startup make a positive environmental difference? Highlight cases where you expect to go beyond average environmental standards.

About the Awarding Organization:

Sustain SoCal accelerates sustainability initiatives and cleantech economic growth through innovation, collaboration and education in Southern California.

The Fine Print

Confidential or proprietary processes, technologies, or business practices should be clearly identified in the application. Finalists may be visited for verification of activities. An organization must be in good standing with environmental laws and regulations to be eligible for an award. Awarded optionally, based on nominations received that meet award requirements.