

CIRCULAR ECONOMY INCUBATOR PROGRAM LAUNCHES GREEN VENTURES OUT OF QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY

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Nine innovative entrepreneurs pitched to a panel of industry professionals on Tuesday evening for the chance to win up to \$10,000 of seed funding, marking the culmination of Queen's University's inaugural [Green Summer Incubator Program](#). These undergraduate students, graduate students, and alumni mark a new wave of innovators whose solutions lead the way toward a regenerative circular economy.

The Queen's Venture Creation, Experiential Learning & Net-Zero Training (QVENT) Green Summer Incubator Program is a collaboration between the [Dunin-Deshpande Queen's Innovation Centre \(DDQIC\)](#), the [Smith School of Business Centre for Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Social Impact](#), and [Project Zero](#), a national circular economy incubator. Over four months, innovative entrepreneurs developed and polished their business plan and pitch, built a foundation of business fundamentals and entrepreneurial skills, received one-on-one mentorship, and networked with industry experts and fellow entrepreneurs.

Project Zero has been running the Incubator program in [British Columbia](#) since 2019, graduating over 60 ventures within the circular economy and creating over 140 jobs across the province. QVENT's Green Summer Incubator Program is the first Incubator by Project Zero to be offered elsewhere in Canada.

The pitch event winners were:

X-8 Circular Fashion Club (\$4,000) – Zoe Zhu & Yanxi Chen

An online thrifting experience with an AI fashion design function and on-demand graphic printing services designed to give pre-loved vintage garments a new life.

YieldFly (\$4,000) – Kie Pongsupha

A sustainable, circular agricultural solution vertically farming black soldier flies as a source of animal feed and organic fertilizer.

Cognitech AI Solutions (\$1,000) – Rejoice van der Walk

A responsive AI-enabled leak detection solution for municipal water infrastructure that saves money, protects infrastructure, reduces water loss, and enhances resource efficiency.

Renovation Scout (\$1,000) – Prachi Jangid & Alena Miazga

An app that guides new homeowners through renovations, including project plan generation, green retrofit recommendations, code compliance checks, insurance premium alerts, health and safety alerts, green rebates, and more.

Project Zero is seeking partners who would like host an Incubator program in their region. Head to project-zero.ca/contact to get in touch and submit an expression of interest.

Quotes

“It’s inspiring to see these incredible entrepreneurs working to create a circular economy across Canada. I’m excited to continue building momentum as we develop a national network of green leaders actively driving innovation, creating green jobs, and building economic and environmental resilience.”

- Georgia Lavender
Program Manager, Project Zero

What is the circular economy?

Our current economic system follows a “take-make-waste” linear model, which is resource-intensive and generates high emissions and waste. The [circular economy](#) eliminates pollution and waste by retaining resources and manufactured goods within the system through innovation, reuse and repair, redistribution, recondition, and recycling processes, all of which are powered by renewable energy. These innovations enable affordable lifestyles and empower new ventures that create green jobs for the future.

Project Zero

[Project Zero](#) is an initiative of the Synergy Foundation focused on circular economy innovation that engages the private sector, local governments, post-secondary institutions, and non-profits towards a shared vision for British Columbia and beyond. Since 2019, Project Zero has been changing the narrative about waste to one that is focused on resource efficiency, economic opportunity, and social equity. To date, Project Zero has supported over 90 businesses within the circular economy. Project Zero is an initiative of the [Synergy Foundation](#).

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