

Impulse, volume 1
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Friends and colleagues,

The recent Clean Energy Ministerial in San Francisco capped off an exciting month here at Cyclotron Road and our team is feeding off this energy as we launch into the summer. Read on below for the latest from Cyclotron Road, including our group retreat, some exciting visitors, the first expansion of our model at Argonne National Lab, and a cool video about our program.

We also want to encourage prospective applicants for Cyclotron Road to [sign up for an informational webinar](#) to learn more about our program. We expect to open applications for Cohort 3 this fall.

Thank you for your continued engagement and support.

Onward,

The Cyclotron Road Team

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Retreat sets tone for an exciting year

Innovators from both cohorts and the entire Cyclotron Road team participated in an offsite retreat in early May. This event was the first chance for innovators from both our first and second cohort to get to know each other, share lessons learned, and enjoy some fun competition.

In addition to some team building games, we pushed our innovators to think about their projects from new perspectives. We encouraged them to think of

We asked them to assess their projects based on risk, value, and external skepticism. And, as a group, we reflected on the question "What does a win look like?", a critical personal metric that we ask all of our innovators to take to heart as they get started as entrepreneurs. [Read more about the retreat and see additional pictures here.](#)



Dick Swanson kicks off founder speaker series



Sunpower founder Dick Swanson, often called the father of the U.S. solar industry, visited Cyclotron Road in May as the inaugural speaker in our Founder Speaker Series. These talks feature current and former technical founders discussing their experiences starting hard technology companies. Swanson spent two hours with our group in a wide ranging discussion that covered everything from cost modeling, to manufacturing, to how one defines personal success. [Read](#)

[more about the visit and three big takeaways from our discussion.](#)

Craig Peters and Brian Hardin of Plant PV and Colin Wessels of Alveo Energy followed Swanson as speakers this month. Thanks to all of these inspiring innovators for sharing their stories with our group!

Cyclotron Road model expands to Argonne National Lab

We started Cyclotron Road to test the idea of connecting phenomenal innovators to resources

and expertise at a world-class research institution like Berkeley Lab. Now, informed by learning and validation from our pilot, the U.S. Department of Energy and Argonne National Laboratory (ANL) have launched Chain Reaction



to work with DOE and ANL as they continue experimenting with new way to support energy innovators.

Energy.gov features video about Cyclotron Road

The U.S. Department of Energy is featuring Cyclotron Road in a video on it's homepage. Watch the video below or on [Energy.gov](https://www.energy.gov). Thank you to the DOE EERE Advanced Manufacturing Office for its continued support of our program!



On the Road

Cohort news...

Etosha Cave spoke at the C3E conference at Stanford (video) ... Synvitrobio was awarded a Phase II SBIR from DARPA ... Marcus Lehmann, Kendra Kuhl, and Raymond Weitekamp presented at Berkeley Lab's Cleantech Pitchfest (video) ... Weitekamp also published an article about structural color on Medium ... Opus 12 welcomes Annie Zheng to their team ...

Program news...

York City ... Ilan Gur judged the Cool Companies competition at Fortune Brainstorm E, [emceed](#) the carbon solutions portion of the UC Carbon Slam, and [was on a panel](#) at the Silicon Valley Energy Summit ... Our [Summer Seminar Series](#) begins this month at Berkeley Lab featuring Cohort 2 ...

What we're reading...

David Scholl and Ryan Lively's [commentary](#) on chemical separations (*Nature*) ... Paul Gomper's [1994 essay](#) on the Rise and Fall of Venture Capital (*Business and Economic History*) ... Yi Xue and Richard C. Larson [analysis](#) of trends in the STEM labor market ... Neil Erwin [asking](#) "What was the greatest era for innovation?" (*New York Times*)

Catch up with us at an upcoming event

Our program will be represented at the events below. Come say "hello" - We'd love to meet you!

[Spark US Department of Energy Cleantech University Prize](#) June 21-23, Denver, CO

["Open House" Happy Hour](#) July 21, Townie, Berkeley, CA, 5:30pm

[VERGE Accelerate](#) September 19-22, Santa Clara, CA

Are you an entrepreneur or early-stage startup developing a product or service at the intersection of technology and sustainability? VERGE Accelerate is seeking a dynamic mix of innovators to participate in this year's VERGE Accelerate Showcase. Learn more about this year's showcase and submit your nomination by Tuesday, July 5 here: <http://grn.bz/v16accelcr>

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