Transformation in time

EIT Climate-KIC is Europe’s largest public-private partnership focused on the rapid, broad-based systems innovation we now need to tackle climate change and build resilient, net zero-carbon societies.

We bring together diverse communities to catalyse systemic change through joined-up, collaborative innovation – spanning finance, technology, regulation, citizen engagement and other levers of structural change.

Mission-led

Our mission is to catalyse systemic change through innovation to achieve deep decarbonisation in areas of human activity that have a critical impact on greenhouse gas emissions: Cities / Land-use / Water and marine systems / Finance / Materials – and to create climate-resilient communities.

Theory of Change

Technological innovation alone won’t achieve the structural changes needed to realise zero-emissions cities, land-use or materials, in time. EIT Climate-KIC is therefore convening a deliberately diverse and broad-based portfolio of innovations that work together to harness the many interacting forces that cause change within our target systems. We shape and support innovation in: Funding / Financing, procurement and business models / Policy and regulatory frameworks / Perception, behaviour and social norms / Education and skills / Technologies / Citizen participation / Production systems / Market structures / Information

Systems innovation as a service

We are a delivery vehicle for systems innovation. We work with problem owners to build a portfolio of connected innovation interventions on the ground. We offer orchestration and sense-making to identify viable pathways to change and transformation, and provide tailored support for experimentation, implementation and scaling: Community mobilisation and engagement / Focused innovation consortia / Portfolio composition / Project selection, co-creation and co-ordination / Venture building and scaling / Deep demonstrations of systems transitions and mission-led innovation.


EIT Climate-KIC’s innovation journey

EIT Climate-KIC was established in 2010 and is predominantly funded by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), a body of the European Union. We are one of many EIT-funded Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) set up to bring together businesses, research centres, higher education and the public sector to address societal challenges. Our founding purpose was to tackle climate change through innovation.

In 2017 our approach to innovation evolved to fully acknowledge and address the challenge of social equity and sustainable prosperity that is at the heart of the climate challenge and to achieve the kind of radical systems transitions called for in the IPCC’s Special Report on 1.5 Degrees.

Track record

EIT Climate-KIC is building on strong foundations to shape an innovation model that can align whole systems with a 1.5 degree world. Our track record over the past nine years includes:

Harnessing the power of diversity, demand and deep demonstration

Our balanced portfolio now covers all levers of change and impact areas, and our innovation projects cluster together at a diversity of levels – including districts, cities, nations, regions and industry sectors.

To ensure that we harness the power of demand and demonstration, we are working with the committed and the willing – the most ambitious mayors and municipalities, national and regional governments, industry owners, international organizations, development banks, community organisations and policymakers – to develop deep demonstrations of what is possible at the level of whole systems transformations.