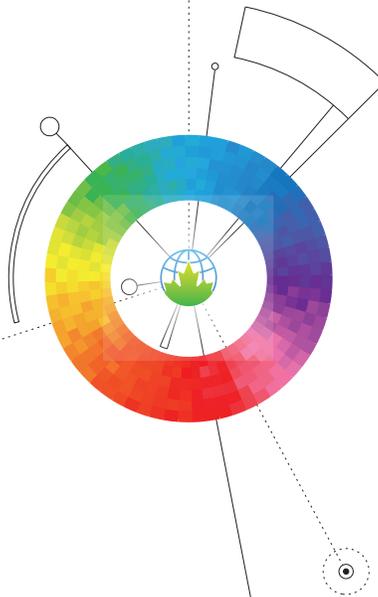


**2017**  
CANADIAN  
CLEAN TECHNOLOGY  
INDUSTRY REPORT



GUEST EDITORIAL:  
**CARBON  
ENGINEERING**



# How Canada's Cleantech Funding Agencies Have Helped Us Along the Way

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At Carbon Engineering, we're building technologies to capture carbon dioxide out of the air and turn it into fuel synthesis to produce clean-burning synthetic fuels with low-carbon intensity. If that sounds like a difficult task, well, it is. Carbon capture from air, a technology that will eventually be deployed on a large scale to help reduce fossil emissions, is a challenging proposition. As a result, DAC (or "direct air capture"), takes a long time to engineer, requires successive prototypes and pilots, and requires real investment to deploy into the commercial market. Fuel synthesis is a similarly challenging proposition, as is the task of successfully entering the two technologies into our commercial fuels markets.

This level of complexity applies to many clean energy technologies, and can make securing private investment challenging. Clean energy technologies, especially those that are disruptive, can take longer or require more investment than software-based businesses to get to market. Further, clean energy technologies are often seeking to reduce GHG emissions, which despite recent progress, we have not yet fully regulated or priced into our economies. This means that there is still market risk for these technologies, and uncertainty as to when they will be profitable, or in what economic niche they will be best applied.

Canada is fortunate to have a "support system" for companies, like Carbon Engineering, hoping to navigate these challenges. At each step of the way—from early lab work, to engineering, to R&D, and now to demonstration scale—we have found agencies and programs whose support has been critical.

These include the BC Innovative Clean Energy Fund, Sustainable Development Technologies Canada, Emissions Reduction Alberta, the NRCan Industrial Research Assistance Program, and several others. In each case, agency support has given us the boost we needed to unlock private investment, and to achieve the next milestone on our development path. This has put us in the position where we're aiming to build a commercial-scale facility that would synthesize liquid gasoline and diesel from air, water, and renewable electricity.

Now is the time for Canada to double down on clean energy technology, to take a lead in what will be one of the largest growth industries of the coming decades, and to bolster an excellent cleantech funding ecosystem.



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