

# NYSERDA Commercialization Programs Overview

JANUARY 2026



NEW  
YORK  
STATE

NYSERDA

## NYSERDA COMMERCIALIZATION

NYSERDA's Commercialization program invests in bridging the gap from R&D to scalable deployment across a range of technologies by offering resources and exclusive access to development partners, investors, and industry expertise.

**Commercialization looks to support startup companies that meet any of these criteria:**

- 1. Based or would like to be based in NY.**
- 2. Currently manufacturing or would like to manufacture in NY.**
- 3. Can have impact on NYS climate goals and have plans for pilots or demonstrations in NY.**

**Mission:** *Grow startup companies and prepare them to deploy innovative technologies for impact in NY state*

**NYSERDA's Commercialization program is focused on supporting startup companies and the cleantech ecosystem in NY. This is done in two different ways:**

**1. Sponsorship of organizations that provide incubation services and/or convenings of investors and capital in New York State.**

- These organizations help to provide support for startup incubation as well as foster connections between startups and equity investors at all-stages.

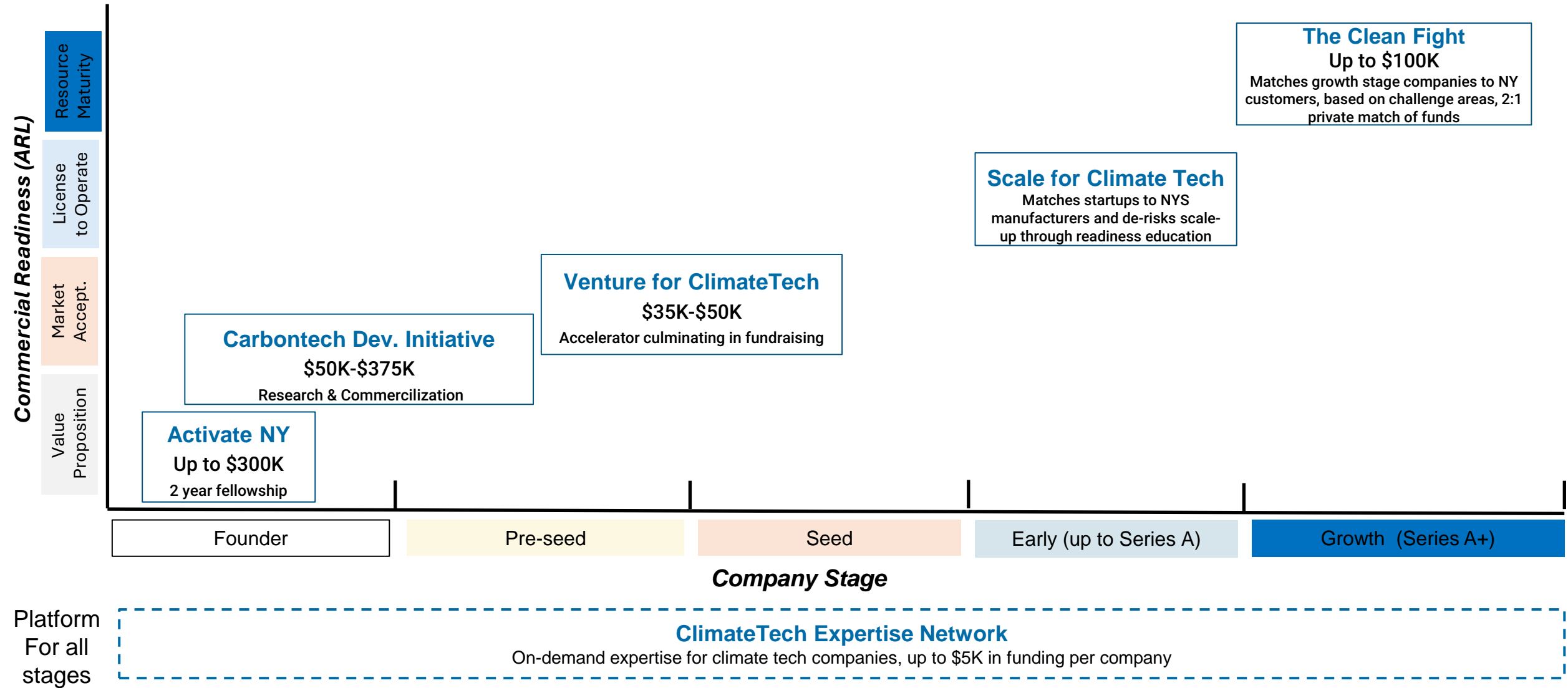
**2. Programs to provide curriculum and guidance to drive startup development.**

- These programs are run by 3<sup>rd</sup> party program administrators who provide the curriculum on behalf of NYSERDA.
- Some of these programs also offer non-dilutive grants funded by NYSERDA.

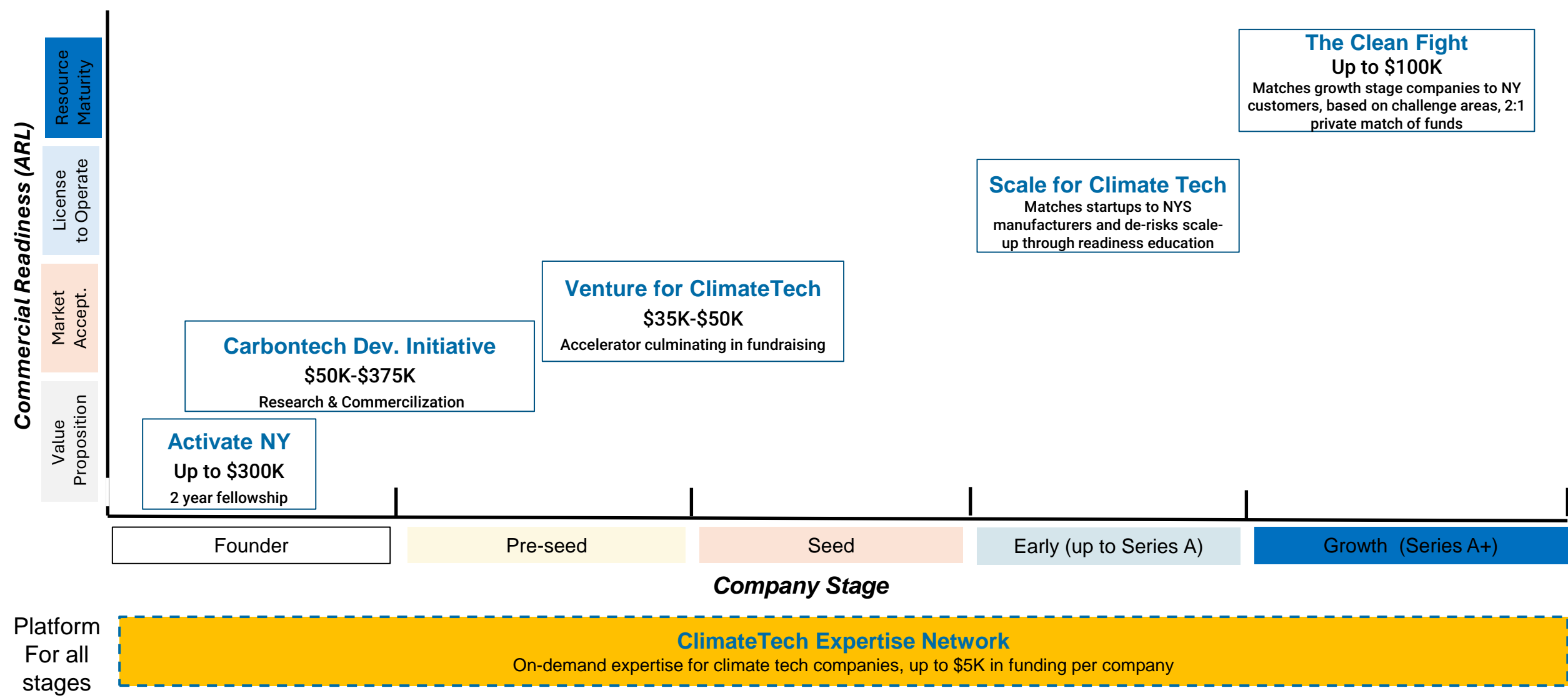
**Since NYSERDA started supporting New York State's cleantech ecosystem in 2016, it has nearly doubled in size, with investments in New York State surging to over \$1 billion in 2021, with nearly 300 products commercialized.**

# Current NYSERDA Commercialization Programs – Move startups up and to the right

All programs are cohort based, other than Activate NY and the Climate Expertise Network



# NYSERDA Commercialization – ClimateTech Expertise Network (All stages)



**ClimateTech Expertise Network (CEN) provides advice, mentoring, and consulting on a short-term project basis to climate tech startups to address specific challenges on their paths to commercialization and scale.**



[www.climatestartupsupport.com/](http://www.climatestartupsupport.com/)

### **Program Services:**

- **Coaching/mentoring:** with experienced Entrepreneurs-in-Residence (EIRs)
- **Talent matching:** for Key hires – CXO, Head of Sales, Lead Engineer, etc.
- **Vendor services:** for critical outsourced functions such as engineering drawings, accounting, marketing and branding, up to \$5K total per year
- **Other services:** Quarterly investor connections events, Skills labs webinars, Peer groups, Climate Leadership Network (online community)

### **Program Eligibility:**

- Startups in any climate tech sector, at any stage from founder to growth and either based in NYS or benefitting the NY State Market.

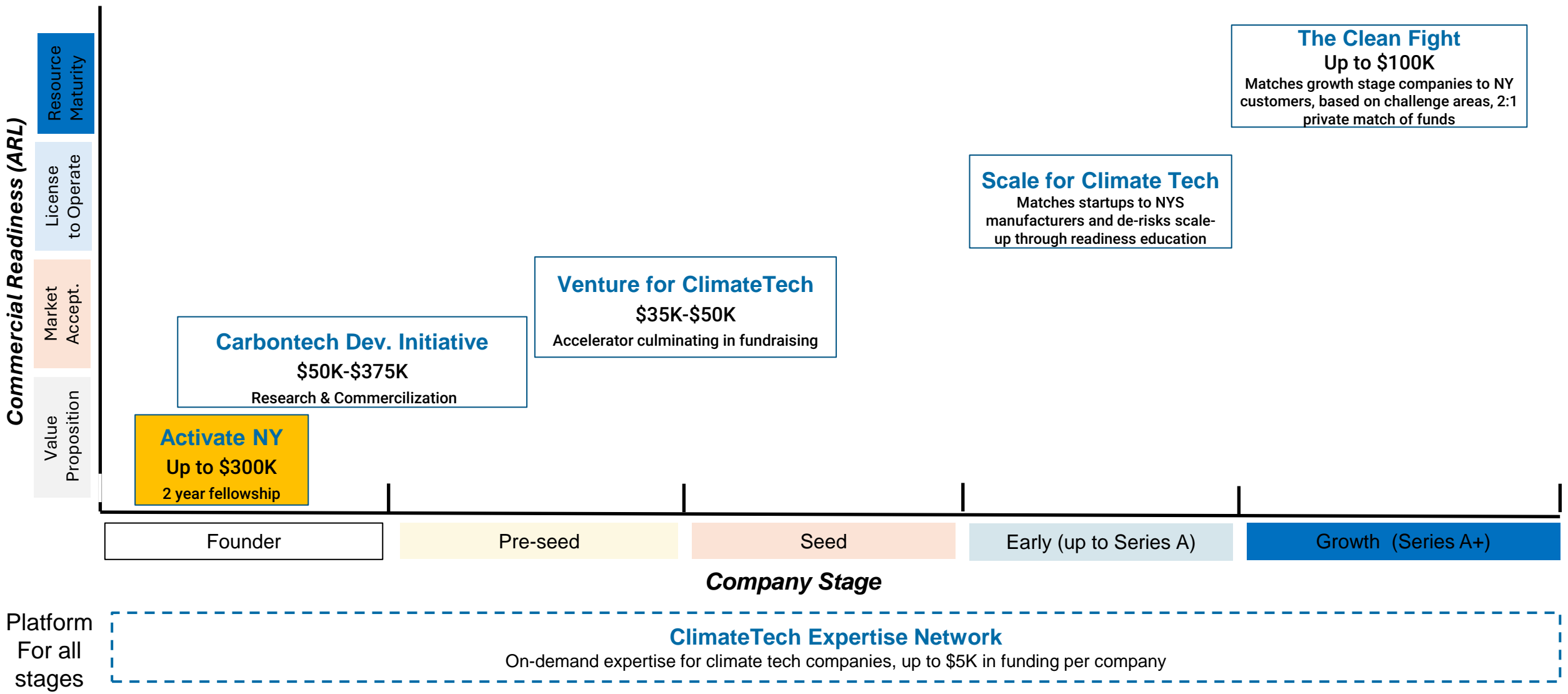
### **Current Programing:**

- Over 275 active short-term projects, with many startups having multiple projects to support their development.

### **Application Timeline:**

- Accepted on an ongoing basis, with one application for all services.

# NYSERDA Commercialization – Activate NY Fellowship (Founder Stage)



## ACTIVATE NEW YORK

**Activate NY is an entrepreneurial Fellowship focused on commercializing carbontech innovations in NY, by assisting entrepreneurial scientists through fellowship funding, training, and support.**



**Activate New York**

[www.activate.org/new-york](http://www.activate.org/new-york)

### Program Overview:

- Two-year fellowship program, in-person in NYC
- Entrepreneurial education and mentorship focused on the development of the Fellows and their technology concepts.
- Small group fellowship structure to provide a network and community.
- Funding:
  - \$100K/YR Living stipend
  - \$100K R&D funding
  - Access to at least \$75K in additional flexible capital

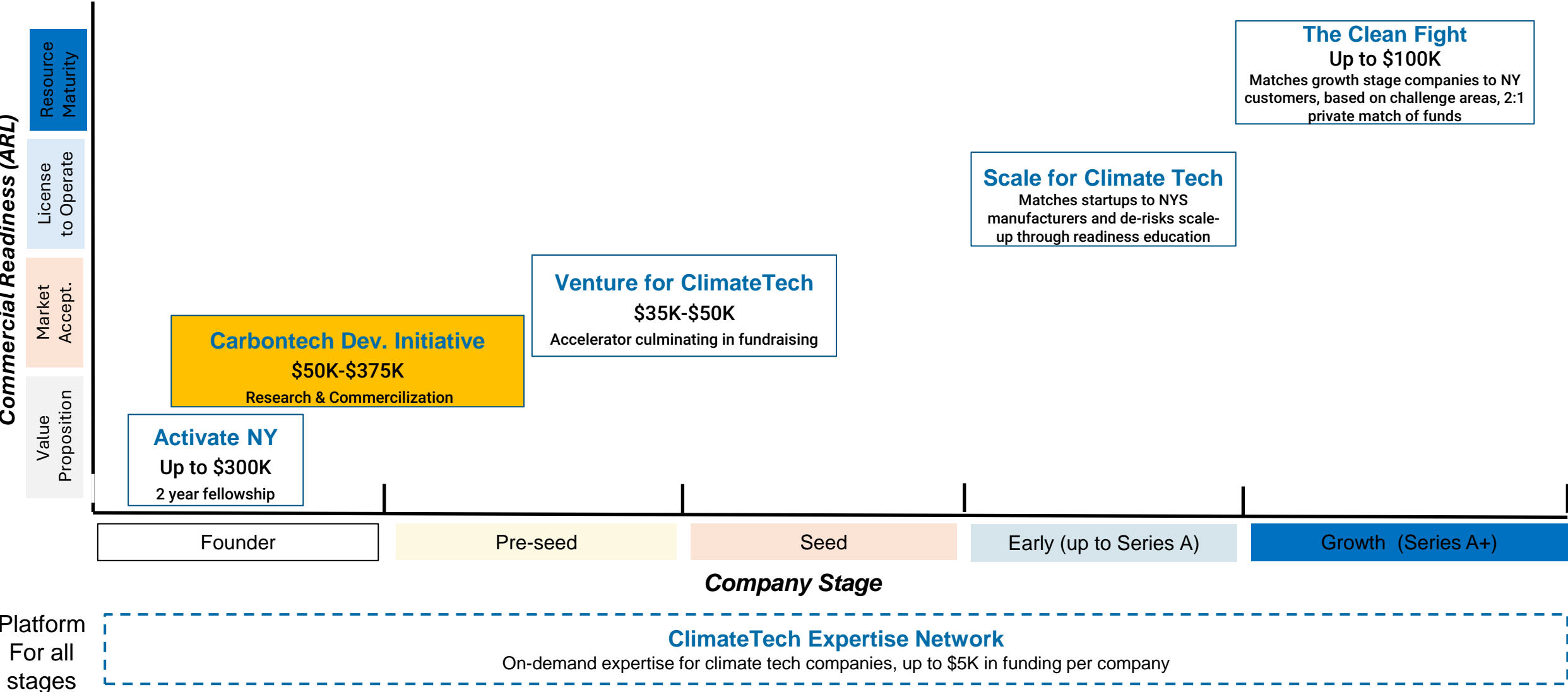
### Program Eligibility:

- Scientist with 4 years post-undergraduate research, engineering, or technology development experience, with strong entrepreneurial interest and leadership skills, and deep knowledge in the field of proposed project; willing to relocate to NYC for program duration.

### Current Programming:

- Fellowship 4 selected (6 Fellows total) for 2025 -2027.

# NYSERDA Commercialization – Carbontech Development Initiative (Founder to Pre-seed)



## THE CARBONTECH DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

**Carbontech Development Initiative (CDI), administered by Columbia University is a cohort-based grant-seeding commercialization initiative for carbontech science and technology dedicated to New York State.**

Carbontech Development Initiative (CDI)



[lbtomarket.columbia.edu/cdi](http://lbtomarket.columbia.edu/cdi)

### Program Overview:

- Focused carbon capture, utilization, negative emissions.
- Two separate programs:
  1. Research and Develop program (Propel)
    - 12-18 months, advancing technologies from earlier stages (TRL 2-3)
  2. Commercialization program (Bridge)
    - 12-24 months, supporting mid-stage (TRL 4-6) and later stage (TRL 6-9) companies to advance prototypes, testing, marketing and other aspects to introduce and scale new technologies

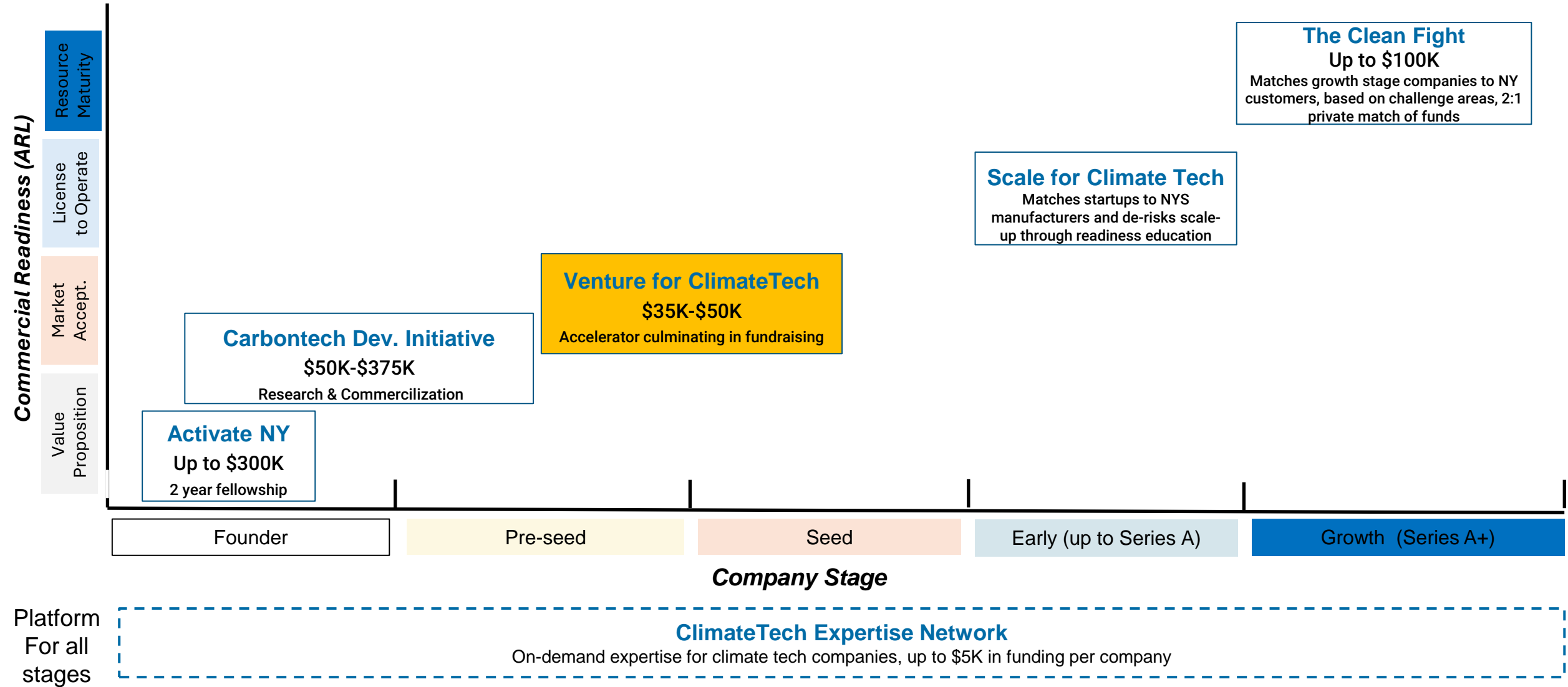
### Program Eligibility:

- Open to both Universities and startups,
- Propel program
  - No institutional funding,
  - Ideation of design complete
- Bridge program
  - Up to Pre-seed funding.
  - Minimum Viable Product (MVP) or prototype.
- Technical focus areas vary by cohort, but typically include:
  - CO2 capture technology
  - CO2 utilization in building materials
  - CO2-to-Chemicals Fuels and Dual-Functional Materials .

### Current Programming:

- Cohort 3 (11 teams total) In progress
- Cohort 4 participants in the selection process now.

# NYSERDA Commercialization – Venture for ClimateTech (Pre-seed to Seed)



## VENTURE FOR CLIMATE TECH

**Venture For ClimateTech is an accelerator providing hands-on support to early-stage climatetech companies to obtain initial investments, first customers, and start pilot projects. The program develops the early-stage pipeline of high-potential companies that can later scale and deploy climatetech innovations for NYS benefit.**



[forclimatetech.org](https://forclimatetech.org)

### Program Overview:

- Three-phase, 6-month virtual cohort
- Coaching and support with customer discovery, securing funding, team building, and more
- Matching with mentors and investors
- \$35-50K in grant funding across three phases
- Demo day in NYC during Climate Week

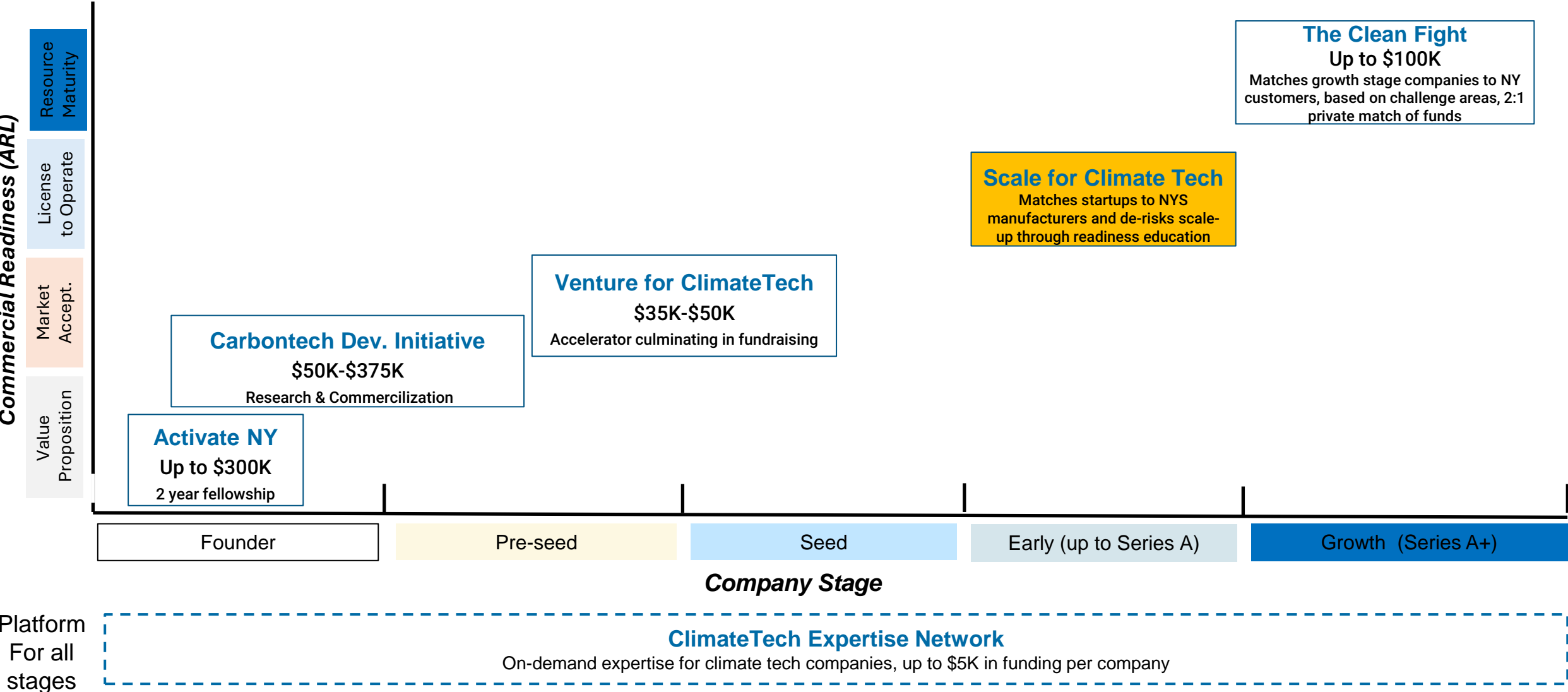
### Program Eligibility:

- Early-stage companies or solo founders (unincorporated)
- Innovation that can benefit NYS
- Funding stage: Pre-seed, must not have raised significant amount of equity funding (<\$1M). Non-dilutive funding is acceptable.
- Sector Agnostic, but aims for sectors of high-impact for NYS (buildings, transportation, grid, industry)

### Application Timeline:

- Cohort 6 Applications close on 20 FEB '26

# NYSERDA Commercialization – Scale for ClimateTech (Early stage)



## SCALE FOR CLIMATE TECH

**Scale For ClimateTech aims to increase production and deployment of climatetech products by supporting companies through manufacturing scale up challenges.**

From early Design for Manufacturing (DFM) and prototype refinement to negotiating partner and supplier agreements, as well as managing logistics, Scale For ClimateTech supports startups navigating time-sensitive, critical decisions throughout the entire process.



[forclimatetech.org](https://forclimatetech.org)

### Program Overview:

- 6-month cohort
- Coaching and support with manufacturing readiness
- Matching with vetted suppliers and manufacturers
- Roadmap project to advance manufacturing capability

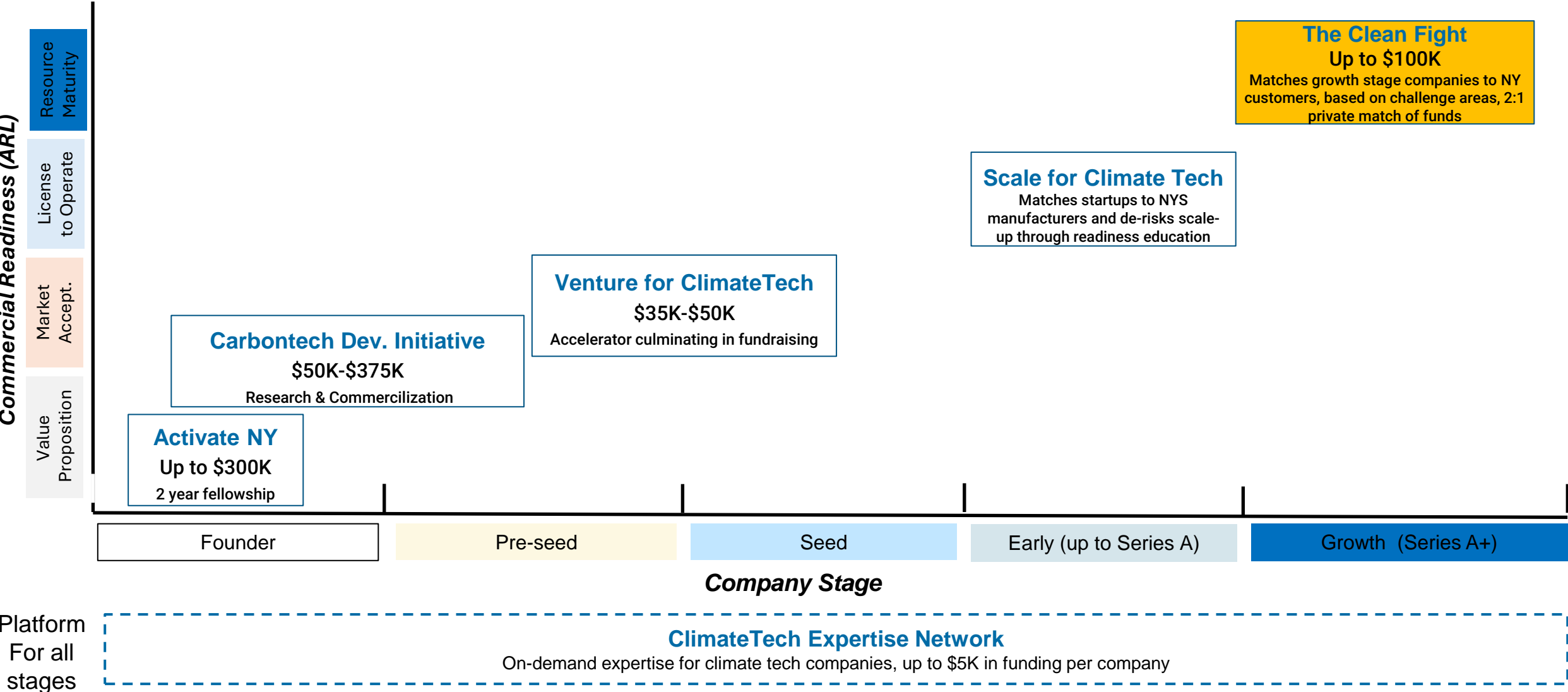
### Program Eligibility:

- A minimum of a works-like/ looks-like climate tech prototype that has a hardware component.
- Customer commitment to manufacture product, such as LOI/LOS, JDA, contingent purchase order
- Ready to manufacture, with one year of funding allocated for manufacturing activities
- Sector Agnostic, but aims for sectors of high-impact to NYS (buildings, transportation, grid, industry)
- Companies typically at Seed or Series A stage.
- Company does not need to be in NY or manufacture in NY but does need to show benefit to the NY market.

### Current Programing:

- Cohort 7 Underway now.

# NYSERDA Commercialization – The Clean Fight (Growth Stage)



## THE CLEAN FIGHT

**The Clean Fight is a not-for-profit accelerator seeking to identify and scale the top growth-stage climate tech companies from around the world, looking to expand in New York.**

**The Clean Fight creates replicable pathways to scale the adoption of climate solutions through targeted, sector-specific, in-market tests, bringing together solution providers, adopters, and capital providers, to prove out the most impactful strategies to remove key barriers to climate-tech adoption to support broad market adoption.**

**THE  
CLEAN  
FIGHT**  
NEW YORK

[thecleanfight.com](https://thecleanfight.com)

### **Program Overview:**

- 6-8 month sector-specific cohorts in Buildings, Energy Storage, and Industrial/Manufacturing sectors
- Focused on challenges in NYS with pairing between companies and partners (both capital and project) in NY.
- Scale-up of the most impactful approaches, in collaboration with partners.
- Emphasis on growth-stage market adoption, scaling, demonstrations, and deployments

### **Program Eligibility:**

- Growth-stage climate tech companies with proven market adoption, positioned to scale for broad market adoption
- Funding round typically Series A+

### **Current Programming:**

- Cohort 6 (10 companies) underway focused on Energy Storage.

**Further questions, please reach out to our team at:  
[innovation@nyserda.ny.gov](mailto:innovation@nyserda.ny.gov).**

**To stay informed about timing of programs and release of  
funding opportunities please opt-in to our Innovation  
e-mail list:**

**[Connect With Us - Innovation](#)**