



INTERNATIONAL CLEANTECH NETWORK

2024 ANNUAL BOOKLET

JAN 2025 // PREPARED BY ICN SECRETARIAT

2024 has been an incredible year for the International Cleantech Network and its members. The value, impact and reach of the network has precipitated an increase in participation on key global platforms. ICN truly is a global network of leading cleantech clusters.

Several of these platforms are highlighted in the annual report – participation in these events and inputs into these platforms to support cleantech in North America, South America, Africa, Europe and Asia demonstrate the reach and influence of the network across 5 continents.

The ICN is a learning organisation – the exchanges between ICN members, the member’s companies’ and a wide variety of academic and government authorities has led to several key insights. Many of these insights are captured in a white paper setting out how cleantech clusters can support the developing world to solve both climate and development challenges.

The philosophical approach which supports accelerating the deployment of economically viable cleantech through supporting market access and internationalisation is bearing fruit. These efforts toward building and curating repeatable pathways for cleantech have produced meaningful outcomes. As these pathways deepen & formalise – their value will increase.

2024 has seen the ICN leverage several bilateral and multilateral partnerships for its members. This has created access to project funding for innovation, matchmaking and internationalisation. Our ability to continue to create value and unlock international markets is a key differentiator.

On behalf of the team - thank you to the ICN secretariat – hosted by the ICN member in Denmark (CLEAN) – for your unwavering determination. Thank you to the ICN member clusters your efforts drive to build your own individual clusters is an inspiration to the network.

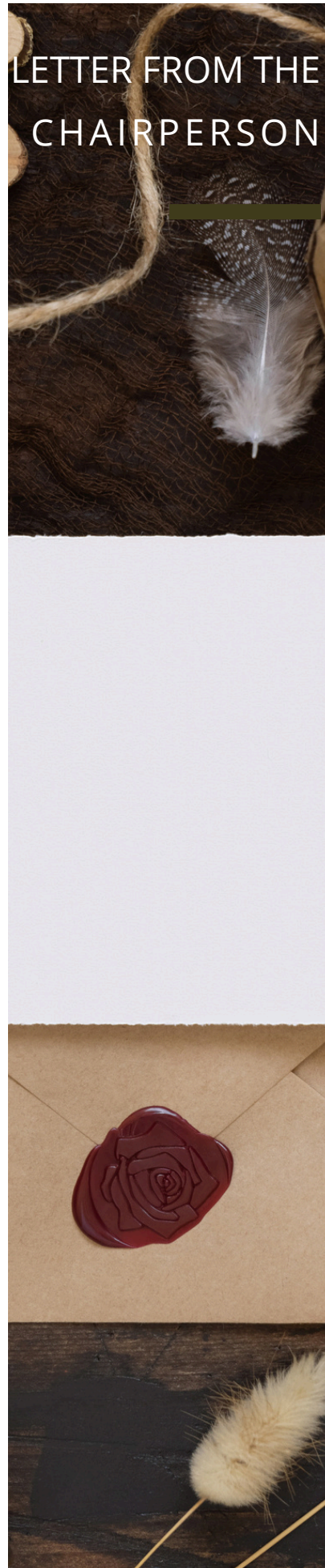
The world needs collaboration that can unlock value, build trust, build communities and build solutions to address climate change. The ICN is demonstrating that these unusual collaborations can, and do, work!

I can’t wait to see what we achieve in 2025.

December 2024

MIKE MULCAHY

LETTER FROM THE
CHAIRPERSON





01.

WHO IS ICN?



The International Cleantech Network (ICN) is an independent **non-profit organisation** for the world's leading cleantech cluster organisations, consisting of **22 regional clusters** worldwide.

ICN clusters are typically based on a **triple-helix structure**, meaning that their membership consists of companies (primarily SMEs), public authorities, and research institutions.

The SMEs of the ICN clusters are at the **international forefront** of sustainable energy and environmental industries and collectively provide innovative technologies to meet the growing global demand for green technologies and sustainable solutions.

As members of ICN, clusters can provide **opportunities** for their members to expand their international networks and associate with project owners outside of their region.



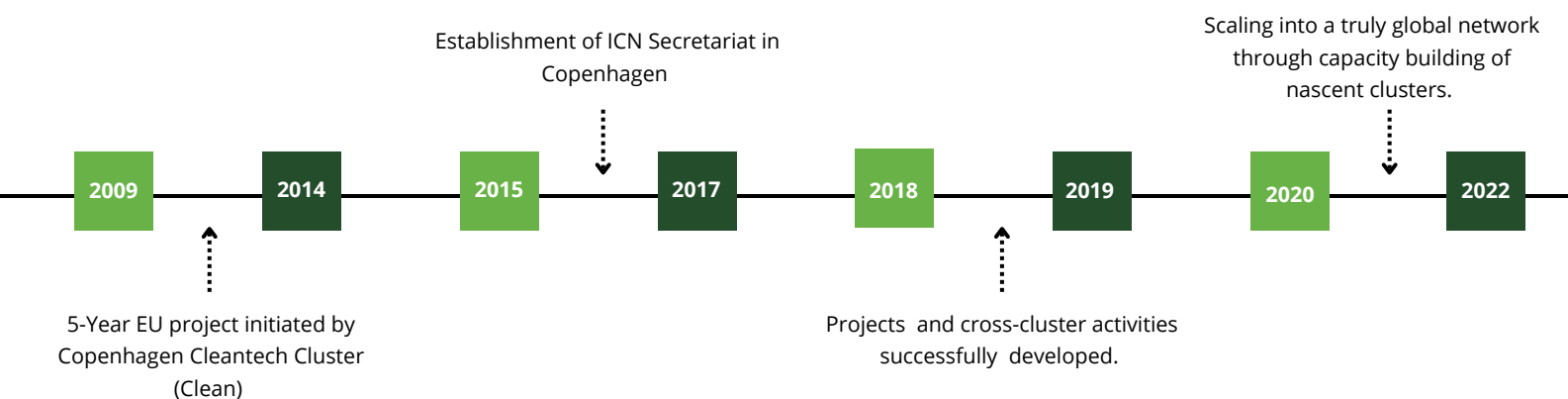


OUR MEMBERS

Our members are characterised by a cross-sector framework which involves SMEs and other stakeholders from within ICN's three core thematic focus areas Water, Energy and Circular Economy.

ICN connects more than 4 500 SMEs, 250 universities and 45 cities. Each cluster represents businesses and knowledge institutions that are leading within their field of cleantech, providing the ICN network with valuable expertise.

OUR HISTORY





MISSION

We strengthen cleantech ecosystems to advance a greener future by:

- Building capacity through enhanced collaboration and knowledge exchange.
- Fostering cross-border innovation partnerships.
- Accelerating the global adoption of cleantech solutions.

VISION

Our vision is to be the global hub for cleantech ecosystems, driving collaboration for sustainable development.

Together, we enable world-leading cleantech cluster ecosystems and their associated partners within the green economy to collectively develop and implement sustainable solutions within energy, environment, and other cross-cutting areas that contribute to stimulate the global green economy.



02.

2024 Highlights

CONNECTING ECOSYSTEMS



2024 ANNUAL MEETING

MAY 2024, SOUTH - AFRICA

This year's Annual Meeting was held in South Africa, offering a unique opportunity to delve into the complexities of engineering a just energy transition. Engaging with local stakeholders provided invaluable insights into the region's context and reaffirmed the need for globally connected cleantech solutions that prioritize inclusivity and equity.

A key highlight of the meeting was the approval of ICN's new strategic framework. This updated strategy reflects our commitment to accelerating the adoption of sustainable technologies through enhanced collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and advocacy. It positions ICN to effectively navigate the evolving cleantech landscape and address emerging global challenges.





In 2024, ICN actively participated in key events, showcasing its commitment to excellence and contributing significantly to pivotal discussions, boosting ICN's visibility worldwide and engaging with innovative enterprises globally.

IWA CONGRESS, TORONTO (CANADA)

The IWA World Water Congress & Exhibition 2024 brought together global stakeholders and key contacts to address water challenges and share innovative solutions.

During the IWA Congress in Toronto last August ICN Member, Water Alliance, organized a session around Circular Water. Besides several other speakers, Water Alliance invited Bonita Mathew from the ICN cluster network, Foresight Canada, to present. The session was titled 'Blueprint for circular water smart society'. All presenters gave their view on this topic around circular water. A keynote was given by Mrs Meike van Ginneken, the Netherlands special Water Envoy.

Hein Molenkamp - Managing Director at Water Alliance



Fostering collaboration opportunities and strengthening ties within the ICN network.



2024 EVENTS OF THE YEAR

EWTW 2024, LEEUWARDEN

The European Water Technology Week, one of Europe's leading gatherings of the water technology sector, brought together over 1,500 participants from across the world for three days of knowledge-sharing and networking.

Scott Grønnegaard Allison from Clean took part in the international cluster session which explored ways for global expansion by forging connections with esteemed water clusters. ICN was showcased as a leading example of cross-border collaboration and innovation that fosters entrepreneurship to catalyzing exports of water technology. The session was joined by: Hein Molenkamp, managing director of Water Alliance, Bryan Stubbs MBA, President and Executive Director, Cleveland Water Alliance, US and Tom Williams, CEO Enebio and Non-Executive Director British Water, UK.

The event is a great space to meet with fellow ICN clusters as well to forge new partnerships with other clusters from around the world.

Scott Grønnegaard Allison - Chief Project Manager and Head of International at Clean





2024 EVENTS OF THE YEAR

IFAT 2024, MUNICH

As the world's leading trade fair for environmental technologies, IFAT 2024 attracted over 3,200 exhibitors and 140,000 visitors, showcasing innovative solutions for sustainable water and resource management.

ICN members Aquanova and CLEAN both presented their cutting-edge contributions. Aquanova, as part of the AWEX shared stand, showcased its water treatment innovations, with Project Manager Catherine Delahaye also featured as a speaker in the session on driving innovation and capacity development through cooperation. CLEAN provided SMEs the opportunity to present their environmental technologies at its Innovation Corners within the Danish Pavilion.

The event offered valuable opportunities to engage with global stakeholders and strengthen connections within the ICN network.



2024 EVENTS OF THE YEAR

COP16, COLOMBIA

This October, ICN fostered impactful partnerships during COP16 in Colombia.

At COP 16 in Colombia, ICN members CTC (Cleantech Cluster Colombia) and Clean participated in key events focused on sustainability, circular economy, and biodiversity. They engaged with representatives from the University of Copenhagen, Universidad Nacional de Colombia, and the HC Business Cluster to explore collaboration opportunities between Denmark and Colombia.

The event highlighted innovative solutions in climate-smart agriculture and the circular economy, with a field trip to CIAT and discussions on pressing global environmental challenges, strengthening connections among ICN partners and expanding their network in the sustainability sector.





2024 EVENTS OF THE YEAR

G20 SOCIAL, BRAZIL

Five clusters from three different continents along with a range of members gathered in Rio de Janeiro this November for the G20 Social. Over six days, the delegation explored Brazil's environmental most pressing issues, including water and waste management. They toured the city's largest industrial complex, visited composting sites, and met with local politicians.

On average, each member formed agreements with nearly four partners to explore new project collaborations, and at least four members returned home with concrete agreements or projects. The delegation proved how meaningful connections across borders can drive impactful change, inspiring participants with unexpected solutions while fostering shared learning and innovative approaches to global environmental challenges.

Maria Dominguez - Project Manager at Clean





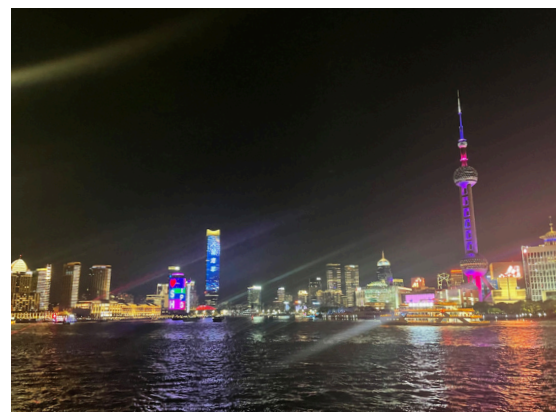
2024 EVENTS OF THE YEAR

SHANGHAI CLIMATE WEEK, CHINA

Henrik Bjørnager Jensen, COO of Clean, the Danish Water and Environmental cluster, gave a speech at the opening ceremony of the very first edition of Shanghai Climate Week. In his speech he presented the ICN and the value of clusters working together internationally.

Henrik highlighted how sharing knowledge and facilitating network and collaboration for joined innovation is key to delivering solutions to the problems we share globally.

This year, ICN is continuing to develop the relationship with Chinese partners in 2025, and hope to soon welcome a chinese cluster to the international cleantech network.





2024 ICN NEW MEMBERS

Throughout the year, ICN warmly welcomed **two new clusters** into its international fold. This growth not only signifies the progressive reach of our network but also underscores the collective commitment to advancing sustainable technologies worldwide.

KUOPIO WATER CLUSTER, FINLAND

Kuopio Water Cluster, located in Finland, is dedicated to advancing clean water solutions. They offer expert product development, testing, and commercialization services for companies in the water technology sector.

With over 70 members, including public and corporate organizations, the cluster is committed to driving growth and innovation in the Pohjois-Savo region and across Finland. Thanks to its extensive network of local universities, multidisciplinary national research institutes, businesses, and innovation partners, Kuopio Water Cluster is able to support joint project activities both regionally and internationally. Additionally, they provide access to specialized laboratories and expertise from all partnering organizations, as well as on-site pilot testing and demonstrations through their mobile pilot facilities.

KUOPIO **WATER** **CLUSTER**



2024 ICN NEW MEMBERS

KLAIPEDA SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PARK (KSTP), LITHUANIA

Founded in 2002, KSTP is a Lithuanian cleantech cluster focused on driving innovation in green and blue (marine) technologies. As a non-profit organization, KSTP is committed to fostering regional, national, and international collaboration, actively participating in the ongoing SMEBeyond project.

KSTP's mission is to support the growth of cutting-edge technologies by providing infrastructure, consulting services, and support to innovative businesses and ideas. The organization has developed a thriving community of around 100 companies, public institutions, and divisions of international firms, all contributing to the innovation ecosystem.

By joining ICN, KSTP gains new opportunities to strengthen its mission. Collaboration with other cleantech clusters will enhance resilience, foster knowledge transfer, and support skill development.





FOSTERING INNOVATION PARTNERSHIPS



HI2 VALLEY

ICN is a partner in the recently granted HI2 Valley project. This initiative, representing a total investment of EUR578-million by industry and the public sector, will establish a large-scale renewable hydrogen (H₂) economy in the Austrian industrial regions of Upper Austria, Styria and Carinthia. HI2 Valley will decarbonise key sectors through H₂, drastically reducing emissions in the steel, chemical, and cement industries as well as in energy and mobility. With 13,000 tons of green hydrogen being needed in the regions by 2028, over 10,000 tpy of green hydrogen will be produced within this HI2 Valley.

By introducing strategically placed, decentralised H₂ production facilities, the project will strengthen energy resilience and flexibility and create a robust domestic market for green H₂. The HI2 Valley will play a crucial role in bridging the gap between Southern and Eastern European hydrogen supply corridors. Being embedded on the European Hydrogen Backbone and TEN-T network and future pipeline connections (PCIs) with Southern Europe and North Africa, the HI2 Valley will seamlessly connect Austria's multi-user H₂ ecosystem with neighbouring countries like Germany, Italy and Slovakia, fostering a truly interconnected Central European hydrogen network. This role model will help to secure industrial jobs, and through standardisation and integration brings costs of hydrogen down, creating a green industrial future for Europe. Going beyond its immediate neighbours, the HI2 Valley will also foster knowledge sharing and wider adoption of green hydrogen through the active collaboration with five other emerging Hydrogen Valleys in Eastern Europe in Poland, Romania, Hungary, Latvia and the Czech Republic.



TESTIMONIAL



REDBERRY

Redberry has leveraged the ICN network to significantly enhance its visibility and build strategic connections in the water sector. By participating in visio calls and attending events thanks to ICN fellow members recommendations, we have been able to present our innovative rapid microbiological control solutions to key stakeholders. Being a member of ICN has facilitated meaningful discussions with industry leaders, fostering collaborations that support the roll-out of our technology to tackle water quality monitoring challenges.

"ICN has been instrumental in helping us connect with the right partners and showcase how our solutions can bring value to the water sector, outside of our existing networks."

Jonathan MACRON, Chief Executive Officer, Redberry



CONTACT US



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