



INTRODUCTION

As the second quarter of 2024 draws to a close, we can applaud the Baltic cleantech players for another record-breaking quarter, showing a 307% increase in amounts invested compared to Q2 2023. Reflecting on the entire first half of 2024, Baltic cleantechs have attracted 178.31M EUR in total, with the largest share going to the energy sector.

The Baltic countries are effectively leveraging the EU Recovery and Resilience Fund to boost cleantech investments. Numerous early-stage cleantech funds, accelerators, grants, and centers of excellence have been established. This, of course, leads us to expect a continuation of the cleantech sector growth trend that we've been witnessing.

Much like the first half of the year, the second half is shaping up to be filled with insightful events and networking opportunities. Check out the upcoming events at the end of the briefing.

Kädi Ristkok, CEO of Cleantech For Baltics

HIGHLIGHTS



Estonian Cleantech Association founded to boost the development of the sector

The Estonian Cleantech Association was founded on 7 May 2024 in Tallinn, taking over some activities of the historical Cleantech Estonia and setting the broader objective of supporting the sector in its upcoming success and challenges. As an industry association, it unites, supports and represents cleantech companies engaged in developing, commercialising, using and financing products, services and processes that save the environment and climate.

Estonian Cleantech Association grew out of the activities of the non-profit Cleantech Estonia. Cleantech Estonia operated from 2016 to 2024, supporting the development of the cleantech sector in Estonia from its early stages. Establishing the business association is necessary in the current phase of rapid development of the cleantech sector to increase cooperation and ensure the sector's growth.

[Learn more >>>](#)



Breakthrough Energy Summit

The Breakthrough Energy Summit, held in London from June 25th to 27th, brought together an unparalleled network of global climate leaders dedicated to accelerating the transition to a clean energy future. As a partner of Breakthrough Energy, Cleantech for Baltics is part of a powerful global network of innovators, policymakers and industry leaders.

The meetups, panels and coffee corner discussions covered various topics at the heart of the clean Industrial Revolution, from technology to societal change management and agriculture to aviation. As the world really does need more breakthroughs, it's time we team up and accelerate our efforts to scale and deploy transformative solutions that will lead us toward a cleaner future.

Competitiveness and cleantech sector contributions to security and resilience efforts were some of the key topics mentioned regarding European cleantech.



The third international conference dedicated to green and digital innovations, DigiGreen'24, was held in Vilnius.

DigiGreen is the only conference in the Baltic region dedicated to green and digital transformation innovations. For the third time, it has attracted experts, business leaders, and innovators aiming to create a more sustainable and cleaner future. The conference covers the most relevant sustainability topics, the dynamics of change, trends and directions in clean technologies, and various other aspects of the cleantech environment.

[Learn more >>>](#)

✓ **Deep Tech Atelier 2024 and Techchill 2024 in Riga gathered investors, startups and ecosystem stakeholders**

In Riga the two main startup industry events of Latvia – Deep Tech Atelier and TechChill – have successfully concluded in May and April. Deep Tech Atelier focused on showcasing cutting-edge technological advancements and fostering collaboration between innovators and investors. Meanwhile, TechChill brought together entrepreneurs, industry leaders, and VCs to discuss the latest trends and opportunities in the startup ecosystem. Both events highlighted Riga's growing importance as a hub for innovation and entrepreneurship as well as cleantech in the region.

✓ **Latitude59: the investor day focused on security and cleantech**

The largest tech event in Estonia, Latitude59, was held in May and the Investor Day put the spotlight on cleantech and security. Our CEO, Kādi Ristkok, had the opportunity to moderate an Investor Day panel "Industrializing European cleantech in an era of geopolitical instability". This panel focused on the challenges and opportunities for industrializing European cleantech amidst geopolitical instability and featured guests Minna Leisvuori, Martina Ecker, and Namratha Kothapalli. The panel concluded with 3 main points. We need (1) increased later-stage funding, (2) larger green funds and (3) stronger international and governmental collaboration.

[Learn more >>>](#)

✓ **European Innovation Scoreboard 2024 results published**

The European Innovation Scoreboard (EIS) 2024 highlights Estonia as a "Strong Innovator" with a performance index of 104.8% of the EU average. Although the country has experienced a slight decline compared to the previous year, it has maintained a positive trend since 2017, demonstrating strengths in lifelong learning and international cooperation while facing challenges in high-tech exports and resource productivity. Latvia, classified as an "Emerging Innovator," operates at 53.6% of the EU average. The country has shown significant improvements in public-private co-publications and international scientific collaboration since 2017, but struggles with a decline in environment-related technologies and venture capital expenditures. Lithuania is categorized as a "Moderate Innovator," though specific performance metrics were not detailed in the provided data.

The Baltic region as a whole boasts high levels of public-private co-publications and strong international scientific collaboration. However, the region faces challenges with lower venture capital expenditures and limited innovation expenditures per person employed.

[Learn more >>>](#)



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BALTIC CLEANTECH 9 TO WATCH IN 2024

Baltic cleantech is on the rise. With many new and emerging companies to surface, there's no doubt that the sector will witness more growth in 2024. Our team has put together a list of nine cleantech companies, three from each Baltic country, who are on the course of becoming the next big thing.

ESTONIA

- **RAIKU** produces 100% natural, compostable, highly protective and aesthetically beautiful packaging material to substitute single-use plastic.
- **Roofit.Solar's** award-winning fully integrated solar roofs combine the traditional Nordic metal roof design with progressive solar technology.
- **UP Catalyst** focuses on turning the harmful greenhouse gas CO2 into valuable carbon nanomaterials and graphite.

LATVIA

- **PurOceans™** is a revolutionary technology that removes 98% of seabed pollution through the patented method called Deep Water Rehabilitation.
- **Terrawaste** provides a next-generation advanced waste recycling technology that turns non-recyclable waste into valuable feedstock for the materials industry.
- **WinGo** is a packaging collection and processing technology created in Latvia that can do things no other machine of this kind can – anywhere in the world.

LITHUANIA

- **Divaks** is dedicated to the development of tailor-made, high-quality insect protein solutions for the food industry.
- **Inbalance grid** is a developer of energy-efficient smart electric vehicle charging software, an award-winning hardware design house, and an EV charging network operator.
- **HeavyFinance** is a climate technology firm providing sustainable finance and investment solutions for agriculture.

Estonia

RAIKU

Roofit.Solar

UP CATALYST

Latvia



TerraWaste

wingo

Lithuania

Divaks

Inbalance grid

heavyfinance

COALITION NEWS

The First Cleantech for Baltics Coalition meeting of 2024 discussed the topics of growth and securing funding

Cleantech for Baltics Coalition members gathered in Riga on 17 May to discuss plans for the year. While the Baltic cleantech sector has experienced significant investment growth, reaching 384M EUR in 2023, concerns persist regarding the availability of growth funding. A roundtable discussion was held to brainstorm ideas for accelerating cleantech sector growth and securing financing.

Some key takeaways from the discussions include: sufficient clean energy supply is a precondition for a successful cleantech sector; higher levels of public funding, including different funding mechanisms like tax breaks, are needed to attract private growth funding from outside of the Baltics and EU; access to qualified workforce is increasingly holding back the cleantech sector development and public green procurements should be developed further to increase the size of the local cleantech solution markets.

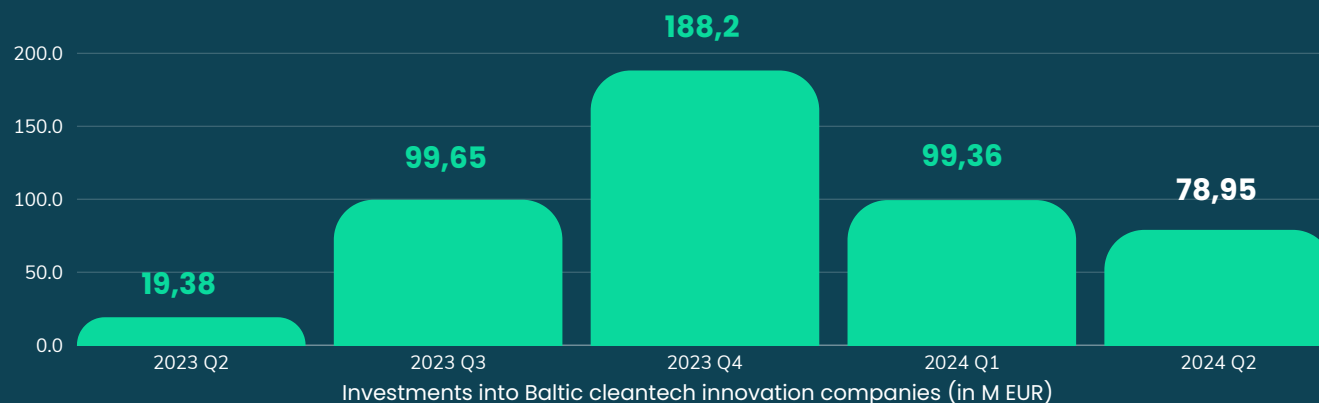
CfB Manifesto signing and European Parliament Elections

Just before the European Parliament Elections we had the opportunity to participate in a roundtable discussion with the EP candidates in Latvia and Lithuania, where the importance of technology and innovation was emphasized. European Parliament representatives and candidates from three countries had the opportunity to sign the electoral manifesto of Cleantech for Baltics. The main goal of this manifesto is to enable cleantech actors to mobilize finances, support policy development, and enhance the demand for clean technologies.

The Cleantech for Baltics Manifesto is all about building a cleantech powerhouse in the Baltics. Find the manifesto here [>>>](#)

Read more about the Latvian and Lithuanian discussions here [>>>](#)

CLEANTECH INVESTMENTS AND PUBLIC SUPPORT



Total investments in cleantech for the second quarter of 2024 was 78,95M EUR, while last year Q2 had investments of 19,38M EUR. The most investments were made in the Energy & Power sector.

Estonian cleantech start-up Stargate Hydrogen raises 42M EUR for scaling up ceramic-based electrolyzers

Stargate Hydrogen, a pioneering force in green hydrogen solutions, announces the successful completion of its seed funding round, raising 42M EUR. This substantial investment, comprising both equity and grant instruments, is designated for the scaling of its patented electrolyser technology. >>>

Skeleton Technologies invests 33.7M EUR in Estonia with state support

Estonia received a state aid permit from the European Commission to support Skeleton Technologies hydrogen technology development projects with 18M EUR. The company's investment in the Estonian development center is 33.7M EUR.

Skeleton uses state aid for a development center in Estonia, the company's total investment in hydrogen development is 33.7M EUR. Skeleton is participating in a hydrogen project with many of the world's top companies, including BMW, Airbus, and Michelin. >>>

Estonian start-up Bisly raises 6.2M EUR Series A to expand its emissions-slashing smart building platform across Europe

Bisly closed their A round with a total of 6.2M EUR to develop their smart building solutions further, fuel expansion into new markets and continue making energy savings affordable for all. In addition to new investments, Bisly also made some management changes as the Former Chief Operating Officer Ants Vill has been appointed CEO to spearhead these growth efforts. >>>



Esgrid, a Tallinn-based startup, raises 500k EUR in Funding to Turn Value Chains Sustainable

With support from Lemonade Stand, EstBAN, Startup Wise Guys, Little Green Fund and notable angels, Esgrid secures 500k EUR to build accessible value chain sustainability management tools, noting enterprise and financial sector clients among its customer base. [>>>](#)

Estonian “Fibenol” signs MoU with Latvia to build a biorefinery plant

The Estonian company Fibenol plans to build a commercial-scale biorefinery plant in Latvia using its patented Sunburst technology. The total investment could reach EUR 600 to 700 million. Fibenol's demo plant was established in Imavere, Estonia, with support from the EU's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program. The total investment in the demo plant has now reached around EUR 70 million, with nearly EUR 20 million contributed by the European Union. [>>>](#)

Estonia applies 100M EUR from EU recovery fund to cleantech investment

Estonian cleantech sector is witnessing a significant investment boost thanks to the establishment of the SmartCap Green Fund by the state-owned fund management company SmartCap. The fund size is 100M EUR, and the capital is invested through private venture capital funds. Throughout 2023, the fund made six investments in early-stage startups. The plan is to start investing at later stages with more substantial ticket sizes moving forward. Two private fund managers have been selected to establish two dedicated investment funds for clean technologies: **2C Ventures** and **SFV**. Each manager will receive an initial investment of 20M EUR to kickstart their respective funds.

Latvia launches ERDF-funded competence centers to boost innovation with 112M EUR support

Competence Center operators have been selected and will begin their first calls in Q2. These centers will coordinate research projects with ERDF support, focusing on new technology, product, and service development. This initiative aims to create new or significantly improved products and technologies in smart specialization areas, including energy, transport, smart materials, and other key sectors as defined by Latvia's RIS3 smart specialization strategy. SMEs and startups developing products and technologies in these fields will be eligible for support. The support is divided into three verticals: "general," "green products," and "digital products," with a total funding allocation of nearly 112M EUR. The green products vertical has an allocation of 40M EUR.

French HDF Energy announces a strategic partnership with Latvian startup DIGAS to jointly develop hydrogen freight locomotives.

HDF Energy (Hydrogène de France), a manufacturer of high-power fuel cells, has entered into a strategic partnership with DIGAS, an expert in locomotive retrofitting. The two companies will collaborate to accelerate the design and development of projects that retrofit diesel locomotives to use hydrogen power. Additionally, HDF has acquired a minority stake in DIGAS to support this partnership. >>>

Nearly 24M EUR allocated for green hydrogen production in Lithuania

On April 22nd, a call will begin for Lithuanian businesses and institutions to apply for support for investments in creating green hydrogen production capacities. The initiative, initiated by the Ministry of Energy, will allocate nearly 24M EUR for this purpose. The measure will be administered by the Environmental Projects Management Agency (APVA). >>>

An additional 40M EUR in support has been allocated for solar power plants for the residents of Lithuania

June 11, residents will receive a new call for support to install solar power plants or increase the capacity of their existing ones. The Ministry of Energy has allocated a total of 40M EUR for this call. It is estimated that at least 15,000 households will be able to benefit from this support, according to the ministry. >>>

New accelerator launched for cleantech start-ups in Estonia

Beamline Accelerator, in cooperation with the Baltic Innovation Agency and Sparkup Tartu Science Park, launches a new "Energy | Climate" accelerator program aimed at green technology start-ups, funded by KIK (EIC). The new "Energy | Climate focus" Batch, offers non-dilutive support with product & business development services worth up to 100k EUR per startup to drive the success of the innovative company. >>>



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POLICY AND REGULATIONS

- **Approved updated Lithuanian National Energy Independence Strategy**

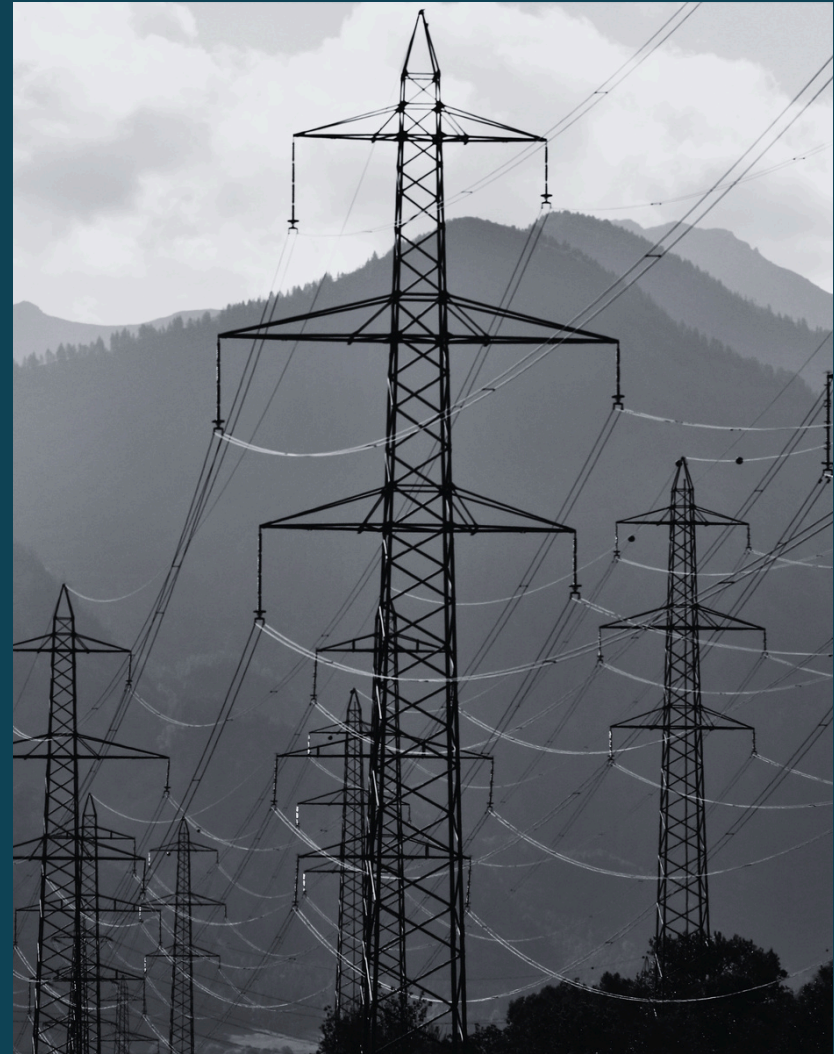
Lithuanian Seimas updated the National Energy Independence Strategy in June. It will establish energy policy that implements international commitments and prepares for the transition from polluting fossil fuels to clean, climate-neutral energy sources. The document aims for Lithuania to become fully energy independent by 2050. >>>

- **Estonian Climate Resilient Economy Act sets the goal of enforcing a strong sustainable economy while its real impact remains to be clarified**

The Ministry of Climate of Estonia presented the key principles of the Climate Resilient Economy Act (previously referred to as the Climate Law) during a press conference on 15 May. A big emphasis is on ensuring a smooth transition to renewable electricity as clean energy production has the biggest potential in helping Estonia reach its 2030 climate targets. The law is complementary to the national energy strategy that is currently being updated.

- **Estonian cleantech companies band together to overcome export hurdles**

The Estonian Cleantech Association organised its first official gathering of energy-clean technology companies to identify and address their export needs. This event was carried out in collaboration with Enterprise Estonia. Participating companies identified four main barriers to export: the complexity and cost of the certification process, the lack of local piloting opportunities, the absence of a necessary network of contacts and unclear regulations in target markets. A follow-up meeting is planned for the autumn, which will also involve policymakers. >>>



- **Discussions on offshore wind development in the Baltic Sea have focused on infrastructure development and security**

Energy ministers from eight countries around the Baltic Sea—Lithuania, Poland, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Estonia, and Latvia—have endorsed the Vilnius Declaration on the development of offshore wind in the Baltic Sea. The declaration commits to gradually phasing out fossil fuels, particularly from Russia, further developing offshore wind energy, promoting regional cooperation with a focus on marine energy infrastructure connections, and enhancing the resilience of critical energy infrastructure to cyber and physical threats. >>>

- **Green light for hydrogen development guidelines in Lithuania**

Lithuania continues to prepare for the transformation of its energy sector: on Wednesday, the government approved the Hydrogen Development Guidelines for Lithuania 2024–2050, prepared by the Ministry of Energy. During the meeting, the Ministry of Energy was tasked with developing an action plan for implementing these guidelines in collaboration with state institutions and social partners. The use of hydrogen is mainly planned for the industrial and transport sectors, with the possibility of using it for electricity generation also being evaluated. >>>

- **As Lithuania prepares for the development of hydrogen energy, planning for hydrogen infrastructure starts**

As Lithuania prepares for the development of hydrogen energy, initial steps are being taken to plan hydrogen infrastructure. The Lithuanian gas transmission system operator, "Amber Grid," has announced public consultations regarding a 10-year gas transmission network development plan. Among the main aspects, the plan includes creating a hydrogen transportation network, synergy between gas and electricity sectors, and significant attention to the integration and diversity of renewable energy sources such as biomethane and green hydrogen. >>>

- **The Green Corridor helps accelerate the arrival of investments into the Estonian economy**

The Estonian Minister of Economy and Information Technology, Tiit Riisalo, introduced to the cabinet the analysis of the Green Corridor of foreign investments, which offers solutions to bottlenecks in order to facilitate the arrival of investments with high added value to the Estonian economy. In more detail, possibilities for streamlining procedural actions in planning, environmental impact assessment, land operations, and relevant permit procedures were explored, and possible solutions were also proposed. The creation of a green corridor, i.e. a faster procedure for investments with high added value, will hopefully direct more investors to prefer Estonia in the future, hopes Tiit Riisalo, Minister of Economy and Information Technology. >>>



UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

- **Baltic VCA Summit 2024**
September 5-6th | Vilnius, Lithuania

[Learn more >>>](#)

- **Tech Tour European Hydrogen Valleys 2024**
September 5-6th | Riga, Latvia

[Learn more >>>](#)

OCTOBER

- **Investor Camp**
October 2nd | Vilnius, Lithuania

[Learn more >>>](#)

- **Startup Fair. Pulse 2024**
October 3rd | Vilnius, Lithuania

[Learn more >>>](#)

- **Impact Day 2024**
October 10-12th | Tallinn, Estonia

[Learn more >>>](#)

NOVEMBER

- **VILNIUS GREENTECH FORUM 2024**
November 7th | Vilnius, Lithuania

[Learn more >>>](#)

- **GreenEst Summit**
November 13th | Tallinn, Estonia

[Learn more >>>](#)

- **Tallinn Digital Summit**
November 19-20th | Tallinn, Estonia

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