

Green Tech Valley - History

The Green Tech Valley owes its name to the US author Shawn Lesser. The US journalist from the Cleantech Group venture network coined this phrase back in 2010. Not only that; he has also ranked our green location, in the south of Austria, as the global No. 1.

It actually all started in 1913 with Viktor Kaplan and his pioneering invention of the modern hydro-electric power turbine. In the 1970s, Styria conquered the international market for self-assembled solar systems. AEE Intec was founded in 1988 as a leading independent research institute in the sustainable technology sector. In 1992 Robert Kanduth founded GREENoneTEC. The company has since developed to become the world's largest manufacturer of solar thermal flat-plate collectors. It was from this location, way back in the 1980s, that the recycling movement began its triumphal march around the world; with the first separate waste collections, and the first waste sorting systems from the likes of now global market leaders, Binder + Co and Redwave.

Green Tech Valley – #1 Hotspot for Climate & Circular Solutions

The Green Tech Valley is located in the south of Austria and is internationally regarded as the #1 hotspot for innovative energy and environmental technology. It embodies a concentrated innovative force in solar energy, biomass, hydro-electric power and recycling systems. Within the Valley, around 300 companies and research institutions are shaping the green solutions of the future. With 20 global technology leaders within an hour's drive, the location forms one of the highest concentrations of companies in this industry.

Did you know that ...

... almost every 5th kWh of green electricity has a green technology heart, i.e. is generated with the help of Valley technologies?

Green Tech Valley - Strong growth in green tech jobs and turnover

In just 10 years, the companies located in the Green Tech Valley collectively have doubled their number of employees. But even beyond this, they have tripled their sales turnover. Currently, the energy- and environmental technology sector is home to around 24,500 employees. They have generated a green tech turnover of 6.8 billion euros. The export rate adds up to around 90%. Renewable energy technologies in particular are the best sellers of the Green Tech Valley.

Green Tech Valley Cluster - History

It is in the Valley, Styria and Carinthia, that the Green Tech Valley Cluster initiates green growth through innovation. In true pioneering spirit, the Green Tech Valley Cluster was founded in 2005 with a group of 80 companies as its partners. In 2021, the team of the Cluster initiated, respectively, strengthened 34 R&D&I -projects with a cooperation volume of 87 million euros, which contribute decisively to problem solving in the sectors of climate protection and circular economy.

The Green Tech Valley Cluster lives climate protection and has itself been climate-neutral since its inception. For this purpose, it carries out environmental audits on a regular basis and continuously implements measures to reduce emissions.

The Green Tech Valley Cluster leads several international rankings as No. 1 (VDI/VDE 2018, Global Cleantech Directory 2012, Cleantech Group 2010) and was awarded the Regiostars Award of the European Commission as well as the Austrian Cluster Award 2020.

Green Tech Valley Cluster - Ownership

The Green Tech Valley Cluster GmbH is a public private partnership and is owned by Steirische Wirtschaftsförderungsgesellschaft mbH (SFG), the Province of Styria, Department 14 – Waste Management and Sustainability Unit, the City of Graz, ANDRITZ AG, Binder+Co AG; e² engineering GmbH and KWB Kraft und Wärme aus Biomasse GmbH. Since 2021, the KWF - Carinthian Economic Promotion Fund as well as the Federal Ministry of Austria for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and technology have been formal co-sponsors of the Cluster and are represented as guests in all committees.