

Welcome to our September 2020 Newsletter!
Watch for a new mini edition each month...

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In This Issue

- What's Happening in Cleantech?
- LSCNS Gets a Restart
- Keeping Up with NSIV
- What's Going On?

NSIV Website

Find all these stories and more on our website! Stay informed at NSIV.org.

Keep Up With Us



What's Happening in Cleantech

While 2020 will long be remembered for COVID-19, there are events to celebrate. This is a year to mark several milestone anniversaries. As we noted last month, MassCEC is celebrating 10 years of making an impact in the clean energy sector. We now call your attention to two other organizations celebrating achievements.



With its mission "to find, fund, and foster entrepreneurs with ideas to solve our greatest environmental and energy challenges", the [Cleantech Open Northeast](#) accelerator and business plan competition has been fulfilling that mission for the past 15 years.

The Clean Tech Open of New England is wrapping up its 2020 cohort in October. NSIV has continued its involvement with CTONE this year, as it has every year. Our Director of Mentoring, Trish Fleming, serves on the CTO Mentoring Committee and has been a mentor to a team out of Buffalo, NY that is designing the next generation of wind turbine blades. Tom Kinneman, our COO, is a mentor for a company that is producing green hydrogen (if you didn't know, current hydrogen production is extremely "dirty"). NSIV works with CTONE to identify potential new members to our community – we've been fortunate to have several members that have gone through the Cleantech Open, including Crowd Comfort and Radical Plastics.

"It is gratifying to see how far companies can advance in 12 weeks with the focused mentoring and structure of the CTO program," says Trish. "We see the potential in these companies as well as their potential impact. Plus, it's fun!" A fun fact – Trish was part of the organizing team for the Ignite Clean Energy Competition back in 2005, which later became the Clean Tech Open.

We'd also like to share a brand new [info graphic](#) celebrating the progress - it's a quick read that will give you lots of interesting facts and figures to think about.



[ACTION Innovation Network](#),

celebrating its 10th anniversary, uses the power of its network to drive its mission to "accelerate the success of early-stage technology entrepreneurs

that are supported by our membership of collaborative workspace organizations", according to ACTION's website. This network of entrepreneur support organizations is dedicated to providing technology startups with support services that include specialized facilities for R&D, subsidized office space and administrative support, and assistance with research and patents. They help connect business with mentors and other professional services, and provide introductions to potential funding opportunities.

Follow ACTION on Twitter @ACTIONNE for information on upcoming webinars like this one on September 18th which covers what to consider when securing your first location in the Greater Boston Area as your company expands in the U.S. Get the details [here](#).



Last month we mentioned that the [Massachusetts Clean Energy Center](#) (MassCEC) is celebrating its 10th Anniversary year and recommended that you take a look at their **Ten Year Impact Report** [here](#) or download the [PDF](#).

A few reflections on this colorful report from NSIV's Eric Yarmoff (introduced below)...

A lot has been accomplished both in reducing carbon emissions (equivalent to the energy usage of a quarter million MA homes or the action of 4.5 million trees) and juicing the Massachusetts economy (52,000 jobs added since 2010, an 86% increase over the prior period, enabling ~ \$14 B Gross State Product); in so doing, putting the Massachusetts clean energy sector on very strong footing for its increasing role in the Commonwealth's society. Indeed, by providing training and internships (which this writer credits with his current job and bright perspectives), catalyzing 46,000+ clean energy projects (from solar installations and heat pump upgrades, to the first U.S. offshore wind port), and attracting \$2 billion of private and federal capital, MassCEC will enhance many aspects of our lives for years to come. Thank you so much!

Life Sciences Consortium of the North Shore Gets a Restart

NSIV is a member of the [Life Science Consortium of the North Shore](#). LSCNS is a public-private partnership started in 2012 between four North Shore academic institutions and North Shore InnoVentures. The academic organizations were [Endicott College](#), [Gordon College](#), [North Shore Community College](#), [Salem State University](#) with the [Gloucester Marine Genomics Institute](#) and its related [Gloucester Biotechnology Academy](#) joining later.

The mission of LSCNS is to improve job readiness, increase resource sharing and enhance higher education-biotech industry collaboration. To that end, a main goal of the Consortium is to secure student internships with Life Science companies. Practical experience gained during internships is critical to secure a job after graduation, especially in the Life Sciences. The Consortium also aims to increase sharing of sophisticated technical resources and equipment at the institutions among the members.

LSCNS recently received a \$100,000 grant from the [Cummings Foundation](#) that will be awarded over two years to support its mission. Led by Executive Director, [Lynn Sutherland](#), one of the current initiatives of the Consortium is to increase outreach to identify Life Science companies that would take interns. NSIV and its member companies have taken interns from the Consortium institutions which is a win-win situation. The interns provide economical labor for the startups and the members provide real world work experience for the students.

Watch for more updates in the coming months.

Keeping up with NSIV



Radical Plastics has begun "field" testing some of their plastics compounds on the roof at here at the Cummings Center.

The technology is explained on their website: "Items made from the Radical Plastics compound perform just like regular plastics. But if they end up in the environment, the free radical catalyst converts the plastic into a material that microbes recognize as food. This allows them to metabolize the material turning it into biomass, CO₂ and water. Radical Plastics compounds biodegrade fully in the environment leaving no residue, no toxic substances and no microplastics."

Pictured here is Yelena Kann, CTO and Founder, taping material to the roof for a trial testing period. Creating plastics that can easily



biodegrade is certainly an exciting prospect.

Other good news from Radical Plastics is the announcement that that they closed a \$1.4M Seed Round in August, led by Good Growth Capital with participation from Safar Partners, Vector Advisors, Hub Angels and others.



[Eric Yarmoff](#) is the newest member of NSIV and will be developing our presence in the cleantech space with a focus on ocean-related technology (bluetech). He comes to us from the University of Rochester, in New York where he studied geology and film first, then entrepreneurship and sustainability in a master's program.



He is well acquainted with the North Shore having family ties to Marblehead, where he now resides, and biking and hiking extensively in the area (He completed a through hike of the Bay Circuit Trail this spring and cycles into Boston often).

Please feel free to reach out to him regarding anything you would like to share about innovation, the North Shore, or the sea at eric.yarmoff@nsiv.org.

Keep up with our members on social media - each week we introduce you to one of the people who work for a NSIV member company.

GETTING TO KNOW NSIV

CAROL WASSERMAN
NEW ENGLAND HYDROPOWER COMPANY
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

“ I have been a committed environmentalist since April 22nd 1970, which was the first earth day. As I moved into law and biology I became even more interested in [environmental issues.] ”

NORTH SHORE INNOVENTURES
Innovate Faster, Climb Higher

Recently, it was Carol Wasserman from New England Hydropower Company. See the rest of the Tweet [here](#).

And watch for more NSIV member profiles like this one - all are being featured on LinkedIn, Twitter, and Facebook.



One of our former NSIV interns, [David Walczak](#), has recently accepted a job at [Hubspot](#) as a Customer Support Specialist. Not only did David provide staff support at NSIV, he later interned with other member companies, [HepatoChem](#) and [Harvest Yeast](#), and spent the summer working for [Gloucester Bio](#).

David is a 2020 graduate of [Gordon College](#) with a Bachelor of Business Administration. Congratulations to David!

What's Going On?

Hurry - there's an event this week that may be just what you're looking for...NSIV Sponsor, [Eric Groft](#) of [Two Row Studio](#), has let us know about an interesting free event: [The How-To Happy Hour for Online Selling](#).



This will be an intro to a few key concepts and meant to give businesses a place to ask real questions and get detailed answers about digital sales. For more information, and to register, click [here](#). **But don't wait** - the date is today, September 17th from 4:30 -5:00 pm.

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