Industry Snapshot

Based on our new survey, the clean tech cluster in our region is still booming. In the past year, the core of this sector added 850 jobs (for a new total of 4,150 jobs) and $340 million in revenue (a new total of $2.54 billion). This amounts to a growth of 15% in revenue and 22% in jobs. In these surveys, we track a core group of businesses that are either manufacturing clean tech goods or providing services based on proprietary IP. We do not track the many more jobs in companies that for example do solar installations, or do efficiency upgrades. Others have noted that using a broader definition, the clean tech sector here accounts for over 14,000 jobs. SARTA’s goal has been to help the core clean tech sector grow to 10,000 jobs and $5 billion in revenue. In our first survey in 2004, we identified only 650 jobs in this sector. In this past decade, the sector then has grown six-fold—a huge leap forward and a measure of the substantial momentum carrying the industry forward here.
Dr. Ruihong Zhang

Dr. Ruihong Zhang is a professor of biological and agricultural technology to build anaerobic biorefineries. That technology is being commercialized by Sacramento-based CleanWorld, where Zhang is chief technical adviser. The technology turns organic waste and waste food into electricity and natural gas and also soil amendments.

CleanTech mixer this summer, with a final installment in the fall.

Nevada City Winery where the event was held. We will continue our enjoyed wine and hors d’oeuvres while networking at the beautiful and Dr Richard Philpott, CEO of Burst Energies. Participants Brandon Davis, Sales Manager of California Solar Electric Company, clean tech leaders including Michael Carroll, CEO of Helios Altas, the Sierras. Featured presenters included local entrepreneurs and CleanTech to Nevada City in March for an evening of networking in

The Clean Tech winner of Pitchfest 2014 was Sunfolding, a company developing a solar tracking system for photovoltaic arrays. Pitchfest is a competition that took place as part of SARTA’s TechCon Sacramento 2014. Rather than using gears, levers, motors and actuators to orient solar panels to face the sun throughout the day, Sunfolding uses compressed air and plastic containers to orient the arrays. It is less expressive and reduces maintenance costs. The runner up for CleanTech PitchFest was Solar Roof Dynamics. Solar Roof Dynamics partners with roofing contractors to integrate solar into their business operations allowing them to offer customers an integrated roof and solar system.

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California Sunlight (Sacramento) California Sunlight (Sacramento) Founder and CEO Bing Gu has developed a solar balloon cooker that concentrates the sun’s rays. The cooker creates enough heat to cook food and purify water. The balloon is collapsible and portable allowing it to be used for camping, backpacking and in remote areas that need clean water and cleaner ways to cook. California Sunlight was one of finalist companies that pitched to investors at the Entrepreneur Showcase at Velocity Venture Capital.

Pacific Ethanol (Roseville) Pacific Ethanol, Inc. is on track for achieving earnings of $20 million for 2014. This is an increase over a loss of $2 million from the prior year. Pacific Ethanol makes and markets low-carbon renewable fuels, choosing to locate its plants close to its customers to reduce costs and differentiate itself in the marketplace.

Propel Fuels (Sacramento) Propel Fuels recently announced that it was moving back to Sacramento. Propel was founded in Seattle in 2004, relocated to Sacramento in 2008, and had left in 2010 to move again to Redwood City. Propel, a renewable fuels retailer, is making the return to Sacramento in part due to more affordable housing. They hope to employ 16 in 2015 and have a staff of 30 by the end of 2016.

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SARTA’s CleanStart Program, founded in 2004, is designed to stimulate the development and success of early stage clean technology companies and to build a regional clean tech cluster through education, collaboration, and partnering. Board Member Gary Simon is the Chair of the Program. Program Director: Amber Harris amber@sarta.org

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SARTA plays an important role in providing a forum for cleantech business leaders to meet and find areas of cooperation and ways to better grow Sacramento into becoming the low-carbon capital of the world.

– Mike Hart, President & CEO, Sierra Energy
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Nevada City Winery where the event was held. We will continue our enjoyment of wine and hors d’oeuvres while networking at the beautiful and historic Nevada City. Participants included clean tech leaders including Michael Carroll, CEO of Helios Altas, a renewable technology company, and innovators such as the Sierra Energy team.

Brandon Davis, Sales Manager of California Solar Electric Company, and Dr. Richard Philpott, CEO of Burst Energies. Participants included local entrepreneurs and investors, service providers, community organizers, and educational institutions. The CleanTech event was one of finalist companies that pitched their idea. California Sunlight (Sacramento) Founder and CEO Bing Gu has developed a solar balloon cooker that concentrates the sun’s rays. The cooker creates enough heat to cook food and purify water. The balloon is collapsible and portable allowing it to be used for camping, backpacking and in remote areas that need clean water and a cleaner way of cooking.

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