



ACE Africa Entrepreneur Programme Agreement

About ACE Africa

ACE Africa is an initiative to support the growth of circular development in African cities through innovation and collaboration. Our goal is not just to facilitate the creation of an enabling environment for the uptake of circular economy concepts and innovative approaches, but to unlock the potential of the circular economy by supporting and upskilling start-up companies and small businesses that show promising circular economy contributions in African cities. ACE Africa is implemented by ICLEI Africa and Stellenbosch University LaunchLab with support from the Embassy of Finland in South Africa.

About ACE Africa Entrepreneur Programme

Our ACE Africa Entrepreneurs are start-ups or entrepreneurs in Southern Africa who consider their innovations or businesses as circular and contribute to areas of food, agriculture, health and climate change. ACE Africa will provide support for selected start-ups or entrepreneurs by incubating and upskilling them as they launch and by providing a platform of exposure to, and interaction with mature circular businesses, funders and government officers.

ACE Africa Entrepreneurs are businesses selected to participate in one of our **incubation programmes** as well as a circularity co-learning journey. Two incubation programmes are being offered by SU LaunchLab: **Countdown** and **Lift Off**. The incubation programme is complemented by a series of events and exchanges referred to as **Action and Learning Events**. These events are intended to facilitate engagement between different circular economy businesses, stakeholders and ACE Africa Entrepreneurs, and to further equip the entrepreneurs with networks, as well as other skills and resources they may need. The events will facilitate co-learning and sharing and include webinar presentations, match-making opportunities, business showcases and city-to-city and city-to-business exchange events.

Value to ACE Africa Entrepreneurs

The initiative offers the following benefits to our ACE Africa Entrepreneurs:

- Business incubation from one of the leading incubators in Africa
- Recognition and publicity as an African circularity actor
- Access to, and learning exchanges with experienced circularity businesses

- Access to a valuable network of potential partners, funders and mentors
- Exposure to circular economy principles and strategies

Expectations of ACE Africa Entrepreneurs

As an ACE Africa Entrepreneur, you will be expected to:

- Dedicate yourself to growing your business with the ACE Africa team
- Participate in associated events and showcases as part of the ACE Africa Action and Learning Festival (between October 2021 to June, 2022), such as:
 - Business showcases
 - Cohort learning exchanges
 - Circular economy-related webinars
 - Circularity community of practice meetings
 - Voluntary community events
 - Monthly meetings
- Complete or participate in learning and reflection surveys or interviews
- Be willing to be showcased on websites and catalogue, and be ready to provide necessary information to actualise this.

Our scheduled events¹ include:

- Induction meeting - 21 October 2021
- Monthly meeting - A one hour check-in meeting once a month on the 3rd Thursday of every month
- Webinar: How to Incorporate Circular and Sustainable Practices into Your Business - 26 October 2021
- Building Capacities for Circular Economy Innovation Webinar Series - Six 'episodes' which will each explore a different need: access to finance, supply chain management, innovation, entrepreneurial ecosystems - with the aim to explore from idea to implementation - November 2021 to May 2022
- Circular Economy Action Framework (5Rs) Series: A five part series on the different CE Action Framework (Rethink, Regenerate, Reduce, Reuse, Recover) - October 2021 to May 2022
- RISE Africa Circular Economy Session - May 2022

¹ The events are mostly virtual