

PROPOSED CABINET MINUTE

RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND SCIENCE

Ontario's Cleantech Strategy

MT:CC September 28, 2017	Cabinet: October 4, 2017
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CABINET AGREED THAT:

1. The Ministry of Research, Innovation and Science (MRIS) to work with the Ministry of Economic Development and Growth (MEDG), the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MOECC), the Ministry of Energy (ENERGY) and affected ministries on the development and implementation of a Cleantech Strategy, to support the scaling of firms and the overall competitiveness of Ontario's cleantech sector, with a focus on four sub-sectors:
 - a. Energy generation and storage;
 - b. Energy infrastructure;
 - c. Bio-products and bio-chemicals; and
 - d. Water and wastewater.
2. The Strategy will leverage actions across the following key areas, pending Treasury Board/Management Board of Cabinet (TB/MBC) approvals, as required:
 - a. Support venture and scale readiness; including:
 - i. MRIS to design venture/scale readiness supports;
 - ii. MRIS, in consultation with affected ministries, to establish a research and development (R&D) voucher and other possible direct supports to help cleantech companies conduct R&D;
 - iii. Ministry of International Trade (MIT), MRIS, MEDG and affected ministries to work with incubators/accelerators and the federal government to increase export services/ programs for cleantech start-ups and scale-ups through Ontario's Global Trade Strategy;
 - iv. Ministry of Finance to examine opportunities to improve support for cleantech R&D through tax credits; and
 - v. Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development (MAESD) to promote sector-focused workforce development, including programming that could support training for cleantech jobs.
 - b. Increase access to capital; including:
 - i. MRIS, MEDG, MOECC, and other relevant ministries to work with the Government of Canada to align supports for cleantech where possible, including program alignment and joint funding pipeline calls; and

- ii. MRIS and the Ministry of Finance (MOF) and other relevant ministries to assess funding gaps and proposed solutions in priority cleantech sub-sectors across stages of business development; and
 - iii. MRIS, MEDG and MOF analyze opportunities for institutional investors, including pension funds and private sources of capital, to be engaged, and potentially supported, in addressing funding gaps for Ontario's cleantech firms, e.g. supports to de-risk financing arrangements.
 - c. Promote regulatory modernization; including:
 - i. MRIS, MEDG, MOECC and affected ministries to review and streamline approvals processes, where appropriate, for incremental technological improvements and "plug-and-play" commodity technologies, including multi-site approvals and the expansion of the Environmental Activities and Sector Registry; and
 - ii. MRIS, MEDG, MOECC and affected ministries to identify opportunities and develop performance-based standards, where appropriate, that would encourage the development and deployment of innovative cleantech solutions, including possible regulatory revisions and harmonization with global standards and best practices.
 - d. Encourage adoption and procurement; including:
 - i. MRIS work with MOECC, MEDG, ENERGY, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA), and affected ministries to create the Showcasing Cleantech Innovation demonstration program for broader-public sector facilities, focused on the energy generation and storage, energy infrastructure, bio-products and bio-chemicals, and water and wastewater sub-sectors;
 - ii. MRIS, MEDG, MOECC, ENERGY, OMAFRA, the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services and affected ministries, in partnership with incubators/accelerators and others, to develop procurement guidelines/templates for clean technologies in key sub-sectors; and
 - iii. MRIS, MEDG and affected ministries to identify a cleantech challenge to be addressed through the Small Business Innovation Challenge.
3. MRIS, MEDG and MOECC to work with the Government of Canada to align supports for cleantech where possible.
 4. MRIS and other ministries to work with MOECC to support completion of the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change's evaluation of new initiatives that may be funded from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Account prior to review of detailed business cases by Treasury Board/Management Board of Cabinet (TB/MBC).

5. ~~MRIS to work with MOseek GGRA evaluation and report back to TB/MBC by Summer 2018 with any additional programs, including those that may address financial risk particular to cleantech firms.~~
6. MRIS, and other affected ministries, report back to TB/MBC on all new initiatives with detailed business cases, offsets and program details, prior to making any announcements or implementation of new programs or other initiatives that require funding. MRIS and affected ministries to report back to TB/MBC on progress of approved Phase 1 actions in March 2018.
7. Implementation to be subject to the availability of funding and resource requirements within the fiscal plan based on a prioritization of government initiatives.
8. MRIS to work with the Premier's Office, Cabinet Office and affected ministries on the implementation of an integrated communications strategy.

Commented [NW1]: We think this is not necessary because it is already covered in #4 above.