

Stichting EarthON Activity Report

Introduction

Stichting EarthON is a mission-driven platform working to democratize access to climate finance, entrepreneurship support, and ecosystem building for grassroots organizations and early-stage ventures across India and the Global South. The foundation blends philanthropy, innovation, partnerships, and catalytic capital to support solutions that create sustainable livelihoods, restore ecosystems, and accelerate climate resilience.

The organization works at the intersection of climate action, entrepreneurship, regenerative livelihoods, distributed renewable energy, circular economy, sustainable agriculture, and ecosystem strengthening.

EarthON's work is grounded in the belief that the most effective climate solutions emerge from communities closest to the challenges. Through grants, accelerators, innovation challenges, mentorship, ecosystem partnerships, and blended finance approaches, EarthON supports entrepreneurs, farmer organizations, NGOs, and innovators building scalable and community-rooted climate solutions.

The activities documented in this report reflect the organization's ongoing efforts to build an inclusive climate innovation ecosystem that empowers underserved communities and supports the transition toward a low-carbon and resilient future.

Organizational Vision and Mission

Vision

To build a thriving ecosystem where grassroots innovators, social enterprises, and climate entrepreneurs are empowered to create sustainable livelihoods while protecting and restoring the planet.

Mission

- Democratize access to climate finance and ecosystem support
- Strengthen grassroots entrepreneurship and climate innovation
- Support sustainable livelihoods and regenerative local economies
- Enable partnerships across philanthropy, government, academia, and private sector ecosystems
- Build scalable climate solutions rooted in local communities

Strategic Areas of Work

Stichting EarthON focuses on multiple thematic areas that collectively support climate resilience, livelihood generation, and inclusive economic transformation.

Agroecology and Sustainable Agriculture

The organization supports initiatives that strengthen farmer resilience, promote sustainable agriculture practices, improve food systems, and enhance rural livelihoods.

Areas of support include:

- Climate-resilient agriculture
- Regenerative farming systems
- Farmer producer organizations
- Agrivoltaics and integrated farming models
- Sustainable irrigation and water systems
- Market-linked agriculture innovations

Circular Economy and Waste Management

EarthON supports enterprises and organizations focused on reducing waste, increasing resource efficiency, and promoting circular economy models.

Areas of engagement include:

- Waste collection and recycling systems
- Circular material innovation
- Community-based waste enterprises
- Resource recovery systems
- Sustainable packaging innovations

Renewable Energy and Climate Technologies

The foundation promotes decentralized renewable energy systems and livelihood-linked clean energy innovations.

Focus areas include:

- Renewable energy for livelihoods
- Rural energy access
- Solar-powered productive use systems
- Cold chain solutions
- Energy-efficient technologies
- Climate-tech entrepreneurship

Decarbonising Industry

EarthON supports innovations and ecosystem efforts focused on helping industries transition toward low-carbon systems.

Areas include:

- Green steel innovation
- Low-carbon manufacturing
- SME decarbonisation
- Industrial climate technologies
- Resource efficiency systems



Ecosystem Building and Knowledge Platforms

The organization actively creates enabling environments for innovation through collaboration, research, learning platforms, and policy engagement.

This includes:

- Knowledge-sharing platforms
- Learning and research reports
- Policy dialogues and roundtables
- Accelerator programs
- Partnerships with academic institutions
- Collaboration with ecosystem networks

Major Programs and Activities

1. EarthON Accelerator

The EarthON Accelerator is a flagship initiative designed to identify, nurture, and support grassroots entrepreneurs, NGOs, startups, and climate innovators.

The accelerator provides:

- Thematic innovation challenges
- Residential bootcamps
- Mentorship and coaching
- Access to experts and advisors
- Peer learning opportunities
- Exposure to investors and ecosystem partners

The accelerator follows a decentralized and community-centered approach to identify high-potential innovators who are often excluded from mainstream support systems.

Key Activities Undertaken

- Conducted innovation scouting and outreach across climate and livelihood sectors
- Organized bootcamps and entrepreneurship learning sessions
- Facilitated mentor interactions and ecosystem networking
- Supported innovators through structured guidance and capacity building
- Created pathways for grant and investment readiness

Areas of Innovation Supported

- Sustainable agriculture
- Renewable energy
- Waste management
- Climate adaptation
- Livelihood systems
- Circular economy innovations



2. Greenovation Challenges

The Greenovation platform is a decentralized innovation challenge ecosystem designed to identify and support early-stage entrepreneurs, grassroots innovators, NGOs, and startups building climate solutions.

The challenges focus on real-world implementation and community-rooted innovation. The platform has attracted over 5,000 applications and has awarded more than USD 100,000 in grants to innovators working across sustainability sectors.

The initiative has also been co-organized with leading institutions including IIT Bombay, UNIDO, and the Network for Global Innovation (NGIN).

Greenovation Renewable Energy for Livelihood Challenge

This challenge supports affordable and contextually relevant clean energy innovations for underserved rural and peri-urban communities.

The challenge focuses on:

- Productive energy use
- Rural enterprise systems
- Cold chain solutions
- Water access systems
- Distributed renewable energy
- Livelihood-focused energy innovation

Greenovation Urban Climate Resilience Challenge

The Urban Climate Resilience Challenge identifies solutions that improve climate resilience in urban India.

The challenge focuses on:

- Heat resilience
- Clean air solutions
- Nature-based urban systems
- Climate-safe livelihoods
- Urban sustainability innovations

Greenovation Green Steel Challenge

This initiative supports proof-of-concept and industrial pilots focused on decarbonising the steel sector.

Areas include:

- Industrial decarbonisation
- Green manufacturing
- Low-carbon process innovation
- Industrial pilot systems



Greenovation Agrivoltaics Challenge

The Agrivoltaics Challenge promotes integrated systems that combine solar energy generation with agriculture.

Objectives include:

- Increasing land productivity
- Supporting climate-resilient agriculture
- Diversifying farmer incomes
- Reducing water use
- Demonstrating integrated renewable energy systems

SustainAgri Challenge

The SustainAgri Challenge supports startups, farmer collectives, NGOs, and innovators developing scalable solutions in sustainable agriculture.

The challenge promotes:

- Sustainable farming systems
- Farmer livelihoods
- Agricultural resilience
- Agroecological innovation

3. EarthON Fund and Blended Capital Approach

EarthON is developing a blended capital ecosystem designed to support grassroots organizations and early-stage climate ventures. The proposed EarthON Fund is envisioned as a long-term catalytic platform that combines grants, debt, SAFE instruments, and equity to support innovations that generate both environmental and livelihood impact.

Core Principles

- Founder-first approach
- Catalytic capital deployment
- System-change orientation
- Global South grounding
- Community-rooted innovation

Activities Undertaken

- Developed blended finance strategy frameworks
- Engaged ecosystem partners and advisors
- Structured support pathways for early-stage ventures
- Supported investment readiness and ecosystem development
- Designed catalytic grant and financing approaches for climate enterprises

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Types of Support Envisioned

- Seed grants for grassroots organizations
- Proof-of-concept funding
- Early-stage catalytic investments
- Ecosystem grants
- Technical assistance and mentorship

4. Knowledge and Ecosystem Building

EarthON continues to strengthen climate innovation ecosystems through partnerships, convenings, and collaborative platforms.

Activities Included

- Organizing ecosystem dialogues and roundtables
- Supporting collaborative learning spaces
- Building networks across academia, philanthropy, government, and startups
- Facilitating cross-sector partnerships
- Developing research and learning materials
- Supporting ecosystem strengthening initiatives

Collaboration and Partnerships

The organization has actively engaged with:

- Universities and research institutions
- Innovation networks
- Climate-focused nonprofits
- Startup ecosystems
- Philanthropic organizations
- Government stakeholders
- Industry and implementation partners

5. Grassroots Innovation and Community Support

EarthON's work prioritizes grassroots organizations and community-led innovators that are often underserved by traditional financing and entrepreneurship ecosystems.

Support Mechanisms

- Micro-grants
- Mentorship support
- Capacity building
- Learning programs
- Ecosystem access
- Visibility and recognition

Impact Areas

- Livelihood enhancement
- Local climate resilience
- Sustainable enterprise development
- Community-based environmental solutions
- Women and youth participation
- Rural innovation systems

Portfolio and Supported Innovators

The EarthON portfolio includes a growing number of innovators, enterprises, NGOs, and grassroots organizations working across climate sectors including renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and waste management.

The portfolio reflects diversity across:

- Geographic regions
- Community-rooted models
- For-profit and nonprofit entities
- Early-stage and emerging innovators
- Technology and grassroots implementation approaches

Examples of supported themes include:

- Renewable energy enterprises
- Sustainable agriculture initiatives
- Circular economy startups
- Waste management innovations
- Climate resilience solutions
- Livelihood-linked sustainability models

Organizational Approach

EarthON's operational approach is centered around inclusive ecosystem building and long-term community impact.

Key Elements of the Approach

Community-Centered Innovation

The organization prioritizes solutions emerging from communities closest to environmental and livelihood challenges.

Blended Support Systems

EarthON combines grants, mentorship, learning, partnerships, and catalytic financing to support innovators holistically.

Ecosystem Collaboration

The organization works collaboratively across sectors rather than operating in isolation.

Long-Term Capacity Building

Programs are designed not only to provide funding, but also to strengthen institutional and entrepreneurial capacity.

Inclusion and Accessibility

The organization seeks to reach underserved regions, grassroots entrepreneurs, youth, and community-based organizations.

Outcomes and Progress

Through its programs and partnerships, Stichting EarthON has contributed toward:

- Strengthening climate innovation ecosystems
- Supporting grassroots entrepreneurship
- Expanding access to catalytic funding
- Building pathways for climate livelihood solutions
- Promoting sustainable agriculture and renewable energy systems
- Advancing circular economy innovations
- Supporting climate resilience initiatives
- Creating collaborative platforms for ecosystem stakeholders

Future Direction

Stichting EarthON aims to continue expanding its ecosystem and impact through:

- Scaling blended finance mechanisms
- Strengthening accelerator and challenge platforms
- Supporting larger portfolios of climate innovators
- Expanding partnerships across the Global South
- Building stronger climate entrepreneurship ecosystems
- Supporting system-change initiatives in sustainability sectors
- Enhancing access to catalytic grants and investments
- Promoting inclusive and community-rooted climate solutions

The organization also seeks to deepen its engagement with philanthropic partners, impact investors, research institutions, governments, and ecosystem enablers to strengthen climate innovation pathways.

Conclusion

Stichting EarthON continues to build an inclusive platform that bridges climate action, entrepreneurship, livelihoods, and ecosystem development. Through its accelerator programs, Greenovation Challenges, blended finance initiatives, ecosystem partnerships, and grassroots support systems, the organization is contributing toward a more resilient, equitable, and sustainable future.

By empowering local innovators and strengthening community-rooted climate solutions, EarthON aims to demonstrate how catalytic capital, collaborative ecosystems, and inclusive entrepreneurship can together drive meaningful environmental and social transformation.

Reference Sources

The information in this report has been compiled using organizational materials and program documents related to EarthON Foundation initiatives, accelerator activities, challenge platforms, and blended finance approaches. fileciteturn0file1

