

The Black Swamp Combinator

An Energy Tech Innovation Hub
in
Hancock County, Ohio



January 5, 2024

Combinator:



A startup combinator is an accelerator program that offers early-stage companies mentorship, funding, resources, and a structured environment to help them grow rapidly and succeed in their industry.

The term "combinator" in the context of startup accelerators is widely attributed to the inception of Y Combinator, founded by Paul Graham, Jessica Livingston, Trevor Blackwell, and Robert Morris in March 2005. Y Combinator created a new model of startup funding by combining investment with an intensive mentorship program, operating in batches or "combines," thus the term "combinator." This innovative approach not only provided capital but also offered crucial guidance and resources, setting a blueprint for future accelerators. The success of Y Combinator, underscored by the emergence of successful companies like Dropbox and Airbnb from its programs, cemented the term "combinator" as synonymous with a nurturing platform designed to foster rapid growth and development of early-stage startups. The term has since been adopted and adapted by various other accelerator programs around the world, becoming a part of the startup vernacular.



Mission of the Black Swamp Combinator:



Create a self-sustaining ecosystem that enables physical energy tech startups to build great businesses and advance the state of the art.

(Vision: To make Findlay the Menlo Park of energy tech)

The Black Swamp Combinator seeks to attract, grow, invest in, and accelerate new energy-tech companies that are seeking to start and scale companies. The Combinator intends to give companies access to strategic, professional, and peer support that they would not otherwise get at their stage with the goal of accelerating their growth and increasing the likelihood of their success. Startups at the Combinator will have access to facilities, customers, and researchers that can help remove barriers to entry. The Black Swamp Combinator aims to make it easier to be a successful energy-tech startup. In doing so, the Combinator may help to create hundreds of companies, thousands of jobs, and ultimately hopes to bring much needed innovation back to the entire energy industry.

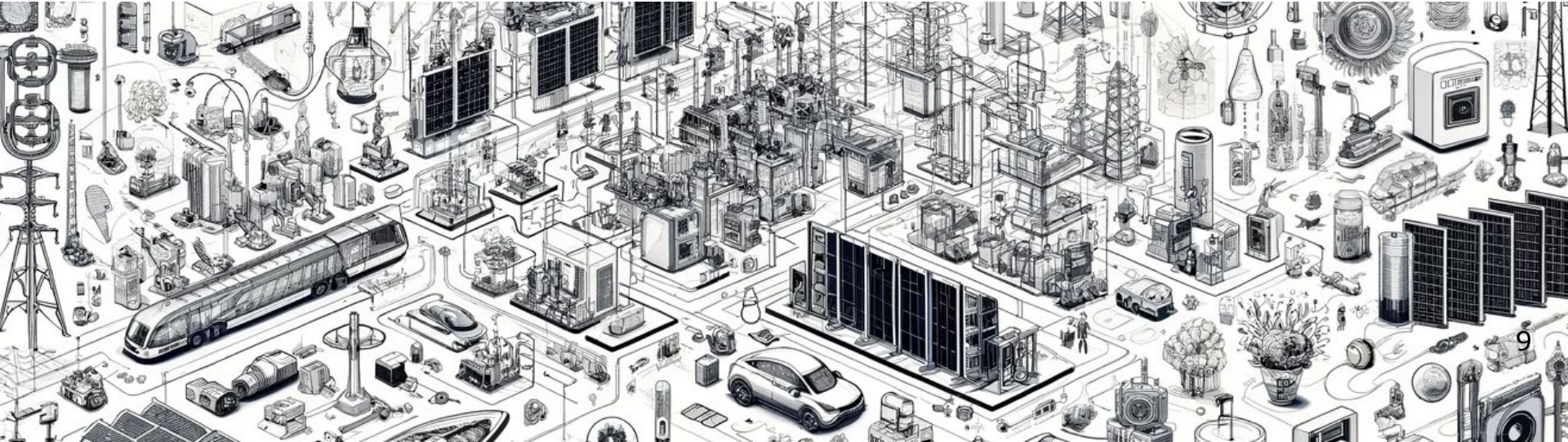


Target Energy Technologies

(representative list)



- Physical energy storage solutions
- Carbon capture and storage technologies
- Hydrogen fuel production and fuel cell technologies
- Wind turbine monitoring repair and life extension
- Smart grid and IoT devices for energy efficiency
- Bioenergy and biofuel advancements
- High-efficiency thermal insulation materials
- Wave and tidal energy converters
- Geothermal power innovations
- New liquid fuels
- Substation security and resiliency
- Weather-safe substation equipment
- Megawatt-scale charging systems cables
- Ultra-fast charging batteries and infrastructure
- Wireless or inductive charging for vehicles
- Advanced energy management systems for fleet operations
- Regenerative braking systems that enhance energy recovery
- Thermal management systems for battery longevity and performance
- Battery fire-fighting technologies
- High-ampacity underground conductors and connectors
- High-voltage cable condition monitoring



Hancock County Is Uniquely Suited for Energy-Tech

Marathon Petroleum Company

- Headquartered in Findlay
- Largest refiner in the U.S.
- One of the largest producers of clean liquid fuels in the U.S.
- 100+ year history in energy innovation
- Fortune 25

North Findlay Wind Campus

- Home to one of the largest behind-the-meter renewable energy projects in the U.S.
- 3 major industrial energy users with on-site generation
- A 500+ acre industrial campus

Digital Substation Test Facility

- The first fully digital substation in the U.S.
- A functional microgrid testbed that is one of the largest in the U.S.

History

- 100+ years of pioneering energy innovation has already occurred in Hancock County

One Energy Enterprises Inc

- Headquartered in Hancock County
- An industrial power company
- The largest installer of behind-the-meter wind energy in the U.S.
- Going public in 2024

An Operating Megawatt Hub

- A 30 megawatt (MW), 138KV operating private power network for industrial loads
- One of the largest digital currency mining sites in the Northeast
- Designed to be the largest electric semi-truck charging facility in the U.S.
- Ability to expand to 150+ MW

Existing Infrastructure

- 3 x tier 1 fiber connections
- 138kV and 345kV transmission access
- City water and sewer access
- Private water-cooling system access

Site Security

- A secured perimeter and campus

There is no other location in the United States with comparable energy resources in one location.

Partners & Collaborators

**Mentorship
& Oversight**



**Marathon
Petroleum Corporation**



**Legal &
Intellectual Property**



Accounting



Tax Credits



Public Relations



Capital Raising



**Research &
Education**



Supporters



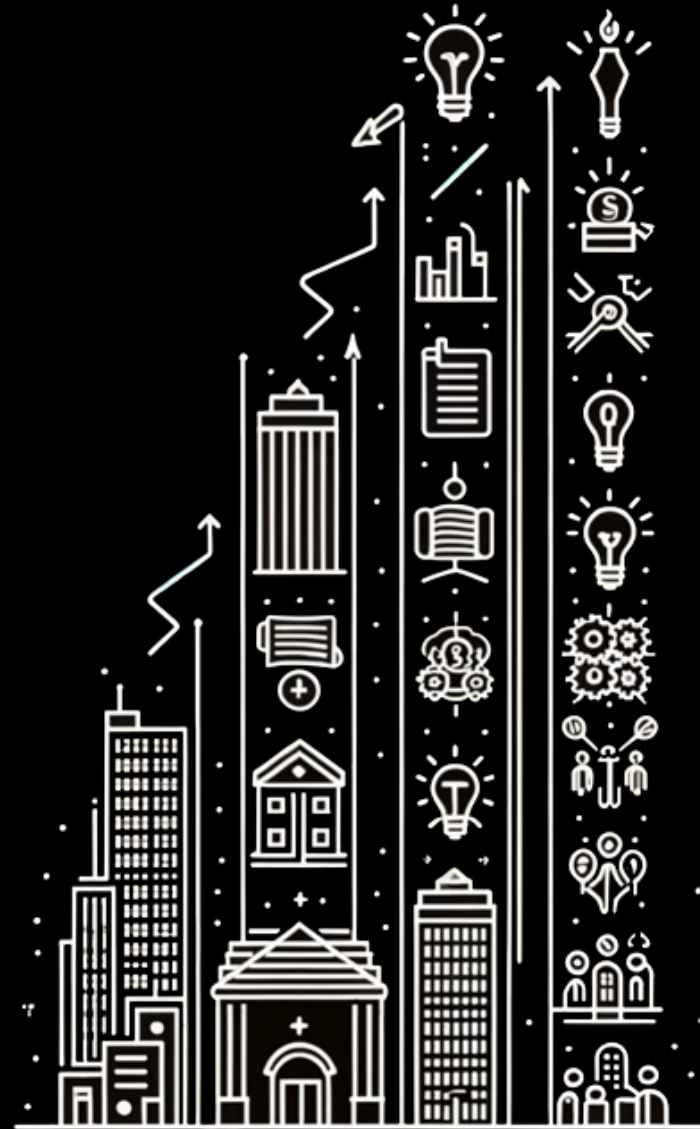
Having all the pieces of support together from day 1 makes it easier to be an energy startup.





The Combinator Process

1. Apply and get accepted into the Combinator (Seed Stage)
2. Participate in combinator training
3. Grow your company
4. Pitch your company and raise capital
5. Grow your company
6. Pitch your progress to stay
7. Raise Series A funding - change buildings
8. Participate in more combinator training
9. Grow your company
10. Pitch your company and raise capital
11. Pitch your progress to stay
12. Get to Series B and move out into the campus or community
13. Keep growing your company in the region



Economic Impact: Workforce

As combinator companies commercialize, they will need access to a broad workforce.

Hancock County is uniquely positioned to adapt our local workforce programs to meet the demands of recruiting, retaining, and developing workers to support the Black Swamp Combinator's needs.

Currently, Hancock County has a workforce coalition, Raise the Bar, which brings K-12 education, post-secondary education, business, non-profit, and government together to address workforce in a cradle to career format. They will be able to work with University partners to ensure coordination among programming to avoid duplication.

The Combinator will continue One Energy's tradition of active community engagement with schools and STEM programs at all levels.

The Combinator will actively host education days where startups talk to local students about what they are working on.

