

Whatcom County Council Report



NW Innovation Resource Center

March 22, 2022



NWIRC 2010 -2021

- **Founded by Whatcom County Business Leaders**
- **Mission to support early innovative entrepreneurs to add to the vitality of the economy between Seattle and Canadian border.**
- **Established virtual resources such as Just In Time Mentor program.**
- **Begin establishing innovation centers along Cascade Innovation Corridor – TheLab Network**
- **Economic Partnerships**
 - **Team Whatcom/ Regional Economic Partnership**
 - **CleanTech Alliance**
 - **Washington Maritime Blue**
 - **WTIA (Washington Technology Industry Association)**

2021 Adjustments

- **Virtual – everything**
- **Building resources for innovation in digital economy**
- **Cohorts / One on One Counseling**
 - **Impact**
 - On Cohort participants
 - Skilled support
 - Awareness
 - **Investors**

2021 Activities

Bluetech/Cleantech Innovation Cohort

- **Bluetech/Cleantech Innovation Cohort**
 - Partnership with CleanTech Alliance
 - Partnership with WA Maritime Blue
 - Innovation Cohort 10 weeks Sept/Nov
 - Idea Validation to Building a Business
 - Final Presentations Nov 16
 - 50 attendees
 - Investors



2021 Activities

Bluetech/Cleantech Innovation Cohort



**Roger Kubalek
Full Bloom Farm
Lummi Island**

Terratug.com



2021 Activities

Pilot Data Workshop

- 8 week Data Workshop May/June 2021
- Objective – Pilot for helping small businesses utilize data for strategic decisions for growth and resilience.

Videos at

[Data Analytics –](#)
[Northwest Innovation](#)
[Resource Center \(nwirc.com\)](#)



2022 Activities

WA Data Bootcamp & WA Data Workshop for Business

- Accelerate skills and knowledge for digital economy.
- **WA Workshop for Business**
 - 4 week – data turned into meaningful information to maximize business opportunities and minimize trial and error actions.
- **WA Data Bootcamp – Career Accelerator**
 - 24 weeks / real business problem / job assistance
 - On WA ETPL to qualify for government tuition payment
 - Tuition support from NW Workforce Council, ICU and others
 - Dr Nella Ludlow – WSU Everett faculty, designed Data Analytics program for WSU.

Data Related Activities

- **WA Data Program**
 - Build industry resilience through applied data analytics
 - Innovations from knowledgeable businesses and skilled workforce
 - Data in Ag, Supply Chain, Cleantech and more
- **Entrepreneur Cohort with WTIA**
- **2022 Bluetech/Cleantech Innovation Cohort**
 - Alumni Group in partnership with participants of accelerators from CleanTech Alliance and Maritime Blue

Thank you for your support!

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