About the Canadian Water Technology Ecosystem Map

This open access resource was developed through a collaboration between the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), Aqua Forum, and Foresight to share information, foster collaboration, and build community across regions and sectors within the Canadian water technology ecosystem.

The Companies

The Canadian Water Technology Ecosystem Map identifies more than 450 companies working to improve water quality, quantity, supply, and management across the entire water cycle. These companies span the country and take many different approaches, from established water treatment technologies to disruptive digital innovations. Many are leading the world with their exciting, cutting-edge technologies – from mining lithium from groundwater to extracting water from the atmosphere.

The strength of Canada's water technology ecosystem lies in its broad range and reach. Water technologies serve a variety of sectors and industries and targets a diverse list of water challenges and opportunities, including utilities, energy, mining, agriculture, food and beverage, manufacturing, and others. And just as there is no natural dividing line between rivers and oceans, our map spans both freshwater and ocean technologies, highlighting the many connections between the two.

The Enablers

Across the country, water technology companies are supported by a connective tissue of more than 70 'Enablers' – a broad range of organizations that power the ecosystem, including funders, accelerators, industry associations, and others.

This support begins at the earliest stages of innovation, through competitions that offer students opportunities to design solutions to pressing water challenges and organizations that provide resources for emerging entrepreneurs. At the other end of the spectrum, Enablers help companies scale and export their competitive technologies to meet global demand.

The Knowledge Generators

Canada has a rich landscape of water research, drawing on strengths in science, engineering, stewardship, policy, and a range of other disciplines. Our database identifies more than 60 Knowledge Generators – academic, government, or non-profit institutions with a focus on water data,

technology, or innovation. These organizations provide the seeds for water challenges to be mapped, best practices to be developed, and new solutions to emerge.

Our Scope

Companies included on the map:
- Are involved in technology, innovation, research, or development in some capacity. In some cases, this is their primary focus, while for others this is a component of a larger portfolio of services. Suppliers, distributors, service providers, and consulting firms are excluded.
- Have a direct water-related connection or benefit. Companies not traditionally labelled as water tech (e.g. brine mining) have been included for this reason.
- Are either headquartered in Canada or have a strong Canadian presence that includes research and innovation.
- Have a valid website.

Enablers and Knowledge Generators on the map:
- Either have a stated focus on water or support five or more water tech companies through their network.
- Are based in Canada or play an active role in supporting Canadian companies.
- Are organizations, institutions, centres, and other entities of a similar scale (the list does not extend to academic departments or research groups).

A Living Resource

Canada's water technology landscape is continuously growing and evolving, and this map is a collaborative effort to make sense of our ecosystem. The map is a living resource that is regularly updated as we identify new organizations. It is not intended to be comprehensive or without errors and omissions. If you notice any organizations we've missed or have other feedback to share, please let us know! Contact us.