

Company Case Study: Cleantech



Svante

About Svante

Founded by a team of gas separation specialists in 2007, Svante Technologies Inc. (formerly Inventys) is a global pioneer in carbon capture solutions. The company rebranded in 2019 to honour climate scientist Svante Arrhenius – one of the first people to link rising global temperatures to increased CO₂ emissions.

Svante designs and manufactures scalable, eco-friendly filters and systems that capture carbon from industrial emissions and directly from the air. Headquartered in the Metro Vancouver region, Svante employs around 300 people, primarily in British Columbia, with additional staff in the US and Europe. Its technology serves hard-to-abate sectors like cement, pulp and paper, and refineries. Svante's proprietary nano-material, CALF-20 (Calgary Framework 20), developed at the University of Calgary and exclusively licensed to the company, enables its filters to selectively capture CO₂ while separating it from other gases. These same filters also support direct air capture, removing CO₂ already in the atmosphere.

Why the Metro Vancouver Region?

Svante chose Burnaby for its headquarters and opted for local manufacturing operations based on both strategic and practical considerations – most notably, access to BC's affordable and renewable hydroelectric

power. Additionally, the region has a strong and collaborative cleantech ecosystem with world-class expertise in clean energy and advanced technologies. Svante benefits from being part of this innovation cluster, with neighbours like Ballard Power, General Fusion, and Carbon Engineering all operating in close proximity. This concentration of talent and a shared commitment to climate solutions makes the Metro Vancouver region an ideal home for Svante and other sustainability-focused cleantech leaders that are helping to drive the global energy transition.



Access to Emerging and Experienced Talent

The Metro Vancouver region's unique combination of natural beauty, cultural diversity, and strong academic institutions have helped Svante attract and retain top talent. "I think the reason that we're all here is because of the brain power and the expertise," says Colleen Nitta, Director of Marketing and Communications at Svante. The company has built a robust co-op program in partnership with local post-secondary institutions, including the University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University, and Langara College. These programs bring in fresh talent and often lead to full-time employment, helping Svante develop a strong pipeline of skilled professionals who are already rooted in the region.



A Connected and Collaborative Ecosystem

In an industry where competition is the norm, the region offers something different – an atmosphere of collaboration and mutual support. The region's cleantech ecosystem offers a significant advantage, not only for its innovative mindset, but for the strong culture of collaboration that underpins it. Leadership teams and colleagues across the ecosystem maintain regular contact, staying closely connected and sharing insights. As Colleen explains, "It's more friendly rivalry; we're all friends. We want to see all ships rise." This spirit of collaboration helps companies grow together rather than in isolation.

The ecosystem is further strengthened by organizations like BC Tech, Invest Vancouver, Foresight Canada, and NorthX Climate Tech (formerly the BC Centre for Innovation and Clean Energy), which bring industry players together and provide valuable resources. Financial backing from InBC, the Canada Growth Fund, and global investors also plays a key role in fueling innovation and development across the ecosystem.



From Local Innovation to Global Recognition

"There's a growing momentum in how British Columbia showcases its cleantech talent and innovation on the global stage," says Colleen. Events like Web Summit Vancouver, which featured a dedicated "Climate Zone" curated by partners committed to advancing clean technology in the region, are just the beginning. For Svante, these moments signal a shift toward greater visibility and recognition of the incredible work happening here. "It was really powerful," explains Colleen. "It's a good start, and hopefully one day we'll have something like a Climate Week, similar to what they have in New York." As the ecosystem continues to mature, there's a shared sense of optimism that the region will become not just a hub for cleantech innovation, but also a global destination for climate leadership.

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- Colleen Nitta, Director of Marketing and Communications at Svante

Looking Ahead

Looking ahead, Svante is poised for significant growth and global impact. With its Burnaby manufacturing facility now operational after opening in 2025, the company has the capacity to produce enough carbon capture filters to remove up to 10 million tonnes of CO₂ annually – the equivalent of supporting multiple commercial-scale capture plants worldwide. This same facility also enables direct air capture, expanding Svante's ability to address emissions from both

industrial sources and the atmosphere. As demand for scalable, effective carbon capture solutions continues to rise, the company anticipates a growing number of projects across Canada and around the world. Yet even as it scales globally, Svante remains committed to calling the Metro Vancouver region home, continuing to invest in and contribute to the region that has supported its journey from innovation to impact.



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