



Photo Source: Alessander, Xylem Colleague, 2022

At Xylem, innovation and sustainability go hand in hand.

Innovation is critical to Xylem's approach to producing sustainable solutions to address the world's water challenges.

Many of Xylem's innovations improve access to clean water and sanitation, supporting sustainable communities and helping to mitigate the effects of climate change. Yet, even beyond our technological solutions, innovation is embedded in the way we work, the way we partner, our application of technology, and the way we develop talent for the sector.



Innovative Design Drives Down Energy Use

The Wedeco Duron Systems allow customers to improve the sustainability of their operations by leveraging:

- Sensor-based, real-time dose control
- High-efficiency lamp and ballast
- Compact, modular design

Contributes to our 2025 Sustainability Goal to treat water for reuse

Xylem is dedicated to fostering innovation in the water sector by engaging youth as change agents in water technology and innovation to improve the outlook of their community and surroundings. Through programs including Xylem Ignite and the 2022 Global Student Innovation Challenge, **Xylem has invested in the ideas of over 12,600 students around the world.**

Xylem Ignite

Xylem's Global Youth Program

Every year, Xylem Ignite runs programs that provide students with mentorship and resources to create innovative water projects to address real-world water challenges, including:

- Two six-month-long Student Incubator Program cohorts,
- 10 regional hackathons, and
- The Xylem Ignite Global Innovation Challenge.



Xylem Innovation Labs

Xylem Innovation Labs, our corporate innovation partnerships program, **helps cultivate the water innovation ecosystem by fostering and developing cutting-edge technologies that combat global water challenges.**

Xylem Innovation Labs supports our customers by understanding their needs and partnering with the most promising startup founders and universities through a formalized partnerships program. This partnerships program is designed to create maximum impact bringing the most innovative solutions to market **following three key pillars:**

1. Develop innovative programming and unlock new technologies

In January 2023, Xylem Innovation Labs launched its second Accelerator program to prepare entrepreneurs to advance and scale their businesses sustainably. For example, Xylem Innovation Labs coaches startups on greenhouse gas emission accounting. Moreover, Xylem Innovation Labs supports startups that tackle key sustainability challenges by:

- Building platforms to help customers map N2O emission risk, and deploying sensors to measure nitrates/nitrites
- Using nanobubbles and algae for advanced wastewater treatment (while also reducing the carbon footprint of a plant's operations)
- Harnessing small hydro turbines to generate carbon-free electricity
- Employing utilities with digital tools to improve response time for service requests and emergencies



Startup Highlight

Gross-Wen Technologies

- Gross-Wen Technologies' Revolving Algae Biofilm (RAB) is an algae-based wastewater treatment solution that enables nutrient recovery while reducing clients' carbon footprint. The RAB system grows algae on a vertical belt, rotating it through wastewater and exposing it to air. When submerged in wastewater the algae removes nitrogen and phosphorus while, when the algae is in the air, it consumes carbon dioxide (CO₂) and generates oxygen.
- On average, one RAB system is estimated to remove **74 tons of CO₂ per year**, the equivalent of taking 16 cars off the road.
- Algae is harvested to make fertilizers, bioplastics and biofuels, creating an additional revenue stream and reducing waste.
- The RAB system has been recognized by the United States Department of Energy as the top algae-growing technology on the market.

2. Deploying innovative financing mechanisms to catalyze the adoption of innovative water technologies

Commercializing and scaling early-stage innovations is consistently cited as the biggest pain point that water founders experience while growing their companies, resulting in many promising and impactful technologies failing to progress past the pilot stage.

To combat this financing challenge, Xylem Innovation Labs sponsored the Isle Utilities 'Trial Reservoir,' a pooled private revolving loan fund used to finance the piloting of technologies that combat climate change. The Trial Reservoir supports 10+ pilots per year to minimize financial risk and endeavors to reduce 120,000 metric tons of carbon with its fund, which is equivalent to ~25,000 gas-powered cars per year. Xylem is working with Isle Utilities to launch a second Trial Reservoir to finance advanced treatment solutions.

3. Partnering with leading climate innovators to enhance the impact

Xylem Innovation Labs' key open innovation ecosystem partners report and manage their portfolios with ESG metrics. Xylem serves as a Limited Partner in The [Westly Group](#) and [Burnt Island Ventures](#).

Xylem Innovation Labs also partners with [Imagine H2O](#), the leading non-profit water innovation accelerator and ecosystem builder for water entrepreneurs. In addition to helping solve water problems globally by supporting nascent companies, Imagine H2O pushes its portfolio companies to drive additional value to their customers by prioritizing sustainability early in their life cycle.