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PHOTOS: The Y-Combinator for greentech kicks off

By [Katie Fehrenbacher](#) Sep. 20, 2011, 5:03pm PT [No Comments](#)

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Cutting the ribbon at the Greenstart event

Greenstart, a Y-Cominbator-style accelerator program for greentech startups, kicked off its first program on Tuesday at its new offices in downtown San Francisco. We covered the program, which was founded by entrepreneurial investors Mitch Lowe, Dave Graham, and Dillon McDonald, [back in May](#), but on Tuesday

the accelerator announced its first four startups in the program: renewable diesel company [Sylvatex](#), Lono, [which makes a smart film for windows](#), wireless smart plug maker [Tenrehte Technologies](#), and energy monitoring tool [Wa.tt](#).

San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee gave some opening remarks at the event and helped founder Lowe with the formal “ribbon cutting” ceremony — here’s some photos we snapped. Last week another accelerator program [called Surge launched](#) in Houston solely focused on the intersection of energy and information technology. We also attended the Cleanweb Hackathon earlier this month, a weekend hacking event focused on developers creating tools to help with resource constraint, from energy to water to food. Are incubator programs the new (or only) way for early stage greentech companies to make it in this hard fundraising environment?



1. Greenstart founder Mitch Lowe kicks off the opening.



2.

San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee gives remarks at the Greenstart event.



3.

Cutting the ribbon at the Greenstart event



4. A prototype design of Lono's SmarterShade window



5. Sylvatex CEO shows off renewable diesel fuel