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# Young Entrepreneurs Convened at COP31 for Climate Technologies

Held within the scope of **COP (Conference of the Parties)**, **the high-level global climate summit** organized annually that brings together heads of state, ministers, scientists, business leaders, and civil society representatives from around the world, the **"COP31 Climate Technologies Creathon"** aims to develop and support innovative ideas that unite technology and innovation in the fight against the climate crisis. Organized within the scope of COP31 held in Antalya between November 9–20, and led by the **Turkish Technology Team Foundation (T3 Foundation), T3 Startup Center, and the Zero Waste Foundation** under the slogan **"Technology for Climate, Solutions for the Future!"**, the Creathon brought together youth and entrepreneurs in its final stage to develop innovative solutions in the field of climate technologies.

As part of the final stage of the Creathon, led by **T3 Foundation, T3 Startup Center, and the Zero Waste Foundation**, finalist teams selected from Türkiye and abroad developed their projects during the final process held in Antalya on November 17–18. Aiming for young people to transform their ideas into viable prototypes and business models, the Creathon also paved the way for the emergence of next-generation startups in the climate technologies sector.

## Developed solutions for climate technologies over 24 hours

While the final process kicked off at Antalya Teknopark on November 17, finalist teams worked throughout a 24-hour project development marathon to advance their existing projects and turn their ideas into prototypes or proofs of concept. Throughout the process, teams received one-on-one mentorship support on problem-solution fit, technical feasibility, prototype development, business modeling, measurable climate impact, and pitch preparation. During the project development phase, teams were also provided with artificial intelligence credit support to enable them to utilize AI tools in the solutions they developed.

## Projects presented before the jury at COP31

During the final presentations held at the COP31 venue on November 18, teams pitched their developed projects to the jury. Each team was allotted a 5-minute presentation and a 3-minute Q&A session, with evaluations based on the problem's relevance to climate, the innovative aspect and feasibility of the solution, prototype quality, measurable climate impact, team competence, and presentation performance. Following the final evaluations

within the scope of the Creathon, the winning teams were announced: **SustAInable** secured first place, **BlueCarbonX** won second place, and **Sümer Teknoloji** claimed third place.

The event, held in the COP31 Blue Zone, was attended by **Dr. Elvan Kuzucu Hıdır, Chair of the Board of Directors of T3 Foundation; Samed Ağırbaş, Chair of the Board of Directors of the Zero Waste Foundation; Dr. İbrahim Yavuz, President of Antalya Teknokent; Erkam Tüzgen, General Manager of Bilişim Vadisi; and Dr. Veysel Selimoğlu, Head of the Technology and Green Transformation Department at the Directorate of Climate Change, Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change of the Republic of Türkiye.**

**Speaking at the event, Dr. Elvan Kuzucu Hıdır stated**: "With this Creathon we have brought to life, we have created a platform where our youth can transform their knowledge, productivity, and enthusiasm for technology development into tangible solutions in the fight against the climate crisis. Our greatest achievement is seeing these ideas evolve into startups and add value to the world. I wholeheartedly congratulate our winning teams. We believe this journey will turn into even greater successes through the support we provide, primarily via T3 Startup Center and Take Off Istanbul. We also firmly believe that when our youth unleash their potential, they have the power to change the world."

## Doors to international opportunities will open for young entrepreneurs

In addition to awards, the winning teams of the competition gained significant entrepreneurship opportunities. While the first-place team was offered an international trip opportunity, the top three teams earned direct admission to the T3 Startup Center Pre-Incubation Program and the right to participate in Take Off Istanbul. Furthermore, the first- and second-place winning teams secured the opportunity to take part as speakers at the Zero Waste Forum.