

URL: <https://stvp.stanford.edu/clips/what-are-digital-climate-solutions>

“How can we do more, with less?” asks Amy Francetic, managing partner of Buoyant Ventures. Investments that leverage digital technologies to address climate risk, she finds, can be a perfect fit for the ten-year time horizon of a VC firm. Those solutions, she adds, can scale more quickly (and with less capital) than important but hardware-intensive solutions like fuel cell and battery chemistry innovation.



Transcript

- Sure, sure, so digital climate solutions means technologies that are primarily software, some hardware, internet businesses, the general tech, digital technologies that have made up most of the venture segment over the last several years but applying them to industries that have the biggest climate risk associated with them and so those industries are energy, agriculture, transportation, and the built environment.. Those four industries are the major contributors to carbon emissions and so we wanna turn, use digital technologies to help businesses and some governments and communities address climate risk in their businesses and their communities and to do this in a way so that it can be scaled very, very quickly, right? So there's a lot of great technologies that other investors are working on, people like Bill Gates and Breakthrough Ventures that are trying to look at battery chemistry or fuel cells or fusion even, and the challenge with those technologies is that they take a long time to mature and they require a lot of capital and they're not necessarily built for a 10-year traditional venture fund.. So with Buoyant Ventures, we really wanted to use these very scalable technologies that require 10s of millions of dollars as opposed to hundreds of millions of dollars to scale, and that have also, these technologies have also matured quite a bit over the last five years.. So the value that they can bring to these businesses is more meaningful and is more impactful today than it was even five years ago.. So the data that a lot of these businesses are contending with the volume of data is overwhelming and trying to draw some kind of insights or competitive insights from the data is really, really challenging, so a lot of these young companies have created solutions that allow asset managers, business leaders, insurance companies to better understand and take signals from the market to make decisions that are gonna either help reduce the emissions in their business that will help them adapt to this new climate reality or can help them operate more efficiently and do more with less.. So that's just a broad sort of summary of our thesis...