



AMERICAN
MADE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Community Clean Energy Coalition Prize

Official Rules

Preface

The U.S. Department of Energy's Community Clean Energy Coalition Prize will be governed by 15 U.S.C. §3719 and this Official Rules document. This is not a procurement under the Federal Acquisitions Regulations and will not result in a grant or cooperative agreement under 2 CFR 200. The Prize Administrator reserves the right to modify this Official Rules document if necessary and will publicly post any such notifications as well as notify registered prize participants.

Contents

- Preface 2
- Contents 3
- 1 Executive Summary..... 5**
 - 1.1 The Prizes 6
 - 1.2 Key Dates..... 7
 - 1.3 Eligibility and Competitors 7
- 2 Background..... 8**
 - 2.1 Prize Background 9
 - 2.2 Prize Goals..... 10
 - 2.3 Anticipated Prize Impact..... 11
 - 2.4 Competitor Support Mechanisms 11
 - 2.4.1 Connector Network..... 12
 - 2.4.2 Power Connectors..... 12
- 3 Submission Requirements and Review Process 12**
 - 3.1 Prizes..... 12
 - 3.2 How To Enter 13
 - 3.3 Phase One: Coalition Commitment 13
 - 3.3.1 Online Public Video (Will Be Made Public)..... 15
 - 3.3.2 Cover Page Content..... 15
 - 3.3.3 Narrative Content 15
 - 3.3.4 Submission Summary Slide (Will Be Made Public)..... 18
 - 3.3.5 Letters of Commitment or Support..... 19
 - 3.4 Phase Two: Coalition Development 19
 - 3.4.1 Online Public Video (Will Be Made Public)..... 21
 - 3.4.2 Cover Page Content..... 21
 - 3.4.3 Narrative Content 21
 - 3.4.4 Submission Summary Slide (Will Be Made Public)..... 25
 - 3.4.5 Letters of Commitment or Support (Optional) 25
 - 3.5 Phase Three: Coalition Impact 26
 - 3.5.1 Online Public Video (Will Be Made Public)..... 27
 - 3.5.2 Cover Page Content..... 27
 - 3.5.3 Narrative Content 28
 - 3.5.4 Submission Summary Slide (Will Be Made Public)..... 30
 - 3.5.5 Participation in the Summit Event 30
 - 3.6 How We Determine and Award Winners..... 31
 - 3.6.1 Reviewer Panel Scoring..... 31
 - 3.6.2 Interviews 32
 - 3.6.3 Final Determination..... 32
 - 3.6.4 Announcement 32

3.7 Additional Terms and Conditions	32
Appendix 1: Additional Terms and Conditions.....	33
A.1 Requirements	33
A.2 Verification for Payments.....	33
A.3 Teams and Single-Entity Awards	34
A.4 Submission Rights.....	34
A.5 Copyright	35
A.6 Contest Subject to Applicable Law.....	35
A.7 Resolution of Disputes.....	35
A.8 Publicity	35
A.9 Liability	35
A.10 Records Retention and Freedom of Information Act.....	36
A.11 Privacy.....	36
A.12 General Conditions	36
A.13 Program Policy Factors	37
A.14 National Environmental Policy Act Compliance	37
A.15 Return of Funds.....	38

1 Executive Summary

The Community Clean Energy Coalition Prize is intended to encourage and recognize in-community coalitions assisting underrepresented communities—where benefits of climate and energy investments are not currently accruing—in addressing energy challenges, with a focus on clean energy solutions.

Executive Order 13985, *Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government*,¹ affirms the responsibility of the whole federal government to advance equity, civil rights, racial justice, and equal opportunity. Section 223 of Executive Order 14008, *Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad*,² established the Justice40 Initiative, which directs 40% of the overall benefits of certain federal investments—including investments in clean energy and energy efficiency; clean transit; affordable and sustainable housing; training and workforce development; remediation and reduction of legacy pollution; and the development of clean water infrastructure—to flow to disadvantaged communities. (For a description of what constitutes a disadvantaged community, see the [Justice40 Initiative website](#).)

As part of the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) efforts, the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) is launching the Community Clean Energy Coalition Prize, under the umbrella of the American-Made Challenges³ and in alignment with the EERE family of Inclusive Energy Innovation Prizes.

Through this Community Clean Energy Coalition Prize, DOE seeks to identify and support:

1. Newly partnered community-based coalitions that assist underrepresented, disadvantaged communities in addressing energy challenges with a focus on clean energy solutions, and existing community-based coalitions newly engaged in energy challenges with a focus on clean energy solutions.
2. Further development of relevant in-community coalitions consistent with DOE's implementation of the Justice40 Initiative⁴ and EERE's focus on clean energy technologies and implementation.
3. Long-term engagement by the relevant in-community coalitions on energy challenges on behalf of the communities served.

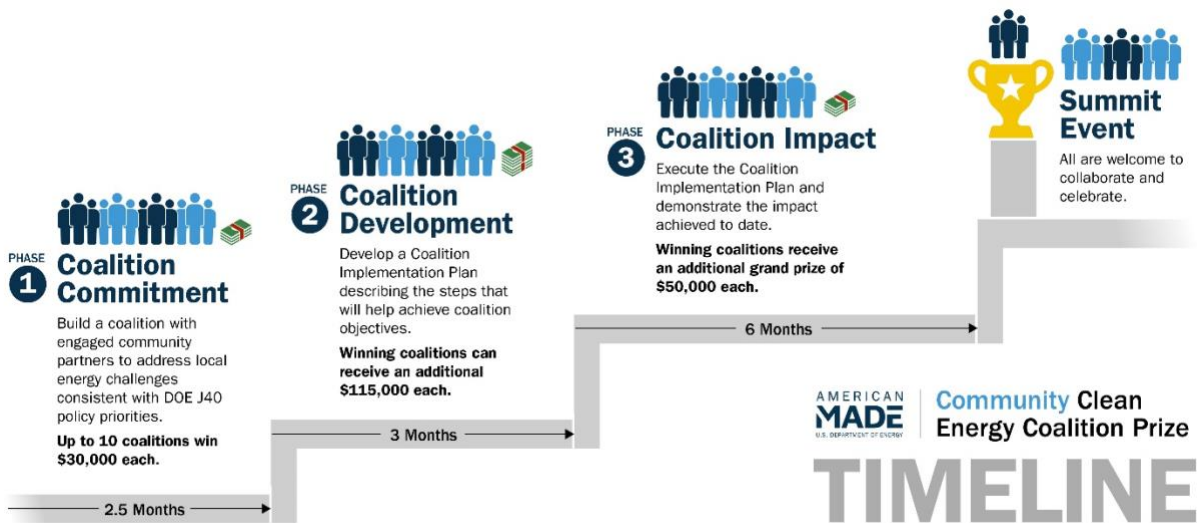
¹ 86 FR 7009 (Jan. 25, 2021).

² 86 FR 7619 (Feb. 1, 2021).

³ <https://americanmadechallenges.org/>

⁴ <https://www.energy.gov/diversity/justice40-initiative>

1.1 The Prizes



The Community Clean Energy Coalition Prize consists of three phases, with a total available prize pool of \$1.5 million. Prizes are available to multiple coalition winners in Phase One and Phase Two. The prize will conclude after Phase Three with a Community Summit Event. At this event, all competitors will have the opportunity to present their progress, benefit from networking opportunities, and potentially win a single \$50,000 cash prize. We are inviting philanthropy partners to connect with coalitions.

Phase One

Phase One of the prize (the Coalition Commitment Phase) seeks newly formed and newly purposed coalitions that include local and in-community partners, with the purpose of addressing defined energy challenge(s). The coalitions will represent underserved communities by providing increased and improved engagement in the energy-related decision-making that impacts these communities.

The winners of Phase One will develop a multi-organization coalition with strong and authentic connections to the community being served, clearly identify the community being represented by the coalition, articulate stakeholder relationships, and define the energy challenge(s) being addressed. The winners of Phase One will also demonstrate how their coalition’s mission aligns with one or more of the U.S. Department of Energy’s (DOE’s) priorities under the Justice40 Initiative.⁵

Up to 10 coalitions will receive a \$30,000 prize toward building a multi-organizational coalition with a clearly defined community need and aligning the coalition with at least one DOE Justice40 Initiative policy priority.

Phase Two

In Phase Two of the prize (the Coalition Action Phase), winners from Phase One submit a Coalition Implementation Plan that articulates an executable plan for building on the coalition commitments established in Phase One, engaging the represented communities, and playing an impactful role based on the coalition-specified metrics in addressing the defined energy challenge(s). Further, winners of

⁵ <https://www.energy.gov/diversity/justice40-initiative>

Phase Two will need to demonstrate how the Coalition Implementation Plan will advance one or more of DOE's priorities under the Justice40 Initiative. Only winners from Phase One will be eligible to compete in Phase Two.

All winners of Phase One may be eligible under Phase Two to receive \$115,000 for submittal of an implementation plan that satisfies the requirements established in this document.

Phase Three

Phase Three of the prize (the Coalition Impact Phase) will be open to all winners from Phase Two. In Phase Three, competitors will implement their plans and share their progress, success stories, metrics, and results. There will be a single \$50,000 prize awarded to the coalition that demonstrates the greatest impact relative to the DOE Justice40 Initiative priorities as well as breadth of local impact, as described in this document.

1.2 Key Dates

- **Phase One Submission Opens:** September 16, 2022
- **Phase One Submission Closes:** 5 p.m. ET on December 7, 2022
- **Phase One Winner Announcement and Awards:** January 2023 (anticipated)
- **Phase Two Opens:** January 2023 (anticipated)
- **Phase Two Submission Closes:** 5 p.m. ET on April 4, 2023 (anticipated)
- **Phase Two Winner Announcement and Awards:** May 2023 (anticipated)
- **Phase Three Opens:** May 2023 (anticipated)
- **Phase Three Submission Closes:** Late November 2023 (anticipated)
- **Phase Three Summit Community Event Pitch Session and Winner Announcement and Awards:** December 2023 (anticipated).

1.3 Eligibility and Competitors

The competition is open to coalitions (one or more partners anchored by a community-based not-for-profit organization) that are comprised of nonprofit partners and that are: (1) new coalitions established on or after the date of this announcement or (2) existing coalitions that have established a new or amended mission on or after the date of this announcement. Further, all competitors are subject to the following conditions and requirements:

- An individual prize competitor or group of competitors who are not competing as part of an incorporated private entity must all be United States citizens or legal permanent residents.
- Private entities that are incorporated must be incorporated in and maintain a primary place of business in the United States with majority domestic ownership and control.
- Individuals competing as part of an incorporated private entity may participate if they are legally permitted to work in the United States.
- DOE employees, employees of sponsoring organizations, members of their immediate families (e.g., spouses, children, siblings, or parents), and persons living in the same household as such persons, whether or not related, are not eligible to participate in the prize.
- Individuals who have worked at DOE (federal employees or support service contractors) within six months prior to the submission deadline of any contest are not eligible to participate in the prize.
- Federal entities and federal employees are not eligible to participate in any portion of the prize.
- DOE national laboratory employees are not eligible to participate in the prize.

- Entities and individuals publicly banned from doing business with the U.S. government, such as entities and individuals debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participating in federal programs, are not eligible to participate in the prize.
- Entities and individuals identified as a restricted party on one or more screening lists of Departments of Commerce, State, and the Treasury are not eligible to participate in the prize. See the [Consolidated Screening List](#).
- Individuals participating in foreign government talent recruitment programs of foreign countries of risk⁶ are not eligible to participate in the prize. Further, teams that include individuals participating in foreign government talent recruitment programs of foreign countries of risk are not eligible to participate in the prize.
- As part of your submission to this prize program, you will be required to sign the following statement:

I am providing this submission package as part of my participation in this prize. I understand that I am providing this submission to the Federal Government. I certify under penalty of perjury that the named competitor meets the eligibility requirements for this prize competition and complies with all other rules contained in the Official Rules document. I further represent that the information contained in the submission is true and contains no misrepresentations. I understand that false statements or misrepresentations to the Federal Government may result in civil and/or criminal penalties under 18 U.S.C. § 1001 and § 287.

In keeping with the goal of growing a community of innovators, competitors are encouraged to form multidisciplinary teams while developing their concepts. Applications are submitted through the HeroX platform, which also provides a space where parties interested in collaboration can post information about themselves and review information posted by other entities that may be interested in competing in this contest.

2 Background

DOE is pursuing efforts to enable an inclusive and just entrepreneurial innovation ecosystem⁷ in climate and energy technologies. DOE funds research, development, demonstration, and deployment (RDD&D)

⁶ This prize competition is expected to positively impact U.S. economic competitiveness. Participation in a foreign government talent recruitment program could conflict with this objective by resulting in unauthorized transfer of scientific and technical information to foreign government entities. A foreign government talent recruitment program is defined as an effort directly or indirectly organized, managed, or funded by a foreign government to recruit science and technology professionals or students (regardless of citizenship or national origin, and whether having a full-time or part-time position). Some foreign government-sponsored talent recruitment programs operate with the intent to import or otherwise acquire from abroad, sometimes through illicit means, proprietary technology or software, unpublished data and methods, and intellectual property to further the military modernization goals and/or economic goals of a foreign government. Many, but not all, programs aim to incentivize the targeted individual to physically relocate to the foreign state for the above purpose. Some programs allow for or encourage continued employment at U.S. research facilities or receipt of federal research funds while concurrently working at and/or receiving compensation from a foreign institution, and some direct participants not to disclose their participation to U.S. entities. Compensation could take many forms, including cash, research funding, complimentary foreign travel, honorific titles, career advancement opportunities, promised future compensation, or other types of remuneration or consideration, including in-kind compensation. Currently, the countries of risk are Russia, Iran, North Korea, and China.

⁷ The innovation ecosystem is defined as “the evolving set of actors, activities, and artifacts, and the institutions and relations, including complementary and substitute relations, that are important for the

activities related to climate and energy technologies through a number of avenues, including its 17 national laboratories and a variety of competitive funding mechanisms. Within DOE, the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) supports RDD&D of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies.

As noted, the administration seeks to create opportunities for all. Advancing equity,⁸ civil rights, racial justice, and equal opportunity is the responsibility of the entire government. As part of the government's approach, DOE has identified eight policy priorities to guide its implementation of the Justice40 Initiative in disadvantaged communities:

1. Decrease energy burden in disadvantaged communities.
2. Decrease environmental exposure and burdens for disadvantaged communities.
3. Increase parity in clean energy technology (e.g., solar, storage) access and adoption in disadvantaged communities.
4. Increase access to low-cost capital in disadvantaged communities.
5. Increase clean energy enterprise creation and contracting in disadvantaged communities.
6. Increase clean energy jobs, job pipelines, and job training for individuals from disadvantaged communities.
7. Increase energy resiliency in disadvantaged communities.
8. Increase energy democracy (stakeholder engagement to facilitate decision-making) in disadvantaged communities.

These priorities are collectively referred to as the DOE Justice40 Initiative policy priorities. For a description of what constitutes a disadvantaged community, see the [Justice40 Initiative website](#).

2.1 Prize Background

To meet DOE's ambitious environmental justice and decarbonization goals, EERE has initiated extensive stakeholder engagement through individual technology programs and at the organizational level. The goal of this effort is to identify and integrate consideration of broader stakeholder needs, especially those of underrepresented community groups, into our program design and execution. Since FY21, EERE has taken steps to make its funding opportunities more accessible through

- Expanded certain timelines for funding opportunities
- Funding opportunities specifically targeting community engagement, such as the [Community Geothermal Heating and Cooling Design and Deployment](#) or [Renewables Advancing Community Energy Resilience \(RACER\)](#)
- Increased programs providing technical assistance in partnership with communities, such as [Waste-to-Energy Technical Assistance](#), the second cohort of [Energy Transition Initiative Partnership Program](#), and [Communities Local Energy Action Program \(LEAP\)](#)

innovative performance of an actor or a population of actors" (Grandstrand, Ove and Holgersson, Marcus. 2020. "Innovation Ecosystems: A Conceptual Review and a New Definition." Technovation 90–91 (2020) 102098. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.technovation.2019.102098>).

⁸ The term "equity" means the consistent and systematic fair, just, and impartial treatment of all individuals, including individuals who belong to disadvantaged communities that have been denied such treatment, such as Black, Latino, and Indigenous and Native American persons, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and other persons of color; members of religious minorities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) persons; persons with disabilities; persons who live in rural areas; and persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality. Executive Order 13985, "Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government" (Jan. 20, 2021).

- Prize competitions aimed at a broad range of creative and innovative solutions, such as the [Inclusive Energy Innovation Prize](#), [the Sunny Awards](#), and the [Inclusive Solar Outreach Awards](#).

The vision and goals of the Community Clean Energy Coalition Prize are directly reflective of feedback EERE has received from stakeholders, including community organizations. Through the [Inclusive Innovation Request for Information](#), DOE requested comment on barriers to entry to DOE funding opportunities for underrepresented groups to inform future activities that will support an inclusive clean energy ecosystem. Through this and other community-based stakeholder feedback over the past 18 months across EERE programs, EERE staff identified a need for extensive local capacity support for the purpose of addressing energy challenges. Feedback indicates a need for increased capacity within the organizations, and that a possible avenue for that is increased partnership between local organizations to leverage skillsets and operational knowledge. This need is the driver of the Community Clean Energy Coalition Prize.

The prize responds to stakeholder requests for DOE to increase community presence by supporting and participating with strong, trusted, community-based organizations to disseminate information and build bridges to disadvantaged communities. American-Made Challenges offers a unique model to address a common need for flexibility in funding, while the coalitions offer a solution to the capacity and knowledge transfer needs of disadvantaged community-focused organizations.

This prize has the potential to address a wide range of potential energy challenges and allows applicants to focus on community needs. This prize will serve as the starting point for further exploration, analysis, and discussion within EERE, and demonstrates EERE's commitment to Justice40 Initiative priorities.

2.2 Prize Goals

EERE is launching the Community Clean Energy Coalition Prize under the umbrella of the American-Made Challenges and in alignment with the EERE family of Inclusive Energy Innovation Prizes. The prize is designed to support capacity development through coalitions that address community-identified energy challenges. The resulting coalitions will be positioned to inform DOE on the Environmental Justice needs of communities in terms of clean energy, while also providing a voice for improved community input in decision-making. The Community Clean Energy Coalition Prize also aims to advance the DOE Justice40 Initiative policy priorities through local engagement. DOE recognizes that existing organizations have a certain understanding of the communities they serve and the energy-related challenges facing those communities. Participating coalitions will identify both the energy challenges and the communities to be served.

The goals of the Community Clean Energy Coalition Prize are to:

- Strengthen community organization ties within communities to improve community representation and community-level information in addressing locally defined energy challenges.
- Enable partnerships between organizations such that the coalition of organizations has the capacity and expertise to engage in energy system decision-making.
- Develop coalitions across multiple groups within self-defined communities for the purpose of strengthening diverse community voices to address locally defined energy challenges and relevant decision-making. This can include partnering of organizations to articulate common needs across multiple parties within processes, identifying technology research needs from communities, or other community-based goals, consistent with the DOE Justice40 Initiative policy priorities.

- Create an actionable plan that includes specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART) goals, timelines, and milestones needed to make in-community progress toward one or more of the DOE Justice40 Initiative policy priorities.
- Showcase the impact and progress made throughout the prize timeline and show that a sustainable coalition has been formed for long-term community benefit.

2.3 Anticipated Prize Impact

The winners of Phase One of the Community Clean Energy Coalition Prize will:

- Identify committed coalition partners
- Identify the community to be served
- Define the energy challenge(s) to be addressed, consistent with DOE's Justice40 Initiative policies and EERE's focus on clean energy technologies and implementation
- Commit to further developing the coalition, building stakeholder relationships, and developing an actionable plan to achieve successful impact.

Competitors will build capacity while providing a forum to collaborate and secure partnerships and a means to share information, resources, skills, and knowledge. In addition, the process will help identify community priorities and give a voice to local community representatives to express what benefits and resources are most needed. Prize funding can be utilized for any purpose decided by the coalition, including but not limited to business systems, a paid facilitator to help the individual coalition members improve coordination toward a goal, and analysis that will help prioritize coalition goals. The benefit of bringing community organizations together to address energy system challenges, whether they are related to specific technology developments or to broader energy system challenges, is to enable a stronger community voice and improve community input into energy system decisions.

The winners of Phase Two of the Community Clean Energy Coalition Prize will:

- Develop an actionable plan to address the defined energy challenge(s) and advance one or more of the DOE Justice40 Initiative policy priorities
- Continue to build community engagement and capacity for clean energy development.

Plan development may include, but is not limited to, hiring staff, updating mission-driven documentation, initiating new programming, hosting events, developing partnerships, and purchasing equipment. Partnering or collaborating with the members of the American-Made Network or partnering with similar communities to gain efficiencies and share knowledge is encouraged.

The winner of Phase Three of the Community Clean Energy Coalition Prize will:

- Implement steps under the actionable plan established in Phase Two
- Advance one or more of the DOE Justice40 Initiative policy priorities
- Commit to and arrange for maintaining the mission and effectiveness of the coalition.

The prize will also enable lessons learned and best practices to be shared with other communities.

2.4 Competitor Support Mechanisms

To facilitate competitor success, the Community Clean Energy Coalition Prize administration team is providing access to a network of supporters for competing coalitions. The following mechanisms have been formalized for competitors to leverage in the development of high-quality applications and general prize support.

2.4.1 Connector Network

Connectors are organizations that are available to support the efforts of prize competitors. Current Connectors are included in the [American-Made Network](#), and competitors are encouraged to reach out to organizations they identify as well-suited to provide needed support. The current list of possible Connectors includes incubators, universities, think tanks, and industry groups that provide support and connections to additional resources.

2.4.2 Power Connectors

Power Connectors are Connectors that may play a more substantial role in the competition and receive funds from DOE. Power Connectors work to identify and support participants in the prize and are available to help coalitions by reviewing submissions, making connections to new partners or resources, and more. Power Connectors also help the American-Made Challenges with the following tasks:

- Increasing the number of new, high-quality competitors
- Expanding the network of partners, resources, and tools
- Increasing the diversity of funding sources for competitors and the program
- Producing engaging and well-attended national showcases
- Providing leadership and support within the increasingly robust American-Made Network.

3 Submission Requirements and Review Process

3.1 Prizes

Phase One Prizes	Up to 10 coalitions may each receive a \$30,000 prize (\$300K total prize pool). All winners from Phase One are eligible to compete in Phase Two and have the potential to receive a second prize.
Phase Two Prizes	Phase Two is open to winners Phase One only. Up to 10 coalitions may each receive a \$115,000 prize (\$1.15 million total prize pool).
Phase Three Prizes	All coalition winners from Phase Two are eligible to compete for a final \$50,000 prize awarded to the coalition that demonstrates the most progress toward the coalition's goals. Submissions will include an articulation of progress toward goals. This award will be given at a Community Summit Event in the fall of 2023 (date to be determined).

3.2 How To Enter

Go to [HeroX](#) and follow the instructions for registering and submitting all required materials before the deadline in the [Key Dates](#) section or as displayed on the HeroX website. Competitors also have the ability to form coalitions or find partners through the HeroX platform.

3.3 Phase One: Coalition Commitment

Phase One seeks collaboration between communities and other local stakeholders to establish a coalition addressing one or more locally defined energy challenges consistent with one or more of the DOE Justice40 Initiative policy priorities. DOE has seen this model be effective through the Clean Cities Coalition Network (CCCN). CCCN projects have resulted in nearly 12 billion gasoline gallon equivalents avoided from reduced fuel use and increased fuel diversity.⁹ During Phase One of this prize, applicants will assess their specific situations, identify the communities represented, define the energy challenge(s) to be addressed, determine coalition development needs, and determine how such a coalition can address the defined energy challenge(s) so as to also advance the DOE Justice40 Initiative policy priorities. Applications must identify the community (or communities) served and the energy challenge(s) to be addressed, demonstrate coalition commitments, and reflect one or more DOE Justice40 Initiative policy priorities. The defined energy challenges should be locally determined, reasonable to address, and quantifiable. Examples of energy challenges include, but are not limited to, decreasing energy burden for the beneficiary population by at least 20% by installing 10 MW of community solar, reducing energy burden through an energy efficiency campaign, or increasing the clean energy job pipeline by developing a training program that will place 50 community members into high-quality jobs within a set time period.

Applications under Phase One should demonstrate that the applicant coalition has achieved the following:

- Secured committed coalition partners
- Identified the community to be served, with a focus on underserved communities
- Defined the energy challenge(s) to be addressed, reflecting local priorities and consistent with DOE's Justice40 Initiative policy priorities and EERE's focus on clean energy technologies and implementation
- Articulated an initial strategy for continued development of the coalition and stakeholder relationships and an actionable plan to achieve measurable impacts.

Impact: Participants begin to build capacity for a community-based coalition, while providing a forum to collaborate and secure partnerships and a means to share information, resources, skills, and knowledge. In addition, engaging with local community representatives helps to define and drive priorities based on what benefits and resources are most needed.

Coalitions will be judged on the breadth and extent of community representation, including the extent to which disadvantaged communities are represented; the extent to which the subject energy challenge(s) are well-defined, reflect local priorities, and are consistent with DOE's Justice40 Initiative policy priorities and EERE's focus on clean energy solutions; the experience of the coalition partners in the identified communities and their expertise in community representation and/or energy challenges, as applicable; and the commitment to develop the coalition further, to continue to build stakeholder relationships, and to develop an actionable plan to achieve successful impact.

⁹ <https://cleancities.energy.gov/about/#:~:text=Since%20beginning%20in%201993%2C%20Clean,implementation%20of%20diverse%20transportation%20projects.>

Prize funding can be utilized for any purpose determined by the coalition, including but not limited to business systems, a paid facilitator to help the individual coalition members improve alignment toward a goal, analysis that will help prioritize coalition goals, infrastructure needs, and more. Phase One prizes will be awarded for the work completed in this phase.

Timing: 2.5 months from the prize announcement to when submission items are due.

Prizes: Up to 10 coalitions will each receive a \$30,000 prize (\$300K total prize pool).

- Up to 10 coalitions may receive a \$30,000 prize as an award for developing a multi-organization coalition addressing a community energy need that aligns with DOE’s Justice40 Initiative policy priorities. Only winners from Phase One will be eligible to compete in Phase Two.

What To Submit:

The following items constitute the submission package for Phase One and must be submitted through the HeroX platform. Each unique coalition must only submit one application. However, individual organizations can participate in multiple coalitions.

The following items are required for each submission:

Item	Will Be Made Public ¹⁰
Online Public Video	Yes
Cover Page	No
Narrative	No
Summary Slide	Yes
Letters of Commitment or Support	No

The following details provide guidance on what information to provide and how reviewers will evaluate and score your submission. Reviewers will evaluate your submission by assigning a single score for each of the scored submission sections based on their overall agreement or disagreement with a series of statements.

1	2	3	4	5	6
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree

¹⁰ See [Section A.10 of Appendix 1](#) regarding material sought to be treated as confidential or privileged.

3.3.1 Online Public Video (Will Be Made Public)

Online Public Video	
<i>Tell us about your coalition and Justice40 Initiative priorities in 90 seconds.</i>	
It is suggested the competitor provides: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Information about the coalition, team members, and committed partners• Identification of the community to be served• The defined energy challenge(s) to be addressed and the DOE Justice40 Initiative priority (or priorities) to which the coalition mission is aligned• General approach for building and maintaining the coalition• Initial outline of the action plan and the next steps that will be taken if the coalition wins the prize in Phase One.	A single score on a scale of 1–6 is provided, taking the following statements into consideration: <p>The video depicts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A strong overall summary of the coalition partners• The community to be served• The energy challenge(s) to be addressed• Alignment with the DOE Justice40 Initiative policy priorities• A thoughtful and realistic consideration of next steps.

Post your publicly accessible video online at the coalition’s website and/or an online media platform. Be creative and produce a video that conveys the required information in exciting and interesting ways. You will not be scored on time-consuming activities that only improve production values (i.e., technical elements such as décor, lighting, and cinematic techniques). Although the presentation of the video should be professional enough to effectively convey the goal of the coalition and its alignment with DOE Justice40 Initiative goals, production value specifically will not be evaluated. Assistance from others with experience in this area may be helpful. Members of the American-Made Network may be able to help you create your video.

3.3.2 Cover Page Content

The cover page, included in your final submission, should list basic information about your submission, including:

- Title
- Coalition name
- Short description of community-level energy challenge to be addressed
- Key coalition partners (names, organizations, contacts)
- Other partners (if any)
- Coalition location and service area(s) (city, state, or other identifying location).

3.3.3 Narrative Content

Write a detailed narrative describing the Coalition Commitment. This includes identifying the coalition partners, their experience, resources, capacity, and connection to the community to be served; the community to be served, including the extent to which disadvantaged communities may be represented; the defined energy challenge(s); the extent to which the defined challenge(s) reflect local priorities/needs, DOE’s Justice40 Initiative policy priorities, and EERE’s focus on clean energy solutions; and an overview of next steps that demonstrates thoughtful consideration of how to address the defined challenge and

maintain and strengthen the coalition. There is a template that will be made available on the HeroX platform that applicants may use in drafting the Coalition Commitment Narrative. The Coalition Commitment Narrative must not exceed **2,000** words. Submissions can also include up to **five** supporting visuals or graphics, and unlimited letters of support (optional).

The submission must be submitted as a PDF, via the HeroX platform, along with the other submission documents. Information contained in hyperlinks to external sources will not be reviewed or considered by the reviewers.

Topics

There are three topic areas that need to be addressed in the Commitment Narrative:

- **Topic 1: Coalition Description and Commitment**, including committed/developing partners and stakeholders
- **Topic 2: Community Energy Challenge Alignment With Justice40 Initiative Priorities** including potential impact and planned activities meet the challenge
- **Topic 3: Coalition Narrative** outlining continuing development and proposed activities.

<p style="text-align: center;">Topic 1: Coalition Description and Commitment</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Describe the committed partners, the community to be served, the specific community need being addressed, and alignment of need with one or more DOE Justice40 Initiative policy or priorities.</i></p>	
<p>It is suggested the competitor provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identify the committed partners, and describe their relevant experience, resources, capacity, and connection to the community to be served. ● Identify the community to be served and describe stakeholders outside the coalition members who are being engaged. ● Define the community-focused energy challenge to be addressed by the coalition. ● Describe the level of commitment of the coalition and its partners, and the consideration of future action that will impact the long-term success of the coalition. 	<p>A single 1–6 score is provided, taking the following statements into consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The committed partners have the experience, resources, and capacity necessary to successfully address the defined energy challenge(s). ● The coalition has a strong connection to the community to be served and demonstrates a strong understanding of the community and the community’s clean energy needs. ● The identified community has a history of being underrepresented when addressing the defined energy challenge. ● The identified community includes disadvantaged communities. ● The coalition has the capability and capacity to serve the identified community. ● The defined energy challenge reflects the priorities and/or needs of the identified community. ● The coalition makes a compelling case for how it will be maintained and developed, and how it will have a positive impact on the community.

Topic 2: Community Energy Challenge Alignment With DOE Justice40 Initiative Policy Priorities

Describe the defined energy challenge(s) and connections to DOE Justice40 Initiative policy priorities and articulate how addressing the defined energy challenge(s) will advance the DOE Justice40 Initiative policy priorities and further the development and deployment of clean energy.

It is suggested the competitor provides:

- Identify the key DOE Justice40 Initiative policy priority(ies) being addressed.
- Describe how the defined energy challenge relates to the identified DOE Justice40 Initiative policy priority(ies) and how the mission of the coalition advances the relevant priority(ies).
- Describe how the relevant coalition partners will help the coalition meet or exceed the goals of the coalition and the relevant priorities.

Each statement scored on a 1–6 scale:

- The competitor demonstrates coordination between the defined energy challenge(s), the coalition mission, and one or more of the DOE Justice40 Initiative policy priorities.
- The coalition mission establishes a well-defined role in addressing the defined energy challenge.
- The proposed partner actions are likely to successfully address the challenge.

Topic 3: Coalition Narrative Outlining Continuing Development and Proposed Activities

Describe the coalition and how the initial arrangements will allow for continued development and for providing measurable impacts.

It is suggested the competitor provides:

- Describe the structure of the coalition, how it will be organized, and how the structure and organization will support continuation of the coalition.
- Describe the steps you will take to formalize the coalition and its mission.
- Describe initial arrangements for addressing the defined energy challenge and outline expected steps.
- Identify the methods and metrics that will be used to evaluate the progress of activities through specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART) goals.
- Provide a budget for the proposed activities.
- Describe the existing resources (funding, personal, and expertise), current funding needs, and expected sources of future funding.

Each statement scored on a 1–6 scale:

- The structure and organization of the coalition is set up to be successful in delivering value to the underserved community.
- The coalition’s high-level proposed activities are aimed at meeting one or more of the goals of the prize and are well-reasoned and likely to achieve the stated goal(s).
- The coalition’s proposed activities are likely to address the defined energy challenge in a manner advancing the DOE Justice40 Initiative policy priorities and clean energy.
- The coalition’s outlined activities are likely to build trust and strengthen relationships and partnerships with disadvantaged communities.
- The competitor’s metrics to evaluate success and the relevant SMART goals are well-suited to provide an accurate indication of success in meeting one or more of the goals of this prize.
- The description of outlined activities and the associated budget are of adequate detail and indicate that the activities are achievable.
- The competitor has demonstrated that they will have access to the necessary resources and capabilities to execute their proposed plan or have a plan to secure necessary funding.

Reviewer Recommendation Score

- There is no direct corresponding submission requirement for this score. Rather, it is an overall holistic assessment of all materials submitted in HeroX.

Statement scored on a 1–6 scale:

- This competitor should strongly be considered for a Phase One prize.

3.3.4 Submission Summary Slide (Will Be Made Public)

Make a public-facing, one-slide submission summary that introduces the coalition and general plan highlights. There is no template, so competitors are free to present the information in any format. Any text

must be readable on a standard printed page and a conference room projection and should be in at least 14-point font.

3.3.5 Letters of Commitment or Support

In a single file, combine and upload one-page letters from relevant entities (e.g., coalition members, relevant stakeholders) to provide context for your coalition and outlined activities. Any letters of commitment or support must be written on letterhead or a template with the organization's name on it, uploaded as a single file, and limited to a single page.

3.4 Phase Two: Coalition Development

If a coalition wins an award in Phase One, that coalition will be eligible to compete in Phase Two: the Coalition Development Phase. At the end of Phase Two, applicants will submit a Coalition Implementation Plan that articulates the approach and specific steps for achieving the mission of the coalition and advancing the DOE Justice40 Initiative policy priorities. The Phase Two applications will be evaluated on the extent to which the Coalition Implementation Plan specifies actionable steps that are likely to impact the identified community, addresses the defined energy challenge, and advance the relevant DOE Justice40 Initiative policy priorities.

The Coalition Implementation Plan should consist of the following:

- An introduction and overview of the coalition and substantive changes from Phase One (if any).
- A description of the approach for engaging the represented community, specific and actionable steps for addressing the defined energy challenge, and a process for measuring progress and adjusting the plan as necessary to further the coalition's mission.
- A discussion of the coalition's ongoing activities; how these activities support the identified community, address the defined energy challenge, and advance one or more DOE Justice40 Initiative policy priorities; and progress made to date.

Action steps can include, but are not limited to, hiring staff, such as a hiring a coordinator to manage the coalition; updating mission-driven documentation; initiating new programming; hosting events and conducting outreach efforts; developing additional partnerships; purchasing equipment critical to the mission; and more. Partnering or collaborating with the members of the American-Made Network or partnering with similar communities to gain efficiencies and share knowledge is encouraged.

Phase Two applications should demonstrate that the applicant coalition has achieved the following:

- Development and adoption of a Coalition Implementation Plan that specifies an approach and actionable steps to:
 - Engaging and representing the identified community
 - Strengthening and building the existing coalition
 - Addressing the defined energy challenge
 - Measuring progress toward achieving the coalition's mission.
- A description of how execution of the Coalition Implementation Plan advances the relevant DOE Justice40 Initiative policy priorities and clean energy solutions.
- A description of steps taken to date and any progress made.

Impact: The goal is to build community engagement and capacity to address the defined energy challenge for clean energy development. There exists the potential of 10 communities with an actionable plan to address a community energy challenge described in Phase One, in order to advance at least one of the DOE Justice40 Initiative policy priorities and clean energy solutions.

Timing: 3 months from when Phase Two begins (anticipated January 2023) to when submission items are due.

Prizes: All winners from Phase One are eligible to compete in Phase Two for a second prize. Competitors must provide an eligible submission package. Up to 10 prizes of \$115,000 each will be awarded to submissions that demonstrate achievement of the Phase Two goals.

What to Submit:

The following items constitute the submission package for Phase Two and must be submitted through the HeroX platform. Each is described in more detail below. Each coalition must submit only one submission.

The following items are required for each submission:

Item	Will Be Made Public ¹¹
Online Public Video	Yes
Cover Page	No
Narrative	No
Summary Slide	Yes
Letters of Commitment or Support (optional)	No

The following details provide guidance on what information to provide and how reviewers will evaluate and score your submission. Reviewers will evaluate your submission by assigning a single score for each scored submission section, based on their overall agreement or disagreement with a series of statements.

1	2	3	4	5	6
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree

¹¹ See [Section A.10 of Appendix 1](#) regarding material sought to be treated as confidential or privileged.

3.4.1 Online Public Video (Will Be Made Public)

Online Public Video	
<i>Tell us about your coalition, the Coalition Implementation Plan, its relevance to one or more DOE Justice40 Initiative policy priorities and clean energy solutions, and progress made from Phase One, in 90 seconds.</i>	
It is suggested the competitor provides: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A summary overview of the coalition, team members, and committed partners, and any substantive changes since Phase One (e.g., new partners, expanded capacity, change in community identified).• An overview of the Coalition Implementation Plan and how implementation will advance the mission of the coalition, the relevant DOE Justice40 Initiative policy priorities, and clean energy solutions.• Any significant progress since Phase One.	A single score on a scale of 1–6 is provided, taking the following statement into consideration: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The video clearly and concisely communicates the Coalition Implementation Plan, the relationship to the relevant DOE Justice40 Initiative policy priorities and clean energy solutions, and progress to date.

Post your publicly accessible video online at the coalition’s website and/or an online media platform. Be creative and produce a video that conveys the required information in exciting and interesting ways, but do not focus on time-consuming activities that only improve production values (i.e., technical elements such as décor, lighting, and cinematic techniques). Assistance from others with experience in this area may be helpful. Members of the American-Made Network may be able to help you create your video. While the presentation of the video should be professional enough to effectively convey the goal of the coalition and its alignment with DOE Justice40 Initiative goals, production value specifically will not be evaluated.

3.4.2 Cover Page Content

List basic information about your submission, including:

- Title
- Coalition name
- Short description of the Coalition Implementation Plan to address the identified energy challenge through coalition involvement
- Key coalition partners (names, organizations, contacts)
- Other partners (if any)
- Coalition location and service area(s) (city, state, or other identifying location).

3.4.3 Narrative Content

Write a detailed Coalition Implementation Plan in a narrative format. Begin with any substantive changes to the coalition, the community identified, or the defined energy challenge as presented in the prior phase. Specify in the narrative the coalition’s approach to achieving its mission, including actionable steps to engage and represent the identified community, strengthening and building the existing coalition,

addressing the defined energy challenge, measuring progress toward achieving the coalition’s mission, and establishing a process to adjust the plan as necessary to further the coalition’s mission. Describe how execution of the Coalition Implementation Plan advances the relevant DOE Justice40 Initiative policy priorities and clean energy solutions. Describe steps taken to date and any progress made. There is a template that will be made available on the HeroX platform under the “Resources” section that competitors may choose to use in drafting the Coalition Implementation Plan.

The total length of the Phase Two narrative cannot exceed **2,000** words. You may include up to **five** supporting visualizations or graphics and unlimited optional letters of support. The impact plan must be submitted as a PDF, via the HeroX platform, along with the other submission documents. Information contained in hyperlinks to external sources will not be reviewed or considered by the reviewers or the judge.

Topics

There are four topics that need to be addressed in the development plan:

- **Topic 1: Community and Coalition Overview**
- **Topic 2: Coalition Development Progress**
- **Topic 3: Coalition Implementation Plan**
- **Topic 4: Vision and Anticipated Long-Term Impacts.**

The Coalition Implementation Plan should describe the proposed plan and address all four criteria.

Topic 1: Community and Coalition Overview	
<i>Describe the community or communities being served and steps to engage and represent the community(ies).</i>	
<p>It is suggested the competitor provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide details about the coalition’s scope and depth of representation of the identified community(ies). ● Provide specific and actionable steps for maintaining and expanding engagement of the represented community(ies). ● Provide specific and actional steps for how the coalition will represent the identified community(ies). 	<p>A single 1–6 score is provided, taking the following statements into consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The competitor demonstrates a strong understanding of the identified community(ies) in the context of the defined energy challenge. ● The competitor demonstrates the ability to engage and represent the identified community(ies). ● The competitor’s engagement and representation include one or more disadvantaged communities. ● The competitor makes a compelling case for how their coalition will have a positive impact on the community(ies).

Topic 2: Coalition Development Progress

Describe the progress you have made in building and convening your coalition.

It is suggested the competitor provides:

- Describe the steps established to continue and build your coalition.
- Describe specific coordination activities you have taken for your coalition (including hiring, meetings, planning, activities, and stakeholder engagement).
- Identify how the activities to maintain and build the coalition advance the relevant DOE Justice40 Initiative policy priorities.
- Describe any outstanding coalition partnership commitments and their status.
- Describe other stakeholders outside the coalition members that are engaged.

Each statement scored on a 1–6 scale:

- The coalition members have demonstrated commitment to the coalition's mission and success.
- The coalition has undertaken activities to strengthen its structure, membership, and voice in the community.
- The coalition has identified steps to strengthen and develop the relevant DOE Justice40 Initiative policy priority(ies) in the community served.
- The coalition demonstrates active engagement with stakeholders relevant to addressing the defined energy challenge.

Topic 3: Coalition Implementation Plan

Describe your plan and how you will achieve it.

It is suggested the competitor provides:

- Specify the approach and steps to address the defined energy challenge and advance the relevant DOE Justice40 Initiative policy priority(ies) and clean energy solutions. Include specific activities, milestones, or events.
- Describe how the coalition will engage, build trust, and strengthen relationships and partnerships with the identified community(ies) as well as with other relevant stakeholders.
- Identify the methods and metrics that will be used to evaluate your progress through specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART) goals.
- Provide a budget for the proposed activities.
- Describe the resources (funding, personnel, and expertise) the coalition currently has available to implement this plan and how needed funds will be addressed.

Each statement scored on a 1–6 scale:

- The competitor’s proposed activities are appropriate and will likely result in successfully addressing the defined energy challenge.
- The competitor’s proposed activities are likely to deliver equitable benefits to local communities in support of DOE’s Justice40 Initiative policy priorities and to advance clean energy solutions.
- The competitor’s proposed activities are likely to build trust and strengthen relationships and partnerships with the community(ies) being served, as well as with other relevant stakeholders.
- The competitor’s metrics to evaluate success and the relevant SMART goals are well-suited to provide an accurate indication of success in meeting one or more of the goals of this prize.
- The description of proposed activities and the associated proposed budget are of adequate detail and indicate that the activities are well-thought-out and achievable.
- The competitor has demonstrated that they will have access to the necessary resources and capabilities to execute their proposed plan or have a sufficient plan to address resource and capacity needs.

Topic 4: Vision and Anticipated Long-Term Impacts

Describe your short term and long-term strategy to continue advancement of the coalition’s mission, consistent with the DOE Justice40 Initiative policy priority(ies).

<p>It is suggested the competitor provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the anticipated short-term (1 year) and long-term (5 year) impact of your coalition and your coalition’s activities. • Describe the coalition’s role in continuing to build the coalition in the identified community. • Describe the strategies the coalition will employ to secure ongoing funding to build upon the proposed activities to ensure sustainability of the proposed activities. • Describe the progress toward a clean energy transition that the competitor could achieve with ongoing funding beyond the initial award from this prize. • Describe how you will measure success in the long term. 	<p>Each statement scored on a 1–6 scale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The competitor effectively describes their role in expanding the coalition beyond the initial award from this prize. • The description of expected results from the competitor’s efforts after 1 and 5 years is achievable, impactful, and in line with DOE’s Justice40 Initiative goals. • The proposed metrics are relevant and appropriate to the activities and desired outcomes.
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Reviewer Recommendation

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no direct corresponding submission requirement for this score. Rather, it is an overall assessment of all materials submitted in HeroX. 	<p>Statement scored on a 1–6 scale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This competitor should strongly be considered for a Phase Two prize.
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3.4.4 Submission Summary Slide (Will Be Made Public)

Make a public-facing, one-slide submission summary that discusses any changes to the coalition partners, structure, or goals since Phase One and provides an overview of the Coalition Implementation Plan. There is no template, so competitors are free to present the information in any format. Any text must be readable on a standard printed page and a conference room projection and should be in at least 14-point font.

3.4.5 Letters of Commitment or Support (Optional)

In a single file, combine and upload one-page letters from relevant entities (e.g., coalition members, relevant stakeholders) to provide context for any revisions to your coalition and activities from your original submission, if relevant. Any letters of commitment or support must be on letterhead, uploaded as a single file, and limited to a single page. This is optional, but highly recommended to solidify the commitments made by partners and stakeholders.

3.5 Phase Three: Coalition Impact

The final phase of the prize competition will be open to all Phase Two winners. Phase Three will offer a \$50,000 grand prize based on the demonstrated execution of the Coalition Implementation Plan developed in Phase Two and its measured impact. The prize will conclude with a Community Summit Event that will showcase all coalition activities.

Community Summit Event

The Community Clean Energy Coalition Prize Summit Event at the end of Phase Three will showcase projects and offer on-site technical assistance from power connectors to assist winners of each phase with further development and implementation. Competitors will get stage time to present their achievements. The coalition showcasing the highest level of impact over the course of the prize competition will receive an additional \$50,000 as a grand prize recognition. Success stories and lessons learned from the prize competition and the Summit Event will be showcased on the website to allow other communities and coalitions to learn from the successes and challenges of the prize competitors.

Timing: 7 months from the end of Phase Two.

Prizes: One winner will receive \$50,000 as a grand prize.

What To Submit:

The following items are required for each submission:

Item	Will Be Made Public ¹²
Online Public Video	Yes
Cover Page	No
Narrative	No
Summary Slide	Yes
Letters of Commitment or Support (optional)	No
Participation in Summit Event	Yes

The following details provide guidance on what information to provide and how reviewers will evaluate and score your submission. Reviewers will evaluate your submission by assigning a single score for each scored submission section, based on their overall agreement or disagreement with a series of statements.

¹² See [Section A.10 of Appendix 1](#) regarding material sought to be treated as confidential or privileged.

1	2	3	4	5	6
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree

3.5.1 Online Public Video (Will Be Made Public)

<p>Online Public Video</p> <p><i>This is your time shine! Summarize all your activities and accomplishments made throughout the prize. In 90 seconds, tell us about your coalition, the DOE Justice40 Initiative policy priorities addressed, progress made throughout the competition, and any successes or lessons learned that will help other coalitions be successful.</i></p>	
<p>It is suggested the competitor provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information about the coalition, team members, and committed partners. The DOE Justice40 Initiative policy priorities that the coalition is advancing. A plan of action and what steps were taken during the prize. The significant progress and relevant impact your coalition has made in advancing the coalition’s mission, the relevant DOE Justice40 Initiative policy priority(ies), and clean energy solutions. 	<p>A single score on a scale of 1–6 is provided, taking the following statements into consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The video depicts a strong overall summary of the coalition plan, partners, approaches, progress made throughout the prize, and advancement of the DOE Justice40 Initiative policy priorities and clean energy solutions.

Post your publicly accessible video online at the coalition’s website and/or an online media platform. Be creative and produce a video that conveys the required information in exciting and interesting ways, but do not focus on time-consuming activities that only improve production values (i.e., technical elements such as décor, lighting, and cinematic techniques). Assistance from others with experience in this area may be helpful. Members of the American-Made Network may be able to help you create your video.

3.5.2 Cover Page Content

The cover page, included in your final submission, will not be made public. List basic information about your submission, including:

- Title
- Coalition name
- Short description
- Key coalition partners (names, organizations, contacts)
- Other partners (if any)
- Coalition location and location(s) of service (city, state, or other identifying location).

3.5.3 Narrative Content

Provide a narrative detailing the activities your coalition performed in Phase Three. There is a template that will be made available on the HeroX platform that competitors may choose to use in drafting the Coalition Impact Report.

The total length of the narrative cannot exceed **2,000** words. You may include up to **five** supporting visuals or graphics and unlimited optional letters of support. The impact plan must be submitted as a PDF, via the HeroX platform, along with the other submission documents. Information contained in hyperlinks to external sources will not be reviewed or considered by the reviewers or the judge.

Topics

There are three topics that need to be addressed in the Impact Report:

- **Topic 1: Community and Coalition Overview**
- **Topic 2: Implementation Activities, Results, and Achieved Impacts**
- **Topic 3: Vision and Anticipated Long-Term Impacts**

The narrative should describe the proposed plan and address all three topics.

Topic 1: Community and Coalition Overview <i>Describe your coalition, the identified community(ies), and relevant DOE Justice40 Initiative policy priority(ies).</i>	
<p>It is suggested the competitor provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Describe your coalition and the community it is serving. ● Provide details about the coalition members and how they demonstrate the breadth of community representation. ● Identify how the identified community and defined energy challenge address specific DOE Justice40 Initiative policy priority(ies) and why it is critical that your coalition addresses them now. ● Describe the impact your coalition anticipates having on the community and Justice40 Initiative priorities. 	<p>A single 1–6 score is provided, taking the following statements into consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The competitor demonstrates a strong understanding of the identified community and the community’s energy challenge. ● The coalition has engaged and represents disadvantaged communities. ● The competitor demonstrates a strong understanding of the relevant DOE Justice40 Initiative policy priority(ies) and clean energy solutions. ● The competitor demonstrates that it had a high impact during the prize and is positioned to continue having an impact in the community with regard to the defined energy challenge.

Topic 2: Implementation Activities, Results, and Achieved Impacts

Describe the activities you completed to implement your plan and the impacts you have made to date.

It is suggested the competitor provides:

- Describe the actions taken in Phase Three to implement your plan.
- Highlight key activities, relationships, and milestones completed during Phase Three.
- Report on your progress toward the SMART goals in your implementation plan.
- Report on metrics and the conclusions you can draw.
- Describe how continued progress and impact will be made.

Each statement scored on a 1–6 scale:

- The coalition has made significant progress in executing its Coalition Implementation Plan and has made significant progress as measured by its established SMART goals.
- The coalition has undertaken activities to participate in decision-making and has strengthened its structure and voice in the community.
- The coalition structure is maintained throughout projects.
- The coalition members are committed to participating and to the program's success for the long term.

Topic 3: Vision and Planned Long-Term Impacts	
<i>Describe your long-term vision and planned impact and demonstrate the long-term viability of the coalition.</i>	
<p>It is suggested the competitor provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe your planned short-term (1 year) and long-term (5 year) impact related to the defined energy challenge resulting from the coalition and the coalition’s activities. • Describe the planned strategies for maintaining and strengthening the coalition and its representation of the identified community(ies). • Describe your future funding needs and strategies to secure ongoing funding to build upon the proposed activities to ensure sustainability of the proposed activities. • Describe progress toward a clean energy transition that the competitor could achieve with ongoing funding beyond the initial award from this prize. • Describe the plan for monitoring success against the established SMART goals and strategies for reevaluating the Coalition Implementation Plan if needed. 	<p>Each statement scored on a 1–6 scale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The planned results from the competitor’s efforts after 1–5 years are achievable, impactful, and will advance the DOE Justice40 Initiative policy priorities. • The strategies for maintaining and strengthening the coalition improve the likely long-term viability of the coalition. • The described funding needs reflect an understanding of the defined energy challenge and are consistent with coalition’s stated goals, and the planned funding strategies make it likely that the coalition will secure future funding. • The SMART goals, monitoring, and reevaluation strategies increase the likelihood of ongoing success of the coalition.

Reviewer Recommendation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no direct corresponding submission requirement for this score. Rather, it is an overall assessment of all materials submitted in HeroX. 	<p>Statement scored on a 1–6 scale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This competitor should strongly be considered for a Phase Three prize.

3.5.4 Submission Summary Slide (Will Be Made Public)

Make a public-facing, one-slide submission summary that introduces your coalition and general plan highlights. There is no template, so competitors are free to present the information in any format. Any text must be readable on a standard printed page and a conference room projection and should be in at least 14-point font.

3.5.5 Participation in the Summit Event

It is expected that all winning coalitions from Phase One will have at least one representative available in person at the Summit Event. The Summit Event date and location will be determined during the prize competition and will be communicated to the competing coalitions as soon as possible. The event is

meant to provide a venue for coalitions to connect and network, learn from each other, and highlight their successes. We encourage all winning coalitions from Phase Two to participate in the Phase Three event. Phase Two winners must participate in the Summit Event in order to be considered for the Phase Three Grand Prize. No additional funding will be provided to travel to the event.

At the Summit Event, all participating coalitions will be expected to present for approximately 5 minutes (i.e., a project “pitch session”). The intent of the presentation is to succinctly show the progress made to date, the highest-level impacts made, the overall vision, and the successes and challenges faced. Participating competitors must prepare and submit a PowerPoint presentation prior to the event. The slides will be presented by the coalition during the Summit Event.

If the Summit Event cannot take place in person for any reason, we may shift the event to a virtual format. Details about the type of event will be provided to all competitors, recognizing the time necessary to adjust travel schedules, if needed. Travel will not be reimbursed by DOE or the Prize Administrator.

There is no specific template given for the presentation, but it should cover the following:

- Coalition description and experience
- Location and title of the coalition and community served
- Progress made throughout the entire prize, from Phase One to Phase Three
- Implementation strategy and activities
- DOE Justice40 Initiative priorities addressed and how those priorities were advanced
- Overall impact that the coalition had over the course of the prize.

In order to develop an effective presentation that can be delivered within a 5-minute time block, presentations should be well-organized. Take the time to tell a good story and be thoughtful about presenting your achievements to a new audience that is not familiar with your work. Practice and solicit input as well, as appropriate.

DOE intends to award the \$50,000 to the winning coalition at the conclusion of the live presentations at the event.

3.6 How We Determine and Award Winners

The Prize Administrator screens all submissions for completeness and to ensure eligibility. Then, the Prize Administrator, in consultation with DOE, assigns subject-matter-expert reviewers who independently score the content of each submission. The reviewers will evaluate the competitor submissions using the considerations described for each phase of the prize.

3.6.1 Reviewer Panel Scoring

The scoring of submissions will proceed as follows:

- The subject-matter-expert reviewers will evaluate each submission individually and assess the response from the competitor to each statement in the criteria described in the review criteria tables.
- Reviewers will score each section on a scale of 1–6, corresponding to the degree to which the reviewer agrees that the submission reflects the statements.
- The total scores from each reviewer will be averaged to produce a final score for the competing coalition. This score will inform DOE’s decisions on prize awards.
- The final decision will be made by a DOE representative.

3.6.2 Interviews

DOE and/or the Prize Administrator may decide to interview a subset of competitors. Any interviews will be held prior to the announcement of the winners and will serve to help clarify questions the reviewers may have. Participating in interviews is not required, and interviews are not an indication of a competitor's likelihood to win.

3.6.3 Final Determination

DOE will designate a federal employee as the judge before the final determination of the winners. Final determination of the winners by the judge will take into account the reviewers' scores and any reviewer comments provided, application of program policy factors, and the interview findings (if applicable).

3.6.4 Announcement

Approximately 60 days after each phase closes, the Prize Administrator will notify the winners and request the necessary information to distribute the prizes. The Prize Administrator will then publicly announce the winners.

3.7 Additional Terms and Conditions

See [Appendix 1](#) for additional requirements. COMPETITORS THAT DO NOT COMPLY WITH THE ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS IN APPENDIX 1 MAY BE DISQUALIFIED.

Appendix 1: Additional Terms and Conditions

A.1 Requirements

Your submission for the Community Clean Energy Coalition Prize is subject to the following terms and conditions:

- You must upload the final content of your submissions by the deadlines established by the Prize Administrator/DOE. Late submissions or any other form of submission will be rejected.
- You must include all the required items in your submission. The Prize Administrator will disqualify your submission after an initial screening if you fail to provide all required submission items. Competitors may be given an opportunity to rectify submission errors due to technical challenges.
- Your submission must be in English and in a format readable by Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF. Scanned, hand-written submissions will be disqualified.
- Submissions will be disqualified if they contain any matter that, in the sole discretion of the U.S. Department of Energy or the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), is indecent, obscene, defamatory, libelous, and/or lacking in professionalism, or demonstrates a lack of respect for people or life on this planet.
- If you click "Accept" on the HeroX platform and proceed to register for any of the prizes described in this document, these rules will form a valid and binding agreement between you and DOE, in addition to the existing HeroX Terms of Use for all purposes relating to these contests. You should print and keep a copy of these rules. These provisions only apply to the prize described here and no other prize on the HeroX platform or anywhere else.
- The Prize Administrator, when feasible, may give competitors an opportunity to fix nonsubstantive mistakes or errors in the public-facing materials of their submission packages.
- As part of your submission to this prize, you will be required to sign the following statement:

I am providing this submission package as part of my participation in this prize. I understand that I am providing this submission to the Federal Government. I certify under penalty of perjury that the named competitor meets the eligibility requirements for this prize competition and complies with all other rules contained in the Official Rules document. I further represent that the information contained in the submission is true and contains no misrepresentations. I understand false statements or misrepresentations to the Federal Government may result in civil and/or criminal penalties under 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

A.2 Verification for Payments

The Prize Administrator will verify the identity and role of all competitors before distributing any prizes. Receiving a prize payment is contingent upon fulfilling all requirements contained herein. The Prize Administrator will notify winning competitors using provided email contact information for the individual or entity that was responsible for the submission. Each competitor will be required to sign and return to the Prize Administrator, within 30 days of the date on the notice, a completed NREL Request for ACH Banking Information form and a completed W-9 form (<https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf>). In the sole discretion of the Prize Administrator, a winning competitor will be disqualified from the competition and receive no prize funds if: (i) the person/entity does not respond to notifications; (ii) the person/entity fails to sign and return the required documentation within the required time period; (iii) the notification is returned as undeliverable; (iv) the submission or person/entity is disqualified for any other reason.

In the event of a dispute as to any registration, the authorized account holder of the email address used to register will be deemed to be the competitor. The "authorized account holder" is the natural person or legal entity assigned an email address by an Internet access provider, online service provider, or other organization responsible for assigning email addresses for the domain associated with the submitted address. All competitors may be required to show proof of being the authorized account holder.

A.3 Teams and Single-Entity Awards

The Prize Administrator will award a single dollar amount to the designated primary submitter, whether it consists of a single or multiple entities. The primary submitter is solely responsible for allocating any prize funds among its member competitors or teammates as they deem appropriate. The Prize Administrator will not arbitrate, intervene, advise on, or resolve any matters or disputes between team members or competitors.

A.4 Submission Rights

By making a submission and consenting to the rules of the contest, a competitor is granting to DOE, the Prize Administrator, and any other third parties supporting DOE in the contest, a license to display publicly and use the parts of the submission that are designated as "public" for government purposes. This license includes posting or linking to the public portions of the submission on the Prize Administrator or HeroX applications, including the contest website, DOE websites, and partner websites, and the inclusion of the submission in any other media worldwide. The submission may be viewed by DOE, the Prize Administrator, and judges and reviewers for purposes of the contests, including but not limited to screening and evaluation purposes. The Prize Administrator and any third parties acting on their behalf will also have the right to publicize competitors' names and, as applicable, the names of competitors' team members and organization who participated in the submission on the contest website indefinitely.

By entering, the competitor represents and warrants that:

1. The competitor's entire submission is an original work by the competitor and the competitor has not included third-party content (such as writing, text, graphics, artwork, logos, photographs, likenesses of any third party, musical recordings, clips of videos, television programs, or motion pictures) in or in connection with the submission, unless (i) otherwise requested by the Prize Administrator and/or disclosed by the competitor in the submission, and (ii) the competitor has either obtained the rights to use such third-party content or the content of the submission is considered to be in the public domain without any limitations on use.
2. Unless otherwise disclosed in the submission, the use thereof by the Prize Administrator, or the exercise by the Prize Administrator of any of the rights granted by the competitor under these rules, does not and will not infringe or violate any rights of any third party or entity, including, without limitation, patent, copyright, trademark, trade secret, defamation, privacy, publicity, false light, misappropriation, intentional or negligent infliction of emotional distress, confidentiality, or any contractual or other rights.
3. All persons who were engaged by the competitor to work on the submission or who appear in the submission in any manner have:
 - a. Given the competitor their express written consent to submit the submission for exhibition and other exploitation in any manner and in any and all media, whether now existing or hereafter discovered, throughout the world;
 - b. Provided written permission to include their name, image, or pictures in or with the submission (or, if a minor who is not competitor's child, competitor must have the permission of the minor's parent or legal guardian) and the competitor may be asked by the Prize Administrator to provide permission in writing; and

- c. Not been and are not currently under any union or guild agreement that results in any ongoing obligations resulting from the use, exhibition, or other exploitation of the submission.

A.5 Copyright

Each competitor represents and warrants that the competitor is the sole author and copyright owner of the submission; that the submission is an original work of the competitor or that the competitor has acquired sufficient rights to use and to authorize others, including DOE, to use the submission, as specified throughout the rules; that the submission does not infringe upon any copyright or any other third-party rights of which the competitor is aware; and that the submission is free of malware.

A.6 Contest Subject to Applicable Law

All contests are subject to all applicable federal laws and regulations. Participation constitutes each participant's full and unconditional agreement to these Official Rules and administrative decisions, which are final and binding in all matters related to the contest. This notice is not an obligation of funds; the final award is contingent upon the availability of appropriations.

A.7 Resolution of Disputes

DOE is solely responsible for administrative decisions, which are final and binding in all matters related to the contest.

Neither DOE nor the Prize Administrator will arbitrate, intervene, advise on, or resolve any matters between team members or among competitors.

A.8 Publicity

The winners of these prizes (collectively, "winners") will be featured on DOE's and NREL's websites.

Except where prohibited, participation in the contest constitutes each winner's consent to DOE's and its agents' use of each winner's name, likeness, photograph, voice, opinions, and/or hometown and state information for promotional purposes through any form of media worldwide, without further permission, payment, or consideration.

A.9 Liability

Upon registration, all participants agree to assume any and all risks of injury or loss in connection with or in any way arising from participation in this contest. Upon registration, except in the case of willful misconduct, all participants agree to and, thereby, do waive and release any and all claims or causes of action against the federal government and its officers, employees, and agents for any and all injury and damage of any nature whatsoever (whether existing or thereafter arising, whether direct, indirect, or consequential, and whether foreseeable or not) arising from their participation in the contest, whether the claim or cause of action arises under contract or tort.

In accordance with the delegation of authority to run this contest delegated to the judge responsible for this prize, the judge has determined that no liability insurance naming DOE as an insured will be required of competitors to compete in this competition, per 15 U.S.C. § 3719(i)(3). It is the responsibility of the competitors to assess the risks associated with their activities associated with this competition and adequately insure themselves against possible losses.

A.10 Records Retention and Freedom of Information Act

All materials submitted to DOE as part of a submission become DOE records and are subject to the Freedom of Information Act. If a submission includes trade secrets or information that is commercial or financial, or information that is confidential or privileged, it is furnished to the Government in confidence with the understanding that the information shall be used or disclosed only for evaluation of the application. Such information will be withheld from public disclosure to the extent permitted by law, including the Freedom of Information Act. Without assuming any liability for inadvertent disclosure, DOE will seek to limit disclosure of such information to its employees and to outside reviewers when necessary for review of the application or as otherwise authorized by law. This restriction does not limit the Government's right to use the information if it is obtained from another source.

Submissions containing material sought to be treated as confidential, proprietary, or privileged information must be marked as described below. Failure to comply with these marking requirements may result in the disclosure of the unmarked information under the Freedom of Information Act or otherwise. The U.S. Government is not liable for the disclosure or use of unmarked information and may use or disclose such information for any purpose.

The submission must be marked as follows and must identify the specific pages containing trade secrets or confidential, proprietary, or privileged information: "Notice of Restriction on Disclosure and Use of Data: Pages [list applicable pages] of this document may contain trade secrets, confidential, proprietary, or privileged information that is exempt from public disclosure. Such information shall be used or disclosed only for evaluation purposes. [End of Notice]"

The header and footer of every page that contains confidential, proprietary, or privileged information must be marked as follows: "Contains Trade Secrets, Confidential, Proprietary, or Privileged Information Exempt from Public Disclosure." In addition, each line or paragraph containing proprietary, privileged, or trade secret information must be clearly marked with double brackets.

Competitors will be notified of any Freedom of Information Act requests for their submissions in accordance with 29 C.F.R. § 70.26. Competitors may then have the opportunity to review materials and work with a Freedom of Information Act representative prior to the release of materials. DOE will make its own determination about the status of the information and treat it according to its determination. DOE makes the final determination.

A.11 Privacy

If you choose to provide HeroX with personal information by registering or completing the submission package through the contest website, you understand that such information will be transmitted to DOE and may be kept in a system of records. Such information will be used only to respond to you in matters regarding your submission and/or the contest unless you choose to receive updates or notifications about other contests or programs from DOE on an opt-in basis. DOE and NREL are not collecting any information for commercial marketing.

A.12 General Conditions

DOE reserves the right to cancel, suspend, and/or modify the prize, or any part of it, at any time. If any fraud, technical failures, or any other factors beyond DOE's reasonable control impair the integrity or proper functioning of the prize, as determined by DOE in its sole discretion, DOE may cancel the prize. Any

performance toward prize goals is conducted entirely at the risk of the competitor and DOE shall not compensate any competitors for any activities performed in furtherance of this prize.

Although DOE may indicate that it will select up to several winners for each prize, DOE reserves the right to only select competitors that it determines are likely to achieve the goals of the program. If, in DOE's determination, no competitors are likely to achieve the goals of the program, DOE will select no competitors to be winners and will award no prize money.

A.13 Program Policy Factors

While the scores of the expert reviewers will be carefully considered, it is the role of the prize judge to maximize the impact of the prize funds. Some factors outside the control of competitors and beyond the independent expert reviewers' scope of review may need to be considered to accomplish this goal. The following is a list of such factors. In addition to the reviewers' scores, the below program policy factors may be considered in determining winners:

- Whether the project promotes increased coordination with nongovernmental entities toward enabling a just and equitable clean energy economy in their region and/or community.
- Geographic diversity and potential economic impact of projects.
- Whether the use of additional DOE funds and provided resources are nonduplicative and compatible with the stated goals of this program and DOE's mission generally.
- The degree to which the submission exhibits technological or programmatic diversity when compared to the existing DOE project portfolio and other competitors.
- The degree to which the submission is likely to lead to increased employment and manufacturing in the United States or provide other economic benefits to U.S. taxpayers.
- The degree to which the submission will accelerate transformational technological, financial, or workforce advances in areas that industry by itself is not likely to undertake because of technical or financial uncertainty.
- The degree to which the submission supports complementary DOE-funded efforts or projects, which, when taken together, will best achieve the goals and objectives of DOE.
- The degree to which the submission expands DOE's funding to new competitors and recipients who have not been supported by DOE in the past.
- The degree to which the submission enables new and expanding market segments.

A.14 National Environmental Policy Act Compliance

This prize is subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. § 4321, et seq.). NEPA requires federal agencies to integrate environmental values into their decision-making processes by considering the potential environmental impacts of their proposed actions. For additional background on NEPA, please see DOE's NEPA website at <http://nepa.energy.gov/>.

While NEPA compliance is a federal agency responsibility and the ultimate decisions remain with the federal agency, all participants in the Community Clean Energy Coalition Prize will be required to assist in the timely and effective completion of the NEPA process in the manner most pertinent to their participation in the prize competition. Participants may be asked to provide DOE with information such that DOE can conduct a meaningful evaluation of the potential environmental impacts.

A.15 Return of Funds

As a condition of receiving a prize, competitors agree that if the award was made based on fraudulent or inaccurate information provided by the competitor to DOE, DOE has the right to demand that any prize funds or the value of other noncash prizes be returned to the government.

ALL DECISIONS BY DOE ARE FINAL AND BINDING IN ALL MATTERS RELATED TO THE PRIZE.