

AMERICAN  
**MADE**  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

# Community Energy Innovation Prize

## Prize Sponsorship





## Sponsor a Prize

### *Why Sponsor the Community Energy Innovation Prize?*

With your contribution, prize competitors will foster business and technology incubation and help accelerate community- and university-based entrepreneurial innovation—all with a focus on clean energy and climate technologies.

### *Sponsorship Benefits*

- Gain access to and provide support for organizations leading a just and equitable clean energy transition—where everyone thrives.
- Enable a collaborative innovation ecosystem for emerging clean energy technologies.
- Invest in justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion among clean energy projects and innovators across the country.

*All donations will be contributed through the NREL Foundation, an independent nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization.*



# Sponsorship Options

To learn more about becoming a sponsor of the Community Energy Innovation Prize, please contact:

[communityenergy@nrel.gov](mailto:communityenergy@nrel.gov)

## IMPACT

**\$25,000** in cash and in-kind sponsorships made important Inclusive Energy Innovation (IEI) Prize competitor events possible, such as a two-day summit in Washington D.C. and a Presenting Impacts Through Communities at Home (PITCH) event, where teams showcased their year-long efforts to advance equitable clean energy ecosystems within their communities.

## 1. Prize Pool

Sponsor additional teams for the full length of the prize.

### Cost per Ecosystem Team

- Partial: \$200,000
- Full-Length: \$450,000

### Cost per Collegiate Team:

- \$50,000

## 2. Event Host

Provide spaces and/or resources to host an in-person competition prize programming and ecosystem collaboration events.

### Event Space Needs May Include:

- Networking Rooms (1-2)
- Private Pitch Rooms (3-4)
- Deliberation Room (1)

### Event Resources May Include:

- Food and Beverage: 50+ people (attendance numbers vary depending on the event)
- A/V Equipment: Stage, projector, projection screen, microphones, etc.
- Promotion and Coverage: Assist in promoting the event or provide on-the-ground photographer or videographer to capture the event



# About the Community Energy Innovation Prize

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Community Energy Innovation Prize is a \$7.49 million prize that funds organizations who support innovation, entrepreneurship, capacity-building, and economic development in disadvantaged communities through climate and energy technology funding.

## Prize Goals

*The prize is centered around three major areas:*



**Academic Programming**, with the goal of enabling clean energy and climate innovation, and entrepreneurship programming and capabilities at colleges and universities that serve large populations of students underrepresented in STEM, Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs), community colleges, and undergraduate institutions.



**Workforce Development**, with the goal of creating or increasing participation in clean energy and climate-smart job training and job placement/hiring, including programs that target participation from disadvantaged communities, formerly incarcerated individuals/returning citizens, and youth transitioning out of foster care.



**Clean Energy Technology**, with the goal of fostering grassroots innovation ecosystems and/or deployments related to a just and equitable clean energy economy through activities that focus on community-centric networks and bottom-up solutions for sustainable development, based on the needs of the communities involved.



## Prize Background

The Community Energy Innovation Prize builds on the success of DOE's Inclusive Energy Innovation Prize and Community Clean Energy Coalition Prize and continues to support the government's Justice40 Initiative to deliver at least 40% of the overall benefits from certain federal investments in clean energy to disadvantaged communities.

The prize was designed by DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE), Office of Economic Impact and Diversity (ED), and Advanced Materials and Manufacturing Technologies Office (AMMTO) to reach a broader pool of competitors than previous prizes. Community-based organizations, the private sector, nonfederal government entities, and collegiate teams are all welcome to apply to the Community Energy Innovation Prize.

# Community Energy Innovation Prize Structure

The Community Energy Innovation Prize is made up of three tracks: the Clean Energy Ecosystem Track, the Manufacturing Ecosystem Track, and the Collegiate Track, each of which has distinct goals and submission requirements over three phases: CONCEPT, PROGRESS, and IMPACT.

Competitors in the Collegiate Track will follow an accelerated timeline that corresponds with the school year; participants in the Clean Energy and Manufacturing Ecosystem tracks will follow an extended schedule.

