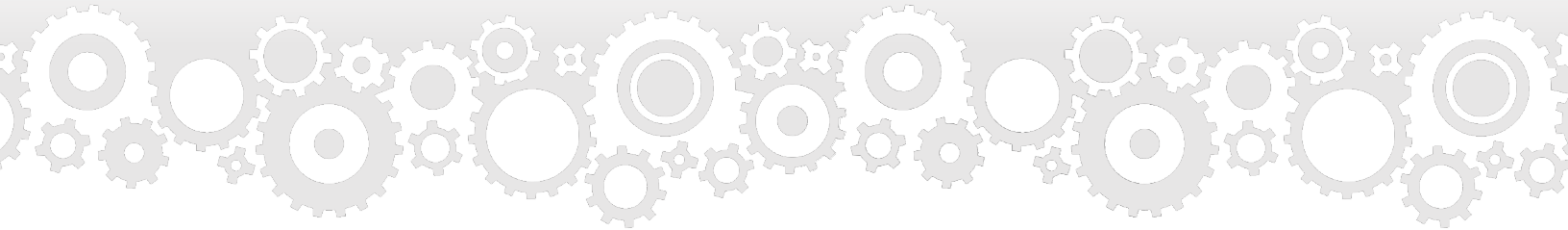




Community Energy Innovation Prize



OFFICIAL RULES: Collegiate Track PROGRESS and IMPACT Phases

December 2023

Preface

The U.S. Department of Energy's Community Energy Innovation 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..... 1**
- 1 Executive Summary 4**
 - 1.1 Prizes..... 4
 - 1.2 Key Dates..... 5
 - 1.3 Eligibility and Competitors 5
- 2 Background..... 7**
 - 2.1 The Prize 8
 - 2.2 Prize Objectives 8
 - 2.2.1 The Justice40 Initiative and Disadvantaged Communities.....9
 - 2.2.2 Community Energy Innovation Prize Goals..... 10
 - 2.3 Anticipated Prize Impact..... 10
 - 2.3.3 Collegiate Track..... 11
 - 2.4 Competitor Support Mechanisms 11
 - 2.4.1 Power Connectors 11
- 3 Submission Requirements 13**
 - 3.1 Prizes..... 13
 - 3.2 How to Enter 13
 - 3.3 Important Dates 14
 - 3.4 PROGRESS Phase Submission..... 14
 - 3.4.1 What to Submit 14
 - 3.5 IMPACT Phase and GRAND PRIZE Submission 18
 - 3.5.1 What to Submit 18
 - 3.6 Peer Learning and Shared Resources 22
 - 3.7 How We Determine and Award Winners..... 22
 - 3.7.1 Reviewer Panel Scoring 22
 - 3.7.2 Interviews 23
 - 3.7.3 Final Determination 23
 - 3.7.4 Announcement 23

3.7.5 Additional Terms and Conditions.....	23
Appendix A: Additional Terms and Conditions	24
A.1 Requirements	24
A.2 Verification for Payments.....	25
A.3 Teams and Single-Entity Awards	25
A.4 Submission Rights.....	25
A.5 Copyright	26
A.6 Contest Subject to Applicable Law	26
A.7 Resolution of Disputes.....	26
A.8 Publicity	26
A.9 Liability	27
A.10 Records Retention and Freedom of Information Act.....	27
A.11 Privacy.....	28
A.12 General Conditions	28
A.13 Program Policy Factors	28
A.14 National Environmental Policy Act Compliance	29
A.15 Definitions	29
A.16 Return of Funds	29
Appendix B: Collegiate Track Roles and Responsibilities	30
Appendix C: Feedback	31

1 Executive Summary

The Community Energy Innovation Prize was established by the U.S. Department of Energy’s (DOE) Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Office of Economic Impact and Diversity, and Advanced Materials and Manufacturing Technologies Office.

Through this prize, DOE seeks to identify and support:

- Organizations that are community-centric and have experience in successfully engaging with disadvantaged communities to address energy challenges and implement clean energy technologies.
- Organizations that promote environmental, climate, and energy justice and demonstrate strong community ties.
- Organizations that can use their experience to serve as bridges between DOE and disadvantaged communities and stewards of the Justice40 Initiative.
- Clean energy grassroots innovation and in-community coalitions related to technology advancement and solutions in climate and clean energy with a focused impact on disadvantaged communities.

The Community Energy Innovation Prize’s Collegiate Track aims to inspire and support the next generation of climate leaders to make an impact in their communities and support community-based clean energy transition programs. The competition challenges students to work alongside a Community Partner on a project related to the clean energy transition and create measurable impact.

This document describes the rules and review criteria for the remaining phases of the Collegiate Track: the PROGRESS and IMPACT Phases.

1.1 Prizes

The Collegiate Track offers a total of \$450,000 in cash prizes intended to support clean energy innovation and entrepreneurship in disadvantaged communities through student-led projects.

The prize awards in the CONCEPT and PROGRESS phases are intended to help winning collegiate teams, herein referred to as “teams” (see Appendix A for Collegiate Track Roles and Responsibilities) implement their proposed projects. The IMPACT Phase submission and GRAND PRIZE are intended to act as a capstone for all the work students have accomplished throughout the prize.

	Collegiate Track: \$450,000 Cash Prize Pool	Recipient
CONCEPT Phase Prizes	Awarded five cash prizes of \$15,000 each to the university recipient and in-kind mentorship services	Academic Institution (awarded)
PROGRESS Phase Prizes	Up to 5 cash prizes of \$20,000 each to the community recipient and in-kind mentorship services	Community Partner (to be awarded)
IMPACT Phase and GRAND PRIZE	Up to three cash prizes from a GRAND PRIZE total cash prize pool of \$100,000	Community Partner (to be awarded)

During the second phase, the PROGRESS Phase, the winning teams from the CONCEPT Phase will implement their planned community activities outlined in their Narrative Document and report on their progress. Teams that demonstrate progress will each be eligible to win an additional \$20,000 cash prize, which will be awarded to the Community Partner(s). If teams fail to submit required materials and demonstrate progress, teams will not be eligible to win the additional \$20,000 cash prize but are eligible to compete in the IMPACT Phase.

During the third phase, the IMPACT Phase, the teams that won the CONCEPT Phase will continue to implement and complete the activities outlined in their Narrative Document. At the end of the IMPACT Phase, teams will be able to present their activities and measurable impacts they were able to achieve during the prize, share their plans for the future, and compete for a final GRAND PRIZE, which will be awarded to the Community Partner(s). It is anticipated the GRAND PRIZE total cash prize pool is to be distributed amongst up to three winning teams.

In addition to prize awards, teams are strongly encouraged to take advantage of in-kind mentorship and other support services, valued at approximately \$400,000 in total across all competitors in all three tracks.

1.2 Key Dates

	Collegiate Track Key Dates
CONCEPT Phase Winner Awards and PROGRESS Phase Opens	Dec. 1, 2023 (anticipated)
PROGRESS Phase Closes and IMPACT Phase Opens	March 4, 2024 (anticipated)
PROGRESS Phase Winner Awards	March 11, 2024 (anticipated)
IMPACT Phase Closes	2 weeks before Final Event
Final Event (in person) and GRAND PRIZE Winner Awards	May 2024 (to be announced)

All dates are subject to change. All submissions are due at 5 p.m. ET on the deadline noted.

1.3 Eligibility and Competitors

Only CONCEPT winners are eligible to compete in the PROGRESS and IMPACT Phases of the prize, subject to the requirements stated in Appendix A.1. The competition is open only to individuals; private entities (for-profits and nonprofits); non-federal government entities such as states, counties, Tribes, and municipalities; and academic institutions; subject to the following requirements:

- An individual prize competitor (who is not competing as a member of a group) must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.

- A group of individuals competing as one team may win, provided that the online account holder of the submission is a U.S. citizen or permanent resident. Individuals competing as part of a team may participate if they are legally authorized to work in the United States.
- Private entities must be incorporated in and maintain a primary place of business in the United States.
- Academic institutions must be based 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 worked at DOE (federal employees or support service contractors) within 6 months prior to the submission deadline of any contest are not eligible to participate in any prize contests in this program.
- Federal entities and federal employees are not eligible to participate in any portion of the prize.
- DOE national laboratory employees cannot compete 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 compete.
- Individuals participating in a foreign government talent recruitment program¹ sponsored by a country of risk² and teams that include such individuals are not eligible to compete.
- Entities owned by, controlled by, or subject to the jurisdiction or direction of a government of a country of risk are not eligible to compete.
- To be eligible, an individual authorized to represent the competitor must agree to and sign the following statement upon registration with HeroX:

I am providing this submission package as part of my participation in this prize. I understand that the information contained in this submission will be relied on by the federal government to determine whether to issue a prize to the named competitor. 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 and § 287, and 31 U.S.C. §§ 3729-3733 and 3801-3812.

Within the Collegiate Track, the team must be made up of Eligible Students, a Faculty Advisor from an Academic Institution, and a Community Partner that meets the above requirements.

¹ A Foreign Government-Sponsored Talent Recruitment Program is defined as an effort directly or indirectly organized, managed, or funded by a foreign government, or a foreign government instrumentality or entity, to recruit science and technology professionals or students (regardless of citizenship or national origin, or 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 relocate physically to the foreign state for the above purpose. Some programs allow for or encourage continued employment at United States 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.

² DOE has designated the following countries as foreign countries of risk: Iran, North Korea, Russia, and China. This list is subject to change.

In keeping with the goal of growing a community of innovators, competitors are encouraged to form multidisciplinary teams while developing their concept. The HeroX platform provides a space where parties interested in collaboration can post information about themselves and learn about others who are also interested in competing in this contest.

Teams that fail to submit the required materials and demonstrate progress for the PROGRESS Phase will not be eligible to win the \$20,000 cash prize for that phase but are still eligible to compete in the IMPACT Phase for the GRAND PRIZE.

2 Background

The Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy supports research, development, demonstration, and commercial application of renewable energy, energy efficiency, and advanced manufacturing technologies that enable the clean energy technology. The Office of Economic Impact and Diversity works to identify and ensure that all communities, including disadvantaged communities and energy justice communities, are afforded an opportunity to participate fully in DOE's programs, opportunities, and resources. Within the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, the Advanced Materials and Manufacturing Technologies Office supports a globally competitive U.S. manufacturing sector that accelerates the adoption of innovative materials and manufacturing technologies in support of a clean, decarbonized economy.

DOE funds research, development, demonstration, and commercial application activities in climate and energy technologies through its 17 national laboratories and in academic institutions, private sector companies, community-based organizations, state and local governments, and more through a variety of competitive solicitations. In addition to funding research and technology development, DOE programs support building and sustaining an innovation ecosystem for climate and energy technologies, including early career and workforce development, entrepreneurial programs and resources for individuals and organizations, and support for communities and regions.

The Biden Administration has set ambitious goals to address climate change, including achieving a 50%–52% reduction from 2005 levels in economywide net greenhouse gas pollution by 2030 and reaching net-zero emissions economywide by no later than 2050.³ Achieving these goals will require a combination of innovative solutions and acceleration of the deployment and implementation of climate and energy technologies, policies, and processes, with environmental and climate justice as key considerations.

In addition to setting goals to significantly reduce pollution and greenhouse gas emissions to decarbonize the economy, the administration also announced the Justice40 Initiative. This governmentwide initiative has a goal of delivering 40% of the overall benefits of relevant federal investments in climate and energy to disadvantaged communities, and it tracks performance toward that goal. The Office of Economic Impact and Diversity leads this effort at DOE, and will inform equitable research, development, and deployment within DOE.

³ “FACT SHEET: President Biden Sets 2030 Greenhouse Gas Pollution Reduction Target Aimed at Creating Good-Paying Union Jobs and Securing U.S. Leadership on Clean Energy Technologies,” Washington, D.C.: The White House. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/22/fact-sheet-president-biden-sets-2030-greenhouse-gas-pollution-reduction-target-aimed-at-creating-good-paying-union-jobs-and-securing-u-s-leadership-on-clean-energy-technologies/>.

Lastly, in October 2022, the administration published the National Strategy for Advanced Manufacturing,⁴ which presents a vision for United States leadership in advanced manufacturing that will grow the economy, create jobs, enhance environmental sustainability, address climate change, strengthen supply chains, ensure national security, and improve health care. The strategy highlights the need to engage with disadvantaged communities and to address social and structural barriers for underserved groups.

Improvements are needed to make the clean energy innovation ecosystem more inclusive and accessible to individuals from groups historically underrepresented in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) and disadvantaged communities. The Justice40 initiative, in concert with the administration's climate and decarbonization goals, will aim to address these inequities. Through this prize, DOE aims to support efforts by community-centric organizations and groups who have been historically underserved in federal clean energy and climate investments.

2.1 The Prize

DOE has released a series of prizes and solicitations providing technical and financial assistance to enable an inclusive and just entrepreneurial innovation ecosystem⁵ in climate and energy technologies.

Advancing equity,⁶ civil rights, racial justice, environmental justice, and equal opportunity is the responsibility of the entire government. The administration wants to create opportunities for all. As part of the government's approach, DOE is taking a number of proactive steps to address the structural barriers to entry into its funding opportunities and other forms of assistance to help meet its climate and justice goals and move toward ultimately eliminating those barriers and making DOE-supported projects equitable and inclusive. In June 2021, DOE released a request for information on [Inclusive Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Climate Technology](#) and held the [Inclusive Innovation and Entrepreneurship Roundtable with the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory](#). These efforts characterized the programmatic, operational, and other internal measures that DOE could implement to remove existing structural barriers. The goals of this prize and its preceding versions are informed in part by responses received to the request for information and feedback from the roundtable.

2.2 Prize Objectives

The Community Energy Innovation Prize aims to fund organizations for ongoing and/or proposed activities related to climate and clean energy that support, build trust, and strengthen relationships and partnerships with disadvantaged communities. Specifically, this prize seeks to enable and enhance

⁴ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/National-Strategy-for-Advanced-Manufacturing-10072022.pdf>.

⁵ 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 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>).

⁶ 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).

business and technology incubation, acceleration, and other community-based and university-based capacity building, innovation, and entrepreneurship in climate and clean energy technologies.

2.2.1 The Justice40 Initiative and Disadvantaged Communities

The government’s Justice40 Initiative⁷ 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; the remediation and reduction of legacy pollution; and the development of clean water infrastructure—to flow to disadvantaged communities.

The Office of Management and Budget’s Interim Implementation Guidance⁸ for Justice40 defines a community as either: (1) geographic: a group of individuals living in geographic proximity (such as census tract), or (2) common condition: a geographically dispersed set of individuals (such as migrant workers or Native Americans), where either type of group experiences common conditions.

For the “geographic” definition of community, pursuant to the Interim Implementation Guidance and the Office of Management and Budget’s guidance M-23-09, DOE recognizes as disadvantaged those census tracts identified by the White House Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST).⁹ Generally, a census tract that meets the threshold for: (1) environmental, climate, or other burdens, and (2) an associated socioeconomic burden will be marked as disadvantaged. CEJST considers the following eight categories of burden:

1. Climate change
2. Energy
3. Health
4. Housing
5. Legacy pollution
6. Transportation
7. Water and wastewater
8. Workforce development.

In addition, a census tract that is completely surrounded by disadvantaged communities and is at or above the 50% percentile for low income is also considered disadvantaged.

For the “common condition” definition of community, federally recognized Tribal Lands and U.S. territories are categorized as disadvantaged in accordance with the Office of Management and Budget’s Interim Implementation Guidance.

Based on stakeholder engagement, priorities identified by White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council, and additional research, the Office of Economic Impact and Diversity identified eight policy priorities to guide DOE’s implementation of Justice40, including the implementation of the Community Energy Innovation Prize:

1. Decrease energy burden in disadvantaged communities.
2. Decrease environmental exposure and burdens for disadvantaged communities.

⁷ <https://www.energy.gov/diversity/justice40-initiative>.

⁸ M-21-28 (whitehouse.gov): <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/M-21-28.pdf>.

⁹ <https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/>.

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 (Minority Business Enterprise/Disadvantaged Business Enterprise) in disadvantaged communities.
6. Increase clean energy jobs, job pipeline, and job training for individuals from disadvantaged communities.
7. Increase energy resiliency in disadvantaged communities.
8. Increase energy democracy in disadvantaged communities.

All use of the terms “disadvantaged community” or “disadvantaged communities” throughout this document can be understood as referring to the definition set forth above and in the CEJST. Prize competitors are encouraged to review the CEJST to best align their project objectives with the disadvantaged communities who will be impacted by the activities carried out during the prize.

2.2.2 Community Energy Innovation Prize Goals

In accordance with the Justice40 initiative, the goals of the Community Energy Innovation Prize support capacity building, innovation, entrepreneurship, and economic development related to clean energy and climate for disadvantaged communities in the following areas:

1. **Academic Programs:** Enable clean energy and climate innovation, and entrepreneurship programming and capabilities at colleges and universities that serve large populations of students underrepresented in STEM, as well as Minority-Serving Institutions, community colleges, and undergraduate institutions.
2. **Workforce Development:** Create or increase 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.
3. **Clean Energy Technology:** Foster grassroots innovation ecosystems and/or deployments related to a just and equitable clean energy economy through activities focusing on community-centric networks and bottom-up solutions for sustainable development, based on the needs of the communities involved.

2.3 Anticipated Prize Impact

Meritorious prize submissions will demonstrate that the competitor’s team or organization involved has the capability to successfully build capacity, form partnerships, and implement plans that will achieve one or more of the goals of this prize.

Successful competitors will not necessarily need to have significant expertise in “deep tech” support and incubation and/or in working with or being embedded in large research institutions. Rather, DOE seeks to identify and support organizations that are community-centric and have experience in successfully engaging disadvantaged communities and/or in promoting environmental, climate, and energy justice. Successful organizations will demonstrate strong community ties and build stakeholder relationships and will show how they can serve as bridges between DOE and communities and innovators with whom DOE has not previously engaged.

Additionally, DOE seeks to support and recognize clean energy grassroots innovation related to technology advancement from disciplines beyond science and engineering, which accelerate climate and clean energy technology development and adoption with a focused impact on disadvantaged

communities. This may include innovations in processes related to siting, financing, and community ownership of clean energy and climate solutions at the local or state level.

A key component of this prize is that competitors from all tracks will be able to participate in all the in-kind mentorship services and will be able to build connections with other competitors in the cohort and alumni of the prize through virtual and in-person events. All competitors are expected to participate in peer networking sessions during the PROGRESS and IMPACT Phases and will be scored on their participation during those phases. These opportunities will enable the sharing of lessons learned and seed future collaborative community-centric clean energy innovation activities.

2.3.3 Collegiate Track

With the Collegiate Track, DOE aims to inspire and support the next generation of climate leaders to make an impact in their communities and support community-based clean energy transition programs. The competition will challenge students to work alongside a Community Partner on a project related to the clean energy transition and create measurable impact. DOE aims to support skills development and prepare students to do this work through collaboration with industry professionals in a real-world setting. Community Partner(s) will receive support in the form of direct cash prizes, capacity-building from student teams, and the prize’s in-kind mentorship services, as noted in Section 2.4.

2.4 Competitor Support Mechanisms

To better enable competitors to be successful, the Community Energy Innovation Prize Administrator is providing access to a network of supporters for teams. The following mechanisms have been formalized for teams to ensure they are able to develop high-quality submissions and support the implementation of their proposed activities.

Some of these trainings and events may take place in-person. Should teams choose to attend these in-person events, they are expected to leverage the prize funds provided.

2.4.1 Power Connectors

Power Connectors support all teams participating in the prize. The Power Connectors will provide equal, direct support, including webinars, training, and networking sessions for the benefit of all teams. Potential areas for support and training opportunities are identified in the following table, but this list is not intended to be comprehensive. A final list of these opportunities will be distributed as the prize evolves.

During the prize, teams will be asked for their input on the types of support that will be the most relevant to them. The support provided during the prize will be shaped around needs of the teams.

Support Tasks	Detailed Execution
Office Hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide feedback to competitors as they develop submissions in the other phases of the prize. This feedback is specifically input from a third party and does not represent the opinion of DOE or the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL). This support does not include directly writing submissions or direct red-lining of drafts.
Regional Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In regions representative of the CONCEPT Phase winners, work with competitors to identify existing regional/place-based entrepreneurship or innovation hubs supporting disadvantaged communities.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a map of the ecosystem of these regional/place-based entrepreneurship hubs. • Collaboratively expand training and on-site programming to meet the needs of the winning competitors and their communities, leveraging the hubs' existing expertise and programs combined with Power Connector energy-specific expertise and relationships.
Targeted Trainings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In partnership with competitors, identify training session topics that would be the most impactful for the CONCEPT Phase winners and the community or communities they are supporting. • Produce, amplify, and host information sessions, webinars, trainings, workshops, matchmaking events, career fairs, and/or internship/apprenticeship programs. • Host seminars featuring experts on topics such as clean energy development for community organizations, best practices for developing a strategic energy plan, grant/proposal writing, community engagement, or other topics of interest.
Networking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host quarterly peer-to-peer workshops where CONCEPT Phase winners and other organizations focused on creating an inclusive energy ecosystem can discuss challenges and make connections with potential partners. • Host a public showcase and networking event featuring the CONCEPT Phase winners, their projects, and any partnership opportunities.

Updates on training sessions, mentorship contacts, and office hours will be posted periodically, and competitors are encouraged to leverage these opportunities.

3 Submission Requirements

During the PROGRESS Phase, collegiate teams are expected to carry out the activities outlined in the Narrative Document submitted during the CONCEPT Phase. Teams should report on the metrics and milestones they have achieved to date to be eligible to win up to \$20,000 for their Community Partner.

During the IMPACT Phase, collegiate teams will continue to implement their proposed activities. At the end of the IMPACT Phase, the teams will compete for the GRAND PRIZE. Teams are expected to report on their activities, including project implementation, outcomes and accomplishments, and future plans. Teams will also prepare a final 20-minute presentation, followed by a 10-minute Q&A, at the final in-person event. The teams will present their impacts to a panel of reviewers, including clean energy and community engagement professionals, who will evaluate the impact of their project.

3.1 Prizes

	Collegiate Track: \$450,000 Cash Prize Pool	Activities	Recipient
CONCEPT Phase Prizes	Five cash prizes of \$15,000 each to the university recipient and in-kind mentorship services	Supporting students directly, any project-specific materials, and travel to any relevant events	Academic Institution (awarded)
PROGRESS Phase Prizes	Up to five cash prizes of \$20,000 each to the community recipient and in-kind mentorship services	Supporting Community Partner directly, both in implementing the project and in advising the engaged students and any project-specific materials	Community Partner (to be awarded)
IMPACT Phase and GRAND PRIZE	Up to three cash prizes from a GRAND PRIZE total cash prize pool of \$100,000	Supporting the sustainability of the project at the conclusion of the prize	Community Partner (to be awarded)

Because the Collegiate Track is made up of a team of a Community Partner and an Academic Institution, both the Community Partner and the Academic Institution must do the following to receive payment:

1. Register as a part of the same team on HeroX and note the two separate entities that will receive payment should the team be selected as a winner.
2. Win a prize. Academic Institutions have been awarded prizes in the CONCEPT Phase, and Community Partners will be awarded prizes in the remaining phases of the prize.
3. Process the ACH/W9 prize acceptance materials for the winning entity at the relevant phase.

3.2 How to Enter

Competitors can go to [HeroX](#) and follow the instructions for registering and submitting all required materials before the deadline in Section 5.3 or as displayed on the [HeroX](#) website.

3.3 Important Dates

	Collegiate Track
CONCEPT Phase Winner Awards and PROGRESS Phase Opens	Dec. 1, 2023 (anticipated)
PROGRESS Phase Closes and IMPACT Phase Opens	March 4, 2024 (anticipated)
PROGRESS Phase Winner Awards	March 11, 2024 (anticipated)
IMPACT Phase Closes	2 weeks before Final Event
Final Event (in-person) and GRAND PRIZE Winner Awards	May 2024 (anticipated)

All dates are subject to change. All submissions are due at 5 p.m. ET on the deadline noted.

3.4 PROGRESS Phase Submission

3.4.1 What to Submit

The following items constitute the submissions package for the Community Energy Innovation Prize Collegiate Track PROGRESS Phase and must be submitted through the HeroX platform. Each submission requirement is described in more detail below.

The following items are required for the submission:

Submission Requirement	Will Be Made Public	Scored Item	Submission Deadline
Progress Report	No	Yes	March 4, 2024
Evidence of Progress	No	Yes	March 4, 2024
Evidence of Commitment	No	Yes	March 4, 2024

All dates are subject to change. All submissions are due at 5 p.m. ET on the deadline noted.

3.4.1.1 Scored Submission Items

The scored items in the PROGRESS Phase include the Progress Report, Evidence of Progress, and Evidence of Commitment. Scored materials will be evaluated on how well they address scoring statements in the respective criterion; each statement (described below) will be scored from 0 to 5, as shown below.

0	1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Disagree/ Does Not Address	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree/Fully Addresses

All submissions are due at 5 p.m. ET on the deadlines noted in the table in Section 3.4.1. Submissions will be given a “pass” or “fail” rating based on the total scores for each submission requirement. To receive the \$20,000 cash prize for the PROGRESS Phase, competitors must submit on time and receive a “pass” rating on all submission requirements. If teams fail to submit required materials and demonstrate progress, teams will not be eligible to win the \$20,000 cash prize for the PROGRESS Phase but are still eligible to compete in the IMPACT Phase for the GRAND PRIZE.

The following table explains how the scores for each submission requirement will be calculated.

Submission Requirement	Number of Scored Statements	Total Possible Points	Pass/Fail Threshold
Progress Report	6	30	Must score at least 18 points (60%) to pass
Evidence of Progress	2	10	Must score at least 6 points (60%) to pass
Evidence of Commitment	1	5	Must score at least 3 points (60%) to pass
TOTAL	9	45	Must receive a pass rating for all submission requirements

Progress Report

Teams must produce a Progress Report that summarizes the accomplishments to-date that demonstrate continued engagement and project development. Suggested content for the Progress Report is noted in the left-hand side of the following table. The right-hand side of the table includes the scored statements that the reviewers will use to evaluate submissions. Individual reviewers will assign a score between 0 and 5 for each scored statement after reviewing the project submission.

The total length of the report should not exceed 1,500 words. Titles, headings, subheadings, footnotes, a short description, and the list of team members/partners do not count toward the 1,500-word limit. Competitors may include up to five supporting visualizations, tables, or graphics. If a competitor chooses to include a budget, that will not count toward the five supporting visualizations. The report 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.

Submission Requirement: Progress Report	
<p>Suggested Content Team Provides</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A detailed overview of the students participating in the team, including the names of the students, their grade levels, and majors/minors. • A detailed overview of the Community Partner, including their roles and responsibilities in the project implementation, to date and moving forward in the prize. • A detailed overview of the faculty advisor’s roles and responsibilities in the project implementation, to date and moving forward in the prize. • A brief overview of the project and status of the project. • Explanation for what resources are being and will be utilized to implement the project, including the student team, the Academic Institution, the Community Partner, and any other contributing local organizations. • Progress of the implementation of the planned outreach and engagement activities and strategies that have been and will be used to engage the broader community. • Challenges encountered to date and/or anticipated future challenges from implementation of the project and mitigation strategies to address them. • Adherence or changes made to the initially identified schedule and specific metrics, milestones, and other measurements of success the team achieved to date. 	<p>Each Statement Scored on a 0–5 Scale</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The team has provided a detailed overview of the students participating in the team, including the names of the students, their grade levels, and majors/minors. • The team has provided a detailed overview of the Community Partner, including their roles and responsibilities in the project implementation, to date and moving forward in the prize. • The team as provided a detailed overview of the faculty advisor’s roles and responsibilities in the project implementation, to date and moving forward in the prize. • The team has provided a brief overview of their project and the status of the project. • The team has provided an explanation for what resources are being and will be utilized to implement the project, including the student team, the Academic Institution, the Community Partner, and any other contributing local organizations. • The team has demonstrated progress on the implementation of the planned outreach and engagement activities and strategies that have been and will be used to engage the broader community.

Evidence of Progress

Teams must submit evidence of progress on their accomplishments to date. Suggested content for the Evidence of Progress is noted in the left-hand side of the following table. The right-hand side of the table includes the scored statements that the reviewers will use to evaluate submissions. Individual reviewers will assign a score between 0 and 5 for each scored statement after reviewing the project submission.

Submission Requirement: Evidence of Progress	
<p>Suggested Content Team Provides</p> <p>Submit any materials developed to date that are evidence of progress made on project implementation. This may include, but is not limited to the following examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marketing materials (flyers, digital advertisements, etc.) • Social media posts • Website development or website improvements • Curriculum • Training materials • New subscribers or signups related to project • Informational presentations and slide decks. 	<p>Each Statement Scored on a 0–5 Scale</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The team has materials that demonstrate evidence of progress on the project. • The submitted materials are of high quality and appropriate for the intended audience.

Evidence of Commitment

Teams should upload an Evidence of Commitment as a single file, combining documents from the Faculty Advisor from the Academic Institution and the Community Partner(s) with which the student team is partnering. This evidence may be represented through letters of commitment, memoranda of understanding, contracts, and/or funding agreements.

Submission Requirement: Evidence of Commitment	
<p>Suggested Content Team Provides</p> <p>Submit Evidence of Commitment of partnership (such as letters of commitment, memoranda of understanding, contracts, and/or funding agreements) from two participating groups:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Faculty Advisor from the Academic Institution 2. Community Partner(s) <p>Evidence should demonstrate continued commitment in supporting the student team in completing the proposed activities and outline specific roles and responsibilities of both the Faculty Advisor from the Academic Institution</p>	<p>Each Statement Scored on a 0–5 Scale</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The team has submitted evidence of continued commitment that demonstrates intent from both the Faculty Advisor from the Academic Institution and the Community Partner(s) in supporting the student team in completing the proposed activities and outlines specific roles and responsibilities of both the Faculty Advisor from the Academic Institution and the Community Partner(s) for project implementation (0 or 5).

and the Community Partner(s) for project implementation.
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3.5 IMPACT Phase and GRAND PRIZE Submission

3.5.1 What to Submit

The following items constitute the submissions package for the Community Energy Innovation Prize Collegiate Track IMPACT Phase and GRAND PRIZE. Written materials must be submitted through the HeroX platform. Each of the submission requirements is described in more detail below.

The following items are required for the submission:

Submission Requirement	Will Be Made Public ¹⁰	Scored Item	Submission Deadline
Poster	Yes	No	2 weeks before Final Event
Impact Report	No	Yes	2 weeks before Final Event
Final Presentation Slide Deck	Yes	Yes (scored together)	2 business days before Final Live Presentation
Final Live Presentation and Q&A	No		May 2024 (to be announced)

All dates are subject to change. All submissions are due at 5 p.m. ET on the deadline noted. Late submissions will be deducted 3 points for each day beyond the deadline.

3.5.1.1 Unscored Submission Items

The unscored submission items in the IMPACT Phase and for the GRAND PRIZE are to include information that will be included in a poster to be displayed at the final event. The information should be included in the provided poster template and submitted to HeroX. The Prize Administrator will print and set up the poster at the event.

Teams should include the following information in the poster template provided:

- Project title
- Student team member name(s) and academic institution affiliation(s)
- Community Partner name(s)
- Description of project (200 words): summary of the project, notable achievements, and any plans for work after the prize has concluded

¹⁰ Competitors who do not want documents to be made public will need to mark them according to the instructions in Appendix A (Section A.10).

- Team bio (200 words): the make-up of the team members. For student team members, include majors/minors, undergraduates/graduates, if anyone is graduating, etc.; how the team was formed, and about the Community Partner.
- At least one photo of the team or of their work during the prize
- Logos of the Academic Institution(s) and Community Partner(s)

During the final event, teams will have the opportunity to share information about their projects and outcomes and accomplishments to a public audience made up of event attendees, potentially including other competing teams from the Community Energy Innovation Prize Clean Energy Ecosystem and Manufacturing Ecosystem tracks.

3.5.1.2 Scored Submission Items

The scored items in the IMPACT Phase and for the GRAND PRIZE are to include an Impact Report and Final Presentation. Scored materials will be evaluated on how well they address scoring statements in the respective criterion; each statement (described below) will be scored from 0 to 5, as shown below.

0	1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Disagree/ Does Not Address	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree/Fully Addresses

All submissions are due at 5 p.m. ET on the deadlines noted in the table in Section 3.5.1. Late submissions will be deducted **3 points** for each day beyond the deadline.

The following table explains how the scores for each submission will be calculated:

Criteria	Number of Scored Statements	Total Possible Points
Impact Report		
Criterion 1: Project Implementation	3	15
Criterion 2: Community Engagement, Partnerships, and Impact	5	25
Criterion 3: Future Team Priorities	2	10
Final Presentation: Slide Deck, Live Presentation, and Q&A	3	15
TOTAL	13	65

Impact Report

Teams must submit an Impact Report that details the project implementation, outcomes and accomplishments, and future plans. This submission requirement, along with a final presentation, is intended to act as a capstone for all the work students have accomplished throughout the prize.

The total length of the report should not exceed 5,000 words. Titles, headings, subheadings, footnotes, a short description, and the list of team members/partners do not count toward the 5,000-word limit. Competitors may include up to five supporting visualizations, tables, or graphics. The report 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.

Suggested content for the Impact Report is noted in the left-hand side of the following table. The right-hand side of the table includes the scored statements that the reviewers will use to evaluate submissions. Individual reviewers will assign a score between 0 and 5 for each scored statement after reviewing the project submission.

Impact Report Criterion #1: Project Implementation	
<p>Suggested Content Team Provides</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A description of the activities the team has carried out that meet one or more of the goals of the prize stated in Section 2.2.2 of this document. • A description of how team members were involved in carrying out the activities associated with the prize, including time commitment, number of students and staff, etc. • A description of resources and strategies the team has utilized to execute their activities, such as how prize awards were used by both the Academic Institution and Community Partner. 	<p>Each Statement Scored on a 0–5 Scale</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The team’s activities during the prize successfully met one or more of the prize goals. • The team has described in adequate detail the involvement of team members to carry out associated activities. • The team has described in adequate detail resources and capabilities they have utilized to execute activities.

Impact Report Criterion #2: Community Engagement, Partnerships, and Impact	
<p>Suggested Content Team Provides</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A description of how the team has engaged with the relevant disadvantaged community or communities during the Prize alongside a Community Partner. • A description of how the team has promoted and/or incorporated energy, 	<p>Each Statement Scored on a 0–5 Scale</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The team has effectively engaged with disadvantaged community or communities alongside a Community Partner. • The team’s activities during the prize have promoted and incorporated energy, environmental, and/or climate justice.

<p>environmental, and/or climate justice in their activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A description of the community stakeholders the team has engaged throughout the project and how their engagement aided in its success. • With the appropriate metrics, a detailed description of how the team has successfully met one or more of the goals of this prize aligned with their Community Partner. • An evaluation of the successes and/or failures in building trusted relationships with disadvantaged communities and plans for incorporating lessons learned into future efforts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The team engaged a diverse set of community stakeholders that aided the success of the project. • The team has demonstrated, using appropriate metrics and specific, measurable, actionable, relevant, and time-bound goals, that they have met one or more of the goals of this prize and align with the relevant community. • The team has evaluated the successes and/or failures of any efforts toward building relationships with disadvantaged communities and how these can improve implementing future efforts.
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Impact Report Criterion #3: Future Team Priorities	
<p>Suggested Content Team Provides</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A description of how this experience informed and/or influenced future careers and professional goals of the students on the team. • A description of the key takeaways from the project experience and how the takeaways informed and/or influenced future organizational priorities and next steps for the Community Partner. 	<p>Each Statement Scored on a 0–5 Scale</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The submission includes a clear description of how the experience informed and/or influenced the career and professional goals of the students on the team, either positively or negatively. • The description of the key takeaways from the project experience and how the takeaways informed and/or influenced future organizational priorities and next steps for the Community Partner, either positively or negatively.

Final Presentation: Slide Deck, Live Presentation, and Q&A

The prize will conclude at a final in-person event where teams will compete for the GRAND PRIZE. In addition to completing the submission package for the IMPACT Phase, teams will conduct a final live presentation, which is intended to act as a capstone for all the work students have accomplished throughout the prize. The teams will present their impacts and accomplishments to a panel of reviewers, including clean energy and community engagement professionals, who will evaluate the impact of their project.

The final live presentation will be a 20-minute presentation, followed by 10 minutes of Q&A from a panel of reviewers. A copy of the final presentation slide deck must be submitted at least 2 business days prior to the final event. Note that the final presentation slide deck will be made public. The presentation slide deck must be submitted as a PDF via the HeroX platform. Information contained in hyperlinks to external

sources or materials will not be reviewed or considered by the reviewers or the Judge. Only information covered in the live presentation will be reviewed and scored.

Suggested content for the final presentation and slide deck is noted in the left-hand side of the following table. The right-hand side of the table includes the scored statements that the reviewers will use to evaluate submissions. Individual reviewers will assign a score between 0 and 5 for each scored statement after reviewing the submission.

Final Presentation and Slide Deck Scoring Criteria	
Suggested Content Team Provides	Each Statement Scored on a 0–5 Scale
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A description of how the team engaged with the disadvantaged community alongside a Community Partner and how that engagement led to meaningful impact within the community. • Interviews with or testimonials from community members that have directly received the benefit from the efforts undertaken by the team. • How the activities undertaken during the prize are likely to lead to or have already produced a positive outcome in the engaged disadvantaged community, illustrated with specific outcomes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The team’s engagement with the disadvantaged community alongside a Community Partner led to meaningful impacts within the community. • The presentation includes accounts or testimonials directly from community members receiving the benefits from the work undertaken in the prize. • The presentation clearly shows that the activities undertaken during the prize are likely to lead to or have already produced a positive outcome in the engaged disadvantaged community.

3.6 Peer Learning and Shared Resources

Teams selected to participate in the PROGRESS and IMPACT Phases will be able to participate in regular meetings with the prize team and other events intended to offer technical assistance and support to the teams, as described in Section 2.4 of this document. The curriculum and programming of these events will be tailored to the teams’ specific needs. These events will serve to connect competing teams and encourage them to share challenges and successes.

3.7 How We Determine and Award Winners

The Prize Administrator screens all completed submissions and ensures that the teams are eligible. Then the Prize Administrator, in consultation with DOE, assigns subject matter expert reviewers who independently score the content of each submission. The reviewers will be composed of federal and nonfederal subject matter experts with expertise in areas relevant to the competition. They will review the team’s submission requirements according to the evaluation criteria described in the tables in Sections 3.4.1.1 and 3.5.1.2.

3.7.1 Reviewer Panel Scoring

The scoring of submissions will proceed as follows:

- Reviewers will review each submission requirement individually and assess the response from the team to each scoring statement in the criteria described in the tables in Sections 3.4.1.1 and 3.5.1.2.
- Reviewers will score each statement 0–5, depending on the degree to which the reviewer agrees that the submission reflects the statement.
- Each statement score will be added together to generate a total score for the submission, which can be up to 65 points, as described in Sections 3.4.1 and 3.5.1.
- The total scores from each reviewer will be averaged to produce a final score for the competing team. This score will inform the judge’s decisions on prize awards.

3.7.2 Interviews

DOE may decide to interview a subset of teams. The interviews would be held prior to the announcement of the winners and would serve to help clarify questions the reviewers may have. Participating in interviews is not required, and interviews are not an indication of a team’s likelihood to win.

3.7.3 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’ feedback and scores, application of program policy factors (See Section A.13), and the interview findings (if applicable).

3.7.4 Announcement

The Prize Administrator will notify the winners and request the necessary information to distribute the prizes. The Prize Administrator and DOE will publicly announce the winners.

3.7.5 Additional Terms and Conditions

See Appendix A for additional requirements. **COMPETITORS THAT DO NOT COMPLY WITH THE ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS IN APPENDIX A MAY BE DISQUALIFIED.**

Appendix A: Additional Terms and Conditions

A.1 Requirements

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

- You must post the final content of your submission or upload the submission form online by 5 p.m. ET on the date specified in Section 1.2, before the prize's CONCEPT phase submission period closes. Late submissions or any other form of submission may be rejected.
- All submissions that you wish to protect from public disclosure must be marked according to the instructions in Section 10 of Appendix A (Section A.10). Unmarked or improperly marked submissions will be deemed to have been provided with unlimited rights and may be used in any manner and for any purpose whatsoever.
- You must include all the required deliverables in your submission. The Prize Administrator may disqualify your submission after an initial screening if you fail to provide all required submission deliverables. 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 handwritten 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 and are 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 their submission packages.
- Winners are expected to cover any travel costs with prize funds.
- 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 the information contained in this submission will be relied on by the federal government to determine whether to issue a prize to the named competitor. 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 and § 287, and 31 U.S.C. §§ 3729-3733 and 3801-3812.

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 W9 form (<https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf>). If efforts to provide documentation are not initiated with the Prize Administrator within this time period, the Prize Administrator, at its discretion, may choose to not distribute payment of the prize.

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 consisting 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 submissions, 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, 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, which 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, likeness 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) competitor has either obtained the rights to use such third-party content or the content of the submission is considered in the public domain without any limitations on use.

2. Unless otherwise disclosed in the submission, the use thereof by Prize Administrator, or the exercise by Prize Administrator of any of the rights granted by 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 and NREL 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)(2). Competitors should assess the risks associated with their proposed activities 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. The following applies only to portions of the submission not designated as public information in the instructions for submission. 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 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 identify the specific pages containing trade secrets, 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 does intend to keep all submission materials private except for those materials designated as “will be made public.”

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 contest, or any part of it, at any time. If any fraud, technical failure, or any other factor beyond DOE's reasonable control impairs the integrity or proper functioning of the contest, as determined by DOE in its sole discretion, DOE may cancel the contest. Any performance toward contest 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 contest, DOE reserves the right to only select competitors that 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.

DOE may conduct a risk review, using Government resources, of the competitor and project personnel for potential risks of foreign interference. The outcomes of the risk review may result in the submission being eliminated from the prize competition. This risk review, and potential elimination, can occur at any time during the prize competition. An elimination based on a risk review is not appealable.

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 prize funds. Some factors outside the control of competitors and beyond the independent expert reviewer 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:

- Geographic diversity and potential economic impact of projects.
- Whether the use of additional DOE funds and provided resources are non-duplicative and compatible with the stated goals of this program and the DOE 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.
- Whether the project promotes increased coordination with nongovernmental entities toward enabling a just and equitable clean energy economy in their region and/or community.

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 Energy Innovation 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 on fabrication and testing of their device such that DOE can conduct a meaningful evaluation of the potential environmental impacts.

A.15 Definitions

Prize Administrator means both the Alliance for Sustainable Energy operating in its capacity under the Management and Operating Contract for NREL and the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. When the Prize Administrator is referenced in this document, it refers to staff from both the Alliance for Sustainable Energy and the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy staff. Ultimate decision-making authority regarding prize matters rests with the identified federal employee as the prize judge.

A.16 Return of Funds

As a condition of receiving a prize, competitors agree that if the prize 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 non-cash prizes be returned to the government.

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

Appendix B: Collegiate Track Roles and Responsibilities

The following are the Collegiate Track roles and responsibilities for the prize.

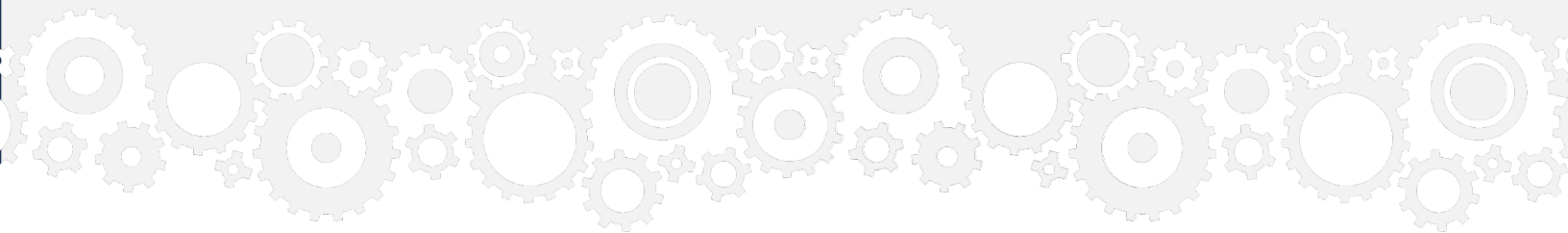
Role	Individual(s) Assigned	Responsibilities
Collegiate Team	Multiple	The Collegiate Team, referred to as “team,” carries out work on the project within the rules and requirements of the prize, based on direction and advice from their fellow team members, student leader(s), faculty advisor(s), Community Partners, and others contributing to the project.
Collegiate Team Student Leader(s)	Maximum of two per team	The Student Leader(s) serves as the primary representative of a participating institution in the prize. They will represent the team in all forms of communication, including with the Prize Administrator and other teams, and disseminate information received from the Prize Administrator to the broader team over the course of the project, including monitoring communications.
Collegiate Team Faculty Advisor(s)	Minimum of one per team	<p>The Faculty Advisor(s) serves as the lead faculty member and is responsible for monitoring student conduct both related to internal team dynamics and in the broader community. This person also engages with the Prize Administrator throughout the project and ensures that the Student Leader(s) disseminates information received from the Prize Administrator.</p> <p>The Faculty Advisor advises, provides input to, and coaches the students on the skills necessary to complete the various aspects of the prize. Some teams may specify multiple Faculty Advisors who contribute to the team.</p>
Community Partner(s)	Minimum of one per team	The Community Partner(s) will support, advise, and contribute to the team’s success in the prize, but must not directly complete required deliverables.

Appendix C: Feedback

Throughout the prize, the Prize Administrator will request feedback from Community Energy Innovation Prize projects. This feedback is taken very seriously, both for the duration of the prize and for future prizes as the Prize Administrator works to improve the competition. To support that continued improvement, it is crucial that those participating seriously consider and convey both positive and critical feedback. Critical feedback will not influence the competitor's success in the prize. All participants should expect and plan to provide feedback at the conclusion of the prize. Teams should consider opportunities to capture and provide individual and/or team feedback to the Prize Administrator throughout the prize.



Community Energy Innovation Prize



OFFICIAL RULES

December 2023