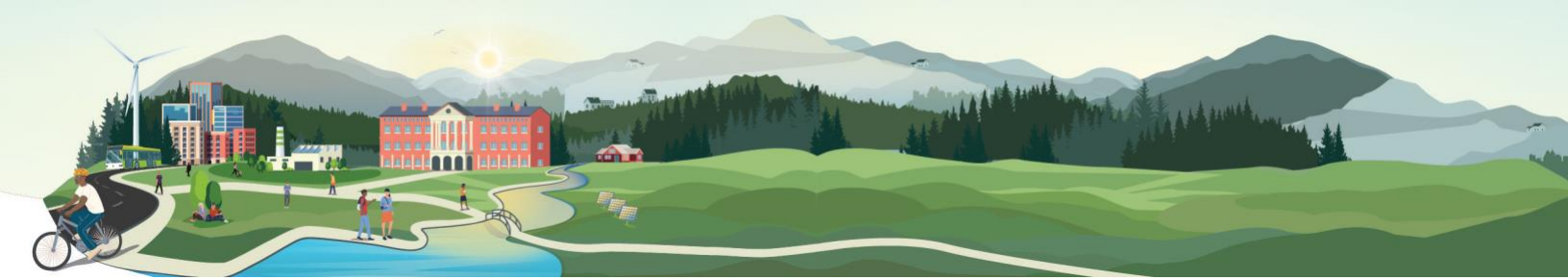




Community Energy Innovation Prize



**OFFICIAL RULES: Clean Energy Ecosystem
Track and Manufacturing Ecosystem Track:
PROGRESS and IMPACT Phases**



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	6
2 Background.....	8
2.1 The Prize	9
2.2 Prize Objectives	9
2.2.1 The Justice40 Initiative and Disadvantaged Communities	9
2.2.2 Community Energy Innovation Prize Goals	11
2.3 Anticipated Prize Impact.....	11
2.3.1 Clean Energy Ecosystem Track.....	12
2.3.2 Manufacturing Ecosystem Track	12
2.4 Competitor Support Mechanisms	12
2.4.1 Power Connectors.....	12
3 Clean Energy Ecosystem Track Submission Requirements	14
3.1 Prizes	14
3.2 How to Enter	15
3.3 Important Dates	15
3.4 PROGRESS Phase Submission.....	15
3.4.1 What to Submit.....	15
3.5 IMPACT Phase and GRAND PRIZE Submission	19
3.5.1 What to Submit.....	19
3.6 Peer Learning and Shared Resources	27
3.7 How We Determine and Award Winners.....	27
3.7.1 Reviewer Panel Scoring.....	28
3.7.2 Interviews	28
3.7.3 Final Determination.....	28
3.7.4 Announcement	28
3.7.5 Additional Terms and Conditions.....	28
4 Manufacturing Ecosystem Track Submission Requirements	29
4.1 Prizes.....	29
4.2 How to Enter	30
4.3 Important Dates	30
4.4 PROGRESS Phase Submission.....	30
4.4.1 What to Submit.....	30
4.5 IMPACT Phase and GRAND PRIZE Submission	34
4.5.1 What to Submit.....	34
4.6 Peer Learning and Shared Resources	42
4.7 How We Determine and Award Winners.....	42
4.7.1 Reviewer Panel Scoring.....	42
4.7.2 Interviews	42
4.7.3 Final Determination.....	43
4.7.4 Announcement	43



4.7.5 Additional Terms and Conditions.....	43
Appendix 1: Additional Terms and Conditions.....	44
A.1 Requirements	44
A.2 Verification for Payments.....	45
A.3 Teams and Single-Entity Awards	45
A.4 Submission Rights.....	45
A.5 Copyright	46
A.6 Contest Subject to Applicable Law	46
A.7 Resolution of Disputes.....	46
A.8 Publicity	47
A.9 Liability	47
A.10 Records Retention and Freedom of Information Act.....	47
A.11 Privacy.....	48
A.12 General Conditions	48
A.13 Program Policy Factors	48
A.14 National Environmental Policy Act Compliance	49
A.15 Definitions	49
A.16 Return of Funds.....	49
Appendix 2 Feedback.....	50



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 (EERE), Office of Economic Impact and Diversity (ED), and Advanced Materials and Manufacturing Technologies Office (AMMTO).

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.

This document describes the rules and review criteria for the remaining phases, the PROGRESS and IMPACT Phases, of the Clean Energy Ecosystem Track and Manufacturing Ecosystem Track.

1.1 Prizes

The Clean Energy Ecosystem Track offers a total of \$4.86 million in cash prizes intended to support community-based clean energy transition programs from a wide range of clean energy initiatives, technologies, and areas of focus.

The Manufacturing Ecosystem Track offers a total of \$2.18 million in cash prizes intended develop or advance domestic clean energy manufacturing innovation ecosystems.

The prize awards in the CONCEPT and PROGRESS phases are intended to help winning competitors implement their proposed Impact Plans. The IMPACT Phase and GRAND PRIZE are intended to act as the culmination of all the work teams have accomplished throughout the prize.

Track	Clean Energy Ecosystem Track	Manufacturing Ecosystem Track
Prize Pool	\$4.86 million cash prize pool	\$2.18 million cash prize pool
CONCEPT Phase Prizes	Up to 13 cash prizes of \$100,000 each and in-kind mentorship services	Up to 10 cash prizes of \$100,000 each and in-kind mentorship services
PROGRESS Phase Prizes	Up to 13 cash prizes of \$100,000 each and in-kind mentorship services	Up to 10 cash prizes of \$100,000 each and in-kind mentorship services



IMPACT Phase Prizes	Up to 13 cash prizes of \$10,000 each	Up to 10 cash prizes of \$10,000 each
GRAND PRIZE	Total cash prize pool of up to \$1,500,000 to be distributed among GRAND PRIZE winners	Total cash prize pool of up to \$500,000 to be distributed among GRAND PRIZE winners

During the second phase, the PROGRESS Phase, competitors can win an additional \$100,000. The winning competitors from the CONCEPT Phase will implement their planned community activities outlined in their Impact Plan and report on their progress. Competitors that demonstrate progress will each be eligible to win the PROGRESS Phase cash prize. If competitors fail to submit required materials and demonstrate progress, competitors will not be eligible to win the PROGRESS Phase prize but are eligible to compete in the IMPACT Phase.

During the third phase, the IMPACT Phase, competitors will continue to implement and complete the activities outlined in their Impact Plan. Competitors that successfully complete their Impact Plan activities will each receive a \$10,000 cash prize. It is anticipated that these funds may also offset travel costs for the final event where competitors 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.

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 prize tracks.

1.2 Key Dates

	Clean Energy Ecosystem and Manufacturing Ecosystem Tracks
CONCEPT Phase Submission Open	Aug. 29, 2023
CONCEPT Phase Submission Closes	Feb. 2, 2024
CONCEPT Phase Winner Awards and PROGRESS Phase Opens	March 7, 2024 (anticipated)
Optional Mid-Year Networking Event (in person)	May 2024 (anticipated)
PROGRESS Phase Closes and IMPACT Phase Opens	July 19, 2024 (anticipated)
PROGRESS Phase Winner Awards	August 8, 2024 (anticipated)
IMPACT Phase Closes	2 weeks before Final Event (anticipated)



IMPACT Phase Winner Awards	2 weeks before Final Event (anticipated)
Final Event (in person) and GRAND PRIZE Winner Awards	December 2024 (anticipated)

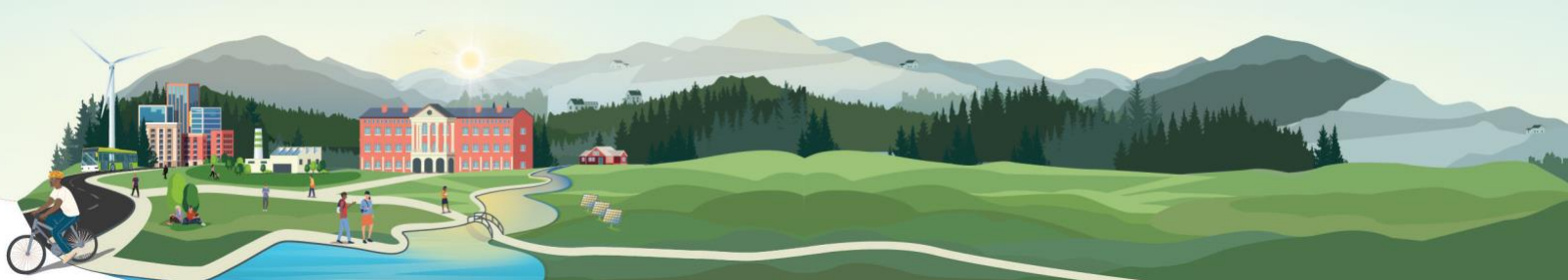
All dates are subject to change. All submissions are due at 5 p.m. ET on the deadline noted.

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. Teams that fail to submit the required materials and demonstrate progress for the PROGRESS Phase will not be eligible to win the \$100,000 cash prize for that phase but are still eligible to compete in the IMPACT Phase for the GRAND PRIZE.

The competition is open only to individuals; private entities (for-profits and nonprofits); nonfederal 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 six 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.

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.

¹ 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.



2 Background

EERE supports research, development, demonstration, and commercial application (RDD&CA) of renewable energy, energy efficiency, and advanced manufacturing technologies that enable the clean energy technology. ED works to ensure that all communities, including disadvantaged communities and energy justice communities, are afforded an opportunity to fully participate in DOE's programs, opportunities, and resources. Within EERE, AMMTO 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 RDD&CA 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. ED leads this effort at DOE, and will inform equitable research, development, and deployment within DOE.

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 healthcare. 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 disadvantaged communities and groups historically underrepresented in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). The Justice40 initiative, in concert with the administration's climate and decarbonization goals, will aim to address these inequities. Through this

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/>

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



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 (RFI) 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 RFI 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 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

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).

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



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 (OMB) 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 OMB 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 50th 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 OMB's Interim Implementation Guidance.

Based on stakeholder engagement, priorities identified by White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council (WHEJAC), and additional research, ED 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
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.

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

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



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 (MSIs), 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.

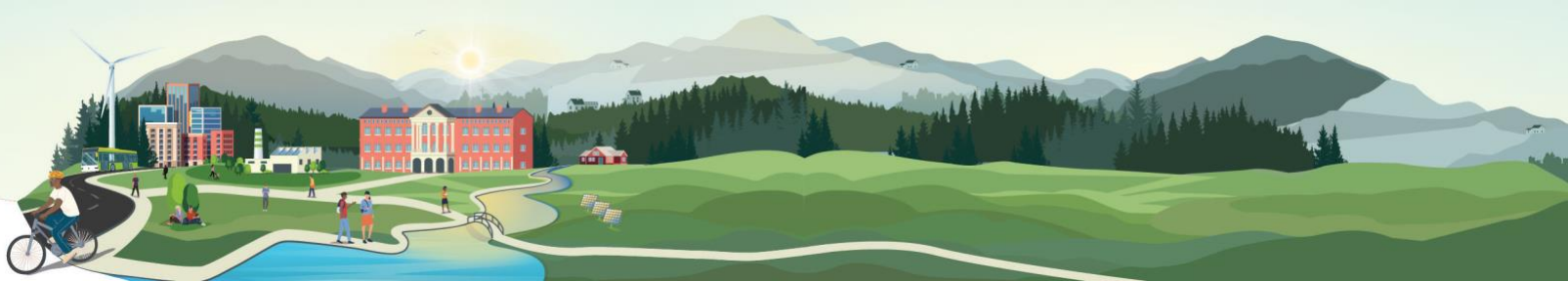
2.3 Anticipated Prize Impact

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.

2.3.1 Clean Energy Ecosystem Track

Within the Clean Energy Ecosystem Track, DOE aims to support communities and organizations who have been historically underserved. The Clean Energy Ecosystem Track is intended to award prizes to projects that advance community-based clean energy transition programs from a wide range of clean energy initiatives, technologies, and areas of focus.

2.3.2 Manufacturing Ecosystem Track

The Manufacturing Ecosystem Track, funded by AMMTO, aims to support communities and organizations that have been historically underserved and further the development of innovation ecosystems related to manufacturing. AMMTO describes innovation ecosystems as follows: an innovation ecosystem is the evolving set of stakeholders, resources, and activities (and the relationship and connections between them) that drive technological advancement. The clean energy manufacturing innovation ecosystem convenes stakeholders across government, industry, academia, national labs, and communities to address key challenges in the development and adoption of emerging materials and manufacturing technologies.

Successful competitors in this track will bring together public, private, and community stakeholders to address key barriers to advancing manufacturing innovation, business models, and market development. These projects may include manufacturing-related education and workforce development, entrepreneurship, resilient supply chains, circular economy development, or other goals related to clean energy manufacturing.

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 the 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 NREL. This support does not include directly writing submissions or directly red-lining 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. • 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 clean 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 on [HeroX](#) periodically, and competitors are encouraged to leverage these opportunities.



3 Clean Energy Ecosystem Track Submission Requirements

During the PROGRESS Phase, teams are expected to carry out the activities outlined in the Impact Plan 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 \$100,000.

During the third phase, the IMPACT Phase, teams will continue to implement and complete the activities outlined in their Impact Plan. Teams that successfully complete their Impact Plan activities will each receive a \$10,000 cash prize. It is anticipated that these funds may also offset travel costs for the final in-person event.

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. Teams will prepare a final 10-minute presentation, followed by a Q&A of up to 5 minutes, 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. Presentations may also be viewed by other members of the public.

3.1 Prizes

The Clean Energy Ecosystem Track offers a total of \$4.86 million in cash prizes intended to support community-based clean energy transition programs from a wide range of clean energy initiatives, technologies, and areas of focus.

Track	Clean Energy Ecosystem Track
Prize Pool	\$4.86 million cash prize pool
CONCEPT Phase Prizes	Up to 13 cash prizes of \$100,000 each and in-kind mentorship services
PROGRESS Phase Prizes	Up to 13 cash prizes of \$100,000 each and in-kind mentorship services
IMPACT Phase Prizes	Up to 13 cash prizes of \$10,000 each
GRAND PRIZE	Total cash prize pool of up to \$1,500,000 to be distributed among GRAND PRIZE winners



3.2 How to Enter

Competitors can go to [HeroX](#) and follow the instructions for registering and submitting all required materials before the deadline outlined in the Section 3.3 or as displayed on the [HeroX](#) website.

3.3 Important Dates

	Clean Energy Ecosystem Track
CONCEPT Phase Winner Awards and PROGRESS Phase Opens	March 7, 2024 (anticipated)
PROGRESS Phase Closes and IMPACT Phase Opens	July 19, 2024 (anticipated)
PROGRESS Phase Winner Awards	August 8, 2024 (anticipated)
IMPACT Phase Closes	2 weeks before Final Event (anticipated)
IMPACT Phase Winner Awards	2 weeks before Final Event (anticipated)
Final Event (in-person) and GRAND PRIZE Winner Awards	December 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 Clean Energy Ecosystem Track PROGRESS Phase and must be submitted through the [HeroX](#) platform.

The following items are required for the submission:

Submission Requirement	Will Be Made Public	Scored Item	Submission Deadline
Progress Report	No	Yes	July 19, 2024 (anticipated)
Evidence of Progress	No	Yes	July 19, 2024 (anticipated)

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 and Evidence of Progress. 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 \$100,000 cash prize for the PROGRESS Phase, teams 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 \$100,000 cash prize for the PROGRESS Phase but are still eligible to compete in the IMPACT Phase and 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	7	35	Must score at least 21 points (60%) to pass
Evidence of Progress	2	10	Must score at least 6 points (60%) to pass
TOTAL	9	45	Must receive a pass rating for both 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.

Teams may include up to five supporting visualizations, tables, or graphics. If a team 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	
Suggested Content Team Provides	Each Statement Scored on a 0–5 Scale
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A detailed overview of the team members participating in the prize, including the names, organization, and roles and responsibilities. Please note any changes in key personnel made during the PROGRESS Phase. • A detailed overview of the project and status of the proposed activities, schedule, specific metrics, milestones, and other measurements of success from the impact plan. Please note any adherence or justification made for changes to the initially identified activities, schedule, specific metrics, milestones, and other measurements of success the team achieved to date. • A detailed overview of relevant partnerships formed, and stakeholders engaged to date contributing to the advancement of a community-based clean energy transition. • A summary of the key takeaways from the specific peer learning activities the team has participated in to date and how the key takeaways have contributed to and/or impacted the team's project. • Successes achieved and challenges encountered to date. Include details on any anticipated future challenges from implementation of the project and best practices and lessons learned identified to date. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The team members participating in the prize are actively and effectively contributing to a valuable, impactful project that will advance a community-based clean energy transition. • The detailed overview of the project and its status (including proposed activities, schedule, and specific metrics, milestones, and other measurements of success) indicate that the project is on track to meaningfully advance a community-based clean energy transition. • The team has made progress toward establishing the relevant partnerships and engaging the key stakeholders that are likely to contribute to the advancement of a community-based clean energy transition. • The team has meaningfully engaged in the peer learning activities and has described how the key takeaways have contributed to and/or impacted the team's project. • The team has identified best practices and lessons learned to date that will be applied to project implementation moving forward into the IMPACT Phase. • The team has demonstrated that they are on track to complete the proposed activities from the impact plan or any reasonable and appropriate changes to the impact plan during this phase (0 or 5). • The team's project remains aligned with the goals of the prize (0 or 5).



Evidence of Progress

Teams must submit evidence of progress on their accomplishments to date. Suggested content for 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	
Suggested Content Team Provides	Each Statement Scored on a 0–5 Scale
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resources for public dissemination, including but not limited to lessons learned, best practices, planning guides, toolkits, or other resources that serve to share knowledge with non-participating communities Job descriptions posted Marketing materials (flyers, digital advertisements, etc.) Social media posts Website development or website improvements Curriculum Training materials New subscribers or sign-ups related to project Informational presentations and slide decks Letters of support. Submit evidence of commitment (letter, MOUs, email, etc.) from partnering organizations detailing their role on the project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The team has clear and relevant materials that demonstrate evidence of progress on project implementation (0 or 5). The team has evidence of commitment from partnering organizations that demonstrates their commitment to the project and details their role in project implementation (0 or 5)



3.5 IMPACT Phase and GRAND PRIZE Submission

3.5.1 What to Submit

The following items constitute the submission package for the Community Energy Innovation Prize Clean Energy Ecosystem Track IMPACT Phase and GRAND PRIZE. Written materials must be submitted through the [HeroX](#) platform.

Each of the submission requirements are described in more detail below.

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
Resources for Public Dissemination	Yes	Yes (Must include to be considered for GRAND PRIZE)	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	Yes		December 2024 (anticipated)

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

Poster

The unscored submission items in the IMPACT Phase and for the GRAND PRIZE are to be included in a poster to be displayed at the final event. The provided poster template should be used to present the information listed below, and the final poster file should be 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.

¹⁰ Competitors who do not want documents to be made public will need to mark them according to the instructions in Appendix 1 (Section A.10).



- Team member names and organization affiliations.
- Description of project (200 words): summary of the project, notable achievements, and any plans for work after the prize has concluded.
- Team bio (200 words maximum): the make-up of the team members and how the team was formed.
- Community description (200 words): description of the community where work was done, the need that was filled by the project, and how that need was determined.
- At least one photo of the team or of their work during the prize.
- Logos of the organization(s) involved on the team.

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, 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 include an Impact Report, Resources for Public Dissemination, and a 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	22	110
Criterion 1: Community Engagement and Partnerships	6	30
Criterion 2: Fostering Community-Based Clean Energy Transitions	6	30
Criterion 3: Program Implementation and Results	6	30



Criterion 4: Projected Impacts and Sustainability Plan	4	20
Resources for Public Dissemination	1	5
Final Presentation: Slide Deck, Live Presentation and Q&A	6	30
TOTAL	29	145

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, are intended to act as the culmination of all the work teams 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. Teams 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.

Criterion 1: Community Engagement and Partnerships	
Suggested Content Competitor Provides	Each Statement Scored on a 0 - 5 Scale
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A summary of the results from the team's engagement and outreach efforts and strategies implemented to build trust and strengthen relationships with relevant disadvantaged communities. An identification and description of the most pressing climate and/or clean energy related needs of the communities informed by engagement with relevant disadvantaged communities. A summary of lessons learned from engagement with the relevant disadvantaged communities and how these lessons informed project implementation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The team's engagement and outreach efforts and strategies meaningfully built trust and strengthened relationships with relevant disadvantaged communities. The team has successfully understood and described the most pressing climate and/or clean energy related needs of the relevant disadvantaged communities the team has engaged with throughout the prize. The team has clearly described lessons learned from engagement with relevant disadvantaged communities and how these lessons informed project implementation.



- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A summary of how implemented activities have effectively met the identified community's climate and/or clean energy needs.• A summary of the engagements with organizations connected to climate and/or clean energy, community members, and other relevant stakeholders.• A summary of the successes and/or failures of any efforts toward building relationships and building trust with disadvantaged communities and how these can improve implementing future efforts. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The team has implemented activities that effectively met the identified community's climate and/or clean energy needs.• The team has effectively engaged with organizations connected to climate and/or clean energy, community members, and other relevant stakeholders.• The team has evaluated the successes and/or failures of any efforts toward building relationships and building trust with disadvantaged communities and how these can improve implementing future efforts. |
|---|---|



Criterion 2: Fostering Community-Based Clean Energy Transitions

Suggested Content Competitor Provides:

- An identification of the stakeholders, resources, and activities that contribute to the development or advancement of a community-based clean energy transition within the relevant disadvantaged communities and/or region.
- A summary of connections made between the identified stakeholders, resources, and activities that contribute to the development or advancement of a community-based clean energy transition within the relevant disadvantaged communities and/or region.
- A summary of the barriers and/or challenges to identifying and building connections between stakeholders, resources, and activities in collaboration with relevant disadvantaged communities.
- An identification of tangible next steps that support the development or advancement of a community-based clean energy transition in collaboration with and supported by relevant disadvantaged communities and/or region.

Each Statement Scored on a 0–5 Scale

- The team has identified the relevant stakeholders that are likely to contribute to the development or advancement of a community-based clean energy transition within the relevant disadvantaged communities and/or region.
- The team has identified the relevant resources that are likely to contribute to the development or advancement of a community-based clean energy transition within the relevant disadvantaged communities and/or region.
- The team has identified the relevant activities that are likely to contribute to the development or advancement of a community-based clean energy transition within the relevant disadvantaged communities and/or region.
- The team has made relevant and impactful connections between the identified stakeholders, resources, and activities to contribute to the development or advancement of a community-based clean energy transition within the relevant disadvantaged communities and/or region.
- The team has discussed barriers and/or challenges to identifying the stakeholders, resources, and activities and to building connections across them in collaboration with relevant disadvantaged communities.
- The team has identified tangible next steps that support the development or advancement of a community-based clean energy transition in collaboration with and supported by relevant disadvantaged communities and/or region.



Criterion 3: Program Implementation and Results

Suggested Content Competitor Provides

- A description of how the team has utilized the CONCEPT and PROGRESS phase prize awards to carry out project activities that are in line with the prize goals.
- A summary of team members and/or staff's involvement in carrying out associated project activities.
- A summary of any resources and capabilities the team utilized to implement project activities that were relevant and effective in advancing a community-based clean energy transition within the relevant disadvantaged communities and/or region.
- A summary of the key takeaways from the specific peer learning activities the team has participated in throughout the prize and how the key takeaways contributed to and/or impacted the team's project.
- A summary of how the team's project effectively supported capacity building, innovation, entrepreneurship, or economic development related to community-based clean energy transitions for the relevant disadvantaged communities and/or region.
- Appropriate metrics and specific, measurable, actionable, relevant, and time-bound goals that demonstrates the team has met one or more of the goals of this prize.

Each Statement Scored on a 0–5 Scale

- The team has effectively and efficiently utilized the CONCEPT and PROGRESS phase prize awards to carry out project activities that are in line with the prize goals.
- The team has described in adequate detail how the involvement of team members and/or staff was effective in carrying out associated project activities.
- The resources and capabilities the team utilized to implement project activities were relevant and effective in advancing a community-based clean energy transition within the relevant disadvantaged communities and/or region.
- The team has meaningfully engaged in the peer learning activities and has described how the key takeaways have contributed to and/or impacted the team's project.
- The team's project effectively supported capacity building, innovation, entrepreneurship, or economic development related to community-based clean energy transitions for the relevant disadvantaged communities and/or region.
- 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.



Criterion 4: Projected Impacts and Sustainability Plan

Suggested Content Competitor Provides

- An ambitious and achievable vision for a just and equitable community-based clean energy transition and how the team seeks to achieve that vision.
- A description of what the team could achieve with ongoing funding in support of a just and equitable community-based clean energy transition in the relevant disadvantaged communities and/or region.
- A description of strategies the team will employ to secure ongoing funding to build upon the proposed activities to ensure sustainability of the team's project.
- A description of anticipated results from the team's post-prize efforts that will lead to a just and equitable community-based clean energy transition.

Each Statement Scored on a 0–5 Scale

- The team's vision for a just and equitable community-based clean energy transition is ambitious yet achievable.
- What the team could achieve with ongoing funding is ambitious, achievable, and supports a just and equitable community-based clean energy transition in the relevant disadvantaged communities and/or region.
- The team has identified strategies to secure ongoing funding post-prize that are likely to yield a sustainable funding stream for the team to continue their project.
- The expected results from the team's post-prize efforts are viable, impactful, and will lead to a just and equitable community-based clean energy transition.

Resources for Public Dissemination

Resources for public dissemination can include but are not limited to lessons learned, best practices, planning guides, toolkits, or other resources that serve to share knowledge with non-participating communities. **Teams that do not submit at least one resource for public dissemination will not be considered for the GRAND PRIZE.**

Scoring Criteria: Resources for Public Dissemination

Suggested Content Team Provides

- Submit at least one resource for public dissemination that would be helpful to other communities looking to develop or advance their just and equitable community-based clean energy transition.

Each Statement Scored on a 0-5 Scale

- The team has prepared at least one resource for public dissemination that would be helpful to other communities looking to develop or advance their just and equitable community-based clean energy transition (0 or 5).

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 that is intended to act as the culmination of all the work teams 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 10-minute presentation, followed by a Q&A of up to 5 minutes from a panel of reviewers. Final presentations may also be viewed by other members of the public.

A copy of the final presentation slide deck must be submitted at least two business days prior to the final event. The presentation slide deck must be submitted as a PDF via the [HeroX](#) platform. Note that the final presentation slide deck will be made public and should not include any sensitive or confidential information. 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.



Scoring Criteria: Final Presentation

Suggested Content Competitor Provides

- A summary of the connections made between the identified stakeholders, resources, and activities that contribute to the development or advancement of a community-based clean energy transition.
- A summary of the engagements with relevant disadvantaged communities and an identification of the most pressing climate or clean energy related needs of that community and/or region informed by the engagements.
- Accounts or testimonials directly from community members receiving the benefits from the work undertaken in during the prize.
- A summary of the impact achieved in the disadvantaged community or communities engaged during the prize.
- A description of how the positive outcomes from the efforts undertaken during the prize connect back to one or more of the goals of the prize.
- A summary of how the team's outreach activities have built trust and strengthened relationships with the relevant disadvantaged communities.

Each Statement Scored on a 0–5 Scale

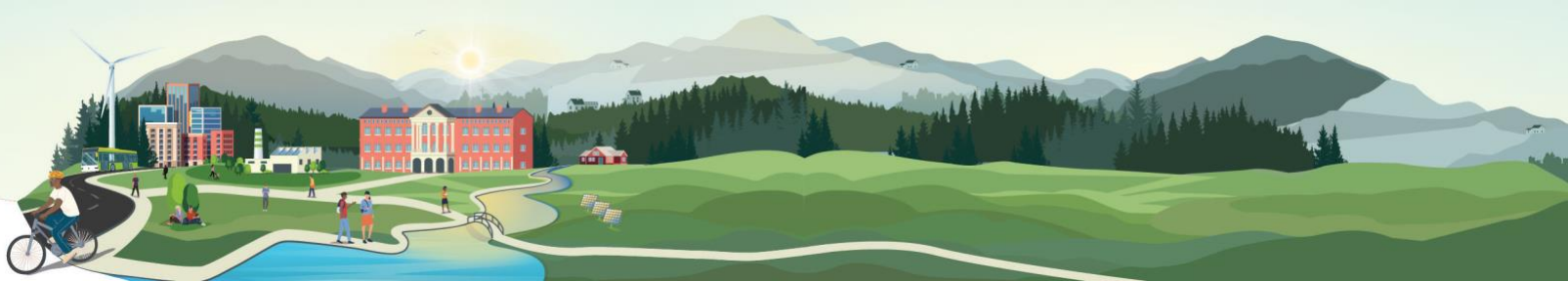
- The team has made relevant and impactful connections between the identified stakeholders, resources, and activities that contribute to the development or advancement of a community-based clean energy transition.
- The team has successfully engaged with the relevant disadvantaged communities to be able identify and describe the most pressing climate or clean energy related needs of that community and/or region.
- The presentation included accounts or testimonials directly from community members receiving the benefits from the work undertaken during the prize.
- The presentation clearly demonstrates the impact achieved in the disadvantaged community or communities engaged during the prize.
- The team clearly describes how the positive outcomes from the efforts undertaken during the prize connect back to one or more of the goals of the prize.
- The team has clearly demonstrated that their outreach activities have built trust and strengthened relationships with the relevant disadvantaged communities.

3.6 Peer Learning and Shared Resources

Teams selected to participate in the PROGRESS and IMPACT Phases will 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 will be tailored to the teams' specific needs. These peer learning activities 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 45 points as described in Sections 3.4.1 for the PROGRESS Phase and up to 145 points as described in 3.5.1 for the IMPACT Phase.
- 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 1 for additional requirements. COMPETITORS THAT DO NOT COMPLY WITH THE ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS IN APPENDIX 1 MAY BE DISQUALIFIED.



4 Manufacturing Ecosystem Track

Submission Requirements

During the PROGRESS Phase, teams are expected to carry out the activities outlined in the Impact Plan 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 \$100,000.

During the third phase, the IMPACT Phase, teams will continue to implement and complete the activities outlined in their Impact Plan. Teams that successfully complete their Impact Plan activities will each receive a \$10,000 cash prize. It is anticipated that these funds may also offset travel costs for the final in-person event.

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. Teams will prepare a final 10-minute presentation, followed by a Q&A of up to 5 minutes, 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. Presentations may also be viewed by other members of the public.

4.1 Prizes

The Manufacturing Ecosystem Track offers a total of \$2.18 million in cash prizes intended develop or advance domestic clean energy manufacturing innovation ecosystems.

Track	Manufacturing Ecosystem Track
Prize Pool	\$2.18 million cash prize pool
CONCEPT Phase Prizes	Up to 10 cash prizes of \$100,000 each and in-kind mentorship services
PROGRESS Phase Prizes	Up to 10 cash prizes of \$100,000 each and in-kind mentorship services
IMPACT Phase Prizes	Up to 10 cash prizes of \$10,000 each
GRAND PRIZE	Total cash prize pool of up to \$500,000 to be distributed among GRAND PRIZE winners



4.2 How to Enter

Competitors can go to [HeroX](#) and follow the instructions for registering and submitting all required materials before the deadline outlined in the Section 4.3 or as displayed on the [HeroX](#) website.

4.3 Important Dates

	Manufacturing Ecosystem Track
CONCEPT Phase Winner Awards and PROGRESS Phase Opens	March 7, 2024 (anticipated)
PROGRESS Phase Closes and IMPACT Phase Opens	July 19, 2024 (anticipated)
PROGRESS Phase Winner Awards	August 8, 2024 (anticipated)
IMPACT Phase Closes	2 weeks before Final Event (anticipated)
IMPACT Phase Winner Awards	2 weeks before Final Event (anticipated)
Final Event (in-person) and GRAND PRIZE Winner Awards	December 2024 (anticipated)

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

4.4 PROGRESS Phase Submission

4.4.1 What to Submit

The following items constitute the submissions package for the Community Energy Innovation Prize Manufacturing Ecosystem Track PROGRESS Phase and must be submitted through the [HeroX](#) platform.

The following items are required for the submission:

Submission Requirement	Will Be Made Public	Scored Item	Submission Deadline
Progress Report	No	Yes	July 19, 2024 (anticipated)
Evidence of Progress	No	Yes	August 8, 2024 (anticipated)

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



4.4.1.1 Scored Submission Items

The scored items in the PROGRESS Phase include the Progress Report and Evidence of Progress. 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 4.4.1. Submissions will be given a “pass” or “fail” rating based on the total scores for each submission requirement. To receive the \$100,000 cash prize for the PROGRESS Phase, teams 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 \$100,000 cash prize for the PROGRESS Phase but are still eligible to compete in the IMPACT Phase and 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	7	35	Must score at least 21 points (60%) to pass
Evidence of Progress	2	10	Must score at least 6 points (60%) to pass
TOTAL	9	45	Must receive a pass rating for both 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. Teams may include up to five supporting visualizations, tables, or graphics. If a team 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	
Suggested Content Team Provides	Each Statement Scored on a 0–5 Scale
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A detailed overview of the team members participating in the prize, including the names, organization, and roles and responsibilities. Please note any changes in key personnel made during the PROGRESS Phase. • A detailed overview of the project and its status, including proposed activities, schedule, and specific metrics, milestones, and other measurements of success from the impact plan. Please note any adherence or justification made for changes to the initially identified activities, schedule, and specific metrics, milestones, and other measurements of success the team achieved to date. • A detailed overview of relevant partnerships formed, and stakeholders engaged to date contributing to the development or advancement of a domestic clean energy manufacturing innovation ecosystem.¹¹ • A summary of the key takeaways from the specific peer learning activities the team has participated in to date and how the key takeaways have contributed to and/or impacted the team’s project. • A summary of best practices and lessons learned to date, including best practices and lessons learned to date 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The team members participating in the prize are actively and effectively contributing to a valuable, impactful project that will advance the clean energy manufacturing ecosystem in the relevant disadvantaged communities and/or region. • The detailed overview of the project and its status (including proposed activities, schedule, and specific metrics, milestones, and other measurements of success) indicate that the project is on track to meaningfully advance the clean energy manufacturing ecosystem in the partner community. • The team has made progress toward establishing the relevant partnerships and engaging the key stakeholders that are likely to contribute to the development or advancement of a domestic clean energy manufacturing innovation ecosystem. • The team has meaningfully engaged in the peer learning activities and has described how the key takeaways have contributed to and/or impacted the team’s project. • The team has identified best practices and lessons learned to date that will be applied to project implementation moving forward into the IMPACT Phase.

¹¹ AMMTO describes innovation ecosystems as follows: An innovation ecosystem is the evolving set of stakeholders, resources, and activities (and the relationship and connections between them) that drive technological advancement. The clean energy manufacturing innovation ecosystem convenes stakeholders across government, industry, academia, national labs, and communities to address key challenges in the development and adoption of emerging materials and manufacturing technologies.



<p>from and in collaboration with community partners, members, and/or leaders, that the team will apply to project implementation moving forward into the IMPACT Phase.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successes achieved and challenges encountered to date. Include details on any anticipated future challenges from implementation of the project and best practices and lessons learned identified to date. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The team has demonstrated that they are on track to complete the proposed activities from the impact plan or any reasonable and appropriate changes to the impact plan during this phase (0 or 5). • The team's project remains aligned with the goals of the prize (0 or 5).
---	--

Evidence of Progress

Teams must submit evidence of progress on their accomplishments to date. Suggested content for 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	
Suggested Content Team Provides	Each Statement Scored on a 0–5 Scale
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Resources for public dissemination, including but not limited to lessons learned, best practices, planning guides, toolkits, or other resources that serve to share knowledge with non-participating communities ○ Job descriptions posted ○ Marketing materials (flyers, digital advertisements, etc.) ○ Social media posts ○ Website development or website improvements ○ Curriculum ○ Training materials ○ New subscribers or sign-ups related to project ○ Informational presentations and slide decks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The team has clear and relevant materials that demonstrate evidence of progress on project implementation (0 or 5). • The team has evidence of commitment from at least one organization connected to manufacturing that demonstrates their commitment to the project and details their role in project implementation (0 or 5).



- Letters of commitment from partnering organizations
- Letters of support.
- Evidence of commitment (letter, MOUs, email, etc.) from at least one organization connected to manufacturing¹² detailing their role on the project.

4.5 IMPACT Phase and GRAND PRIZE Submission

4.5.1 What to Submit

The following items constitute the submissions package for the Community Energy Innovation Prize Manufacturing Ecosystem Track IMPACT Phase and GRAND PRIZE. Written materials must be submitted through the [HeroX](#) platform.

Each of the submission requirements are described in more detail below.

Submission Requirement	Will Be Made Public ¹³	Scored Item	Submission Deadline
Poster	Yes	No	2 weeks before Final Event
Impact Report	No	Yes	2 weeks before Final Event
Resources for Public Dissemination	Yes	Yes (Must include to be considered for GRAND PRIZE)	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	Yes		December 2024 (anticipated)

¹² An organization connected to manufacturing can be but is not limited to being a local manufacturer, a manufacturing-specific trade group, association, union, or another entity that can reasonably represent the interests of the manufacturing sector.

¹³ Competitors who do not want documents to be made public will need to mark them according to the instructions in Appendix 1 (Section A.10).



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.

4.5.1.1 Unsourced Submission Items

Poster

The unsourced submission items in the IMPACT Phase and for the GRAND PRIZE are to be included in a poster to be displayed at the final event. The provided poster template should be used to present the information listed below, and the final poster file should be 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.
- Team member names and organization affiliations.
- Description of project (200 words): summary of the project, notable achievements, and any plans for work after the prize has concluded.
- Team bio (200 words maximum): the make-up of the team members and how the team was formed.
- Community description (200 words): description of the community where work was done, the need that was filled by the project, and how that need was determined.
- At least one photo of the team or of their work during the prize.
- Logos of the organization(s) involved on the team.

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, including other competing teams from the Community Energy Innovation Prize Clean Energy Ecosystem and Manufacturing Ecosystem tracks.

4.5.1.2 Scored Submission Items

The scored items in the IMPACT Phase and for the GRAND PRIZE include an Impact Report, Resources for Public Dissemination, and a 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	23	115
Criterion 1: Community Engagement and Partnerships	6	30
Criterion 2: Fostering a Clean Energy Manufacturing Ecosystem	6	30
Criterion 3: Program Implementation and Results	7	35
Criterion 4: Projected Impacts and Sustainability Plan	4	20
Resources for Public Dissemination	1	5
Final Presentation: Slide Deck, Live Presentation and Q&A	6	30
TOTAL	30	150

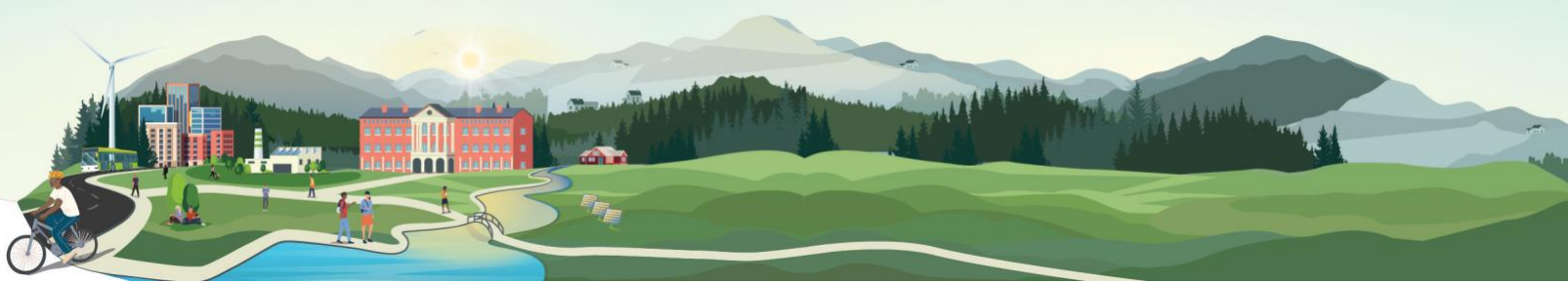
Impact Report

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, are intended to act as the culmination of all the work teams 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.

Criterion 1: Community Engagement and Partnerships	
Suggested Content Competitor Provides <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A summary of the results from the team's engagement and outreach efforts and strategies implemented to build trust and 	Each Statement Scored on a 0–5 Scale <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The team's engagement and outreach efforts and strategies implemented meaningfully built trust and strengthened



strengthen relationships with relevant disadvantaged communities.

- An identification and description of the most pressing manufacturing ecosystem related needs of the communities informed by engagement with relevant disadvantaged communities.
- A summary of lessons learned from engagement with the relevant disadvantaged communities and how these lessons informed project implementation.
- A summary of how implemented activities have effectively met the identified community manufacturing needs.
- A summary of the engagements with organizations connected to manufacturing, community members, and other relevant stakeholders.
- A summary of the successes and/or failures of any efforts toward building relationships and building trust with disadvantaged communities and how these can improve implementing future efforts.

relationships with relevant disadvantaged communities.

- The team has successfully understood and described the most pressing manufacturing ecosystem related needs of the relevant disadvantaged communities the team has engaged with throughout the prize.
- The team has clearly described lessons learned from engagement with relevant disadvantaged communities and how these lessons informed project implementation.
- The team has implemented activities that effectively met the identified community manufacturing needs.
- The team has effectively engaged with organizations connected to manufacturing, community members, and other relevant stakeholders.
- The team has evaluated the successes and/or failures of any efforts toward building relationships and building trust with disadvantaged communities and how these can improve implementing future efforts.



Criterion 2: Fostering a Clean Energy Manufacturing Ecosystem

Suggested Content Competitor Provides:

- An identification of the stakeholders, resources, and activities that contribute to the development or advancement of a domestic manufacturing innovation ecosystem¹⁴ within the relevant disadvantaged communities and/or region.
- A summary of connections made between the identified stakeholders, resources, and activities that contribute to the development or advancement of a domestic manufacturing innovation ecosystem within the relevant disadvantaged communities and/or region.
- A summary of the barriers and/or challenges to identifying and building connections between stakeholders, resources, and activities in collaboration with relevant disadvantaged communities.
- An identification of tangible next steps that support the development or advancement of a community-based clean energy transition in collaboration with and supported by relevant disadvantaged communities and/or region.

Each Statement Scored on a 0–5 Scale

- The team has identified the relevant stakeholders that are likely to contribute to the development or advancement of a domestic manufacturing innovation ecosystem within the relevant disadvantaged communities and/or region.
- The team has identified the relevant resources that are likely to contribute to the development or advancement of a domestic manufacturing innovation ecosystem within the relevant disadvantaged communities and/or region.
- The team has identified the relevant activities that are likely to contribute to the development or advancement of a domestic manufacturing innovation ecosystem within the relevant disadvantaged communities and/or region.
- The team has made relevant and impactful connections between the identified stakeholders, resources, and activities to contribute to the development or advancement of a domestic manufacturing innovation ecosystem within the relevant disadvantaged communities and/or region.
- The team has discussed barriers and/or challenges to identifying the stakeholders, resources, and activities and to building connections across them in collaboration with relevant disadvantaged communities.
- The team has identified tangible next steps that support the development or advancement of a domestic clean energy manufacturing innovation ecosystem in

¹⁴ AMMTO describes innovation ecosystems as follows: An innovation ecosystem is the evolving set of stakeholders, resources, and activities (and the relationship and connections between them) that drive technological advancement. The clean energy manufacturing innovation ecosystem convenes stakeholders across government, industry, academia, national labs, and communities to address key challenges in the development and adoption of emerging materials and manufacturing technologies.



	collaboration with and supported by relevant disadvantaged communities and/or region.
--	---

Criterion 3: Program Implementation and Results

Suggested Content Competitor Provides

- A description of how the team has utilized the CONCEPT and PROGRESS phase prize awards to carry out project activities that are in line with the prize goals.
- A summary of team members and/or staff's involvement in carrying out associated project activities.
- A summary of any resources and capabilities the team utilized to implement project activities that were relevant and effective in advancing the clean energy manufacturing ecosystem in the relevant disadvantaged communities and/or region.
- A summary of the key takeaways from the specific peer learning activities the team has participated in throughout the prize and how the key takeaways contributed to and/or impacted the team's project.
- A summary of how the team's project effectively supported capacity building, innovation, entrepreneurship, or economic development related to manufacturing ecosystems for disadvantaged communities.
- Appropriate metrics and specific, measurable, actionable, relevant, and time-bound goals that demonstrates the team has met one or more of the goals of this prize.
- A description of how the team's project activities have supported an equitable transition to the development or advancement of a domestic clean energy manufacturing innovation ecosystem in the relevant disadvantaged communities and/or region.

Each Statement Scored on a 0–5 Scale

- The team has effectively and efficiently utilized the CONCEPT and PROGRESS phase prize awards to carry out project activities that are in line with the prize goals.
- The team has described in adequate detail how the involvement of team members and/or staff was effective in carrying out associated project activities.
- The resources and capabilities the team utilized to implement project activities were relevant and effective in advancing the clean energy manufacturing ecosystem in the relevant disadvantaged communities and/or region.
- The team has meaningfully engaged in the peer learning activities and described how their key takeaways contributed to and/or impacted the team's project.
- The team's project effectively supported capacity building, innovation, entrepreneurship, and economic development related to manufacturing ecosystems for disadvantaged communities.
- 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.
- The team's project activities have supported the equitable development or advancement of a domestic clean energy manufacturing innovation ecosystem in the relevant disadvantaged communities and/or region.



Criterion 4: Projected Impacts and Sustainability Plan

Suggested Content Competitor Provides

- An ambitious and achievable vision for a just and equitable community-based clean energy transition and how the team seeks to achieve that vision.
- A description of what the team could achieve with ongoing funding in support of a just and equitable community-based clean energy transition in the relevant disadvantaged communities and/or region.
- A description of strategies the team will employ to secure ongoing funding to build upon the proposed activities to ensure sustainability of the team's project.
- A description of anticipated results from the team's post-prize efforts that will lead to a just and equitable community-based clean energy transition.

Each Statement Scored on a 0–5 Scale

- The team's vision for a just and equitable community-based clean energy transition is ambitious yet achievable.
- What the team could achieve with ongoing funding is ambitious, achievable, and supports a just and equitable community-based clean energy transition in the relevant disadvantaged communities and/or region.
- The team has identified strategies to secure ongoing funding post-prize that are likely to yield a sustainable funding stream for the team to continue their project.
- The expected results from the team's post-prize efforts are viable, impactful, and will lead to a just and equitable community-based clean energy transition.

Resources for Public Dissemination

Resources for public dissemination can include but are not limited to lessons learned, best practices, planning guides, toolkits, or other resources that serve to share knowledge with non-participating communities. **Teams that do not submit at least one resource for public dissemination will not be considered for the GRAND PRIZE.**

Submission Requirement: Resources for Public Dissemination

Suggested Content Team Provides

- Submit at least one resource for public dissemination that would be helpful to other communities looking to develop or advance domestic clean energy manufacturing innovation ecosystems in other regions in collaboration with disadvantaged communities.

Each Statement Scored on a 0-5 Scale

- The team has prepared at least one resource for public dissemination that would be helpful to other communities looking to develop or advance domestic clean energy manufacturing innovation ecosystems in other regions in collaboration with disadvantaged communities (0 or 5).



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

that is intended to act as the culmination of all the work teams 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 10-minute presentation, followed by a Q&A of up to 5 minutes from a panel of reviewers. Final presentations may also be viewed by other members of the public.

A copy of the final presentation slide deck must be submitted at least two business days prior to the final event. The presentation slide deck must be submitted as a PDF via the [HeroX](#) platform. Note that the final presentation slide deck will be made public and should not include any sensitive or confidential information. 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.

Live Pitch Event Scoring Criteria	
Suggested Content Competitor Provides	Each Statement Scored on a 0–5 Scale
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A summary of the connections made between the identified stakeholders, resources, and activities that contribute to the development or advancement of a domestic manufacturing innovation ecosystem. A description of the most pressing manufacturing ecosystem related needs of that community identified from engagement with relevant disadvantaged communities. Accounts or testimonials directly from community members receiving the benefits from the work undertaken in during the prize. A summary of the impact achieved in the disadvantaged community or communities engaged during the prize. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The team has made relevant and impactful connections between the identified stakeholders, resources, and activities that contribute to the development or advancement of a domestic manufacturing innovation ecosystem. The team has successfully engaged with the relevant disadvantaged communities to identify and describe the most pressing manufacturing ecosystem related needs of that community. The pitch includes accounts or testimonials directly from community members receiving the benefits from the work undertaken in during the prize. The pitch clearly demonstrates the impact achieved in the disadvantaged community or communities engaged during the prize.



- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A description of how the positive outcomes from the efforts undertaken during the prize connect back to one or more of the goals of the prize. • A summary of how the team's outreach activities have built trust and strengthened relationships with the relevant disadvantaged communities. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The team clearly describes how the positive outcomes from the efforts undertaken during the prize connect back to one or more of the goals of the prize. • The team has clearly demonstrated that their outreach activities have built trust and strengthened relationships with the relevant disadvantaged communities. |
|--|---|

4.6 Peer Learning and Shared Resources

Teams selected to participate in the PROGRESS and IMPACT Phases will 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 will be tailored to the teams' specific needs. These peer learning activities will serve to connect competing teams and encourage them to share challenges and successes.

4.7 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 4.4.1.1 and 4.5.1.2.

4.7.1 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 4.4.1.1 and 4.5.1.2.
- 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 45 points as described in Sections 4.4.1 for the PROGRESS Phase and up to 150 points as described in 4.5.1 for the IMPACT Phase.
- 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.

4.7.2 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.



4.7.3 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).

4.7.4 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.

4.7.5 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 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 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 1 (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.

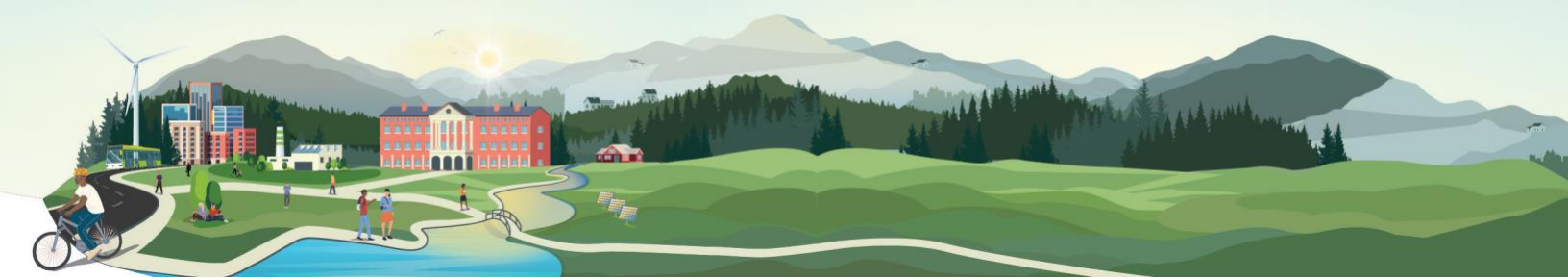
A.15 Definitions

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.

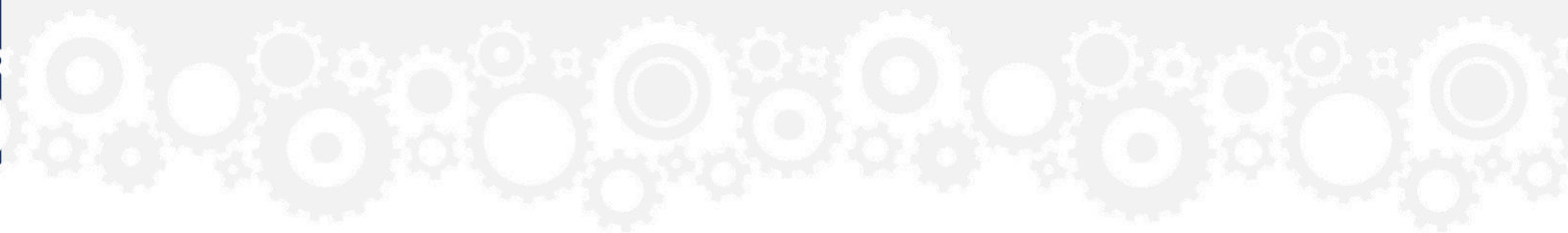


Appendix 2 Feedback

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 work 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

July 2024