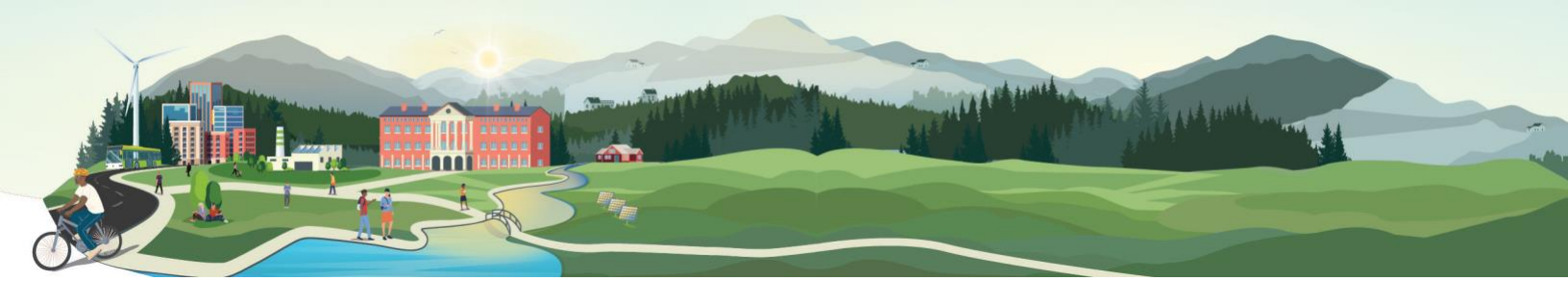
AMERICAN MADE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Community Energy Innovation Prize

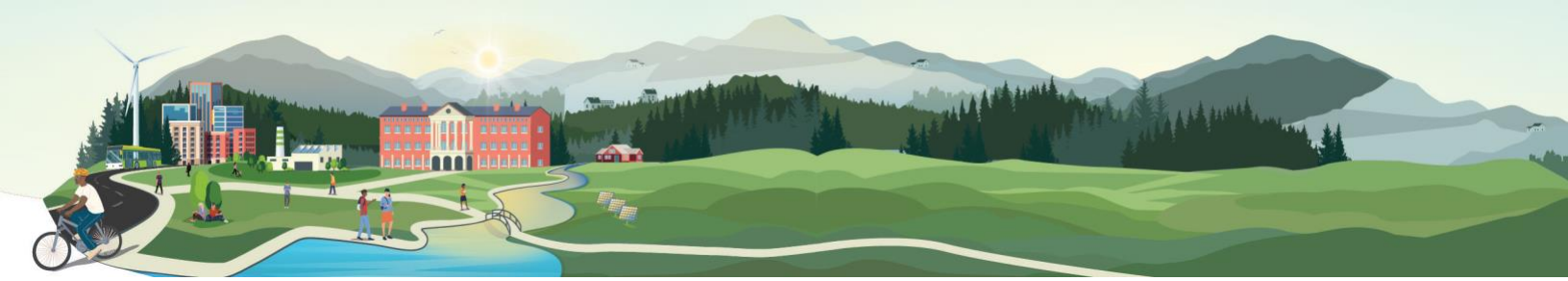
OFFICIAL RULES: CONCEPT Phase

AUGUST 2023



Preface

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



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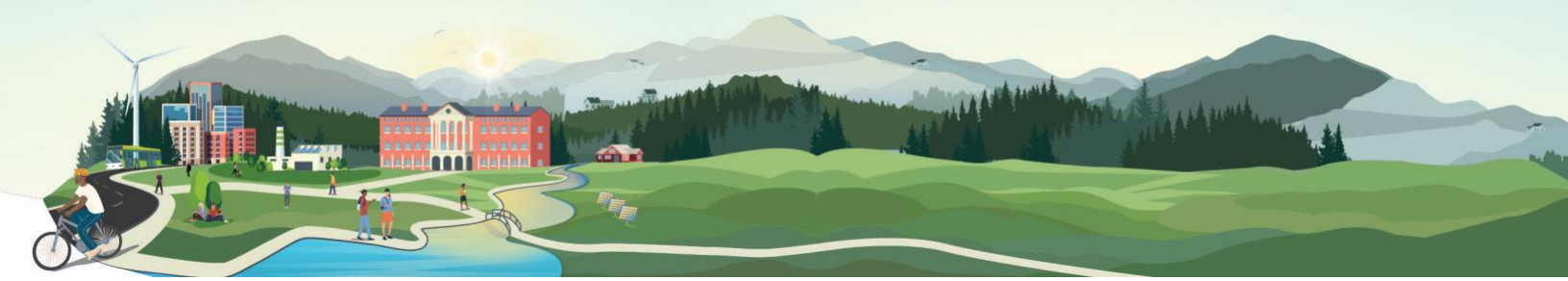
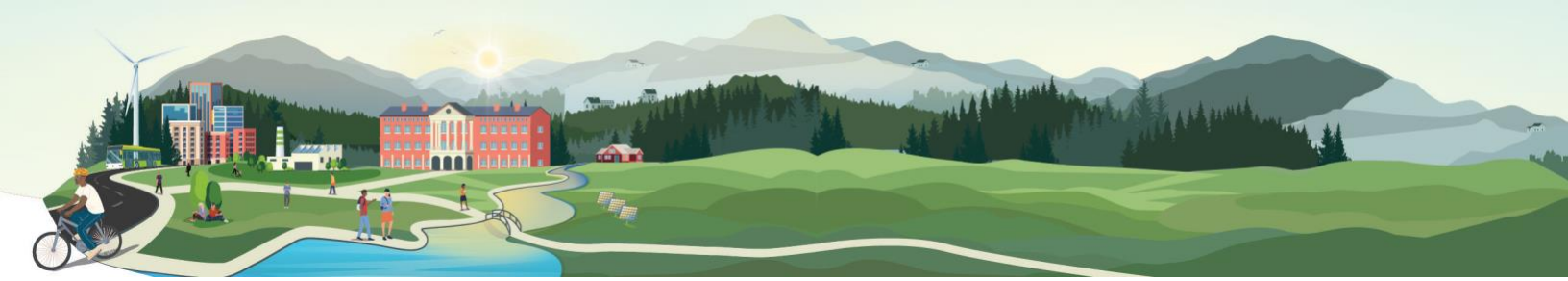




1 Executive Summary

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) are launching the Community Energy Innovation Prize. This prize is a successor to DOE's Inclusive Energy Innovation Prize and Community Clean Energy Coalition Prize.

Through this prize, DOE seeks to identify and support:

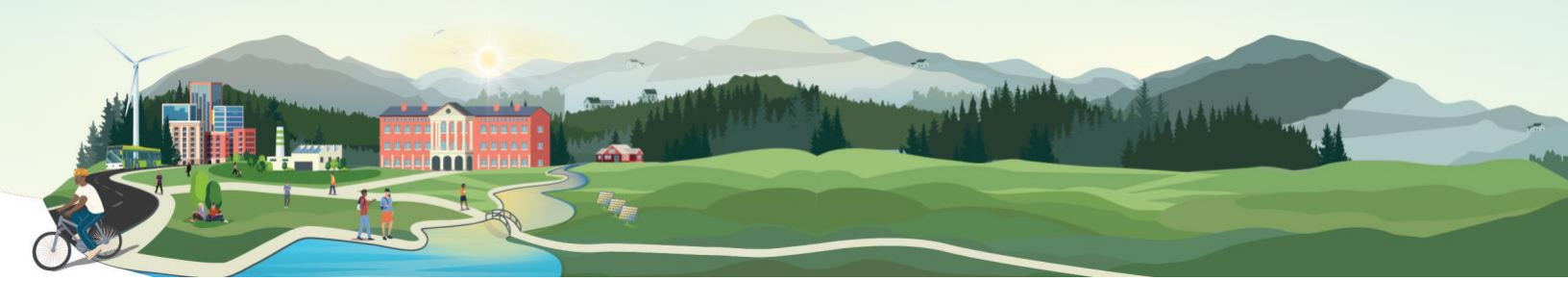
- Organizations that are community-centric and have experience in successfully engaging with disadvantaged communities to address energy challenges and implement clean energy technologies.
- Organizations that promote environmental, climate, and energy justice and demonstrate strong community ties.
- 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 first phase of the prize, the CONCEPT Phase. The rules for the following prize phases will be released a later date, coincident with the announcement of winners of the CONCEPT Phase and the opening of the PROGRESS Phase.

1.1 Prizes

This prize offers a total of $7.49 million in cash prizes, intended to support clean energy innovation and entrepreneurship in disadvantaged communities. Competitors can participate in one of three tracks: the Clean Energy Ecosystem Track, the Manufacturing Ecosystem Track, or the Collegiate Track, each of which has distinct goals and submission requirements.

Track	Clean Energy Ecosystem Track	Manufacturing Ecosystem Track	Collegiate Track
Prize Pool	$4.86 million cash prize pool	$2.18 million cash prize pool	$450,000 cash prize pool
CONCEPT Phase Prizes	Up to 16 cash prizes of $100,000 each and in-kind mentorship services	Up to 8 cash prizes of $100,000 each and in-kind mentorship services	Up to 10 cash prizes of $15,000 each to the academic institution and in-kind mentorship services
PROGRESS Phase Prizes	Up to 16 cash prizes of $100,000 each and in-kind mentorship services	Up to 8 cash prizes of $100,000 each and in-kind mentorship services	Up to 10 cash prizes of $20,000 each to the community partner(s) and in-kind mentorship services



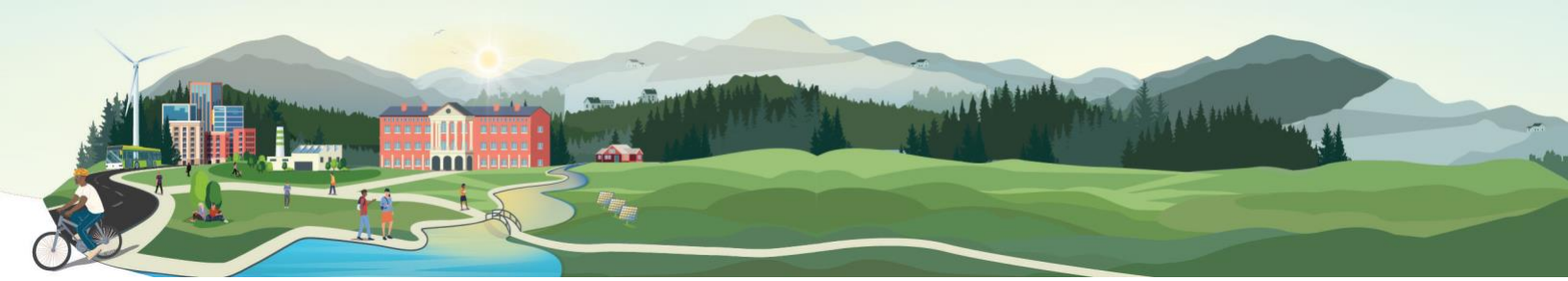
IMPACT Phase Prizes	Up to 16 cash prizes of $10,000 each	Up to 8 cash prizes of $10,000 each	
GRAND PRIZE	Total cash prize pool of up to $1,500,000 to be distributed among GRAND PRIZE winners	Total cash prize pool of up to $500,000 to be distributed among GRAND PRIZE winners	Total cash prize pool of up to $100,000 to be distributed among GRAND PRIZE winners. Awards will be distributed to the community partner(s).

Clean Energy Ecosystem and Manufacturing Ecosystem Tracks:

- In the first phase of the prize, the CONCEPT Phase, competitors can win up to $100,000. They will develop and submit Impact Plans describing their team and partners, the proposed activities, a budget, and the communities they intend to work with. These submissions will be reviewed by DOE and external experts.
- 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.
- At the end of the IMPACT Phase, 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.

Collegiate Track:

- In the first phase of the prize, the CONCEPT Phase, collegiate teams will develop and submit Narrative Documents describing their team, including student leaders, community partner(s), faculty advisor(s), and proposed activities. These submissions will be reviewed by DOE and external experts. Winning teams will each receive a $15,000 cash prize, which will be awarded to the academic institution.
- During the second phase, the PROGRESS Phase, the winning teams from the CONCEPT Phase will implement their planned community activities outlined in their Narrative Document and report on their progress. Teams that demonstrate progress will each be eligible to win an additional $20,000 cash prize, which will be awarded to the community partner(s). If teams fail to submit required materials and demonstrate progress, teams will not be eligible to win the additional $20,000 cash prize but are eligible to compete in the IMPACT Phase.



- During the third phase, the IMPACT Phase, teams will continue to implement and complete the activities outlined in their Narrative Document. At the end of the IMPACT Phase, teams will be able to present their activities and measurable impacts they were able to achieve during the prize, share their plans for the future, and compete for a final GRAND PRIZE, which will be awarded to the community partner(s).

In addition to prize awards, winning competitors in all three tracks will receive in-kind mentorship and other support services, valued at approximately $400,000 in total across all competitors.

The prize awards in the CONCEPT and PROGRESS phases are intended to help winning competitors implement their proposed projects. The rules for the PROGRESS and IMPACT Phases will be released along with the announcement of CONCEPT Phase prize winners.

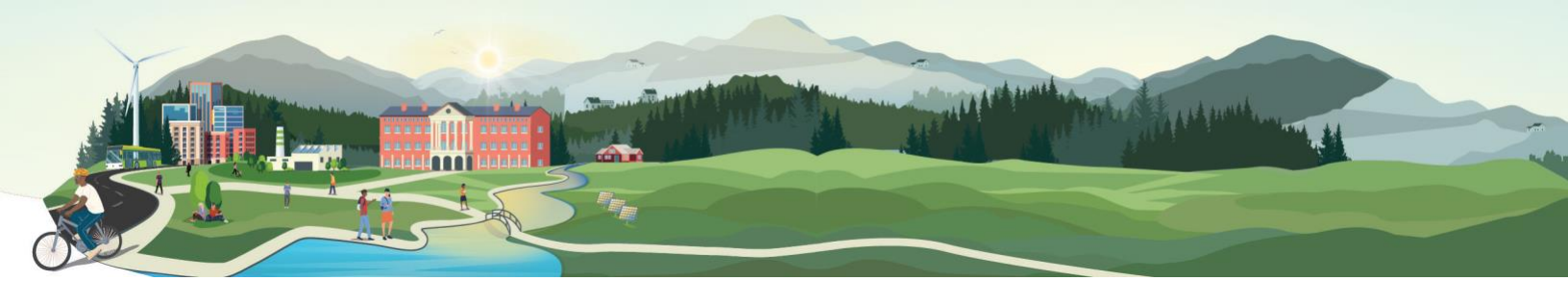
1.2 Key Dates

	Clean Energy Ecosystem and Manufacturing Ecosystem Tracks	Collegiate Track
CONCEPT Phase Submission Open	Aug. 29, 2023	Aug. 29, 2023
CONCEPT Phase Submission Closes	Feb. 2, 2024	Nov. 3, 2023
CONCEPT Phase Winner Awards and PROGRESS Phase Opens	March 7, 2024 (anticipated)	Dec. 1, 2023 (anticipated)
PROGRESS Phase Closes and IMPACT Phase Opens	July 5, 2024 (anticipated)	March 4, 2024 (anticipated)
PROGRESS Phase Winner Awards	July 12, 2024 (anticipated)	March 11, 2024 (anticipated)
IMPACT Phase Closes	Nov. 15, 2024 (anticipated)	May 17, 2024 (anticipated)
IMPACT Phase Winner Awards	Nov. 22, 2024 (anticipated)	May 18, 2024 (anticipated)
Final Event (in person) and GRAND PRIZE Winner Awards	Dec. 6–7, 2024 (anticipated)	May 17–18, 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

Competitors are encouraged to form multidisciplinary teams and partnerships to bring a range of perspectives to their work. The HeroX platform provides a space where parties interested in collaboration can post information about themselves and learn about others who are interested in competing in this prize.



Competitors can submit separately to each prize track but must submit distinct materials with the appropriate activities and budget for each track. If a duplication of scope is noted and the duplicates are meritorious, the Prize Administrator will work with DOE and the prize judge to make a selection between those submissions. Competitors may be selected as a winner for none, one, or multiple prize tracks. Competitors may not compete with multiple projects within a single track.

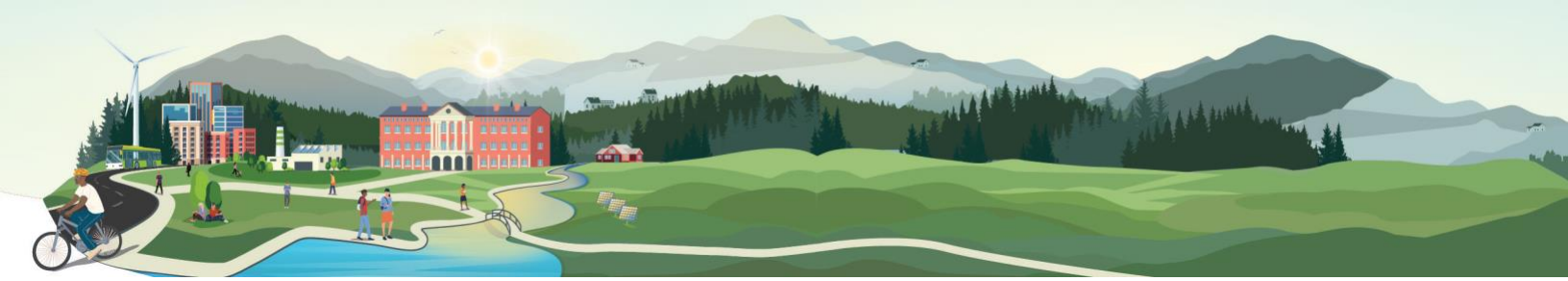
DOE reserves the right to place competitors with a manufacturing focus into the Manufacturing Ecosystem Track, and competitors without a manufacturing focus into the Clean Energy Ecosystem Track regardless of which track they apply into.

1.3.1 Eligibility Requirements

The following are the eligibility requirements for all competitors in this prize. Only submissions relevant to the prize objectives laid out in Section 2.2 of this document will be considered. The Prize Administrator has the right to refuse any submission for incompleteness or unresponsiveness to the prize objectives.

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 a 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. Both U.S. and non-U.S. institutions are welcome to apply, but non-U.S. institutions must partner with a U.S.-accredited institution to participate. In a team with students from U.S. and non-U.S. institutions, the lead institution must be a U.S. academic institution accredited by the U.S. Department of Education to be eligible for funds.
- Student teams may consist of a combination of post-secondary, undergraduate, and graduate students. Students must be pursuing a degree at the identified academic institution by the close date of the CONCEPT Phase.
- 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.



- Entities identified in Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Binding Operational Directives (BOD) as publicly banned from doing business with the U.S. government are not eligible to compete. See https://cyber.dhs.gov/directives/.
- Entities and individuals identified as restricted parties on one or more screening lists of Department of Commerce, State or the Treasury are not eligible to compete. See Consolidated Screening List.
- Individuals participating in a foreign government talent recruitment program[1] sponsored by a country of risk[2] 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.
- 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.

Competitors participating in the Manufacturing Ecosystem Track must include at least one organization connected to manufacturing. This organization 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.

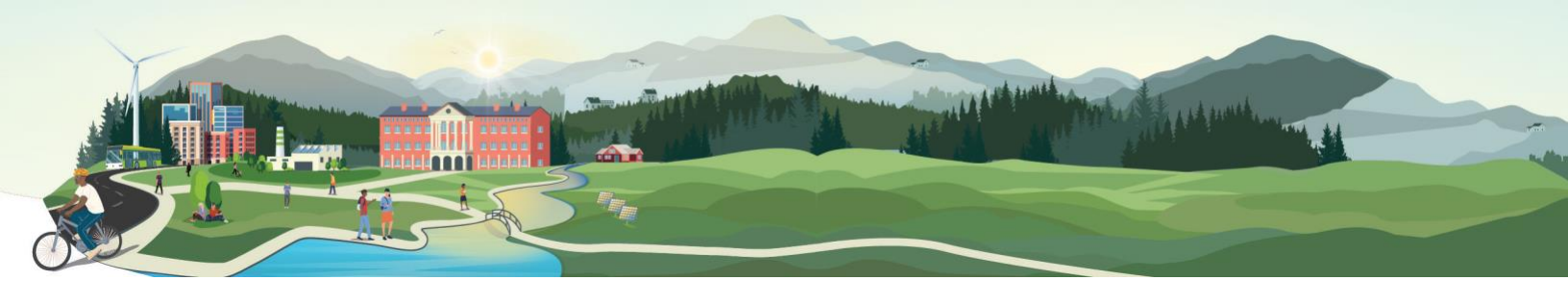
Within the Collegiate Track, the team must be made up of an academic institution, eligible students, and an entity that meets the above requirements.

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

[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.



energy technology. ED works to identify and ensure that all communities, including disadvantaged communities and energy justice communities, are afforded an opportunity to participate fully in DOE's programs, opportunities, and resources. Within 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 underrepresented communities and to address social and structural barriers for underserved groups.

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

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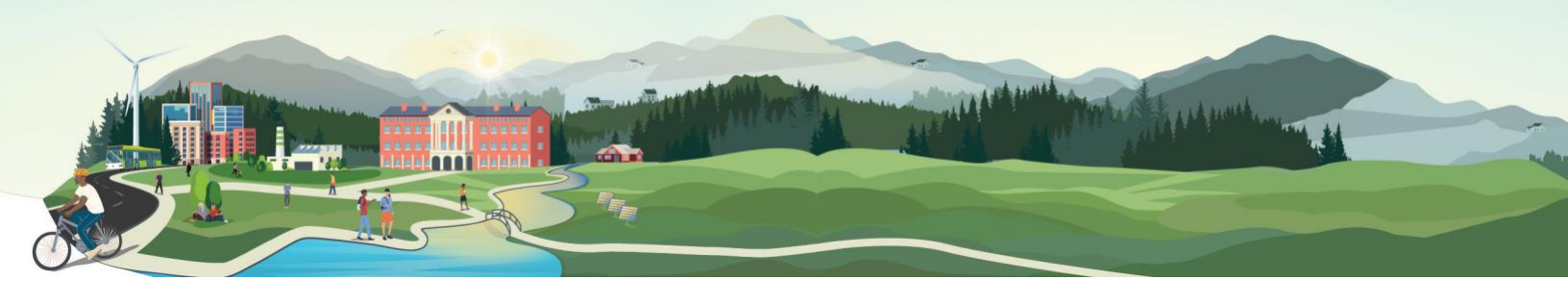
[3] "FACT SHEET: President Biden Sets 2030 Greenhouse Gas Pollution Reduction Target Aimed at Creating Good-Paying Union Jobs and Securing U.S. Leadership on Clean Energy Technologies," Washington, D.C.: The White House. https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/22/fact-sheet-president-biden-sets-2030-greenhouse-gas-pollution-reduction-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



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 ecosystem[5] 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.

AMMTO, one of EERE's technology-specific offices, supports a globally competitive U.S. manufacturing sector that accelerates the adoption of innovative materials and manufacturing technologies in advancement of a clean, decarbonized economy. Communities are central to that effort, as hosts of the nation's manufacturing, as primary beneficiaries of a clean and decarbonized energy sector, and as key stakeholders informing the office's work. As part of the Community Energy Innovation Prize, AMMTO is sponsoring the Manufacturing Ecosystems Track to support the equitable and inclusive advancement of the clean energy manufacturing innovation ecosystem within historically underserved communities.

The Manufacturing Ecosystems Track aims to support several of the objectives of the National Strategy for Advanced Manufacturing,[7] including:

1. Expand and diversify the advanced manufacturing talent pool.
2. Develop, scale, and promote advanced manufacturing education and training.
3. Strengthen connections between employers and educational organizations.
4. Enhance supply chain interconnections.
5. Expand efforts to reduce manufacturing supply chain vulnerabilities.

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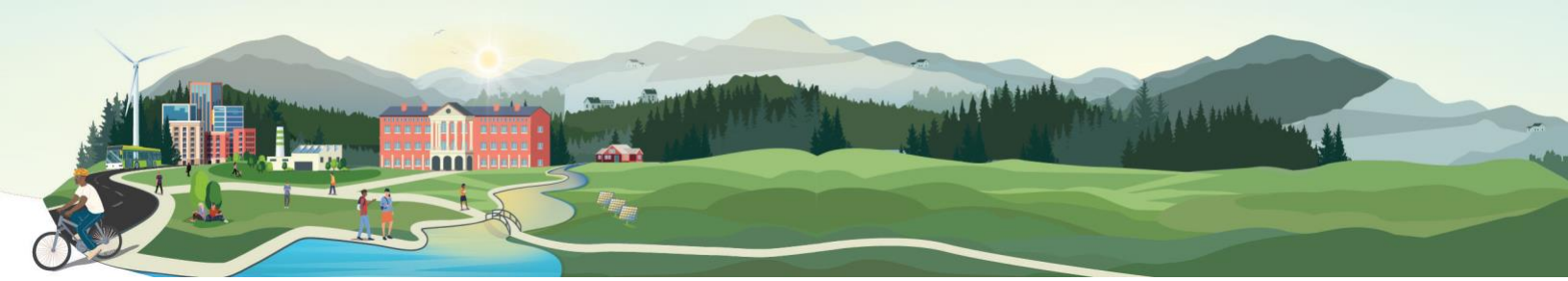
[5] The innovation ecosystem is defined as "the evolving set of actors, activities, and artifacts, and the institutions and relations, including complementary and substitute relations, that are important for the innovative performance of an actor or a population of actors" (Grandstrand, Ove and Holgersson, 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.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/National-Strategy-for-Advanced-Manufacturing-10072022.pdf



6. Strengthen and revitalize advanced domestic manufacturing ecosystems.

Successful clean energy manufacturing innovation ecosystems will coordinate stakeholders, activities, and resources to bolster regional and national clean energy capacity and manufacturing through the adoption of novel processes and materials. AMMTO seeks to support the development of clean energy manufacturing innovation ecosystems through programs that address barriers in early-stage technology development and adoption by cultivating entrepreneurial talent, increasing funding access, connecting developers and customers, and supporting industrywide decarbonization initiatives.[8]

Through the Community Energy Innovation Prize, DOE intends to serve as a "front door" to DOE clean energy funding programs and other federal funding opportunities to communities and organizations who have been historically underserved.

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 Initiative[9] directs 40% of the overall benefits of certain federal investments—including investments in clean energy and energy efficiency; clean transit; affordable and sustainable housing; training and workforce development; the remediation and reduction of legacy pollution; and the development of clean water infrastructure—to flow to disadvantaged communities.

The Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Interim Implementation Guidance[10] 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).[11] 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

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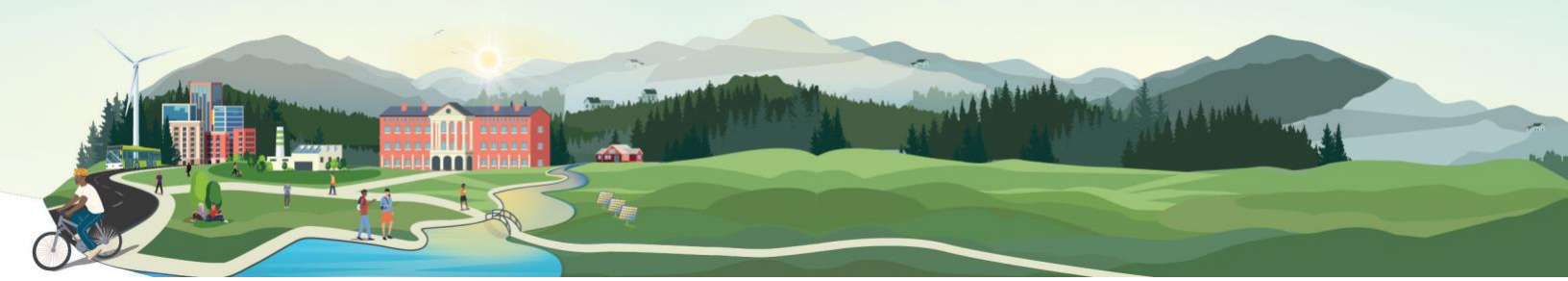
[8] See AMMTO's website for examples of additional programs: https://www.energy.gov/eere/ammto/about-advanced-materials-manufacturing-technologies-office
[9] https://www.energy.gov/diversity/justice40-initiative
[10] M-21-28 (whitehouse.gov): https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/M-21-28.pdf
[11] https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/



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

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

For the "common condition" definition of community, federally recognized tribal lands and U.S. territories are categorized as disadvantaged in accordance with 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:

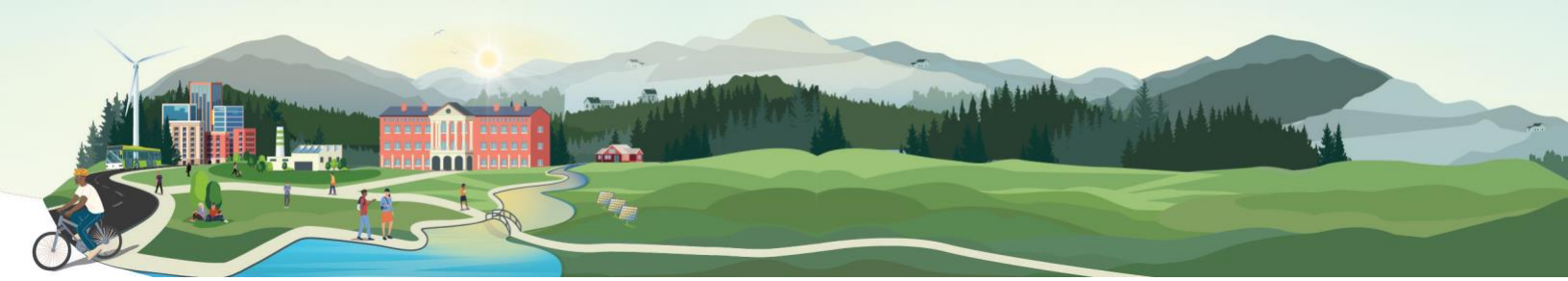
1. Decrease energy burden in disadvantaged communities.
2. Decrease environmental exposure and burdens for disadvantaged communities.
3. Increase parity in clean energy technology (e.g., solar, storage) access and adoption in disadvantaged communities.
4. Increase access to low-cost capital in disadvantaged 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.

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, 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.

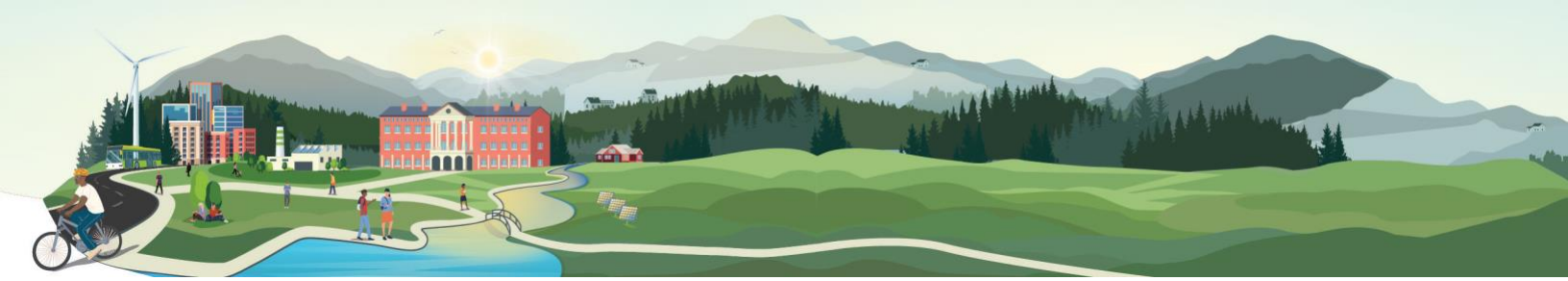
Additionally, DOE seeks to support and recognize clean energy grassroots innovation related to technology advancement from disciplines beyond science and engineering, which accelerate climate and clean energy technology development and adoption with a focused impact on disadvantaged communities. This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

For competitors in the Clean Energy Ecosystem and Manufacturing Ecosystem Tracks, it is expected that cash awards from the CONCEPT, PROGRESS, and IMPACT phases will enable the winning competitors to fund their proposed plans, which may include activities such as initiating new programming, hiring for approximately one full-time-equivalent staff member, engaging with disadvantaged communities in their regions, building relationships through workshops and other events, forming partnerships, purchasing equipment for clean energy deployments, providing technical support, facilitating connections with technical expertise and academic institutions, and travel to in-person prize-related events. These are examples of potential activities, and competitors are encouraged to think creatively about specific activities that play to their strengths and serve their communities.

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. Some examples of successful projects in the Community Energy Innovation Prize are:

- A clean energy workforce training program that serves as an on-ramp for professionals looking to enter or transition into the clean energy workforce and provided an upskilling opportunity for existing workers.
- Accelerated microgrid deployment in rural and low-resourced communities, by empowering communities to take control of a clean energy future by installing rooftop solar and storage systems in businesses and community service centers.
- Empowering the future energy workforce by engaging and retaining students from underserved communities in a clean energy curriculum, including entrepreneurship and industry-accepted standards that prepare students to join the next generation of clean energy leaders and thinkers.
- Working with local businesses to install solar panels and batteries and create a resilient network, creating neighborhood food sites, cooling centers, and cell phone charging hubs and empowering local businesses to become first-first responders.
- Using traditional principles of land stewardship for Native communities to create and identify technical assistance resources for renewable energy technologies and pilot a solar array at a community center.
- Developing and building a culturally specific, non-extractive acceleration support ecosystem for climate innovators from underserved communities and accelerating start-up development and incubation, facilities for hands-on workforce training, and incubator and maker spaces.

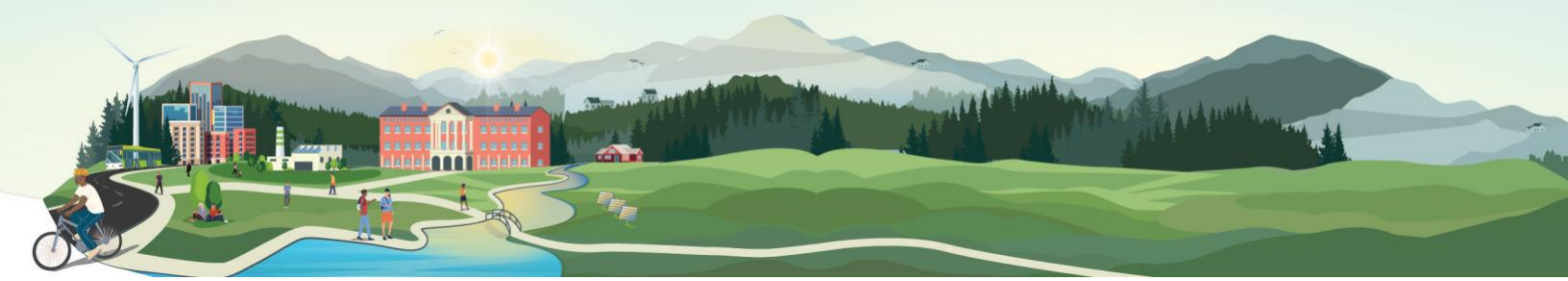
Competitors in the Clean Energy Ecosystem Track of the Community Energy Innovation Prize are by no means limited to the types of projects listed above. These examples are illustrative of the breadth of activities carried out by successful competitors and may spur new ideas in competing teams in this prize.

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.

Competitors in the Manufacturing Ecosystem Track will be expected to participate in a series of peer learning activities alongside other competitors in this track. Once the CONCEPT award winners are selected, curriculum and programming will be tailored to their specific needs. Additionally, these events will serve to connect competitors to share challenges and successes. To be eligible for the grand prizes in



the Manufacturing Ecosystem Track, competitors must develop resources for public dissemination. These resources can include lessons learned, best practices, planning guides, or other resources that serve to share knowledge with non-participating communities.

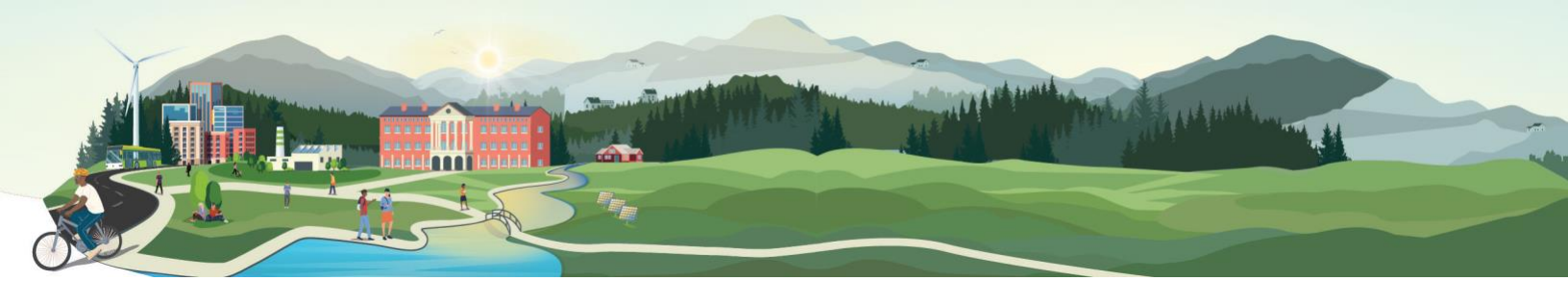
Hypothetical examples of successful projects include but are not limited to:

- Local technology incubator engages and partners with regional academic institutions and a nearby industry cluster to host a series of workshops to identify academic and research needs of participating entities and to establish a course or training series to collectively meeting those needs (e.g., life cycle assessment courses to support the circular economy or trainings in supply chain management and digitization).
- An academic institute/organization develops a curriculum related to business development in clean energy manufacturing and/or other technical careers in clean energy manufacturing.
- A community-based organization engages and partners with a manufacturing entity to recruit and train individuals from disadvantaged communities for high-paying jobs and careers in advanced and clean energy manufacturing.
- Regional community colleges and high schools partner with industry innovation centers, graduate schools, and manufacturers to establish new advanced manufacturing training and education programs. This may also involve acquiring equipment to train students in advanced manufacturing technologies and processes (e.g., 3D printer to demonstrate and teach additive manufacturing concepts; other equipment to demonstrate smart manufacturing techniques).
- A multidisciplinary team comes together to identify efforts needed to transform the currently underserved community into a community that is welcoming to growth, innovation, and economic prosperity and begins to implement solutions to those needs.
- Local business incubator coordinates with regional clean energy manufacturers to explore recent supply chain vulnerabilities and then works with innovators and entrepreneurs to develop business plans for local production that increase the robustness of the regional clean energy supply chain.
- Regional manufacturers engage with other local entities to develop remanufacturing, reuse, and recycling opportunities for material byproducts.

2.3.3 Collegiate Track

With the Collegiate Track, DOE aims to inspire and support the next generation of climate leaders to make an impact in their communities and support community-based clean energy transition programs. Students from MSIs, including historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs), Hispanic serving institutions (HSIs), Tribal colleges and universities (TCUs), universities located in rural and/or disadvantaged communities, community colleges, and colleges and universities that have been historically underrepresented in DOE funding and partnerships are especially encouraged to apply.

The competition will challenge students to work alongside a community partner on a project related to the clean energy transition and create measurable impact. DOE aims to support skills development and prepare students to do this work through collaboration with industry professionals in a real-world setting. Community partners will receive support in the form of direct cash prizes, capacity-building from student teams, and the prize's in-kind mentorship services, as noted in Section 2.4.



It is at the discretion of each university team to determine the number of participants that would enable the project to be successful. Diverse, interdisciplinary teams are highly encouraged, and teams are advised to include a well-rounded team. Some suggested areas of study and/or specializations could include but are not limited to engineering, business, marketing, communications, policy, and social sciences.

Some successful projects may include but are not limited to:

- Capacity Building
  - Work to meet identified community needs related to the clean energy transition.
  - Provide consultation services for community members/organizations to assist in the clean energy transition.
  - Create a business plan to help local businesses expand their clean energy/energy efficiency deployment capabilities.
- Project Creation and Implementation
  - Identify and implement sustainable clean energy project or initiative in partnership with community members, local government, local organizations, etc.
- Educational Material and Resource Development
  - Identify the most critical educational needs and develop and distribute materials to engage community members in the clean energy transition, K–12 students, or other identified audiences that would benefit.
- Energy Efficiency Assessments
  - Evaluate energy efficiency of homes, business, and/or facilities.
  - Compile recommendations for weatherization, retrofitting, and the use of clean energy equipment/technologies to support efficiency.

2.4 Competitor Support Mechanisms

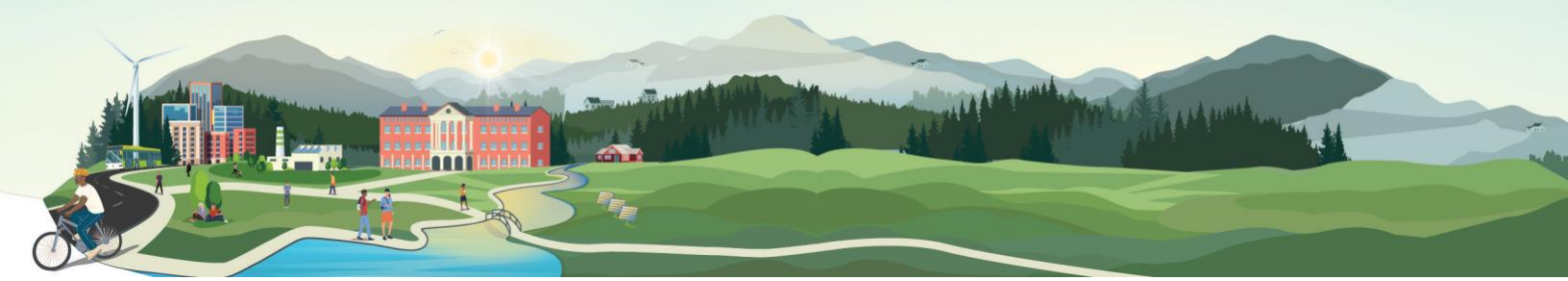
To better enable competitors to be successful, the Community Energy Innovation Prize Administrator is providing access to a network of supporters for competitors. The following mechanisms have been formalized for competitors to ensure they are able to develop a high-quality submission or support the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

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

2.4.1 Power Connectors

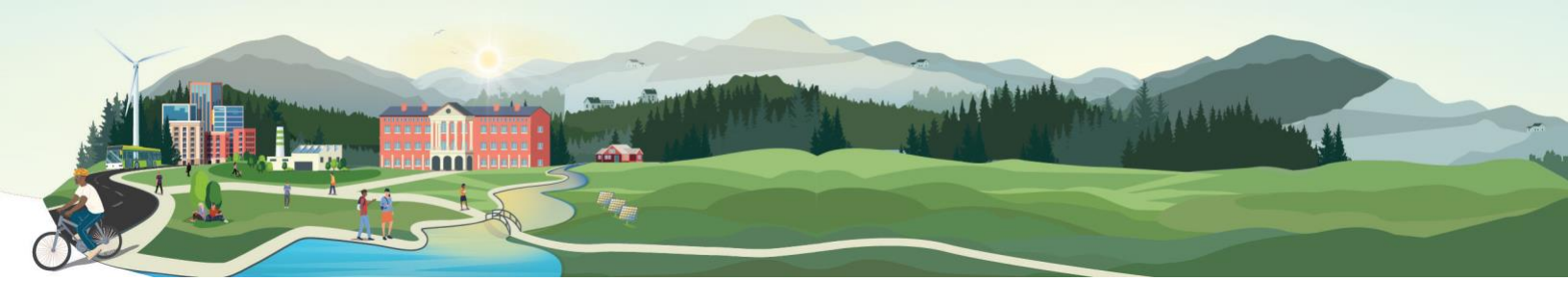
Power Connectors support all competitors participating in the prize. The Power Connectors will provide equal, direct support including webinars, training, and networking sessions for the benefit of all competitors. Potential areas for support and training opportunities are identified in the following 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, competitors may be asked for their input on the types of support that will be the most relevant to them. The support provided during the prize will be shaped around needs of the competitors.



Support Tasks	Detailed Execution
Outreach & Engagement	• Identify and reach out to potential applicants for the CONCEPT Phase of the prize. The focus of this outreach will be in ensuring the pipeline of potential applicants grows beyond DOE and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's (NREL) existing networks. • Improve the diversity of competitors developing submissions in the CONCEPT Phase of the prize.
Office Hours	• Provide feedback to competitors as they develop submissions in the CONCEPT Phase. 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 direct red-lining of drafts.
Regional Support	• 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	• 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 manufacturing, 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	• Host quarterly peer-to-peer workshops where CONCEPT Phase winners and other organizations focused on creating an inclusive energy ecosystem can discuss challenges and make connections with potential partners. • Host a public showcase and networking event featuring the CONCEPT Phase winners, their projects, and any partnership opportunities.

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



3 Clean Energy Ecosystem Track Submission Requirements

3.1 Prizes

Prize Pool	$4.86 million cash prize pool
CONCEPT Phase Prizes	Up to 16 cash prizes of $100,000 each and in-kind mentorship services
PROGRESS Phase Prizes	Up to 16 cash prizes of $100,000 each and in-kind mentorship services
IMPACT Phase Prizes	Up to 16 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

Some trainings and events may take place in person. Should competitors elect to attend the in-person final event, they are expected to leverage the funds provided in the IMPACT Phase.

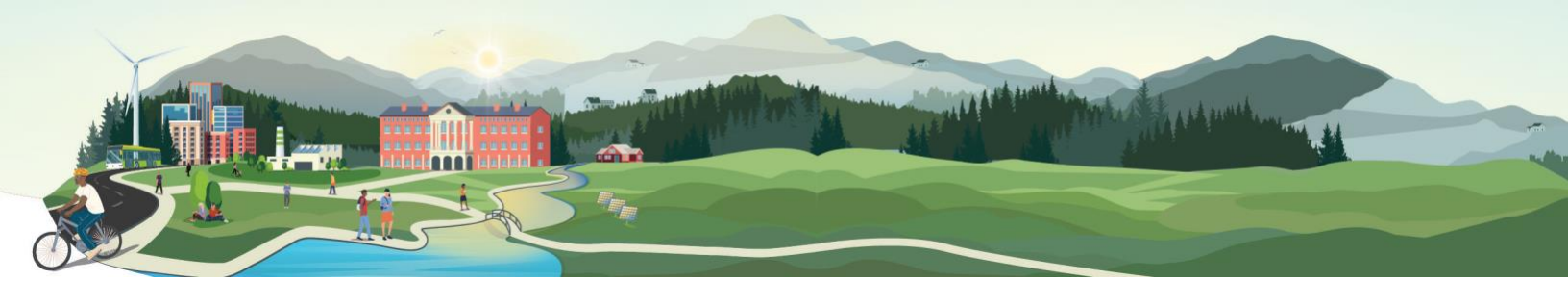
3.2 How to Enter

Go to HeroX and follow the instructions for registering and submitting all required materials before the deadline in Section 3.3 or as displayed on the HeroX website.

Competitors can also form teams or find partners through the HeroX platform. 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.

3.3 Important Dates

	Clean Energy Ecosystem Track
CONCEPT Phase Submission Opens	Aug. 29, 2023
CONCEPT Phase Submission Closes	Feb. 2, 2024



CONCEPT Phase Winner Awards and PROGRESS Phase Opens	March 7, 2024 (anticipated)
In-Person Event (All CONCEPT Winners Invited)	May 17–18, 2024 (anticipated)
PROGRESS Phase Closes and IMPACT Phase Opens	July 5, 2024 (anticipated)
PROGRESS Phase Winner Awards	July 12, 2024 (anticipated)
IMPACT Phase Closes	Nov. 15, 2024 (anticipated)
IMPACT Phase Winner Awards	Nov. 22, 2024 (anticipated)
Final Event (in-person) and GRAND PRIZE Awards	Dec. 6–7, 2024 (anticipated)

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

3.4 What to Submit

The items in the following table constitute the submissions package for the Community Energy Innovation Prize and must be submitted through the HeroX platform. Each is described in more detail below the table. Competitors may provide multiple submission packages for review; however, each submission must be materially different in the content and topic to be considered. If multiple submissions from the same competitor are too similar, only the last submission received will be scored and considered for prizes.

The following items are required for each submission:

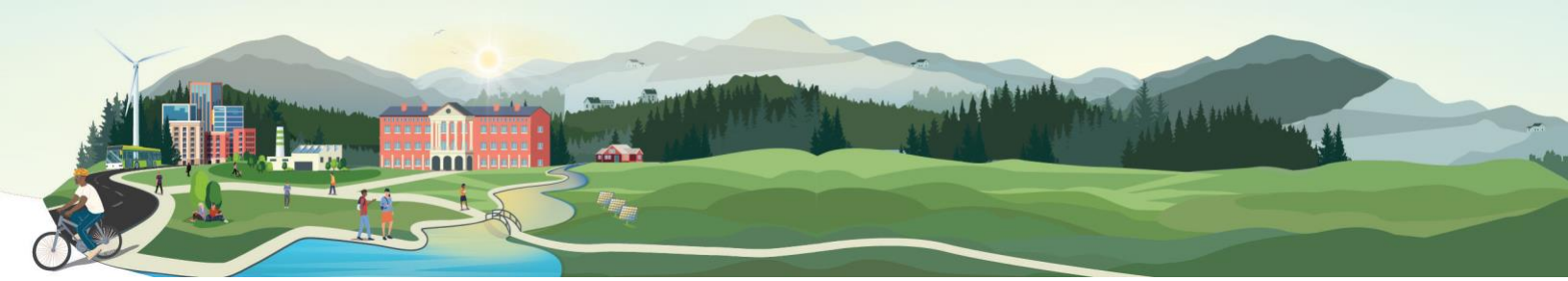
Item	Will Be Made Public[12]	Scored Item
Cover Page	Yes	No
Summary Slide	Yes	No
3-Minute Video Pitch	Yes	Yes
Impact Plan	No	Yes

3.4.1 Unscored, Public-Facing Submission Materials

Cover Page Content

The Cover Page, included in the final submission, will be made public. Competitors should list basic information about the submission, including:

[12] Competitors who do not want the impact plan or other documents to be made public will need to mark them according to the instructions in Appendix 1 (Section A.10).



- Title.
- Team name.
- Short description.
- Link to 3-minute online video pitch.
- Key project members and/or partnering organizations (names, contacts, and links to their professional online profiles).
- Location of community to benefit from the clean energy project (name of city, town, or unincorporated area).
- Competitor's city and state. This may or may not be different than the community to benefit from the clean energy project.
- Goals of the prize the proposed project aims to achieve.
- Prize track that the competitor intends to compete in, i.e., Clean Energy Ecosystem Track or Manufacturing Ecosystem Track.

Submission Summary Slide

Competitors must make a public-facing, one-slide submission summary that introduces their team and/or organization and their mission. There is no template, so competitors are free to present the information in any format. Any text must be readable in a standard printed page and a conference room projection and should be in at least 14-pt font.

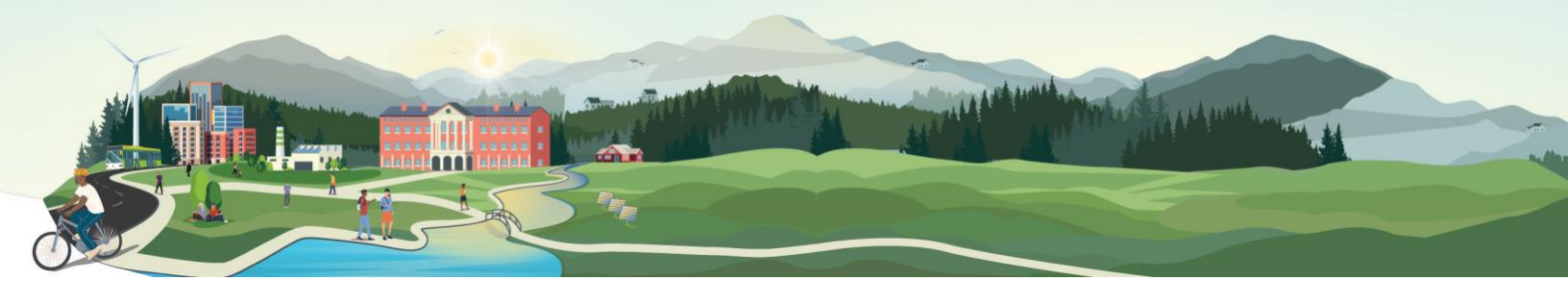
3.4.2 Scored Submission Items

The scored items in the CONCEPT Phase submission package include a 3-minute video pitch and an Impact Plan. 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 here:

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

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

Scored Submission Items	Number of Scored Statements	Total Possible Points
3-Minute Video	3	15
Impact Plan		
Criterion 1: Team and Experience Engaging and Supporting Disadvantaged Communities	5	25
Criterion 2: Proposed Activities and Goals Aligned to the Prize Award	6	30



Criterion 3: Resources and Capabilities to Implement Proposed Activities	4	20
TOTAL	**18**	**90**

3-Minute Video Pitch

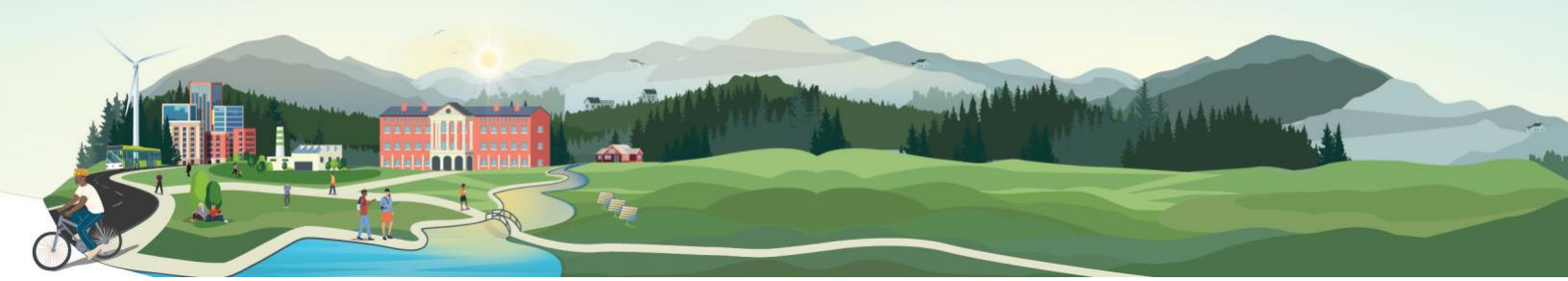
Competitors must produce a 3-minute video that will help the reviewers and public understand the competitor, any partnering organizations, and the planned activities. Suggested content for the video is noted in the left-hand side of the following table. The right-hand side of the table includes the scored 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.

Competitors are encouraged to be creative and convey information in a fun and engaging way. Reviewers will focus on the content, not the quality, of the video production. Competitors should upload the video online to a publicly accessible platform (e.g., YouTube, Vimeo).

Scoring Criteria: 3-Minute Video Pitch	
Suggested Content Competitor Provides	**Each Statement Scored on a 0–5 Scale**
• An introduction to the team and any partnering organizations and relevant experience, qualifications, and capabilities that the competitor will use to complete the proposed project. • An introduction to the disadvantaged community the competitor intends to work with, and the community needs that the proposed project intends to effectively address. • A high-level description of the proposed project and anticipated impact within the disadvantaged community or communities, should the project be selected.	• The team and any partnering organizations possess relevant experience, qualifications, and capabilities to complete the proposed project. • The competitor has demonstrated an understanding of the disadvantaged community they intend to work with and how the proposed project will be effective in addressing the community's needs. • The proposed project is valuable, impactful, and will advance clean energy innovation in a disadvantaged community.

Impact Plan

Competitors must write a detailed Impact Plan in a narrative format describing their team/organization, planned activities, resources and capabilities, and anticipated impacts. A template will be made available on the HeroX platform to use in drafting the Impact Plan.



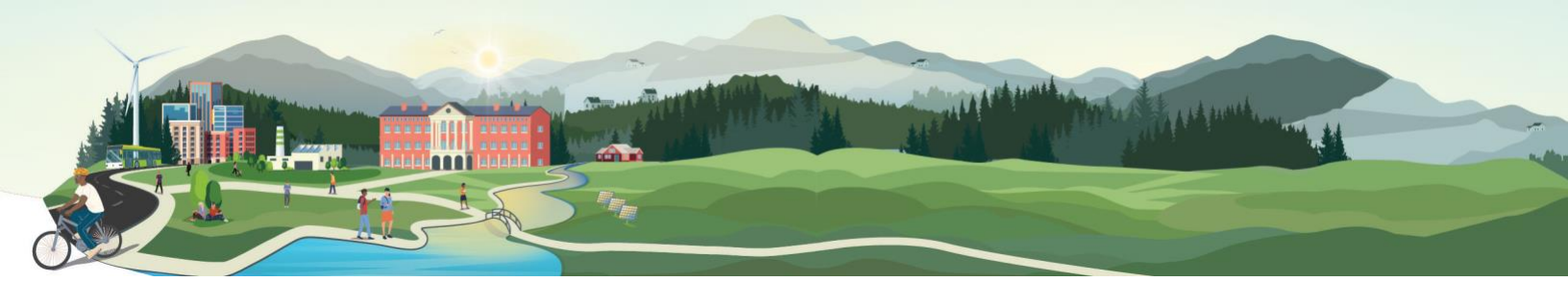
The total length of the Impact Plan cannot exceed **5,000** words. Competitors may include up to **five** supporting visualizations or graphics. The Impact Plan must be submitted as a PDF via the HeroX platform along with the other submission documents. Information contained in hyperlinks to external sources will not be reviewed or considered by the reviewers or the judge.

The Impact Plan should describe the work competitors will do during the PROGRESS and IMPACT Phases that addresses the prize goals. All competitors selected in the CONCEPT Phase to receive the first set of $100,000 cash prizes will be eligible to win the additional $100,000 cash prize at the end of the PROGRESS Phase and an additional $10,000 at the end of the IMPACT Phase. To win $100,000 in the PROGRESS Phase and $10,000 in the IMPACT Phase, competitors will need to show how they have made progress toward prize goals as described in the initial Impact Plan.

The initial Impact Plan should describe the competitor's plans throughout the duration of the prize until the end of the IMPACT Phase and metrics to measure progress toward and success in achieving one or more prize goals. Example metrics can include but are not limited to: jobs/internships created, clean energy programs/curriculum created, number of constituents (students, entrepreneurs, workers, etc.) supported through programming, partnerships formed (letters of commitment, memoranda of understanding, contracts, funding agreements, etc.), stakeholders engaged via a project activity, workshops/training conducted, number of clean energy deployments, energy benefits (e.g., cost savings), external follow-on funding secured, etc. IMPACT Phase award winners will be eligible to compete for a GRAND PRIZE cash pool of up to $1,500,000 to be divided among the winners.

The following tables describe the content that the competitor should provide to successfully address each criterion. The right-hand column contains the scored statements that the reviewers will be using for each of the criteria. Individual reviewers will assign a score between 0 and 5 for each scored statement after reviewing the project submission. The left-hand column includes suggested content that addresses each criterion. The suggested content provided is not mandatory, and competitors will not be judged against it. Rather, these are examples of details to include to help guide responses to better address each scored statement; competitors are welcome to use other information as they see fit.

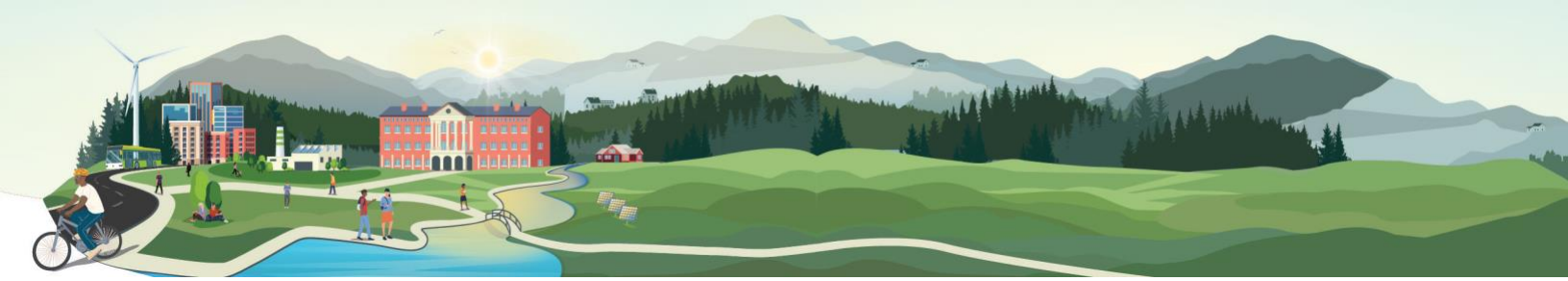
Impact Plan Criterion 1: Team and Experience Engaging and Supporting Disadvantaged Communities	
Suggested Content Competitor Provides	**Each Statement Scored on a 0–5 Scale**
• An identification of the primary team and partnering organizations and the project roles and responsibilities. • A description of the experience/expertise of the team in working with disadvantaged communities and promoting clean energy development and in addressing climate change and/or energy justice issues. • A description of the successes and/or lessons learned of previous efforts engaging	• The primary team members and partnering organizations have clearly identified project roles and responsibilities. • The team has adequate experience/expertise working with disadvantaged communities and promoting clean energy development and in addressing climate change and/or energy justice issues. • The team has demonstrated success and/or described lessons learned of previous



and working with disadvantaged communities. • A description of the community of interest for this prize, and the team's connection to the community. • A description of the community's clean energy needs.	efforts engaging and working with disadvantaged communities. • The team has identified and has connections to the community they intend to work with as a part of this prize. • The team demonstrates an understanding of the community's clean energy needs.

Impact Plan Criterion 2: Proposed Activities and Goals Aligned to the Prize Award	
Suggested Content Competitor Provides	**Each Statement Scored on a 0–5 Scale**
• A description of how the proposed activities work toward achieving at least one of the prize goals, stated in Section 2.2.2 of this document. • A description of planned activities, metrics to measure, and milestones to complete as specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART) goals. • A description of credible mechanisms to evaluate the competitor's progress of activities through the prize. • An engagement and outreach plan the competitor will use to build trust and strengthen relationships and partnerships with community members and other relevant stakeholders. • A description of how the proposed project enables a just and equitable transition to a clean energy economy in the relevant community and region.	• The competitor's proposed activities aim to address at least one of the prize goals. (0 or 5). • The competitor has clearly defined SMART goals that include planned activities, metrics to measure, and milestones to completion. • The competitor has clearly defined tracking mechanisms[13] to evaluate the success of their proposed activities. • The competitor has described an engagement and outreach plan that builds trust and strengthens relationships and partnerships with community members and other relevant stakeholders. • The competitor has described how the proposed project enables a just and equitable transition to a clean energy economy in the relevant community and region. • The proposed activities and strategies to complete these activities has a high likelihood for success (0 or 5).

[13] Examples of tracking mechanisms may include but are not limited to data collection and pre- and post-program surveys.



Impact Plan Criterion 3: Resources and Capabilities to Implement Proposed Activities	
Suggested Content Competitor Provides	**Each Statement Scored on a 0–5 Scale**
• A budget for the proposed activities that indicates how the prize funds will be allocated. • A description of staff resources that will be available to the competitor to achieve the proposed plan, including but not limited to staff experienced in promoting environmental justice, diversity, equity, inclusion, entrepreneurship, and other activities. • A description of additional staff, partners, resources, and capabilities the competitor seeks to add to carry out their proposed plan and strategies for obtaining.	• The description of proposed activities and associated budget are of adequate detail and indicates how prize funds will be allocated. • The activities proposed are achievable within the proposed budget (0 or 5). • The staff resources that will be available to the competitor are adequate for achieving the proposed plan. • The competitor has demonstrated that they will have access to, or can obtain, the necessary staff, partners, resources, and capabilities to achieve their proposed plan.

3.5 Peer Learning and Shared Resources

Competitors selected to participate in the PROGRESS and IMPACT Phases will be able to participate in regular meetings with the prize team and other events intended to offer technical assistance and support to the competitors, as described in Section 2.4 of this document. The curriculum and programming of these events will be tailored to the competitors' specific needs. Active participation in these events will be scored criteria for PROGRESS and IMPACT Phase prizes. These events will serve to connect competitors to share challenges and successes.

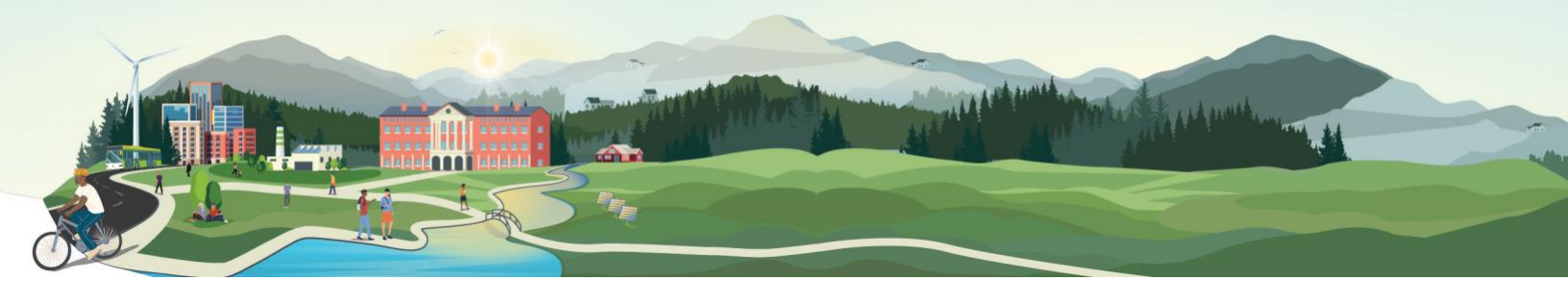
Additionally, to be eligible for the grand prizes, competitors must develop resources for public dissemination. These resources can include but are not limited to lessons learned, best practices, planning guides, or other resources that serve to share knowledge with non-participating communities.

3.6 How We Determine and Award Winners

The Prize Administrator screens all completed submissions and ensures that the competitors 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 competitor's submitted video pitches and Impact Plans according to the evaluation criteria described in Section 3.4.2.

3.6.1 Reviewer Panel Scoring

The scoring of submissions will proceed as follows:



- Reviewers will review each submission (video pitch and Impact Plan) individually and assess the response from the competitor to each statement in the criteria described in the tables in Section 3.4.2.
- 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 90 points as described in Section 3.4.2.
- The total scores from each reviewer will be averaged to produce a final score for the competing team/organization. This score will inform the judge's decisions on prize awards.

3.6.2 Interviews

DOE may decide to interview a subset of competitors. 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 competitor's likelihood to win.

3.6.3 Final Determination

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

3.6.4 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.

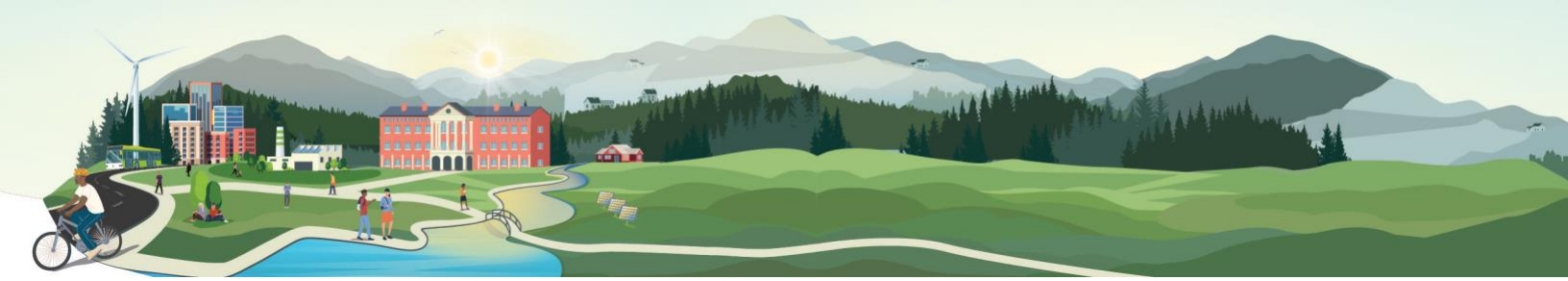
3.7 Additional Terms and Conditions

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

4.1 Prizes

Prize Pool	$2.18 million cash prize pool
CONCEPT Phase Prizes	Up to 8 cash prizes of $100,000 each and in-kind mentorship services



PROGRESS Phase Prizes	Up to 8 cash prizes of $100,000 each and in-kind mentorship services
IMPACT Phase Prizes	Up to 8 cash prizes of $10,000 each
GRAND PRIZE	Total cash prize pool of up to $500,000 to be distributed among GRAND PRIZE winners

Some trainings and events may take place in person. Should competitors elect to attend the final event, they are expected to leverage the funds provided in the IMPACT Phase.

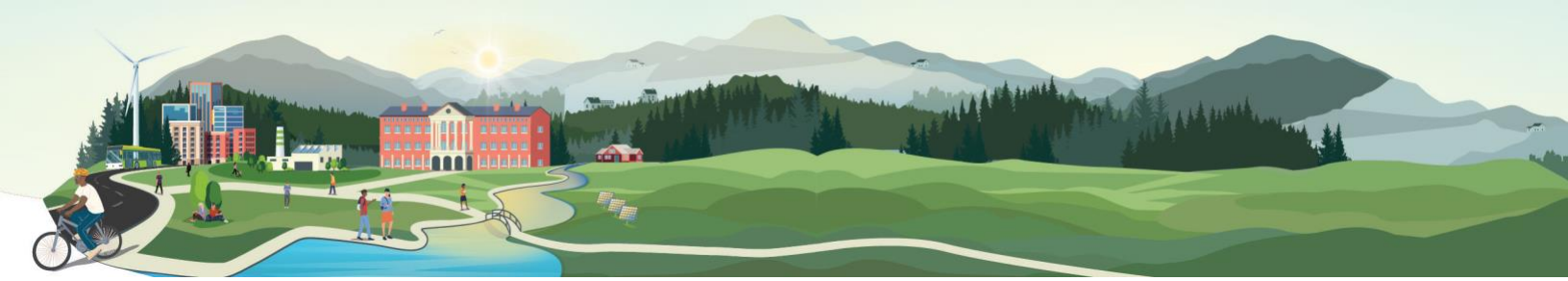
4.2 How to Enter

Go to HeroX and follow the instructions for registering and submitting all required materials before the deadline in Section 4.3 or as displayed on the HeroX website.

Competitors can also form teams or find partners through the HeroX platform. 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.

4.3 Important Dates

	Date
CONCEPT Phase Submission Opens	Aug. 29, 2023
CONCEPT Phase Submission Closes	Feb. 2, 2024
CONCEPT Phase Winner Awards and PROGRESS Phase Opens	March 7, 2024 (anticipated)
In-Person Event (All CONCEPT Winners Invited)	May 17–18, 2024 (anticipated)
PROGRESS Phase Closes and IMPACT Phase Opens	July 5, 2024 (anticipated)
PROGRESS Phase Winner Awards	July 12, 2024 (anticipated)
IMPACT Phase Closes	Nov. 15, 2024 (anticipated)
IMPACT Phase Winner Awards	Nov. 22, 2024 (anticipated)



Final Event (in-person) and GRAND PRIZE Awards	Dec. 6–7, 2024

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

4.4 What to Submit

The following items constitute the submissions package for the Community Energy Innovation Prize and must be submitted through the HeroX platform. Each is described in more detail below. Competitors may provide multiple submission packages for review; however, each submission must be materially different in the content and topic to be considered. If multiple submissions from the same competitor are too similar, only the last submission received will be scored and considered for prizes.

The following items are required for each submission:

Item	Will Be Made Public[14]	Scored Item
Cover Page	Yes	No
Summary Slide	Yes	No
3-Minute Video Pitch	Yes	Yes
Impact Plan	No	Yes

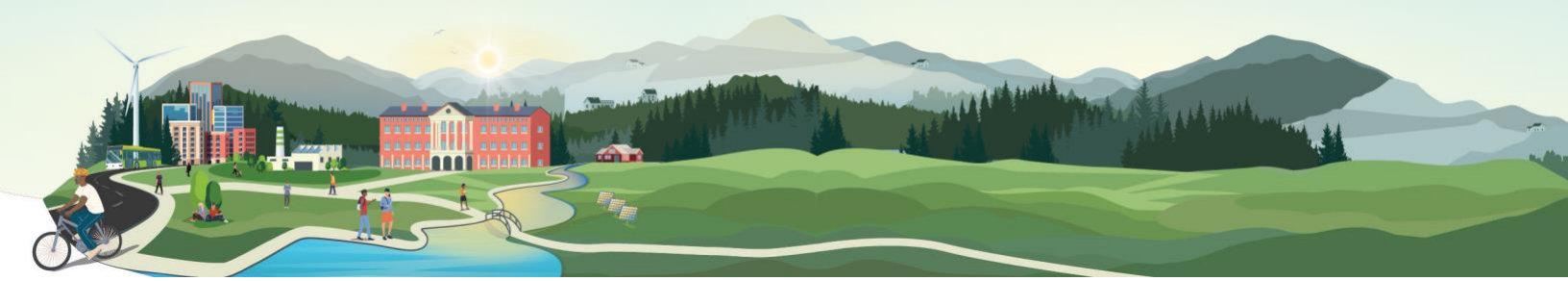
4.4.1 Unscored, Public-Facing Submission Materials

Cover Page Content

The Cover Page, included in the final submission, will be made public. Competitors should list basic information about their submission, including:

- Title.
- Team name.
- Short description.
- Link to 3-minute online video pitch.
- Key project members and/or partnering organizations (names, contacts, and links to their professional online profiles).
- Location of community to benefit from the clean energy project (name of city, town, or unincorporated area).
- Competitor's city and state. This may or may not be different than the community to benefit from the clean energy project.
- Goals of the prize the proposed project aims to achieve.

[14] Competitors who do not want the Impact Plan or other documents to be made public will need to mark them according to the instructions in Appendix 1 (Section A.10).



- Prize track that the competitor intends to compete in, i.e., Clean Energy Ecosystem Track or Manufacturing Ecosystem Track.

Submission Summary Slide

Competitors must make a public-facing, one-slide submission summary that introduces their team and/or organization and their mission. There is no template, so competitors are free to present the information in any format. Any text must be readable in a standard printed page and a conference room projection and should be in at least 14-pt font.

4.4.2 Scored Submission Items

The scored items in the CONCEPT Phase submission package include a 3-minute video pitch, and an Impact Plan. 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 here:

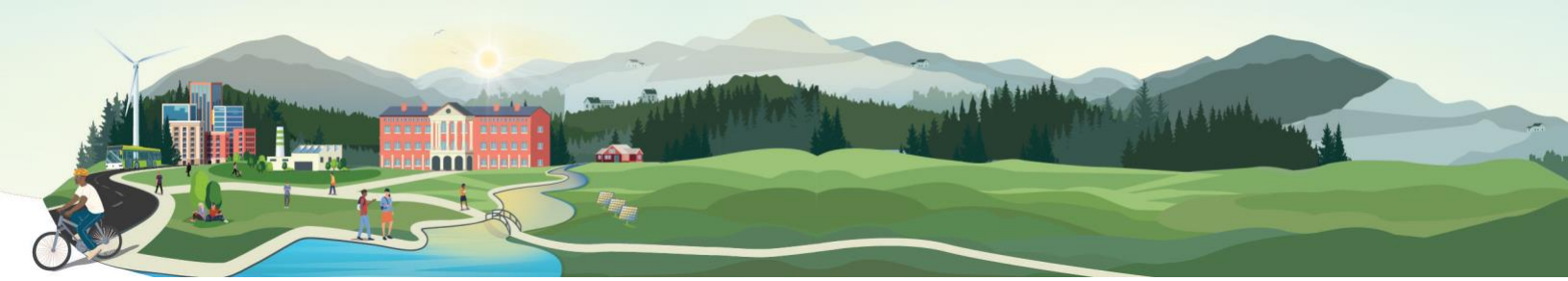
0	1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Disagree/ Does Not Address	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree/Fully Addresses

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

Scored Submission Items	Number of Scored Statements	Total Possible Points
3-Minute Video	3	15
Impact Plan		
Criterion 1: Team and Experience Engaging and Supporting Disadvantaged Communities and in Clean Energy Manufacturing	6	30
Criterion 2: Proposed Activities and Goals Aligned to the Prize Award	7	35
Criterion 3: Resources and Capabilities to Implement Proposed Activities	4	20
TOTAL	**20**	**100**

3-Minute Video Pitch

Competitors must produce a 3-minute video that will help the reviewers and public understand the competitor, any partnering organizations, and the planned activities. Suggested content for the video 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.

Competitors are encouraged to be creative and convey information in a fun and engaging way. Reviewers will focus on the content of the video production, not the quality (e.g., technical elements such as décor, lighting, and cinematic techniques). Competitors should upload the video online to a publicly accessible platform (e.g., YouTube, Vimeo).

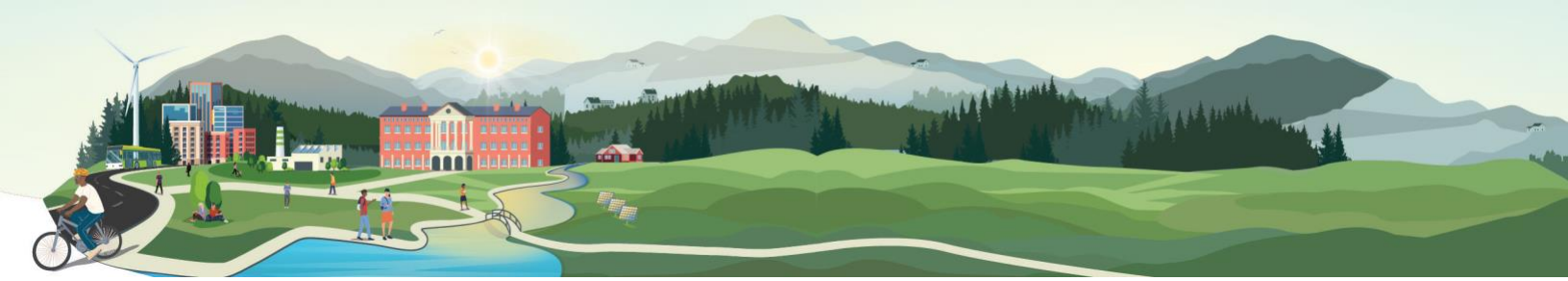
Scoring Criteria: 3-Minute Video Pitch	
Suggested Content Competitor Provides	**Each Statement Scored on a 0–5 Scale**
• An introduction to the team and any partnering organizations and relevant experience, qualifications, and capabilities that the competitor will use to complete the proposed project. • An introduction to the disadvantaged community the competitor intends to work with, and the community needs that the proposed project intends to effectively address. • A high-level description of the proposed project and anticipated impact within the disadvantaged community or communities, should the project be selected.	• The team and any partnering organizations possess relevant experience, qualifications, and capabilities to complete the proposed project. • The competitor has demonstrated an understanding of the disadvantaged community they intend to work with and how the proposed project will be effective in addressing the community's needs. • The proposed project is valuable, impactful, and will advance clean energy innovation in a disadvantaged community.

Impact Plan

Competitors must write a detailed Impact Plan in a narrative format describing their team/organization, planned activities, resources and capabilities, and anticipated impacts. A template will be made available on the HeroX platform to use in drafting the Impact Plan.

The total length of the Impact Plan cannot exceed **5,000** words. Competitors may include up to **five** supporting visualizations or graphics. The Impact Plan must be submitted as a PDF via the HeroX platform along with the other submission documents. Information contained in hyperlinks to external sources will not be reviewed or considered by the reviewers or the judge.

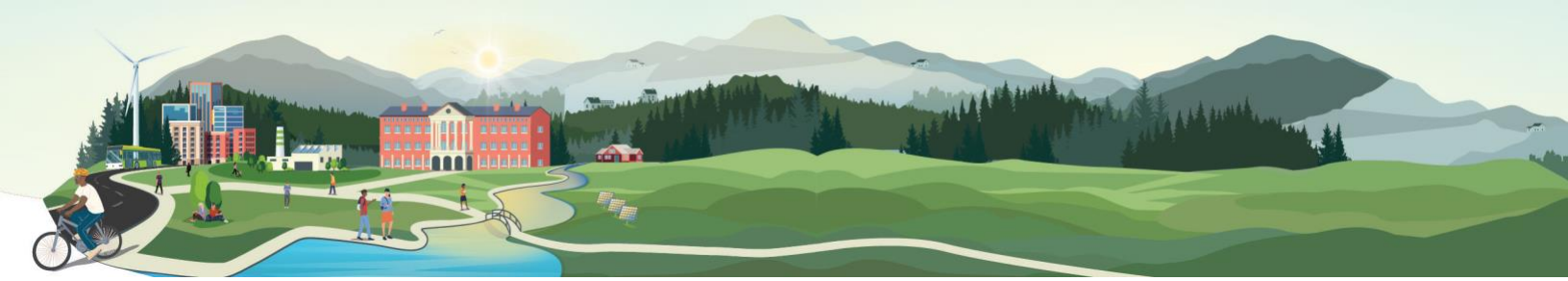
The Impact Plan should describe the work competitors will do during the PROGRESS and IMPACT Phases that addresses the prize goals. All competitors selected in the CONCEPT Phase will receive the first set of $100,000 cash prizes and will be eligible to win the additional $100,000 cash prize at the end of the PROGRESS Phase and an additional $10,000 at the end of the IMPACT Phase. To win $100,000 in the PROGRESS Phase and $10,000 in the IMPACT Phase, competitors will need to show how they have made progress toward prize goals as described in the initial Impact Plan.



The initial Impact Plan should describe the competitor's plans throughout the duration of the prize until the end of the IMPACT Phase and metrics to measure progress toward and success in achieving one or more prize goals. Example metrics can include but are not limited to jobs/internships created, clean energy programs/curriculum created, number of constituents (students, entrepreneurs, workers, etc.) supported through programming, partnerships formed (letters of commitment, memoranda of understanding, contracts, funding agreements, etc.), stakeholders engaged via a project activity, workshops/training conducted, number of clean energy deployments, energy benefits (e.g., cost savings), external follow-on funding secured, etc. IMPACT Phase award winners will be eligible to compete for a GRAND PRIZE cash pool of up to $500,000 to be divided among the winners.

The following tables describe the content that the competitor should provide to successfully address each criterion. The right-hand column contains the scored statements that the reviewers will be using for each of the criteria. Individual reviewers will assign a score between 0 and 5 for each scored statement after reviewing the project submission. The left-hand column includes suggested content that addresses each criterion. The suggested content provided is not mandatory, and competitors will not be judged against it. Rather, these are examples of details to include to help guide responses to better address each scored statement; competitors are welcome to use other information as they see fit.

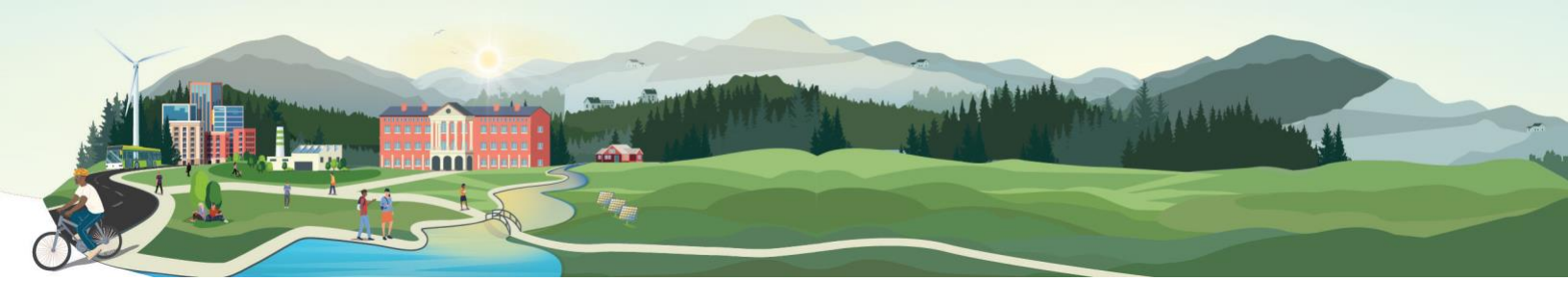
Impact Plan Criterion 1: Team and Experience Engaging and Supporting Disadvantaged Communities and in Clean Energy Manufacturing	
Suggested Content Competitor Provides	**Each Statement Scored on a 0–5 Scale**
• An identification of primary team and partnering organizations and the project roles and responsibilities, including team members with expertise/experience related to clean energy manufacturing. • A description of the experience/expertise of the team in working with disadvantaged communities, promoting clean energy manufacturing, and addressing climate change and/or energy justice issues. • A description of the organization connected to manufacturing as part of the competing team. This organization can be a local manufacturer, a manufacturing-specific trade group, association, union, or another entity that can reasonably represent the interests of the manufacturing sector. • A description of the successes and/or lessons learned of previous efforts engaging and working with disadvantaged communities.	• The primary team members and partnering organizations have clearly identified project roles and responsibilities and those with clean energy manufacturing related expertise/experience are identified. • The team has adequate experience/expertise working with disadvantaged communities, promoting clean energy manufacturing, and addressing climate change and/or energy justice issues. • The team includes at least one organization connected to manufacturing (0 or 5). • The team has demonstrated success and/or described lessons learned of previous efforts engaging and working with disadvantaged communities. • The team has described and has connections to the community of interest for this prize.



• A description of the community of interest for this prize, and the team's connection to the community. • A description of the community's needs and potential clean energy manufacturing resources.	• The team demonstrates an understanding of the community's needs and potential clean energy manufacturing resources.

Impact Plan Criterion 2: Proposed Activities and Goals Aligned to the Prize Award	
Suggested Content Competitor Provides	**Each Statement Scored on a 0–5 Scale**
• A description of the specific proposed activities by the competitor that will further the development of manufacturing-related specific goals, that may include education and workforce development, entrepreneurship, resilient supply chains, circular economy development, or other goals related to clean energy manufacturing. • A description of how the proposed activities enable the development or advancement of domestic clean energy manufacturing innovation ecosystems as described in Section 2.3.2 of this rules document. • A description of planned activities, metrics to measure, and milestones to complete as specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART) goals. • A description of credible mechanisms to evaluate the competitor's progress of activities through the prize. • An engagement and outreach plan the competitor will use to build trust and strengthen relationships and partnerships with organizations connected to manufacturing, community members, and other relevant stakeholders. • A description of how the proposed project enables a just and equitable transition to a	• The competitor's proposed activities will further manufacturing-related specific goals, that may include education and workforce development, entrepreneurship, resilient supply chains, circular economy development, or other goals related to clean energy manufacturing. • The competitor's proposed activities aim to enable the development or advancement of domestic clean energy manufacturing innovation ecosystems. • The competitor has clearly defined SMART goals that include planned activities, metrics to measure, and milestones to completion. • The competitor has clearly defined tracking mechanisms[15] to evaluate the success of their proposed activities. • The competitor has described an engagement and outreach plan to build trust and strengthen relationships and partnerships with organizations connected to manufacturing, community members, and other relevant stakeholders. • The competitor has described how the proposed project enables a just and

[15] Examples of tracking mechanisms may include but are not limited to data collection and pre- and post-program surveys.



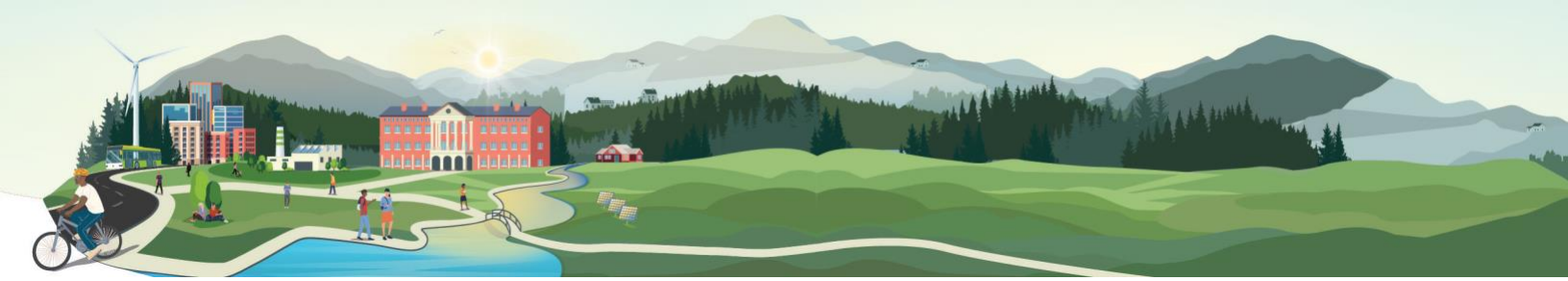
clean energy economy in the relevant community and region.	equitable transition to a clean energy economy in the relevant community and region. • The proposed activities and strategies to complete these activities has a high likelihood for success (0 or 5).

Impact Plan Criterion 3: Resources and Capabilities to Implement Proposed Activities	
Suggested Content Competitor Provides	**Each Statement Scored on a 0–5 Scale**
• A budget for the proposed activities that indicates how the prize funds will be allocated. • A description of staff resources that will be available to the competitor to achieve the proposed plan, including but not limited to staff experienced in clean energy manufacturing promoting environmental justice, diversity, equity, inclusion, entrepreneurship, and other activities. • A description of additional staff, partners, resources, and capabilities the competitor seeks to add to achieve their proposed plan and strategies for obtaining.	• The description of proposed activities and associated budget are of adequate detail and indicates how prize funds will be allocated. • The activities proposed are achievable within the proposed budget (0 or 5). • The staff resources that will be available to the competitor are adequate for achieving the proposed plan. • The competitor has demonstrated that they will have access to, or can obtain, the necessary staff, partners, resources, and capabilities to achieve their proposed plan.

4.5 Peer Learning and Shared Resources

Competitors selected to participate in the PROGRESS and IMPACT Phases will be able to participate in regular meetings with the prize team and other events intended to offer technical assistance and support to the competitors, as described in Section 2.4 of this document. As described in Section 2.3.2, for the Manufacturing Ecosystem Track, competitors will be expected to participate in a series of peer learning activities alongside the other Manufacturing Ecosystem Track and prize teams. Participation in these events will be part of the scoring criteria for the PROGRESS and IMPACT Phases. The curriculum and programming of these events will be tailored to the competitors' specific needs. Additionally, these events will serve to connect competitors to share challenges and successes.

To be eligible for the grand prizes in the Manufacturing Ecosystem Track competitors must develop resources for public dissemination. These resources can include but are not limited to lessons learned, best practices, planning guides, or other resources that serve to share knowledge with non-participating communities.



4.6 How We Determine and Award Winners

The Prize Administrator screens all completed submissions and ensures that the competitors 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 competitors' submitted video pitches and Impact Plans according to the evaluation criteria described in Section 4.4.2.

4.6.1 Reviewer Panel Scoring

The scoring of submissions will proceed as follows:

- Reviewers will review each submission (video pitch and Impact Plan) individually and assess the response from the competitor to each statement in the criteria described in the tables in Section 4.4.2.
- 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 100 points as described in Section 4.4.2.
- The total scores from each reviewer will be averaged to produce a final score for the competing team/organization. This score will inform the judge's decisions on prize awards.

4.6.2 Interviews

DOE may decide to interview a subset of competitors. 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 competitor's likelihood to win.

4.6.3 Final Determination

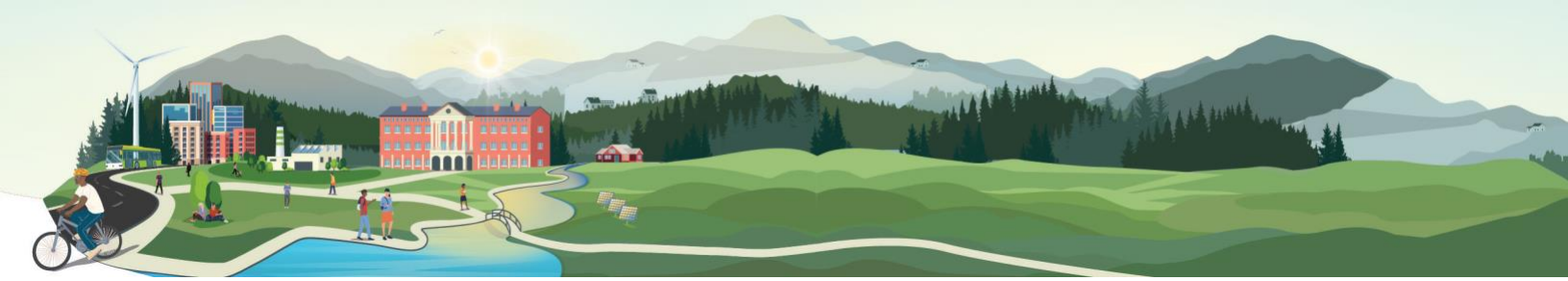
DOE will designate a federal employee as the judge before the final determination of the winners. Final determination of the winners by the judge will take into account the reviewers' feedback and scores, application of program policy factors, and the interview findings (if applicable).

4.6.4 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 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.



5 Collegiate Track Submission Requirements

5.1 Prizes

	Collegiate Track: $450,000 cash prize pool	Recipient	Activities
CONCEPT Phase Prizes	Up to 10 cash prizes of $15,000 each to the university recipient and in-kind mentorship services	Academic Institution	Supporting students directly, any project-specific materials and travel to any relevant events
PROGRESS Phase Prizes	Up to 10 cash prizes of $20,000 each to the community recipient and in-kind mentorship services	Community Partner	Supporting community partner directly both in implementing the project and in advising the engaged students and any project-specific materials
IMPACT Phase Prizes			
GRAND PRIZE	Total cash prize pool of up to $100,000 to be distributed among GRAND PRIZE winners	Community Partner	Supporting the sustainability of the project at the conclusion of the prize

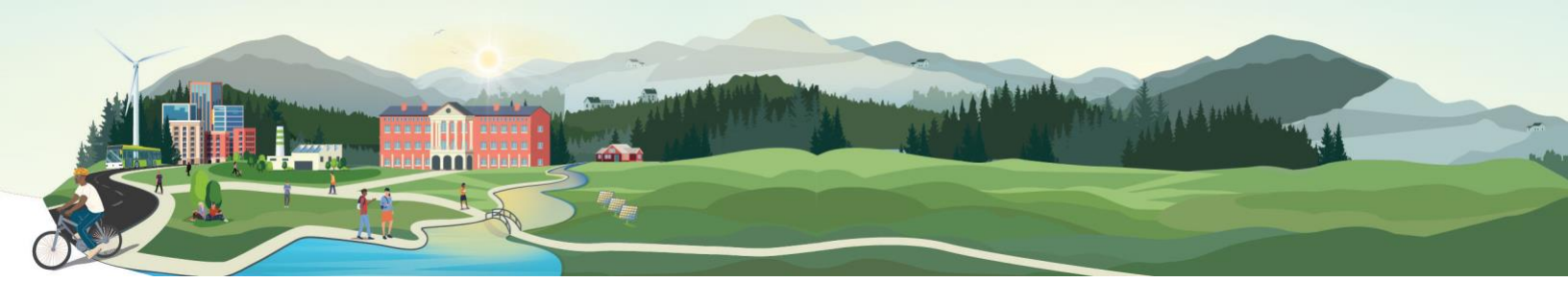
Because the Collegiate Track must be made up of a team of a community partner and an academic institution, both the community partner and the academic institutions must do the following to receive payment:

1. Register as a part of the same team on HeroX and note the two separate entities that will receive payment should the team be selected as a winner.
2. Win a prize. Academic institutions will be awarded prizes in the CONCEPT Phase, and community partners will be awarded prizes in the PROGRESS and IMPACT Phases.
3. Process the ACH/W9 prize acceptance materials for the winning entity at the relevant phase.

5.2 How to Enter

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

Competitors can also form teams or find partners through the HeroX platform. 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.



5.3 Important Dates

	Collegiate Track
CONCEPT Phase Submission Opens	Aug. 29, 2023
CONCEPT Phase Submission Closes	Nov. 3, 2023
CONCEPT Phase Winner Awards and PROGRESS Phase Opens	Dec. 1, 2023 (anticipated)
PROGRESS Phase Closes and IMPACT Phase Opens	March 4, 2024 (anticipated)
PROGRESS Phase Winner Awards	March 11, 2024 (anticipated)
IMPACT Phase Closes	May 17, 2024 (anticipated)
IMPACT Phase Winner Awards	May 18, 2024 (anticipated)
Final Event (in-person) and GRAND PRIZE Winner Awards	May 17–18, 2024 (anticipated)

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

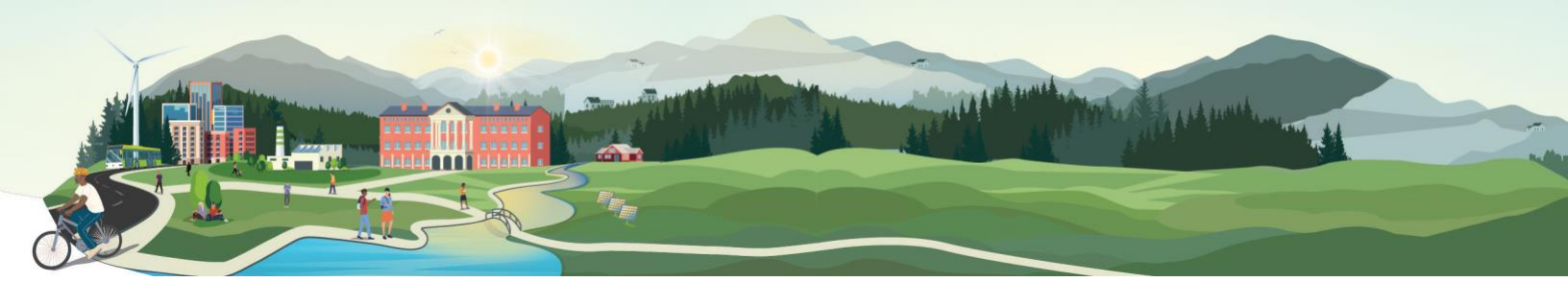
5.4 What to Submit

The following items constitute the submissions package for the Community Energy Innovation Prize and must be submitted through the HeroX platform. Each is described in more detail below. Teams may provide multiple submission packages for review; however, each submission must be materially different in the content and topic to be considered. If multiple submissions from the same team are too similar, only the last submission received will be scored and considered for prizes.

The following items are required for each submission:

Item	Will Be Made Public[16]	Scored Item
Cover Page	Yes	No
Summary Slide	Yes	No
3-Minute Video Pitch	Yes	Yes
Submission	No	Yes
Evidence of Commitment	No	Yes

[16] Competitors who do not want the impact plan or other documents to be made public will need to mark them according to the instructions in Appendix 1 (Section A.10).



5.4.1 Unscored, Public-Facing Submission Materials

Cover Page Content

The Cover Page, included in the final submission, will be made public. Teams should list basic information about their submission, including:

- Academic institution (and any partner institutions, if applicable).
- Community Partner (and any other partnering organizations, if applicable).
- Location of community to benefit from the clean energy project (name of city, town, or unincorporated area) and any background on the demographics and geography of the area.
- Short statement explaining why the team is interested in participating in the Collegiate Track.
- Team Faculty Advisor(s) name, department, and email address (faculty member or primary representative).
- Identified student team leader(s) and email address.
- Primary contact for Community Partner and email address.

Submission Summary Slide

Teams must make a public-facing, one-slide submission summary that introduces their team and/or organization and their mission. There is no template, so teams are free to present the information in any format. Any text must be readable in a standard printed page and a conference room projection and should be in at least 14-pt font.

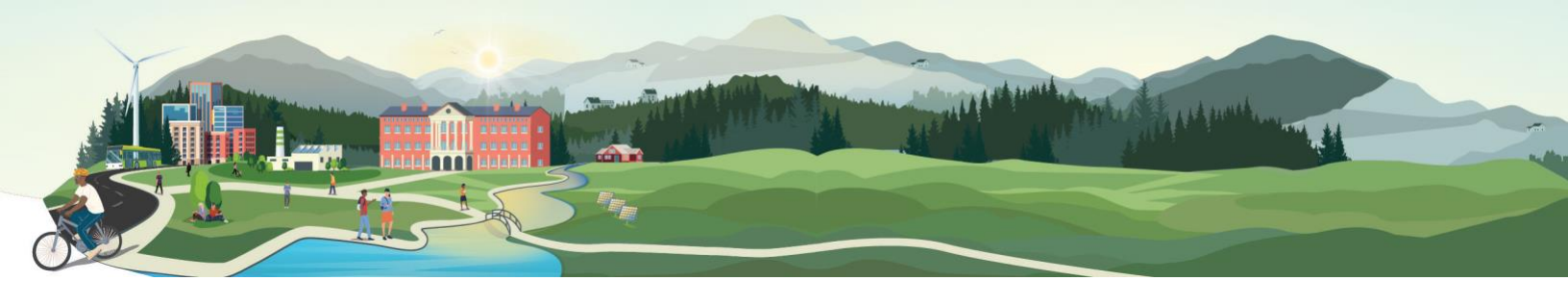
5.4.2 Scored Submission Items

The scored items in the CONCEPT Phase include a 3-minute video pitch, a Narrative Document, and Evidence of Commitment. Scored materials will be evaluated on how well they address scoring statements in the respective criterion; each statement (described below) will be scored from 0 to 5, as shown here:

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

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

Criteria	Number of Scored Statements	Total Possible Points
3-Minute Video Pitch	3	15
Narrative Document		



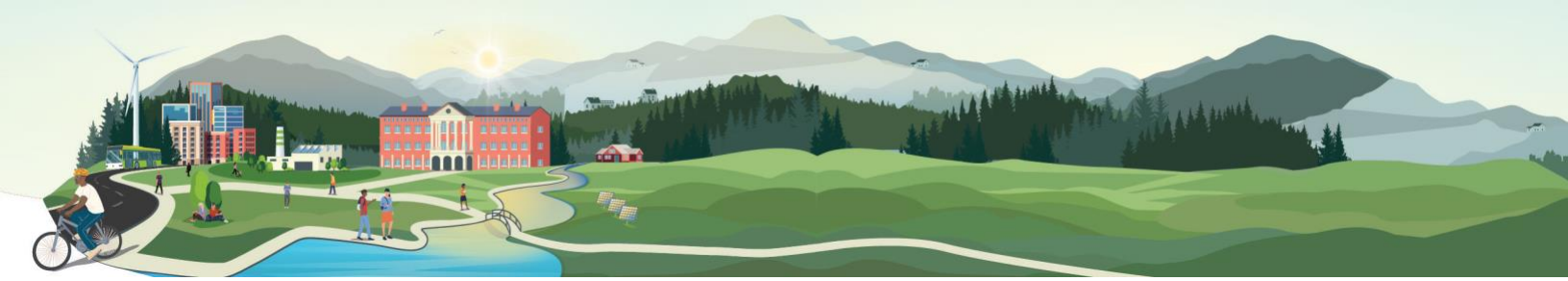
Criterion 1: Institutional Capabilities and Experience in Community Engagement	6	30
Criterion 2: Proposed Activities and Goals Aligned to the Prize Award	6	30
Evidence of Commitment	1	5
TOTAL	**16**	**80**

3-Minute Video Pitch

Teams must produce a 3-minute video that will help the reviewers and public understand the team, any partnering organizations, and the planned activity. Suggested content for the video 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.

Teams are encouraged to be creative and convey information in a fun and engaging way. Reviewers will focus on the content, not the quality, of the video production. Teams should upload the video online to a publicly accessible platform (e.g., YouTube, Vimeo).

Scoring Criteria: 3-Minute Video Pitch	
Suggested Content Team Provides	**Each Statement Scored on a 0–5 Scale**
• An introduction to the disadvantaged community the team intends to work with, and the community needs that the proposed project intends to effectively address. • An introduction to the collegiate team and the community partner and a description of the team's relevant experience, qualifications, and capabilities to complete the proposed project. • A high-level description of the proposed project and anticipated impact within the community or communities, should the project be selected.	• The team has demonstrated an understanding of the disadvantaged community they intend to work with and how the proposed project will be effective in addressing the community's needs. • The team demonstrates a relationship between the academic institution and the community partner, and through that relationship, the collective team possesses relevant experience, qualifications, and capabilities to complete the proposed project. • The proposed project the team aims to implement is valuable, impactful, and will contribute to advance clean energy innovation in a disadvantaged community.

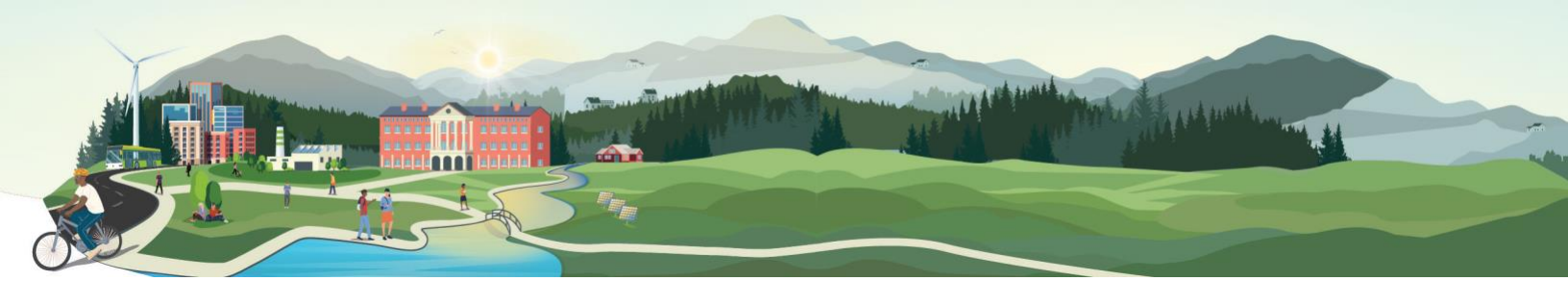


Narrative Document

To participate, interested teams must submit a narrative document on the HeroX platform by 5 p.m. ET on Nov. 3, 2023. Teams will not be eligible to compete if a submission is not received by the deadline. Submissions will be reviewed and scored by national laboratory researchers, community engagement professionals, and DOE staff. Each submission for the Collegiate Track should be a maximum of **5,000 words** with up to **five** supporting visualizations or graphics and include a response for each of the following criteria.

Submission Criterion 1: Institutional Capabilities and Experience in Community Engagement

Suggested Content Team Provides	Each Statement Scored on a 0–5 Scale
• A description of the missions of the institution and the community partner and how they align with at least one of the prize goals, stated in Section 2.2.2 of this document. If applicable, describe how the project can be integrated into academic experiences (e.g., courses integrating competition elements or other programs that otherwise support competition-related work, scholarships, independent-study projects, or student clubs and/or groups designed to support successful student participation in the prize). • A description of how departments or other university offices across the institution will participate to support prize goals. • A description of how the student team, community partner, and the academic institution bring a unique perspective to the goals of this prize and how that perspective will make the team successful in engaging in this prize. • A description of previous experience the faculty advisor, community partner, and/or identified student group have in engaging disadvantaged communities. If appropriate, describe a plan to obtain the necessary knowledge to implement a community-based project through other means (e.g., remote learning, industry partnerships, informal independent-study projects, industry mentorships, clubs, and	• The prize goals are aligned with the institution's and community partner's goals. • The team has identified institutional resources, such as departments and other in university offices, that would aid in their success in this competition. • The student team, community partner, and the academic institution bring a unique perspective to the goals of this prize and how that perspective will make the team successful in engaging in this prize. • The faculty advisor, community partner, and/or student group possess previous experience and/or demonstrate that they can obtain the necessary knowledge in engaging disadvantaged communities. • The team has identified best practices that will prove to be successful in engaging the community identified. • The prize is integrated into the students' academic success and career development goals.

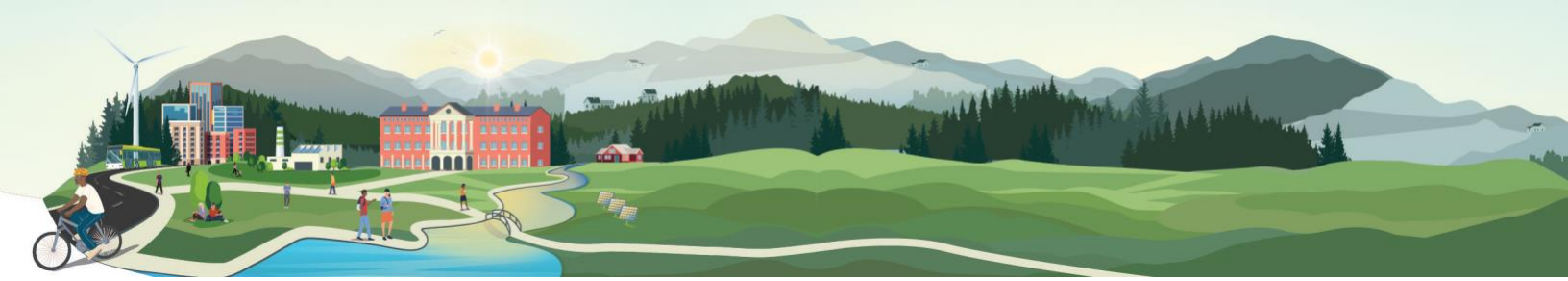


so on). • A brief overview of best practices for community engagement in the potential communities identified. • A description of how this prize supports student career development goals.	
Submission Criterion 2: Proposed Activities and Goals Aligned to the Prize Award	
Suggested Content Team Provides	**Each Statement Scored on a 0–5 Scale**
• A project plan, including planned activities, metrics to measure, and milestones to complete as specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART) goals. • A description of the role of the community partner and competing team in implementing the proposed activities. (See Collegiate Track Roles and Responsibilities in Appendix 2). • A description of the team's role in enabling a just and equitable transition to a clean energy economy in the relevant community and region (See Collegiate Track Roles and Responsibilities in Appendix 2). • A description of credible mechanisms to evaluate the team's progress of activities through the prize. • A description of potential risks pertaining to the team, working with the community partner, or engaging disadvantaged communities and how the team will mitigate these risks.	• The team has clearly defined SMART goals that include planned activities, metrics to measure, and milestones to complete. • The team has clearly described the responsibilities of the community partner and the competing team to implement the proposed activities. • The team has described how the proposed project enables a just and equitable transition to a clean energy economy in the relevant community and region. • The team has clearly defined mechanisms[17] to evaluate the success of their proposed activities. • The team has considered potential risks, and mitigation of these risks, related to community and partner engagement. • The proposed activities and strategies to complete these activities has a high likelihood for success (0 or 5).

Evidence of Commitment

Teams should upload Evidence of Commitment as a single file, combining one-page letters from community partner(s) with which the academic institution will be partnering, and the academic institution committing support to the project. This evidence may be represented through letters of commitment, memoranda of understanding, contracts, and/or funding agreements.

[17] Examples of tracking mechanisms may include but are not limited to data collection and pre- and post-program surveys.



Scoring Criteria: Evidence of Commitment	
Suggested Content Team Provides	**Each Statement Scored on a 0–5 Scale**
• Evidence of Commitment from the academic institution and the community partner(s) that conveys their openness to building or improving a partnership, such as letters of commitment, memoranda of understanding, contracts, and/or funding agreements.	• The team has submitted evidence of commitment that demonstrates intent from the academic institution and the community partner(s) in supporting the team in completing proposed activities (0 or 5).

5.5 Peer Learning and Shared Resources

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

Additionally, to be eligible for the grand prizes, teams must develop resources for public dissemination. These resources can include but are not limited to lessons learned, best practices, planning guides, or other resources that serve to share knowledge with non-participating communities.

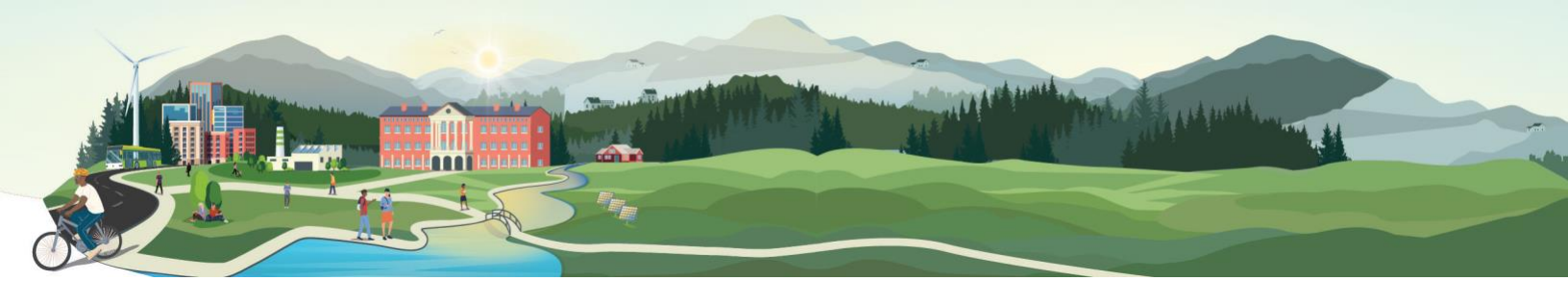
5.6 How We Determine and Award Winners

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 submitted video pitches and submissions according to the evaluation criteria described in Section 5.4.2.

5.6.1 Reviewer Panel Scoring

The scoring of submissions will proceed as follows:

- Reviewers will review each submission (video pitch and narrative document) individually and assess the response from the team to each statement in the criteria described in the tables in Section 5.4.2.
- 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 80 points as described in Section 5.4.2.



- The total scores from each reviewer will be averaged to produce a final score for the competing team/organization. This score will inform the judge's decisions on prize awards.

5.6.2 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.

5.6.3 Final Determination

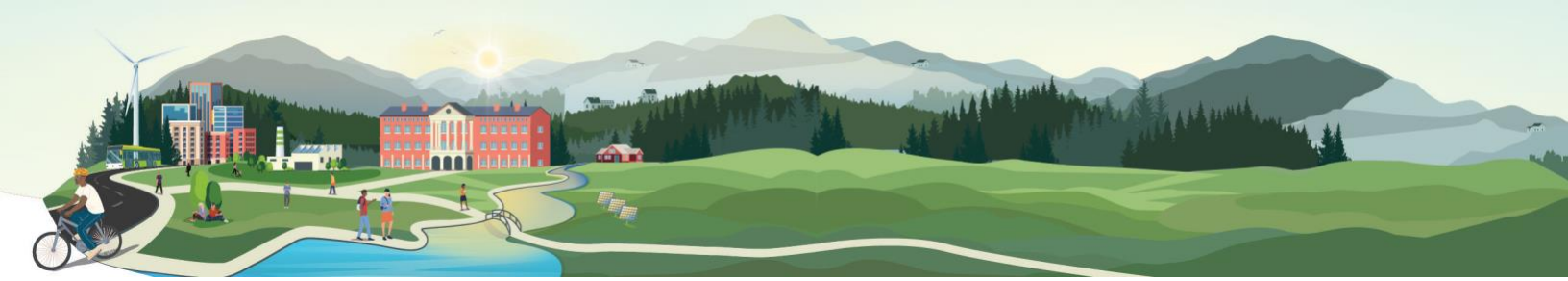
DOE will designate a federal employee as the judge before the final determination of the winners. Final determination of the winners by the judge will take into account the reviewers' feedback and scores, application of program policy factors, and the interview findings (if applicable).

5.6.4 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.

5.7 Additional Terms and Conditions

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



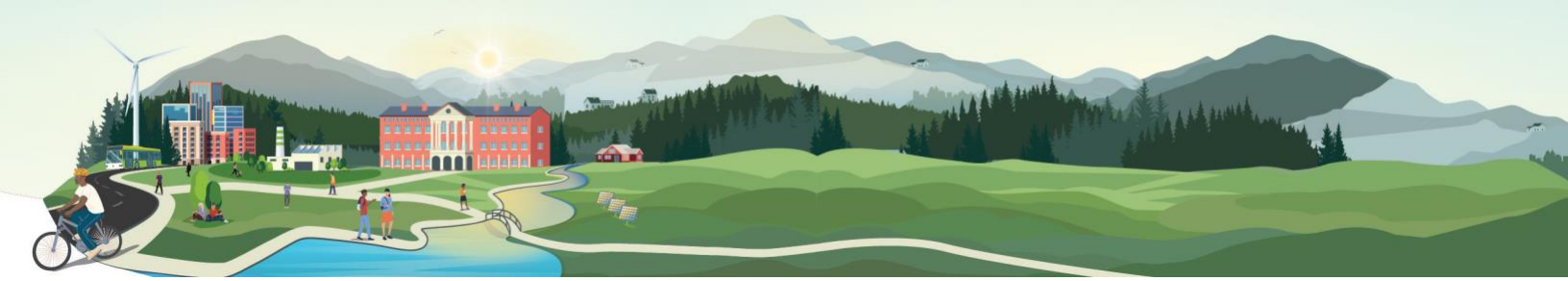
Appendix 1: Additional Terms and Conditions

A.1 Requirements

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

- You must post the final content of your submission or upload the submission form online by 5 p.m. ET on the date specified in Section 1.2, before the prize's CONCEPT phase submission period closes. Late submissions or any other form of submission may be rejected.
- All submissions that you wish to protect from public disclosure must be marked according to the instructions in Section 10 of Appendix 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

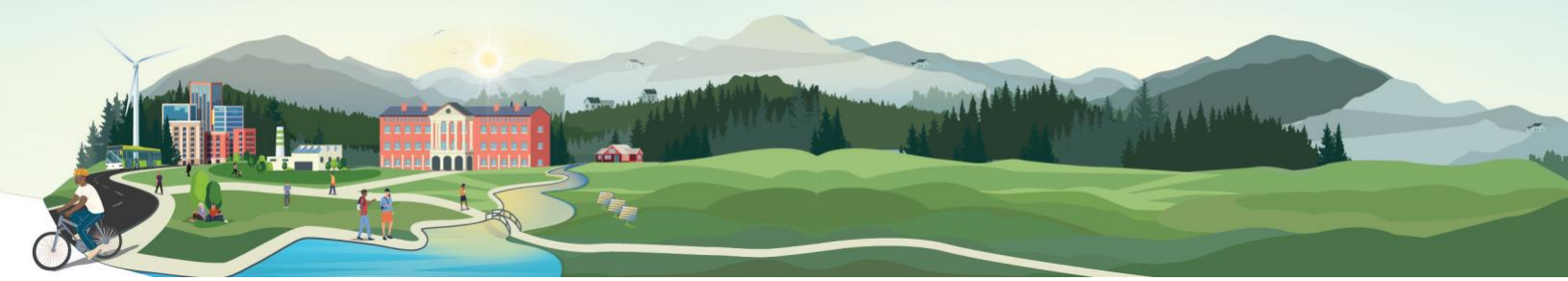
The Prize Administrator will award a single dollar amount to the designated primary submitter, whether consisting of a single or multiple entities. The primary submitter is solely responsible for allocating any prize funds among its member competitors or teammates as they deem appropriate. The Prize 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.

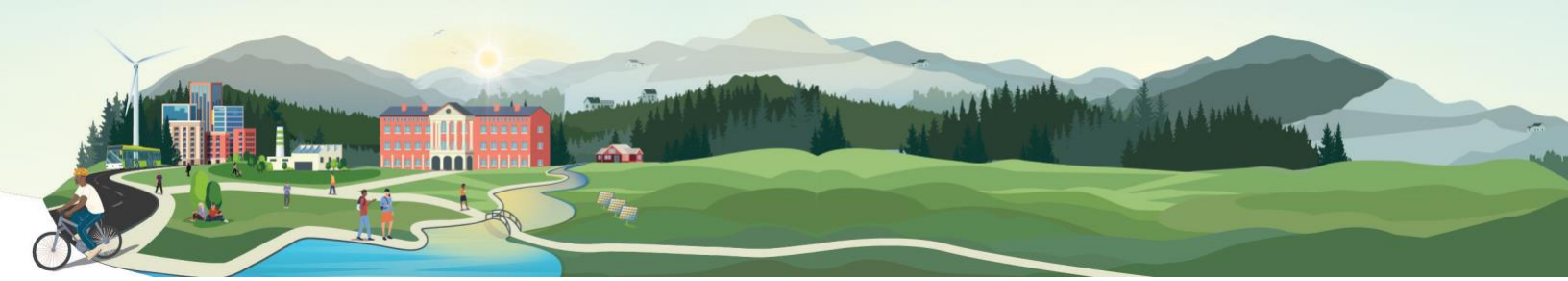
A.6 Contest Subject to Applicable Law

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.

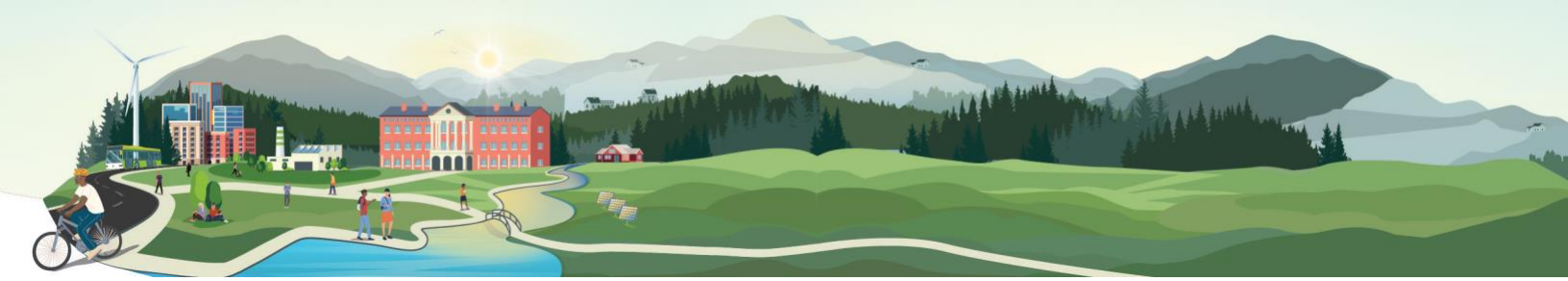
In accordance with the delegation of authority to run this contest delegated to the judge responsible for this prize, the judge has determined that no liability insurance naming DOE as an insured will be required of competitors to compete in this competition per 15 U.S.C. § 3719(i)(2). Competitors should 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.

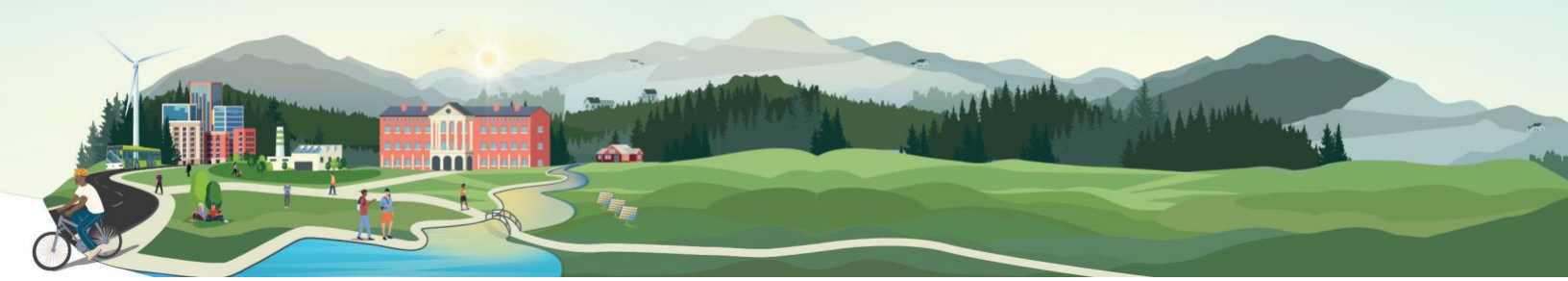
Although DOE may indicate that it will select up to several winners for each contest, DOE reserves the right to only select competitors that are likely to achieve the goals of the program. If, in DOE's determination, no competitors are likely to achieve the goals of the program, DOE will select no competitors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

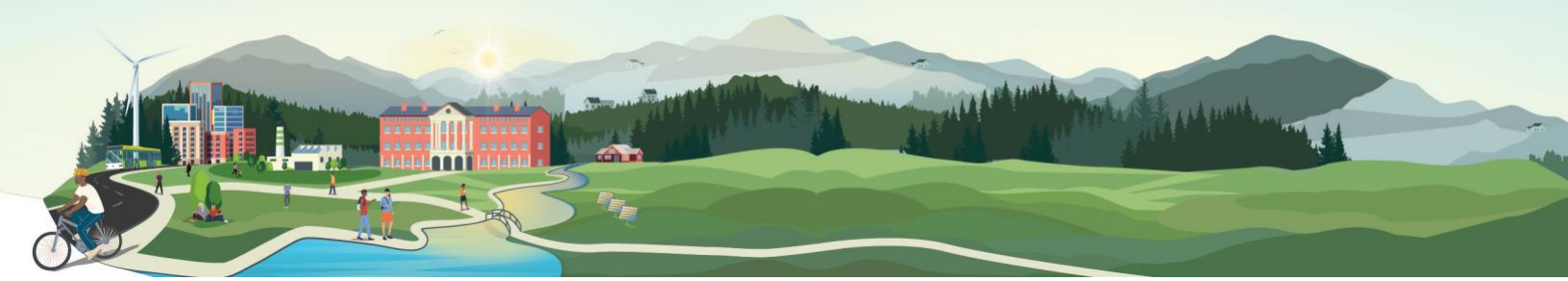
A.15 Definitions

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.

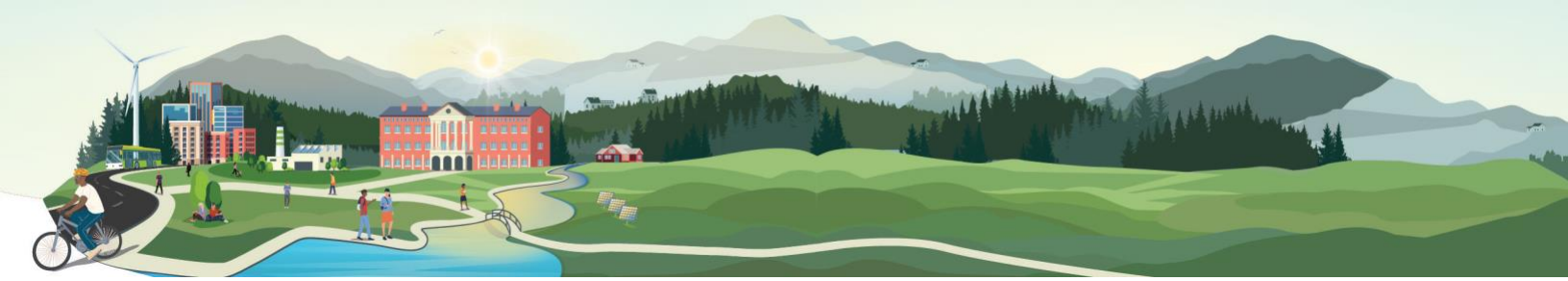
ALL DECISIONS BY DOE ARE FINAL AND BINDING IN ALL MATTERS RELATED TO THE PRIZE.



Appendix 2 Collegiate Track Roles and Responsibilities

The following is an example of the types of roles Collegiate Track participants may play in implementing their activities for this prize.

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



Appendix 3 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.

AMERICAN MADE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Community Energy Innovation Prize

OFFICIAL RULES

AUGUST 2023