

Inclusive Energy Innovation Prize

Pathways to an
Inclusive Energy Future



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY





About the Inclusive Energy Innovation Prize

The Department of Energy's Inclusive Energy Innovation Prize is a \$5.1 million prize that funds organizations for activities that support, build trust, and strengthen relationships and partnerships with disadvantaged communities and those which enable and enhance business and technology incubation, acceleration, and other community-based and university-based entrepreneurship and innovation in climate and clean energy technologies.

Join us and empower leaders in the clean energy economy. To find out how you can get involved, please contact our Sponsorship Liaison, Charles Scaife, at charles.scaife@ee.doe.gov

Prize Background

Clean Energy Innovation Must Be Inclusive

Launched in 2021, the Justice40 initiative is a government-wide initiative to deliver 40% of the overall benefits of relevant federal investments in climate and energy to disadvantaged communities. The Justice40 initiative, in concert with the Biden Administration's goals to address climate change, includes achieving a 50–52% reduction from 2005 levels in economy-wide net greenhouse gas pollution by 2030 and reaching net zero emissions economy-wide no later than 2050, while advancing equity, civil rights, and racial and environmental justice.

Through this prize, DOE seeks to identify and support organizations that are community-centric and have experience successfully engaging disadvantaged communities and/or promoting environmental, climate, and energy justice. These organizations will demonstrate strong community ties and will show how they will serve as bridges between DOE 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.

Three Ways DOE is Becoming More Inclusive:



Enhancing Accessibility: DOE is identifying opportunities to make funding more accessible and inclusive to a broader pool of applicants. The public-private partnerships developed through prize sponsorships will create funding opportunities that are more sustainable and equitable.



Community Engagement and Capacity Building: Discovering Federal funding opportunities and navigating application processes can consume significant time and resources. DOE is finding more ways to connect with those in need of Federal funds and application support by partnering with established community-centric organizations.



Creating a STEM Pipeline: Developing a diverse STEM pipeline starts with a strong network of support. DOE is engaging with minority serving institutions and demographically diverse organizations to help develop and support STEM pipeline programs around the country.

Prize Goals

- 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.
- Increase participation in clean energy and climate-smart job training and job placement/hiring, including programs that target participation from disadvantaged communities.
- Foster grassroots innovation related to just and equitable clean energy deployment through activities focusing on community-centric networks and bottom-up solutions for sustainable development, based on the needs of the communities involved.
- Identify and fund activities that will help disadvantaged communities apply into or otherwise secure DOE funding or other federal, state, local government or private funding.
- Enable the development of replicable clean energy transitions that deliver just and equitable benefits to disadvantaged communities.



Sponsorship Packages

Reach out to us to create a package that works for you.

\$100,000+

CLIMATE GUARDIAN

Recognition:

Includes **CHAMPION** level recognition

Access to awardees

Speaking engagement or promotional video opportunities

Funds Support:

American-Made Challenges (AMC) Connector support for Phase One winning teams

AND AMC Power Connector support for Phase Two winning teams

Prize administration & events

\$25,000–\$100,000

CLIMATE CHAMPION

Recognition:

Includes **LEADER** level recognition

Up to 1-page exclusive feature in promotional material

Funds Support:

AMC Connector support for Phase One winning teams

OR AMC Power Connector support for Phase Two winning teams

Prize administration & events

\$5,000–\$25,000

CLIMATE LEADER

Recognition:

Includes **VISIONARY** level recognition

Feature in promotional material

Funds Support:

AMC Connector support for Phase One winning teams

Prize administration & events

Up to \$5,000

CLIMATE VISIONARY

Recognition:

Social media thank you
Recognition on printed/online material

Funds Support:

Prize administration & events



*values are cash or in-kind

Impact From Your Sponsorship

Become a Sponsor and Support Inclusive Innovation

[Phase One winners](#) are invited to participate in Phase Two of the prize, where they will implement their impact plans over the next 12 months.

Your contribution will help them enable and enhance business and technology incubation, acceleration, and other community-based and university-based entrepreneurship and innovation in climate and clean energy technologies.

Support teams by facilitating their participation in upcoming meetings and events where they will have the opportunity to share their progress, engage with external organizations, and join networking events.



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