

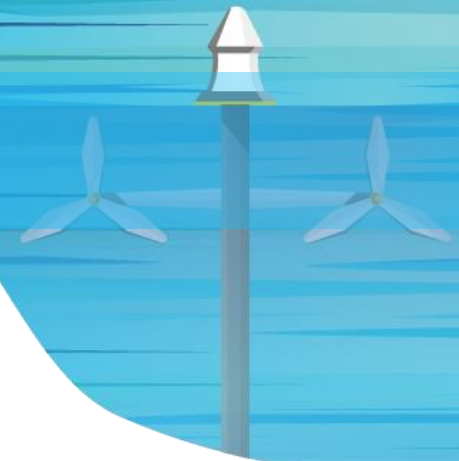


# Community Energy Innovation Prize

Clean Energy Ecosystem Track  
Manufacturing Ecosystem Track



Informational Webinar – October 2023

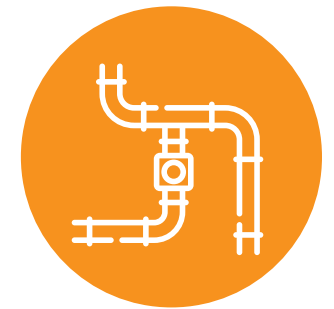


# Webinar Logistics

- This webinar is being recorded
- Attendees are in listen-only mode
- Use the Q&A to ask questions
- Audio Issues?—Try connecting over the phone, or visit the Zoom Help Center webpage if issues persist

**These slides, the webinar recording, and any questions from the Q&A not answered today will be posted to HeroX:**

[www.herox.com/CommunityEnergyInnovation/resources](http://www.herox.com/CommunityEnergyInnovation/resources)



# Agenda:

- Introduction to the Community Energy Innovation Prize
- Background - Ecosystem Tracks
- Prize Eligibility
- Timeline
- Submission Requirements
- Scoring
- Using HeroX
- Support and Resources



# INTRODUCTION

## Community Energy Innovation Prize



# Pathways to a Clean Energy Future

- 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.**
- The prize directly supports the Justice40 Initiative, which directs 40% of the overall benefits of certain federal investments to flow to disadvantaged communities, including:
  - Clean energy and energy efficiency
  - Clean transit
  - Affordable and sustainable housing
  - Training and workforce development
  - The remediation and reduction of legacy pollution
  - The development of clean water infrastructure

# Who is behind the Community Energy Innovation Prize?



- The Community Energy Innovation Prize was established by:
  - The [U.S. Department of Energy's \(DOE's\) Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy \(EERE\)](#)
  - [Office of Economic Impact and Diversity \(ED\)](#)
  - EERE's [Advanced Materials and Manufacturing Technologies Office \(AMMTO\)](#).
- The prize is part of the [American-Made Challenges](#) family of prizes
- Administered by the [National Renewable Energy Laboratory \(NREL\)](#).

# What is the Community Energy Innovation Prize?

- \$7.49 million in cash prizes
- Successor of the [Community Clean Energy Coalition Prize](#) and the [Inclusive Energy Innovation Prize](#)
- Support capacity building, innovation, entrepreneurship, and economic development disadvantaged communities in:
  - Academic Programs
  - Workforce Development
  - Clean Energy Technology
  - Clean Energy Manufacturing

# Community Energy Innovation Prize Tracks

## Clean Energy Ecosystem Track

Support communities and organizations who have been historically underserved in advancing community-based clean energy transition programs from a wide range of clean energy initiatives and technologies.

## Manufacturing Ecosystem Track

Support communities and organizations that have been historically underserved and further the development of clean energy manufacturing innovation ecosystems.

## Collegiate Track

Inspire and support the next generation of climate leaders to make an impact in their communities and support community-based clean energy transition programs.



# BACKGROUND

## Community Energy Innovation Prize: Ecosystem Tracks



# Prize Goals

The Community Energy Innovation Prize aims to **support capacity building, innovation, entrepreneurship, and economic development** related to clean energy and climate for **disadvantaged communities** in:

- 1. Academic Programs:** Enable innovation and entrepreneurship programming and capabilities at colleges and universities, including community colleges.
- 2. Workforce Development:** Create or increase participation in clean energy and climate-smart job training and job placement/hiring.
- 3. Clean Energy Technology:** Foster grassroots innovation ecosystems and/or deployments related to a just and equitable clean energy economy.

# Anticipated Impact

- Successful competitors will not necessarily need to have significant expertise in “deep tech” and/or in working with or being embedded in large research institutions.
- 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 the prize.
- DOE seeks to identify and support organizations that are **community-centric** and have experience in successfully **engaging disadvantaged communities in environmental, climate, and energy justice**.
- DOE seeks to support and recognize **clean energy grassroots innovation related to technology advancement from disciplines beyond science and engineering**.

# Who Can Apply? Prize Eligibility



- The Clean Energy Ecosystem and Manufacturing Ecosystem Tracks are open to:
  - Private entities (for-profits and nonprofits)
  - Nonfederal government entities such as states, counties, tribes, and municipalities
  - Academic institutions
  - Individuals
- Competitors can apply to multiple tracks with distinct materials
- Competitors select their Track, but the Prize Team reserves the right to move submissions to a more appropriate Track
- View complete eligibility requirements for all three tracks in the [official prize rules](#)

# Prizes

Clean Energy Ecosystem Track	
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

Manufacturing Ecosystem Track	
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



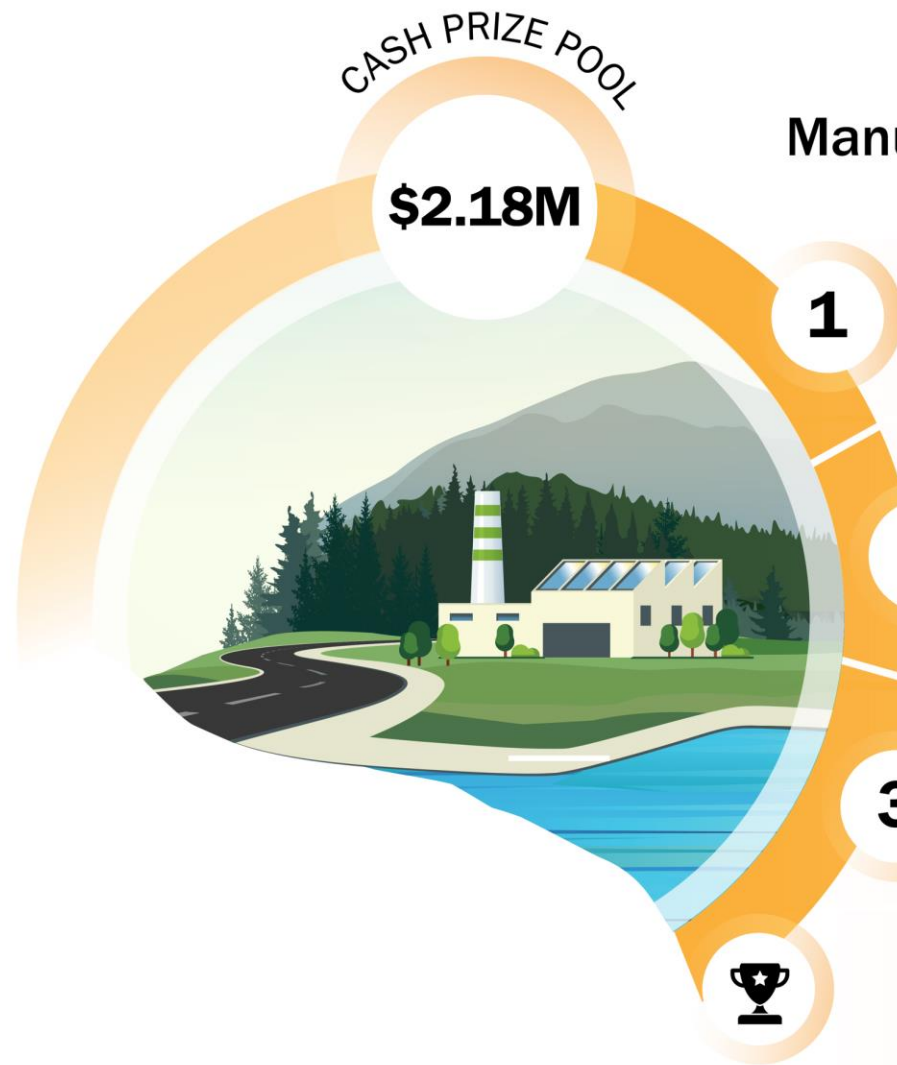
## Clean Energy Ecosystem Track

1	<b>Concept</b> Submit Impact Plans	\$100,000 Cash Prize each!*
2	<b>Progress</b> Demonstrate Progress	\$100,000 Cash Prize each!*
3	<b>Impact</b> Complete Impact Plan	\$10,000 Cash Prize each!
	<b>Grand Prize</b> Present Impact Created	Up to \$1.5 Million to be distributed among <b>GRAND PRIZE</b> winners!

\*Plus in-kind mentorship services

# Clean Energy Ecosystem: Examples and Impacts

- A **clean energy workforce training program** that serves as an on-ramp for professionals looking to enter or transition into the clean energy workforce
- Accelerated **microgrid deployment** in rural and low-resourced areas
- Empowering the future energy workforce by **engaging and retaining students** from underserved communities
- Working with local businesses to install solar panels and batteries and **create a resilient network**
- Using traditional principles of land stewardship for Native communities to **create and identify technical assistance resources**



## Manufacturing Ecosystem Track

<b>1</b>	<b>Concept</b> Submit Impact Plans	\$100,000 Cash Prize each!*	
<b>2</b>	<b>Progress</b> Demonstrate Progress	\$100,000 Cash Prize each!*	
<b>3</b>	<b>Impact</b> Complete Impact Plan	\$10,000 Cash Prize each!	
	<b>Grand Prize</b> Present Impact Created	Up to \$500,000 to be distributed among <b>GRAND PRIZE</b> winners!	

\*Plus in-kind mentorship services

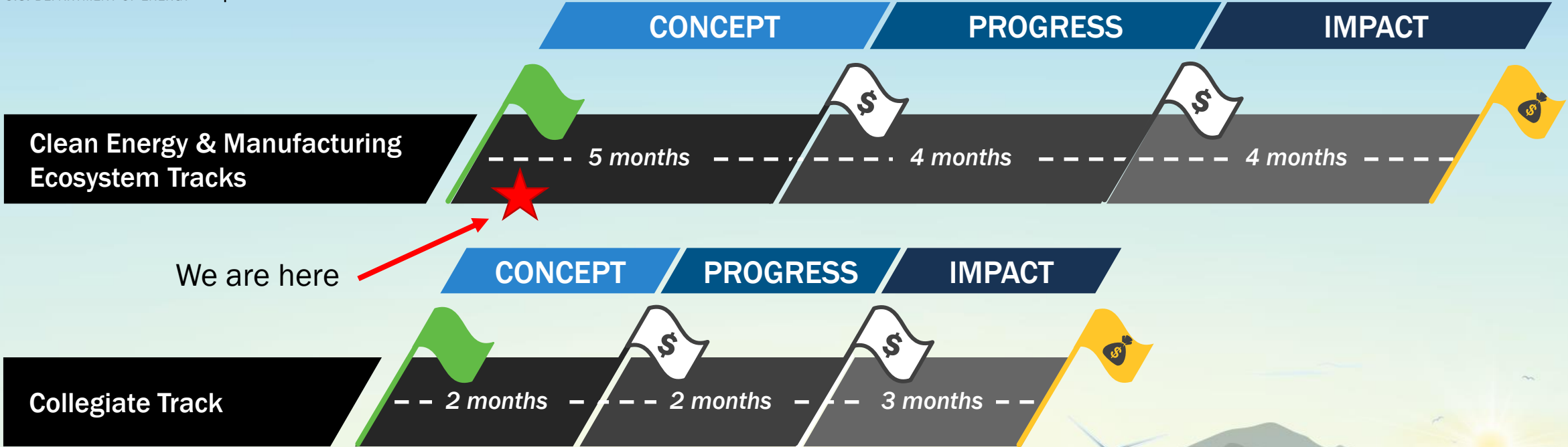


# Manufacturing Ecosystem: Examples and Impacts

- Local manufacturers engaging and partnering with academic institutions to **host workshops to identify needs and create trainings**
- Academic institutions **developing curriculum** related to **business development in clean energy manufacturing**
- Community-based organizations partnering with manufacturing entities to **recruit and train individuals for careers in advanced and clean energy manufacturing**
- Multidisciplinary teams identifying efforts needed to transform the communities to **accelerate advanced manufacturing growth, innovation, and economic prosperity**
- Development of **remanufacturing, reuse, and recycling opportunities for material byproducts**

# Community Energy Innovation Prize

## TIMELINE



\* Check official rules document for detailed timeline. Graphic not to scale.

# Ecosystem Tracks Key Dates

Clean Energy Ecosystem and Manufacturing Ecosystem Tracks Key Dates	
CONCEPT Phase Submission Open	Aug. 29, 2023
<b>CONCEPT Phase Submission Closes</b>	<b>Feb. 2, 2024</b>
CONCEPT Phase Winner Awards and PROGRESS Phase Opens	March 7, 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 Winner 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.

# SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Clean Energy and Manufacturing Ecosystem Tracks – CONCEPT Phase



# Ecosystem Tracks: Submission Requirements

1

**Cover Page**

Public. Not Scored

2

**Summary Slide**

Public. Not Scored

3

**3-Minute Video Pitch**

Public. Scored

4

**Impact Plan**

Not public. Scored



# Cover Page

Public. Not Scored.



## Basic Information On Team:

- Title, Team name, and Short description.
- Link to 3-minute online video pitch.
- Key project members and/or partnering organizations.
- Location of community to benefit from the clean energy project and competitor's city and state.
- Goals of the prize that the proposed project aims to achieve.
- Prize track in which the competitor intends to compete.

# Summary Slide

Public. Not Scored.



- Public-facing, one-slide submission summary
- Introduces your team and/or organization, and their mission
- No template – present information in any format

# 3-Minute Video Pitch

Public. Scored.



- The Video helps reviewers and the public understand:
  - The competitor
  - Any partnering organizations
  - Planned activities
- Be creative and convey information in a fun and engaging way!
- **Reviewers focus on the content**, not the quality of video production



# Impact Plan

**NOT Public. Scored.**



- Primary submission document
- Maximum of 5,000 words
- Up to 5 supporting visualizations or graphics
- Include a response for each of the scoring criteria

# SCORING

Clean Energy and Manufacturing Ecosystem Tracks – CONCEPT Phase



# How to Read The Scoring Rubric

## Scoring Criteria: 3-Minute Video Pitch

### Suggested Content Competitor Provides

- 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.

### Each Statement Scored on a 0-5 Scale

- The team and any partnering organizations possess relevant experience, qualifications, and capabilities to complete the proposed project.

On the left-hand side are suggested content you could provide to address the scored statements.



On the right-hand side are the exact scoring statements that reviewers will use to score your submission.

# Scoring – Points Table

Clean Energy Ecosystem Track		
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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>90</b>

Manufacturing Ecosystem Track		
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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100</b>

# COMPETITOR SUPPORT AND RESOURCES



# Using HeroX

American-Made Challenges

9,703

Share

Following (1.7K)

AMERICAN MADE | Community Energy Innovation Prize

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

## Community Energy Innovation Prize

Provide support, build trust, and strengthen partnerships with underserved communities while advancing the clean energy transition.

Energy, Environment & Resources

Non-Profit & Social Impact

Technology

Stage: Informational Webinar: Collegiate Track

Prize: \$7,490,000

SOLVE THIS CHALLENGE

Summary

Timeline

Updates <sup>5</sup>

Forum <sup>9</sup>

Teams <sup>1.7K</sup>

Entries

Resources

FAQ

Upcoming Events

Share & follow the prize

Submit your idea!

Stay up-to-date

Ask questions

Build a team

Rules, templates, and more!

# Power Connectors: The American-Made Network

## What Are Power Connectors?

- Organizations under subcontract with the American-Made prize administration team
- Provide prize outreach and competitor support

## What Do They Offer?

- Training and teaming sessions available to those interested in competing
- Office hours (both group and 1:1) for application feedback, questions, and general support

## How Do I Contact Them?

- Direct contact information is provided on the HeroX platform
- Training sessions and office hours available via Forum, Resources, and Upcoming Events



# Thank you! Questions?

Email:

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

Website and Forum:

<https://www.herox.com/CommunityEnergyInnovation>

