



# 2024 Renew America's Schools Prize - Informational Webinar

March 21 and March 26, 2024

Renew America's Schools Program  
Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)

# Welcome

This webinar is being recorded and will be published on the [HeroX prize page](#).

Please note that video and speaking capability has been disabled for attendees.

Please direct questions during this webinar to the Q&A feature. Questions will be captured and posted with answers in the DOE Q&A Spreadsheet linked in the FAQ section on HeroX.

Live questions will not be answered during the webinar itself.

Please be careful not to submit any language that might be business sensitive, proprietary or confidential.

A copy of today's slides will be posted on HeroX within 2-3 business days of the webinar.

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

# Notice

- NO NEW INFORMATION OTHER THAN THAT PROVIDED IN THE RULES DOCUMENT WILL BE DISCUSSED IN THE WEBINAR
- Participation in today's webinar will not convey any advantages or disadvantages in the application evaluation process
- Your participation is completely voluntary.



# Notice



- Carefully read the [Official Rules](#) and adhere to the submission requirements
- If inconsistencies exist between the Official Rules and this presentation, or statements from DOE personnel, the official documents are the controlling items.
- Official Rules: <https://www.herox.com/renewschoolsprize>
- If you have questions, please email [schools@doe.gov](mailto:schools@doe.gov)

# Renew America's Schools

**Invest in More Efficient, Energy-Saving School Buildings:** The Department of Energy (DOE) launched a \$500 million grant program spread across FY22-26 through President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) to make public schools more energy efficient.

**Continuing our Mission:** The 2024 Renew America's Schools Prize is the second round of funding from the Renew America's Schools Program.



<https://www.energy.gov/scep/renew-americas-schools>

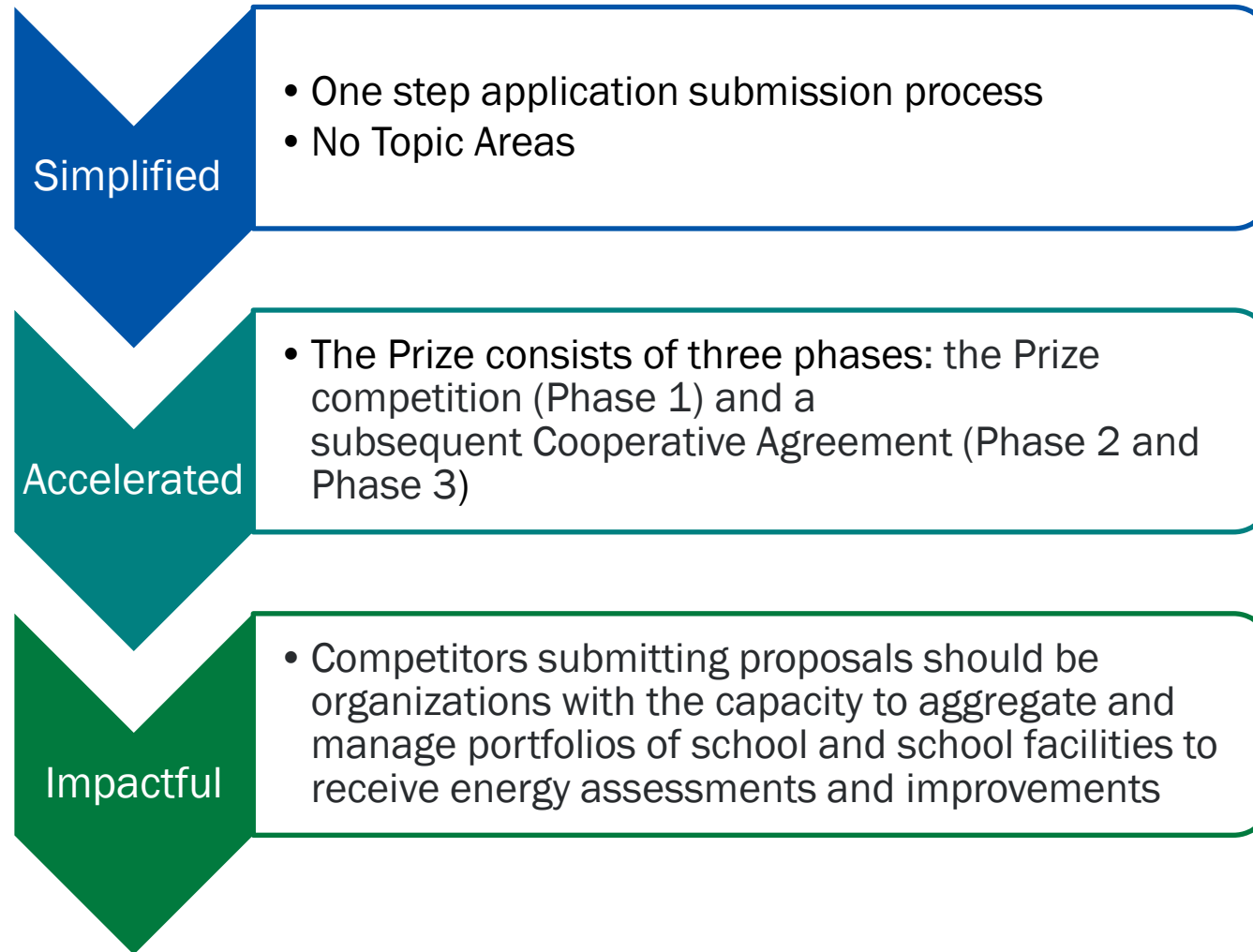


# Renew America's Schools – 2024 Goals

- 1 Maintain some continuity from previous funding opportunity
- 2 Minimize administrative burden where possible
- 3 Encourage partnerships
- 4 Leverage funds
- 5 Impact more Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) and school facilities

# Prize to Cooperative Agreement

To achieve these goals, the 2024 Renew America's Schools Prize is:



# Notes for Previous Applicants

This year's application is simplified and includes similar elements to the 2022 Renew America's Schools Grant. All competitors who meet the eligibility requirements may apply, including applicants from the 2022 Renew America's Schools Grant. **DOE suggests the following steps for previous applicants:**

## 1) Assemble your consortia

- See if any previously identified partners are interested in partnering again
- Reach out to new potential partners and contractors.

## 2) Define your portfolio

- Confirm your identified portfolio meets the new minimum
  - If not, reach out to other schools or school facilities and LEAs
- Please note the EJ Mapping Tool and SEA Form are required. DOE has improved these tools; please re-run to provide the most up-to-date information.

## 3) Compile your application materials

- Information from the previous "Project Narrative" may carry over to the "Technical Narrative" and "Community Benefits Plan"
- DOE encourages all competitors refer to the templates provided in HeroX.

For more information, see the 2024 Renew America's Schools Prize factsheet [on HeroX](#).



# Anticipated Schedule

Milestone	Date
Prize Issue Date:	March 20, 2024
Submission Deadline:	June 13, 2024 by 5 p.m. ET
Expected Date for DOE Selection Notifications:	August 2024 (anticipated)
Expected Timeframe for Cooperative Agreement Negotiations:	Starting in Fall 2024 (anticipated)

*The application is a one-step process and does NOT include a Concept Paper.*

# Teaming Partner List

DOE is gathering information for the “Teaming Partner List” to facilitate the formation of project teams. This list will allow organizations who wish to participate on an application to express their interest to other competitors, explore potential partnerships, and form project teams.

Updates to the Teaming Partner List will be available on the Prize's HeroX page under '[Resources](#)'. The Teaming Partner List will be regularly updated to reflect new teaming partners who provide their organization's information.

**SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS:** Any organization that would like to be included on the Teaming Partner List should fill out [this Microsoft form](#) or email the information to [Schools@doe.gov](mailto:Schools@doe.gov) with the subject line “Teaming Partner Information.”

**DISCLAIMER:** By submitting a request to be included on the Teaming Partner List, the requesting organization consents to the publication of the above-referenced information. By facilitating the Teaming Partner List, DOE is not endorsing, sponsoring, or otherwise evaluating qualifications of individuals and organizations self-identifying themselves for placement on the Teaming Partner List. DOE will not pay for the provision of any information, nor will it compensate any competitors or requesting organizations for the development of such information.

# Questions

Upon issuance of a Prize, DOE personnel are prohibited from communicating (in writing or otherwise) with applicants regarding the Prize except through the established question and answer process as described below.



Specifically, questions regarding this Prize must be submitted to: [schools@doe.gov](mailto:schools@doe.gov). Questions must be submitted no later than 3 business days prior to the application due date and time. Please note, feedback on individual concepts will not be provided through Q&A.



All questions and answers related to this Prize will be posted in the DOE Q&A Spreadsheet linked in the HeroX FAQ tab: <https://www.herox.com/renewschoolsprize/faq>

Questions related to the registration process and use of the HeroX website should be submitted to: [renewschoolsprize@nrel.gov](mailto:renewschoolsprize@nrel.gov)

# DOE Q&A Spreadsheet

QUESTION AND ANSWER LOG 2024 Renew America's Schools Prize					
Type ▾	Number ▾	Date Submitted ▾	Topic ▾	Question ▾	Answer ▾
DOE	1.1	N/A	Application Overview	Will DOE host outreach events to provide additional information?	<p>DOE has announced <b>Informational Webinars</b> on Thursday, March 21st at 3pm ET and on Tuesday, March 26th at 2pm ET. Both webinars will contain the same information.</p> <p>DOE has announced <b>Virtual Office Hours</b> on Wednesday, April 24th at 1pm ET and on Wednesday, May 29th at 2pm ET.</p> <p>Participation will not convey any advantages or disadvantages in the application evaluation process.</p> <p>Please visit HeroX for the registration links and to view recordings of these events: <a href="https://www.herox.com/renewschoolsprize">https://www.herox.com/renewschoolsprize</a></p>
					<p>Entities eligible for participation in the 2024 Renew America's Schools Prize must meet the eligibility requirements as described in <b>Section 40541(a)(3) of the BIL</b>. If the application does not meet these eligibility requirements, it will be considered ineligible and removed from further evaluation. Specifically, an eligible entity is described as a consortium of:</p>

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

# Agenda

0. Introduction and Program Summary
1. Prize: (Phase 1)
2. Cooperative Agreement: (Phase 2 and 3)
3. Appendix A: Prize Terms and Conditions
4. Appendices B-E: Cooperative Agreement Requirements
5. HeroX Prize Platform Overview and Next Steps

# 0. Introduction and Program Summary



# Background and Context (0.1)

The Renew America's Schools Program falls within the Office of State and Community Energy Programs (SCEP). Federal share for the Prize and Cooperative Agreement will be funded, in whole or in part, with funds appropriated by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), more commonly known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL).

The BIL appropriates more than \$62 billion to the Department of Energy (DOE) to invest in American manufacturing and workers; expand access to energy efficiency and clean energy; deliver reliable, clean and affordable power to more Americans; and demonstrate and deploy the technologies of tomorrow through clean energy demonstrations.

This program supports the implementation of [Section 40541 of the BIL](#), which provides \$500 million for grants for energy improvements at public school facilities for the five (5) year period encompassing Fiscal Years (FYs) 2022 through 2026.



# Background and Context (0.1)

The activities to be funded to support BIL section 40541:

- enable replicable and scalable impacts
- create innovative, sustaining partnerships
- leverage funding and economies of scale
- focus on disadvantaged communities
- improve student, teacher, and occupant health
- enrich learning and growth
- assist schools that serve as community assets (e.g. neighborhood cooling centers or disaster recovery shelters), and
- are crafted thoughtfully within the context of public school facilities (e.g. procurement restraints, construction windows, etc.).

These projects should maximize the benefits of the clean energy transition as the nation works to curb the climate crisis, empower workers, and advance environmental justice.

# Program Purpose (0.2)



This program seeks applications that not only address the need for energy efficiency and renewable energy upgrades, but also create innovative and sustaining partnerships, leverage funding and economies of scale, and provide replicable and scalable models for sector-wide change.

Energy consumption at U.S. public K-12 schools is a significant source of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions and the second highest operational expense to schools, second only to salaries. Packages of energy improvements, e.g., combining HVAC and lighting upgrades with solar water heating, can save even more energy than individual upgrades, and zero-energy or zero-energy ready construction can reduce energy consumption by more than 65%. These improvements can pay dividends for years to come: Every dollar saved on utility bills is a dollar better spent on educating children.



# Eligible Entities (0.5)



As described in Section 40541(a)(3) of the BIL, an eligible entity is a consortium of:

At least one local educational agency (LEA); and one or more

- Schools;
- Nonprofit organizations that have the knowledge and capacity to partner and assist with energy improvements;
- For-profit organizations that have the knowledge and capacity to partner and assist with energy improvements; or
- Community partners that have the knowledge and capacity to partner and assist with energy improvements.

# Eligible Types of Improvements - for Phase 3 (0.6)

Energy improvements in Phase 3 (“Implementation”) may take the form of repairs, renovations, or installations to the facility envelope, air conditioning system, ventilation system, heating system, domestic hot water heating system, compressed air system, distribution system, lighting system, power system, and/or controls of a building.

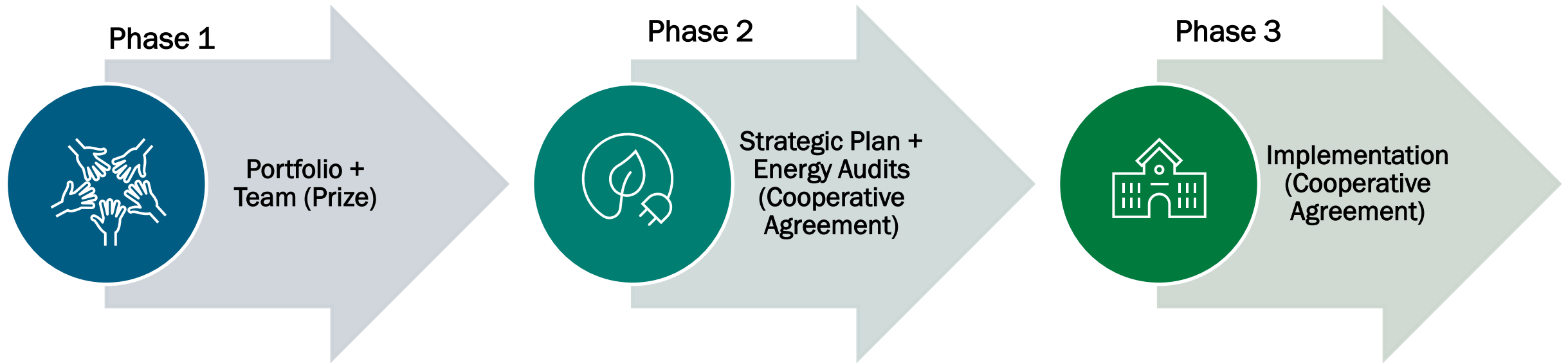
Projects may also include renewable energy improvements such as rooftop solar, micro wind turbines, alternative fueled vehicle infrastructure, and purchase or lease of alternative fueled vehicles.

Any improvement in a school or school facility that achieve energy savings and leads to an improvement in teacher and student health, including indoor air quality, is allowable.

Costs related to electrifying end uses to take advantage of clean energy from the electric grid are eligible.

*Packaging multiple improvements for deeper energy savings and carbon reductions is encouraged.*

# Funding Overview (0.0)





# 2024 Renew America's Schools Overview = \$180M across 3 Phases (0.0)



**SCEP**  
STATE & COMMUNITY ENERGY PROGRAMS

PHASE 1

**Prize**  
PORTFOLIO + TEAM

PHASE 2

**Cooperative Agreement**  
STRATEGIC PLAN + ENERGY AUDITS

PHASE 3

**Cooperative Agreement**  
IMPLEMENTATION

**Number of Anticipated Awardees**

Up to 23 winners. Minimum of 10 schools per portfolio selected.

**Award**

\$300K cash prize each

\$500K – \$1M\*

\$7M – \$14M\*

**Cost Share**

No cost share required

Minimum 5%

Minimum 25%

**Total Award Funding (\$180M)**

Up to \$6.9M

\$10 – \$15M

\$150 – \$170M

*\*Winner will receive funding based on portfolio size*

# Phase 1: Portfolio + Team (0.0)



## PHASE 1 (PRIZE): Portfolio + Team Up to 23 Winners at \$300,000 cash prize each

In Phase 1 (“Portfolio + Team”), competitors will identify a minimum of 10 schools/school facilities to be included in their application. The portfolio may span multiple LEAs. The portfolio should exhibit a high need for energy assessments and, ultimately, energy improvements.

**The goal of Phase 1:** is for competitors to successfully assemble their project team, assemble their portfolio of school facilities, demonstrate the need for energy improvements at schools and school facilities in the defined portfolio, and outline their process to complete the tasks in Phase 2.

Based on successful completion of Phase 1, winners will be invited to enter into negotiations with DOE for a Cooperative Agreement. Negotiations for Cooperative Agreement will require additional steps as outlined in the next few slides.

# Phase 2: Strategic Plan + Energy Audits (0.0)



**PHASE 2 (COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT): Strategic Plan + Energy Audits**  
**\$500,000 to \$1,000,000 per recipient**

**ONLY** winners from the Phase 1 Prize **will be eligible to negotiate with DOE to receive a Cooperative Agreement for Phase 2 and Phase 3 funding.** Phase 2 (“Strategic Plan + Energy Audits”) will be synonymous with Budget Period 1 of the Cooperative Agreement. Funding in Phase 2 will reimburse Grantees for costs associated with energy audits and strategic planning and design. DOE will allocate a set amount of funding per grantee, determined by the number of schools or school facilities submitted in their Phase 1 application.

**Goal of Phase 2:** Recipients conduct The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) Level 2 energy audits of all the schools/school facilities in the portfolio and develop a comprehensive Strategic Plan for implementing energy improvements. Energy audits and the Strategic Plan should provide schools with clear pathways to prioritize energy improvements, access private sector funding and/or tax credits, and realize high-impact health and safety benefits.

# Phase 3: Implementation (0.0)



## PHASE 3 (COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT): Implementation \$7,000,000 to \$14,000,000 per recipient

Phase 3 (“Implementation”) will be synonymous with Budget Period 2 of the Cooperative Agreement. In Phase 3, DOE will allocate a set amount of funding per grantee, determined by the number of schools/school facilities submitted in their Phase 1 application.

**Goal of Phase 3:** Recipients oversee implementation of the energy improvements identified at the end of Phase 2. DOE will work with Recipients to ensure high-priority energy improvements are implemented within the allotted budget for Phase 3. Phase 3 should directly advance the measurable goals of energy savings and high impact health and safety benefits outlined in Phase 1.

# Winner Will Receive Funding Based on Portfolio Size (0.0)



**SCEP**  
STATE & COMMUNITY ENERGY PROGRAMS

## PHASE 1

**Prize**  
PORTFOLIO + TEAM

## PHASE 2

**Cooperative Agreement**  
STRATEGIC PLAN + ENERGY AUDITS

## PHASE 3

**Cooperative Agreement**  
IMPLEMENTATION

**10–14 Schools  
& School Facilities\***

**\$300K**

**\$500K**

**\$7M**

**15–19 Schools  
& School Facilities**

**\$300K**

**\$750K**

**\$10.5M**

**20+ Schools  
& School Facilities**

**\$300K**

**\$1M**

**\$14M**

*\*Portfolios must have 10 or more schools/school facilities*



# What to Submit for Cooperative Agreement Negotiations (0.4)

If selected for award negotiations, DOE reserves the right to require that Selectees provide additional or clarifying information regarding the application submissions, the project, the project team, the award requirements, and any other matters related to anticipated award. The following is a non-exhaustive list of examples of documentation that may be required:

1. SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance
2. Statement of Project Objectives (SOP0)
3. SF-424a Budget justification
  1. Indirect cost information
4. Updated Community Benefits Plan
5. Pre-Award Information Sheet (PAIS)
  1. Participants and Collaborating Organizations
  2. Current and Pending Support
6. Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and System for Award Management (SAM) registration
7. FedConnect registration
8. Letter(s) of Commitment (Blended Cost Share Letter)



# Important Dates (0.7)

Milestone	Date
Phase 1 Submission Deadline Date:	June 13, 2024 by 5 p.m. ET
Informational Webinar #1:	Thursday, March 21 at 3 p.m. ET
Informational Webinar #2:	Tuesday, March 26 at 2 p.m. ET (see HeroX for Zoom Link)
Office Hours #1:	Wednesday, April 24 at 1 p.m. ET (see HeroX for Zoom Link)
Office Hours #2:	Wednesday, May 29th at 2 p.m. ET (see HeroX for Zoom Link)
Phase 1 Prize Winner Announcement:	August 2024 (anticipated)
Expected Timeframe for Cooperative Agreement Negotiations	Starting in Fall 2024



The Informational Webinars will contain the same content.

*All Informational Webinars and Office Hours will be recorded.  
The application is a one-step process and does NOT include a Concept Paper.*

# Example Scenario 1: LEA as Prime

## EXAMPLE SCENARIO 1: LEA AS PRIME

### Local Educational Agency (LEA)



#### PHASE 1

### Prize

PORTFOLIO + TEAM

DOE Funds = \$300K

Portfolio identifies 10 schools in Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) with high energy costs.

#### PHASE 2

### Cooperative Agreement

STRATEGIC PLAN + ENERGY AUDITS

DOE Funds = \$500K  
Cost Share (5%) = \$26K

All 10 schools receive an **energy analysis**, details of Energy Conservation Measures (ECMs), and a financial analysis for pay back through **IRS Elective Pay**.

#### PHASE 3

### Cooperative Agreement

IMPLEMENTATION

DOE Funds = \$7M  
Cost Share (25%) = \$2.3M  
Total Project Costs = \$9.3M

LEAs pay a **25% cost share** for solar and geothermal securing private sector bridge financing. Schools receive support in applying for **elective pay** to receive the tax credit to pay down the private loan quickly. DOE shares the process for direct pay **with schools nationwide**.

# Example Scenario 2: LEA as PRIME, Multiple-LEA Portfolio

## EXAMPLE SCENARIO 2: LEA AS PRIME, MULTIPLE-LEA PORTFOLIO

### Local Educational Agency (LEA)



#### PHASE 1

### Prize

PORTFOLIO + TEAM

DOE Funds = \$300K

Portfolio identifies 21 schools with high energy costs and failing systems.

#### PHASE 2

### Cooperative Agreement

STRATEGIC PLAN + ENERGY AUDITS

DOE Funds = \$1M  
Cost Share (5%) = \$52K

All 21 schools receive an **energy analysis**, details of Energy Conservation Measures (ECMs), and a financial analysis for pay back through **IRS Elective Pay**.

#### PHASE 3

### Cooperative Agreement

IMPLEMENTATION

DOE Funds = \$14M  
Cost Share (25%) = \$4.6M  
Total Project Costs = \$18.6M

LEA pays a **25% cost share** for efficiency retrofits, solar, and geothermal through private sector bridge financing. LEA applies for **elective pay** to receive the tax credit to pay down the private loan quickly. DOE shares the process for direct pay **with schools nationwide**.

# Example Scenario 3: ESCO as Prime, Multiple-LEA Portfolio

## EXAMPLE SCENARIO 3: ESCO AS PRIME, MULTIPLE-LEA PORTFOLIO

### Energy Service Company (ESCO)



#### PHASE 1

### Prize

PORTFOLIO + TEAM

DOE Funds = \$300K

Portfolio identifies 15 schools that are 70 years and older in Disadvantaged Communities (DACs).

#### PHASE 2

### Cooperative Agreement

STRATEGIC PLAN + ENERGY AUDITS

DOE Funds = \$750K  
Cost Share (5%) = \$39K

All 15 schools receive Level 2 ASHRAE **energy audits** to identify cost-saving Energy Conservation Measures (ECMs) for an Energy Savings Performance Contract (ESPC).

#### PHASE 3

### Cooperative Agreement

IMPLEMENTATION

DOE Funds = \$10.5M  
Cost Share (50%) = \$10.5M  
Total Project Costs = \$21M

Through an ESPC, a **50% cost share** for **geothermal heat pumps, building controls, and electric vehicle chargers** is provided. Schools see a **35% energy cost savings**. Schools may receive additional funding through **elective pay** to buy down the loan.



# Example Scenario 4: Owner's Rep as Prime, Multiple-LEA Portfolio

## EXAMPLE SCENARIO 4: OWNER'S REP AS PRIME, MULTIPLE-LEA PORTFOLIO

### Owner's Rep



#### PHASE 1

### Prize

PORTFOLIO + TEAM

DOE Funds = \$300K

Portfolio identifies 10 schools in Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) with high energy costs.

#### PHASE 2

### Cooperative Agreement

STRATEGIC PLAN + ENERGY AUDITS

DOE Funds = \$500K

Cost Share (5%) = \$26K

All 10 schools receive an **energy analysis**, details of Energy Conservation Measures (ECMs), and a financial analysis for pay back through **IRS Elective Pay**.

#### PHASE 3

### Cooperative Agreement

IMPLEMENTATION

DOE Funds = \$7M

Cost Share (25%) = \$2.3M

Total Project Costs = \$9.3M

Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) pay a **25% cost share** for solar and geothermal with the Owner's Rep securing private sector bridge financing. Schools receive application support for **elective pay** to receive the tax credit and pay down the private loan quickly. DOE shares the process for direct pay **with schools nationwide**.

# 1. Prize (Phase 1)



# Introduction (1.1)

The goal of Phase 1 (“Portfolio + Team”) is for competitors to successfully assemble their project team, assemble their portfolio of schools/school facilities, demonstrate the need for energy improvements at the defined portfolio, and outline their process to complete the tasks in Phase 2. In Phase 1, competitors will assemble project teams and portfolios, ensuring there are a minimum of 10 schools/school facilities included in their portfolio. Competitors will also provide timelines and processes for conducting energy audits/energy assessments of their portfolio to be completed in Phase 2 and pathways for financing improvements, stacking funds, and leveraging tax credits and/or private sector capital.

## Prizes to Win (1.2)

Up to 23 Phase 1 winners will receive cash prizes of \$300,000 and become eligible to move into negotiations for a Cooperative Agreement with DOE for Phase 2 and Phase 3.

## How to Enter (1.3)

Complete a submission package online at <https://www.herox.com/renewschoolsprize>, before June 13, 2024, at 5p.m. E.T. To learn more about the process of setting up a HeroX account and applying to a prize, please reference the “HeroX Instructional Guide” on the Resources tab in HeroX and slides later in this deck.

# Phase 1 Contest Process (1.4)

## 1. Preparation, Activation, and Submission:

Competitors complete their submission packages, following the instructions in the Rules document and submit online before Phase 1 of the contest closes.

## 2. Assessment:

The Prize Administrator screens all completed submissions and assigns a panel of DOE-approved subject matter expert reviewers to independently score the content of each submission. DOE's SCEP considers input from expert reviewers and makes the final decision on all winners.

Scoring protocol and technical review criteria are outlined in Section 1.7.

## 3. Announcement:

Approximately 60 days after Phase 1 closes, the Prize Administrator notifies winners and requests the necessary information (IRS W-9 form, ACH form, and prize acceptance form) to distribute cash prizes. The Prize Administrator will then publicly announce the winners.

# Submission Package (1.6)

The submission documents are summarized below in Table 3. Additional details in this section explain how to successfully collect and present the information for each required document. All templates and resources for this Prize can be found [on HeroX under the Resources tab](#).

Table 3. Submission Items for Phase 1

Section	Page/Size Limit	Will be made Public	Required	Template Provided
0. Team Name	N/A	Yes	Yes	N/A
1. Technical Narrative	10 pages maximum including cover page, text should be at least 11-point font	No	Yes	Yes
2. Energy Justice Mapping Tool Reports	No Page Limit	No	Yes	Yes, use if unable to generate report
3. School Energy Assessment (SEA) Form Tool Reports	No Page Limit	No	Yes	Yes
4. Community Benefits Plan (CBP)	5 pages maximum including cover page, text should be at least 11-point font	No	Yes	Yes
5. Resumes	One page maximum per individual, combined into a single document	No	Yes	No
6. Letters of Commitment	One page maximum per letter, combined into a single document	No	Yes	No
7. Summary Slide	1 slide maximum, designed for conference room projection, text should be at least 14-pt font	Yes	Yes	Yes

Applications must be submitted through HeroX by 5pm ET  
**June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

# Technical Narrative (1.6.1)

The Technical Narrative should address the first four of five evaluation criteria.

## Need for Planning and Energy Assessment:

- Facility and Community Need
- Free and Reduced-Price Lunch Percentage per School/School Facility

## Team Composition, Capability, and Experience:

- A description of the capacity of the eligible entity to provide services and comprehensive support to make the energy improvements

## Implementation Plan for Phase 2:

- A draft work plan of the intended achievements of the eligible entity at the school
- A description of the energy improvements that the eligible entity would carry out at the school if the application were approved
- An assessment of the expected needs of the eligible entity for operation and maintenance training funds, and a plan for use of those funds, if applicable


## Impact and Replicability:

- Strategic Partnership and Scalability.

In the Narrative, competitors should also address organizational background (including the history and state of the school facilities identified in the portfolio), high-level project goals, project impacts to student learning and growth, and other relevant details.

# Technical Narrative (1.6.1)

A template is provided to help organize the narrative; use of this template is encouraged, but not required. The suggestions in the Technical Narrative Template are not meant to be prescriptive or restrictive; the competitor should decide how to best structure their response. Templates can be found on [HeroX](#) under the 'Resources' tab.



**TECHNICAL NARRATIVE TEMPLATE**  
**2024 Renew America's Schools Prize**

Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Submission or Entry Title: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Technical Narrative Template

[The red (instructions and context) and blue (examples) text throughout the template should be removed in the final version of the Technical Narrative]

*The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is providing this template as an administrative convenience for prize competitors. Use of this template is not required; competitors are welcome to provide the requested information in an alternate format. Competitors final Technical Narrative should be uploaded in .pdf form, be 10 pages maximum (including cover page) and text should be at least 11-point font.*

Write a detailed narrative describing your solution that addresses each of the evaluation criteria. Please note that a separate template is provided for the Community Benefits Plan.

The suggestions below are meant to guide the content competitors provide but are not meant to be prescriptive or restrictive; you decide where to focus your answers.

The Technical Narrative must be in English. Unless stated otherwise, all files must be submitted in the HeroX platform in an unlocked, searchable PDF form. Content that exceeds any page will not be reviewed. Please refer to the official 2024 RENEW AMERICA'S SCHOOLS RULE DOCUMENT for each criteria question and its associated suggested content.

The independent reviewers will score the questions based on the content provided in the narrative and other submission elements.

**Distinguishing Features/Definitions:**

- **Prime:**
  - o Organization, individual, or other entity that receives a financial assistance award from DOE (i.e., is the signatory on the award), is financially accountable for the use of any DOE funds or property provided for the performance of the Project and is legally responsible for carrying out the terms and condition of the award.
- **Subrecipient:**
  - o Uses funds to carry out program purpose;
  - o Cannot earn profit;
  - o Can provide cost share (but not required to).
- **Vendor/Contractor:**
  - o Procured by the Prime and/or Subrecipients;
  - o Provides goods and services which are auxiliary or complementary to the program;
  - o Can earn profit;
  - o Cannot provide cost share.
- **Partner:**
  - o A key team member with no financial involvement in the award.

**NCES District ID:** [Enter 7-Digit Number]

*[If you do not have one, please explain why. Enter multiple if the application includes multiple local educational agencies (LEAs).*

*If you are unsure of your NCES District ID, identify the ID by visiting: <https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/data/districtsearch/>*

**Project Locations:** [Enter Proposed Project Address(es) – include street address, city,

2 | 2024 Renew America's Schools Prize - Technical Narrative Template

state, and zip code + 4 for each location]

**Table A: Project Contacts:**

Technical Contact / Principal Investigator (PI)	Business Officer (BO)
[Name]	[Name]
[Title]	[Title]
[Address]	[Address]
[City, State, Zip]	[City, State, Zip]
[Office Phone Number]	[Office Phone Number]
[Mobile Phone Number]	[Mobile Phone Number]
[Email address]	[Email Address]

*Please note that the PI and BO must be from either the prime recipient or a subrecipient. They cannot be from a vendor/contractor.*

**Additional Key Project Participants and Organizations**

*Please provide the name(s) and type of organization(s) of each additional key participating organization including the name, title, address, telephone number, and electronic mail addresses of participant contacts here, if applicable.*

**Table B: Key Team Members and Organizations**

Organization	Role & Function	Point of Contact Information
[Name of Organization]	<b>Role (select one):</b> Subrecipient, Vendor, Partner, Other <b>Function (select all that apply):</b> Equipment Supplier, Owner's rep, EPC contractor, labor union/training provider, etc.	[Name] [Title] [Address] [City, State, Zip] [Office Phone Number] [Mobile Phone Number] [Email address]
[Name of Organization]	<b>Role (select one):</b> Subrecipient, Vendor, Partner, Other <b>Function (select all that apply):</b> Equipment Supplier, Owner's rep, EPC contractor, labor union/training provider, etc.	[Name] [Title] [Address] [City, State, Zip] [Office Phone Number] [Mobile Phone Number] [Email address]

**0.0 Project Overview**

**0.1 Background**  
*The competitor should discuss the organization(s) background, including the history and state of the school facilities identified in the portfolio.*

**0.2 Project Goals**  
*The competitor should provide a clear and concise (high-level) statement of the goals and objectives of the project as well as the expected outcomes. The competitor should describe the critical success factors in achieving their goals, including the ways in which the proposed project location and related infrastructure, skilled workforce, community benefits, etc. will contribute to the success of the overall project.*

3 | 2024 Renew America's Schools Prize - Technical Narrative Template

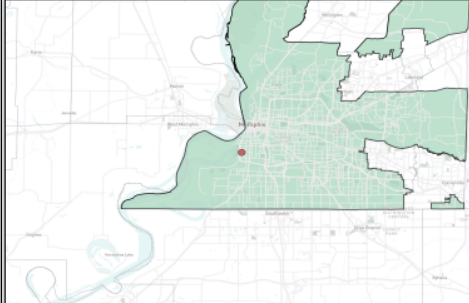
# Energy Justice Mapping Tool Reports (1.6.2)

DOE developed the “Energy Justice Mapping Tool for Schools” (<https://energyjustice-schools.egs.anl.gov>) to help applicants derive relevant needs information on a school-by-school basis.

Competitors must use this tool to generate a report for each school facility within the submission.

Please upload a single .pdf document to HeroX that includes the one-page summary report per school/school facility. For example: if the portfolio has 10 schools, the .pdf document uploaded will be 10 pages long.

This template can be found on HeroX under the ‘Resources’ tab.



**SCHOOL** 470014801144

- Name: Riverview Elementary/middle
- State: Tennessee
- County: Shelby County
- District: Shelby County

<b>Type:</b>	<b>Level:</b>	<b># of Students:</b>
Regular school	Elementary	429

Indicator	Value	National Percentile
Located in a DAC	Yes	N/A
Rural Location	No	N/A
Title 1 Schoolwide Programming Eligible	Yes	N/A
Designated Community Shelter	No	N/A
Non-White %	99%	95%

**School District**

**DISTRICT** 4700148

- Name: Shelby County
- State: TN
- County: Shelby County
- Locale: City, Large

<b># Students:</b>	<b># Schools:</b>
109,797	226

Indicator	Value	National Percentile
Contains DAC?	Yes	N/A
Revenue Per Pupil	\$10,316.08	42%
Pupil Spending Gap	No Data	0%
Non-White %	95%	100%

DOE School Reporter Export
Data Indicator Descriptions Shapefiles
3/14/2024



# School Energy Assessment (SEA Form) Tool Reports (1.6.3)

Competitors must use DOE's School Energy Assessment (SEA) Form to generate a facility condition report, which is a needs assessment of the current condition of the school and school facilities that would receive the energy improvements.

The SEA Form is available for download on [HeroX](#) under the 'Resources' tab.

You will need to complete and save one Excel File SEA form for each school/school facility, Combine all Excel files into a Zip folder to upload to HeroX. Please note that HeroX will only accept one file; this should be a Zip file containing 10 + SEA forms.

*NOTE: Facility Conditions Reports (including full energy audits or investment-grade audits) are not part of the submission package for the 2024 Renew America's Schools Prize.*

The screenshot shows the 'Introduction to School Energy Assessment (SEA) Form' page. It features the SCEP logo (State & Community Energy Programs) and the 'Efficient and Healthy Schools' logo. The page is titled '1. Introduction to School Energy Assessment (SEA) Form'. The main text explains that the form helps collect information for assessing school facility conditions and capturing details on HVAC, lighting, and construction. It also mentions that the SEA form can be used with the U.S. Department of Energy's Quick Building Assessment Tool (QBAT) in the Building Energy Asset Score (Asset Score) platform. A flowchart on the right side of the page provides four steps for filling out the SEA form to create a Facility Conditions Report and optionally enter the building in QBAT for ECM recommendations and cost estimates. The steps are: 1. Enter building information into all of the required fields in the blue tabs (listing Building Specifications, HVAC and Water Heating, Lighting, Construction Properties, and Building Energy (Optional)). 2. For assistance with identifying building equipment and construction properties refer to the Guide tabs, which can be printed and marked up during facility review if needed. 3. Check the Facility Conditions Report tab to verify that all required facility information has been entered. 4. Print or save the Facility Conditions Report tab as .pdf file to create summary report for quick reference. Below the flowchart, there are two blue boxes: one for 'Follow these steps to create a Facility Conditions Report by filling out the SEA form.' and another for 'Follow these steps for ECM recommendations and cost estimates through QBAT.' At the bottom of the page, there are two links: 'Access the U.S. Department of Energy's Asset Score and Quick Building Assessment Tool' and 'Access Quick Building Assessment Tool User Guide'.

**SCEP**  
STATE & COMMUNITY ENERGY PROGRAMS

**EFFICIENT AND HEALTHY SCHOOLS**

## 1. Introduction to School Energy Assessment (SEA) Form

This form will help you collect information that enables you to assess your school facility conditions and capture important details on the heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system, lighting system, and building construction properties. Collecting this information is an important step in identifying potential retrofit opportunities, or "Energy Conservation Measures" (ECMs), for your school. Follow the step-by-step instructions below, or refer to the flow chart on the right, to enter building information. The SEA form creates a simple Facility Conditions Report in Tab 2, a useful reference summarizing the school building's equipment, construction properties, and conditions, that help you consider retrofit opportunities. Tab 2 can be printed to paper and printed, or saved as a .pdf file.

The SEA form can also be used with the U.S. Department of Energy's Quick Building Assessment Tool (QBAT) in the Building Energy Asset Score (Asset Score) platform, at [buildingenergyscore.energy.gov](#). Asset Score is a web-based software application that assesses building energy performance and identifies opportunities for efficiency improvements. QBAT is a simplified version of Asset Score for school facilities that assesses energy performance under standardized operational conditions. QBAT provides users with potential energy-saving opportunities based on existing equipment and simulated energy performance, generating a report that includes actionable retrofit opportunity information, including estimated savings, health, and safety benefits. QBAT also includes an ECM Cost Estimates tool that provides estimated cost ranges for implementing ECMs.

For questions or technical assistance with filling out the SEA form please email: [SEAFomHelp@lbl.gov](mailto:SEAFomHelp@lbl.gov).

[Access the U.S. Department of Energy's Asset Score and Quick Building Assessment Tool](#)

[Access Quick Building Assessment Tool User Guide](#)

**Follow these steps to create a Facility Conditions Report by filling out the SEA form.**

- 1 Enter building information into all of the required fields in the blue tabs.
  - Building Specifications
  - HVAC and Water Heating
  - Lighting
  - Construction Properties
  - Building Energy (Optional)
- 2 For assistance with identifying building equipment and construction properties refer to the Guide tabs, which can be printed and marked up during facility review if needed.
- 3 Check the Facility Conditions Report tab to verify that all required facility information has been entered.
- 4 Print or save the Facility Conditions Report tab as .pdf file to create summary report for quick reference.

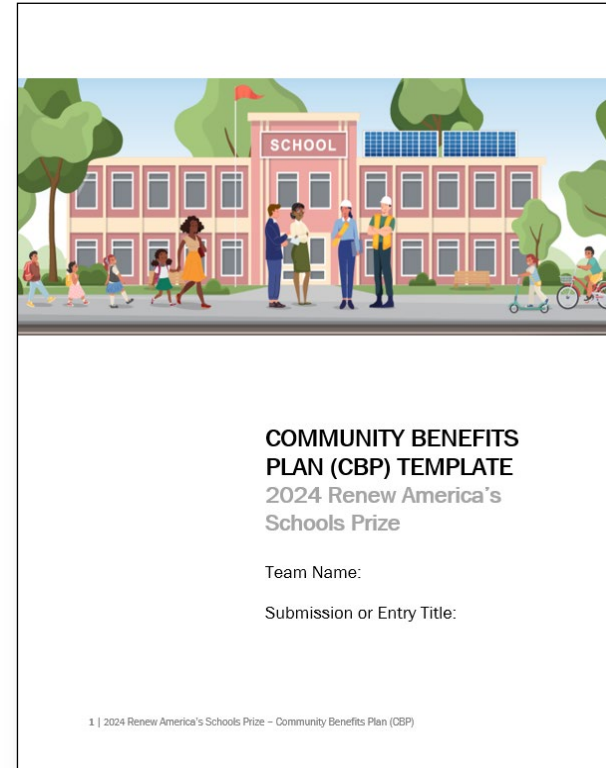
**Follow these steps for ECM recommendations and cost estimates through QBAT.**

Additional trainings on how to use the form can be found on: [School Needs and Benefits Assessment Resources | Department of Energy](#)

# Community Benefits Plan (1.6.4)

The Community Benefits Plan (CBP) sets forth the competitor's approach to ensuring Federal investments advance the following four goals:

- Investing in America's workforce
- Engaging communities and labor
- Advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility, and
- Implementing Justice 40.



[The red (instructions and context) and blue (examples) text throughout the template should be removed in the final version of Community Benefits Plan]

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is providing this template as an administrative convenience for prize competitors. Use of this template is not required; competitors are welcome to provide the requested information in an alternate format. Competitors final CBP should be uploaded in .pdf form, be 5 pages maximum (including cover page) and text should be at least 11-point font.

**PURPOSE:** The Community Benefits Plan (CBP) sets forth the approach to local engagement, thereby ensuring that Federal investments advance the Department of Energy's priorities:

1. Community and labor engagement;
2. Investing in quality jobs;
3. Advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA); and
4. Contributing to the Justice40<sup>1</sup> Initiative.

The CBP should indicate the intention to engage meaningfully with community stakeholders in pursuit of these priorities. Meaningful engagement includes, but is not limited to, entering into formal workforce and community agreements. More details can be found in the Prize Rules Appendices B-E. For additional guidance on CBPs, see: <https://www.energy.gov/bil/community-benefits-plan-frequently-asked-questions-faq>. Within the CBP, please discuss how these four priorities (CBP Sections 1.0-4.0) will be integrated into the project.

#### 0.0 Community Benefits Plan Executive Summary

The competitor should provide a brief overview of anticipated project benefits to local communities including any key highlights from the sections below. Competitors may describe the role(s) that schools/school facilities within the portfolio serve in their communities (e.g., disaster shelters, adult education, afterschool enrichment).

#### 1.0 Community and Labor Engagement

The competitor should describe anticipated engagement with specific stakeholders and organizations.

Competitors should include:

- a. How their organization currently demonstrates community and labor engagement and how this engagement will support the proposed program.
- b. How their team plans to engage with stakeholders. Examples include local governments, tribal entities, labor unions, and community-based organizations that support or work with disadvantaged communities and other affected stakeholders. The table below can be used to succinctly present this information.

Anticipated Stakeholders	Anticipated Engagement
--------------------------	------------------------

<sup>1</sup> The Justice40 Initiative, established by E.O. 14008, sets a goal that 40% of the overall benefits of certain federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities. The Justice40 Interim Guidance provides a broad definition of disadvantaged communities (page 2): <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/M-21-28.pdf>.

The suggestions in the CBP Template are not meant to be prescriptive or restrictive; the competitor should decide how to best structure their response. A CBP template is provided on [HeroX](#) under the 'Resources' tab to help organize the CBP. Use of this template is encouraged, but not required.



# Resumes (1.6.5)

A resume provides information used by reviewers to evaluate an individual's relevant skills and experience. Competitors must submit a one-page resume for each project manager and key personnel that includes the following:

1. Contact information
2. Education: All academic institutions attended, major/area, degree
3. Training: (e.g.,) certification or credential from a Registered Apprenticeship or Labor Management Partnership
4. Professional experience: Beginning with the current position, list professional/academic positions in chronological order with a brief description, and
5. List all current academic, professional, or institutional appointments, foreign or domestic, at the applicant institution or elsewhere, whether or not remuneration is received, and whether full-time, part-time, or voluntary.

**Each resume must not exceed one (1) page per individual. Combine all letters into a single .pdf document for submission.**

# Letters of Commitment (1.6.6)

Letters from portfolio schools/LEAs and any other key project partners identified at time of application should be submitted. These letters should state the entity's intent to participate in the proposed project and their role(s) should the project move forward.

**Each letter must not exceed one (1) page. Combine all letters into a single .pdf document for submission.**

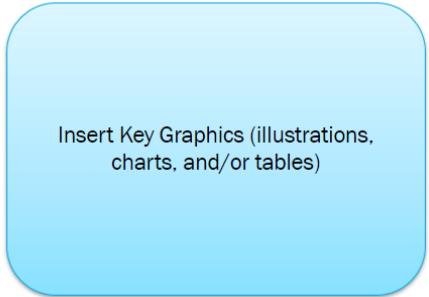
# Summary Slide (1.6.7)

Competitors must provide a single public-facing PowerPoint slide summarizing the proposed project. The Summary Slide must include the following information:

- Project Name
- Project Description
- Summary of Need (Community, Facility)
- Project Goals
- Any key graphics (illustrations, charts and/or tables)

A “Summary Slide Template” is provided. Using the template is encouraged, but not required.

Templates can be found on [HeroX under the Resource tab.](#)

Team Name		2024 Renew America's Schools Prize
<b>Submission or Entry Title</b>		
<b>Project Description</b> <i>Provide a short description of the portfolio of schools identified, the project team, and the proposed plan.</i>	<b>Project Goals</b> <i>Summarize the project goals. This may include impacts to students, schools, and anticipated community benefits.</i>	
<b>Summary of Need (Community, Facility)</b> <i>Provide a short summary of need and motivation for applying for this funding opportunity.</i>		 <p>Insert Key Graphics (illustrations, charts, and/or tables)</p>

# How We Determine Winners (1.7)

- All items in the submission package, except for the cover page, will be considered when scoring each submission
- After reviewing all elements of the submission package, expert reviewers will assign a score between 1 and 6 for each of the five scoring criteria

1	2	3	4	5	6
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree

- Reviewers will review each submission individually and assess the response from the competitor to each statement in the five criteria described over the next few slides
- Each section score will be added together to generate a total score for the submission
- 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.

# How We Determine Winners – Review Criteria (1.7)

Applications will be evaluated against the technical review criteria shown below. All sub-criteria are of equal weight.

## Criterion 1: Need for Planning and Energy Assessments (20%)

The competitor should describe their intended portfolio of schools and school facilities, and their need(s), as measured by the following parameters:

- Facilities: Extent to which schools or school facilities identified in portfolio exhibit a high need for energy assessments and may require energy improvements (e.g., age of school, deferred maintenance, fiscal/capital constraints for facility, services, high energy costs, failing systems, and/or others)
- Community: Degree to which the project is based in and serves a community of high need (e.g., rural, high percentage of students qualifying for free and reduced priced lunch, Tribal, etc.).

# How We Determine Winners – Review Criteria (1.7)

Applications will be evaluated against the technical review criteria shown below. All sub-criteria are of equal weight.

## Criterion 2: Team Composition, Capability, and Experience (20%)

The competitor should introduce their proposed project team and outline the team's core competencies:

- Project team composition: The team has the necessary experience, team, and relationships to successfully implement their plan (both in energy and financing)
- Experience: The team members have a successful track record within relevant sectors (such as energy efficiency, renewable energy, school infrastructure, financing)
- Commitment: The team has documented that all needed team members will be in place and ready to commit the time needed to accomplish the stated goals for Phase 2.

# How We Determine Winners – Review Criteria (1.7)

Applications will be evaluated against the technical review criteria shown below. All sub-criteria are of equal weight.

## Criterion 3: Implementation Plan for Phase 2 (20%)

The competitor should develop their plan for Phase 2 (energy audits/energy assessments, financial analyses, and strategy for implementation of upgrades), addressing:

- Plan: Adequacy, reasonableness, and soundness of the project plan to complete the required Strategic Plan and ASHRAE Level 2 energy audits within the time allotted to Phase 2 (9-12 months)
- Schedule: Likelihood of successfully maintaining schedule proposed for Phase 2 and demonstrate how they will accomplish key milestones towards meeting project goal(s).

# How We Determine Winners – Review Criteria (1.7)

Applications will be evaluated against the technical review criteria shown below. All sub-criteria are of equal weight.

## Criterion 4: Impact and Replicability (20%)

The competitor should situate their project within larger sustainability, decarbonization, and clean energy goals, demonstrating how pivotal aspects of their project can be extrapolated to different sites and contexts through strategic use of:

- Partnerships: Extent to which the project strategically leverages partnerships
- Benefits: The potential benefits in terms of cost savings, air quality improvements, and emissions reductions from full implementation of the project
- Scalability: Extent to which the project addresses replicability and scalability of the project, both within the competitor's LEA and/or by external LEAs. Plans to build upon this work within the LEA, disseminate strategies and lessons learned to external LEAs, and/or collaborate with other LEAs on pursuing energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies.

# How We Determine Winners – Review Criteria (1.7)

Applications will be evaluated against the technical review criteria shown below. All sub-criteria are of equal weight.

## Criterion 5: Community Benefits Plans (20%)

- Community and Labor Engagement: Extent to which competitor's Community Benefits Plan illustrates project viability and social risk mitigation through community and labor engagement
- Workforce: Extent to which competitor's Community Benefits Plan illustrates investment in the American workforce
- DEIA: Extent to which competitor's Community Benefits Plan illustrates diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility (DEIA) goals
- J40: Extent to which competitor's Community Benefits Plan illustrates "Justice 40 Initiative" benefits to disadvantaged communities.



# Ineligible Submission (1.9)



## 2. Cooperative Agreement (Phase 2 & 3)

# Introduction (2.1)

Competitively-selected Phase 1 winners will be invited to negotiate Cooperative Agreements with DOE. In Phase 2 (“Strategic Plan + Energy Audits”), these winners (also referred to as Recipients) will begin by conducting the energy audits/energy assessments and financial analyses. Using the results of these studies, each Recipient will develop a strategic plan and implementation framework for energy improvements.

## Cooperative Agreement Process (2.2)

Winners from Phase 1 will receive a schedule for award negotiations from DOE. During negotiations, each Selectee will work with Project Officers (POs) from DOE’s SCEP to create a Statement of Project Objectives (SOP) and other selection documents. Failure to engage in timely communication with POs, and submit documents as requested, may result in the termination of award negotiations.

## Award Overview (2.3)

DOE expects to make a total of approximately \$180,000,000 of federal funding available for awards through both the Prize and Cooperative Agreement, subject to the availability of appropriated funds. DOE anticipates making up to 23 awards under this Prize to Cooperative Agreement structure. Individual awards may vary between \$7.8M and \$15.3M, depending on the portfolio size submitted in Phase 1: Prize.

# What To Submit for Phase 2 Continuation Application (2.4)

DOE requires a minimum 5% cost share for the Cooperative Agreement in Phase 2, and minimum 25% for the Cooperative Agreement in Phase 3. For more information about cost share requirements, see Appendix B – E on HeroX in the "Resources" tab.

Deliverables for the end of Phase 2 (Budget Period 1) continuation application will include, but are not limited to the following:

- Full Construction Budget (see Appendix B Section IV.A.vii for Davis-Bacon Act requirements);
- Letter(s) of Commitment for Cost Share minimum for Phase 3 (25% of total project costs or more);
- ASHRAE Level 2 Energy Audits;
- Strategic Plan (to be made public);
  - Details of Energy Conservation Measures (ECMs) and planned renewables for implementation;
  - Plan to implement Build America, Buy America (BABA) (see Appendix B Section IV. A. v).
  - Plan to implement Davis Bacon Act (see Appendix B Section IV.A.-vii).
  - Financial analysis and plan; and
  - Plan to leverage opportunities such as IRS Elective Pay, 179D, or State Revolving Loan Funds established by BIL Section 40502;
- Updated Statement of Project Objectives (SOP0) with schedule of tasks and milestones; and
- Updated Community Benefits Plan (CBP).

# What To Submit for Phase 2 Continuation Application (2.4)

In Phase 3 (“Implementation”), DOE intends to fund energy improvements identified during Phase 2.

DOE intends to fund this Phase of the Cooperative Agreements from **\$7 million to \$14 million per award**, dependent on the number of schools and school facilities defined in the portfolio of the winning competitor’s Phase 1 submission.

In addition to DOE federal funds, the Cooperative Agreement is funded in part by required cost share through other leveraged funds.

## 3. Appendix A: Prize Terms and Conditions



# Compliance Criteria (Appendix A-A.1)

All competitors must:



Applications must be submitted through HeroX by 5pm ET

June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024

SCEP will not accept late submissions or any other form of submission.

# Program Policy Factors (A.13)

While the scores of the expert reviewers will be carefully considered, it is the role of the prize judge to maximize the impact of contest 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. In addition to the reviewers' scores, the below program policy factors may be considered in determining winners:

1. The degree to which the proposed submission represents a desired geographic distribution (considering past awards under the Renew America's Schools program and current applications), including whether the project is in a community that is facing job and revenue loss in the energy transition;
2. The degree to which the schools serve a high percentage of students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch or have a designated school district local code of 41, 42, or 42 as determined by the National Center for Educational Statistics in consultation with the Bureau of Census;
3. The degree to which the submission leverages private sector investment through energy-related performance contracting;
4. The degree to which the submission collectively represents diverse types and sizes of competitors which represent diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility principles;
5. The degree to which the project's solution, schedule, or strategy will maximize deployment or replication;
6. The degree to which the submission incorporates Selectee or team members from Minority Serving Institutions (e.g., Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)/Other Minority Serving Institutions); and partnerships with socially disadvantaged entities, such as Minority Business Enterprises, Minority Owned Businesses, Woman Owned Businesses, Veteran Owned Businesses, or Tribal Nations;
7. The extent of the disparity between the fiscal capacity of the eligible entity to carry out energy improvements at school facilities and the needs of the partnering local educational agency for those energy improvements;
8. The level of buy-in and participation by project participants as evidenced by letter(s) of commitment.

# 4. Appendices B-E Cooperative Agreement Requirements

# Cooperative Agreement Details (Appendix B – I.A)

DOE generally uses cooperative agreements to provide financial and other support to prime recipients.

Through cooperative agreements, DOE provides financial or other support to accomplish a public purpose of support or stimulation authorized by federal statute. Under cooperative agreements, the government and prime recipients share responsibility for the direction of projects.

DOE has **substantial involvement** in all projects funded via cooperative agreement. See Section V.B.ix. of the Cooperative Agreement for more information on what substantial involvement may involve.

# Cost Share (Appendix B Section III.A & Appendix C)

Cooperative Agreements resulting from this Funding Opportunity will have blended cost share.

- At least 5% minimum cost share is required for Phase 2: Budget Period 1 (“Strategic Plan + Energy Audits”), and
- At least 25% minimum cost share is required for Phase 3: Budget Period 2 (“Implementation”)

## Cash Cost Share

Encompasses all contributions to the project made by the recipient or subrecipient(s), for costs incurred and paid for during the project. This includes when an organization pays for personnel, supplies, equipment for their own company with organizational resources. If the item or service is reimbursed for, it is cash cost share.

## In-Kind Cost Share

Encompasses all contributions to the project made by the recipient or subrecipient(s) that do not involve a payment or reimbursement and represent donated items or services. In-Kind cost share items include volunteer personnel hours, donated existing equipment, donated existing supplies.

## Funds from other Federal Sources

MAY NOT be counted as cost share. This prohibition includes FFRDC subrecipients. Non-federal sources include any source not originally derived from federal funds. Cost sharing commitment letters from subrecipients must be provided with the Cooperative Agreement negotiation documents.

## Fee or Profit

Are not allowable as project costs (including cost share) under any resulting award. The project may only incur those costs that are allowable and allocable to the project (including cost share) as determined in accordance with the applicable cost principles prescribed in FAR Part 31 for For-Profit entities and 2 CFR Part 200 Subpart E - Cost Principles for all other non-federal entities.

# Cost Share Information Budget Period 1 / Phase 2 (Appendix C)

## How Cost Sharing is Calculated

As stated above, cost sharing is calculated as a percentage of the Total Project Cost. FFRDC costs must be included in Total Project Costs. The following is an example of how to calculate cost sharing amounts for a project with \$500,000 in federal funds with a minimum 5% non-federal cost sharing requirement:

Formula: Federal share (\$) divided by federal share (%) = Total Project Cost

Example: \$500,000 divided by 95% = \$526,315.8

Formula: Total Project Cost (\$) minus federal share (\$) = Non-federal share (\$)

Example: \$526,315.8 minus \$500,000 = \$26,315.8

Formula: Non-federal share (\$) divided by Total Project Cost (\$) = Non-federal share (%)  
Example: \$26,315.8 divided by \$526,315.8 = 5%

5%

*FFRDC – Federally Funded Research and Development Center aka National Laboratory*



# Cost Share Information Budget Period 2 / Phase 3 (Appendix C)

## How Cost Sharing is Calculated

As stated above, cost sharing is calculated as a percentage of the Total Project Cost. FFRDC costs must be included in Total Project Costs. The following is an example of how to calculate cost sharing amounts for a project with \$7,000,000 in federal funds with a minimum 25% non-federal cost sharing requirement:

Formula: Federal share (\$) divided by federal share (%) = Total Project Cost

Example: \$7,000,000 by 75% = \$9,333,333.33

Formula: Total Project Cost (\$) minus federal share (\$) = Non-federal share (\$)

Example: \$9,333,333.33 minus \$7,000,000 = \$2,333,333.33

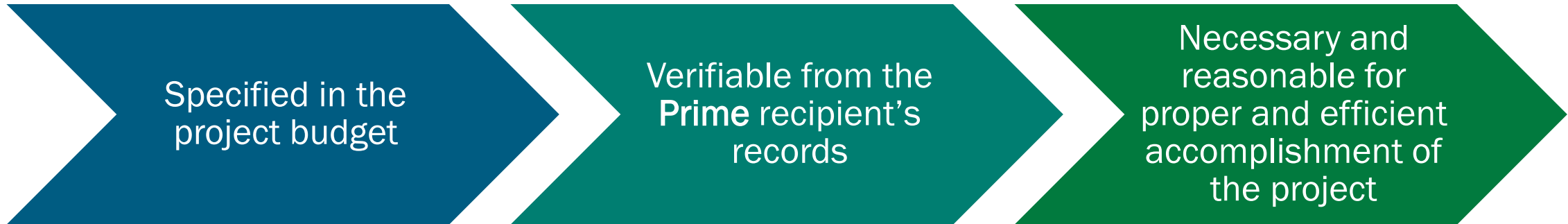
Formula: Non-federal share (\$) divided by Total Project Cost (\$) = Non-federal share (%)

Example: \$2,333,333.33 divided by \$9,333,333.33 = 25%

25%

*FFRDC – Federally Funded Research and Development Center aka National Laboratory*

Cost share contributions must be:



As all sources of cost share are considered part of total project cost, the cost share dollars will be scrutinized and subject to the same federal regulations as federal dollars to the project. Every cost share contribution must be reviewed and approved in advance by the Contracting Officer and incorporated into the project budget before the expenditures are incurred.

# Pre-Award Costs (Appendix B- Section IV.A.ii)

Selectees must request prior written approval to charge pre-award costs. Pre-award costs are those incurred prior to the effective date of the federal award directly pursuant to the negotiation and in anticipation of the federal award where such costs are necessary for efficient and timely performance of the scope of work. Such costs are allowable only to the extent that they would have been allowable if incurred after the date of the federal award and **only** with the written approval of the federal awarding agency, through the DOE Contracting Officer.

Pre-award costs cannot be incurred prior to the Selection Official signing the Selection Statement and Analysis. Any such costs are unallowable under a Cooperative Agreement.

Pre-award expenditures are made at the selectee's risk. DOE is not obligated to reimburse costs:

- (1) in the absence of appropriations;
- (2) if an award is not made; and,
- (3) if an award is made for a lesser amount than the selectee anticipated.

# Build America Buy America Requirements

(Appendix B Section IV.A.v and Appendix D)

In accordance with Section 70914 of the BIL, none of the project funds (includes federal share and recipient cost share) may be used for a project for infrastructure unless:

- 1 all iron and steel used in the project are produced in the United States;
- 2 the manufactured products used in the project are produced in the United States; and
- 3 the construction materials used in the project are produced in the United States.

# Davis-Bacon Act Requirements (Appendix B Section IV.A.vi.)

Projects awarded under this Funding Opportunity will be funded under Division D of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Accordingly, per Section 41101 of that law, **all laborers and mechanics employed by the recipient, subrecipients, contractors or subcontractors in the performance of construction, alteration, or repair work** funded in whole or in part under this Funding Opportunity shall be paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing on similar projects in the locality, as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code commonly referred to as the “Davis-Bacon Act” (DBA).

For additional guidance on how to comply with the Davis-Bacon provisions and clauses, see <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/government-contracts/construction> and <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/government-contracts/protections-for-workers-in-construction>.

DOE has contracted with [LCPTracker](#), a third-party DBA electronic payroll compliance software application. Recipients of funding under this Funding Opportunity must ensure the timely electronic submission of weekly certified payrolls through LCPTracker as part of its compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act unless a waiver is granted to a particular contractor or subcontractor because they are unable or limited in their ability to use or access.

# Registration Requirements (Appendix B – V.B.i.)

There are several one-time actions during negotiations in response to this Funding Opportunity, and it is vital that selectees address these items as soon as possible. Some may take several weeks, and **failure to complete** them **could interfere with a selectee's ability to negotiate** a Cooperative Agreement or to meet the negotiation deadlines and receive an award if the application is selected. These requirements are as follows:

## 1. System for Award Management:

- Register with the SAM at <https://www.sam.gov>. Please update your SAM registration annually.

## 2. FedConnect:

- Register in FedConnect at <https://www.fedconnect.net>.

## 3. Grants.gov:

- Register in Grants.gov (<http://www.grants.gov>) to receive automatic updates when Amendments to this Funding Opportunity are posted. However, please note that applications will not be accepted through Grants.gov.

## 4. Electronic Authorization of Applications and Award Documents

- Submission of an application and supplemental information under this Funding Opportunity through electronic systems used by the DOE, including HeroX and FedConnect, constitutes the authorized representative's approval and electronic signature.



# Environmental Review in Accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

(Appendix B Section V.B.vi.)

DOE's decision whether and how to distribute federal funds under this Cooperative Agreement is subject to 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 <https://www.energy.gov/nepa>.

While NEPA compliance is a federal agency responsibility and the ultimate decisions remain with the federal agency, all recipients selected for an award will be required to assist in the timely and effective completion of the NEPA process in the manner most pertinent to their proposed project. If DOE determines certain records must be prepared to complete the NEPA review process (e.g., biological evaluations or environmental assessments), the recipient may be required to prepare the records and the costs to prepare the necessary records may be included as part of the project costs.

## National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)

All Selectees must comply with the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) prior to using Federal funds. Section 106 applies to historic properties that are listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. DOE and Selectees must consider the effects of project activities on historic properties, pursuant to Section 106 of the NHPA. DOE will perform a NHPA review under the umbrella of its NEPA review.

## 5. HeroX Prize Platform and Next Steps



The American-Made program is your **fast track to the clean energy revolution**. Funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, we incentivize innovation through prizes, training, teaming, and mentoring, connecting the nation's entrepreneurs and innovators to America's national labs and the private sector.

## The American-Made Program is growing:



**\$250M**  
in cash prizes and support



**650**  
Teams funded



**400+**  
Network members

# HeroX Prize Platform

STEP 1 Go to:

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

STEP 2

Select "FOLLOW" or Select "SOLVE THIS CHALLENGE"

herox.com/renewschoolsprize

AMERICAN MADE CHALLENGES

156 Share Follow (1)

	PRIZE 1 Prize PORTFOLIO + TEAM	PRIZE 2 Cooperative Agreement STRATEGIC PLAN + ENERGY AUDITS	PRIZE 3 Cooperative Agreement IMPLEMENTATION
Number of Anticipated Awardees	Up to 23 winners. Minimum of 10 schools per portfolio selected.		
Award	\$300K cash prize each	\$500K - \$1M*	\$7M - \$14M*
Cost Share	No cost share required	Minimum 5%	Minimum 25%
Total Award Funding (\$180M)	Up to \$6.9M	\$10 - \$15M	\$150 - \$170M

\*Winner will receive funding based on portfolio size

## 2024 Renew America's Schools Prize

Funding energy efficiency and renewable energy projects at public K-12 schools to lower energy costs and improve indoor air quality.

Education Energy, Environment & Resources Government

Stage: Phase 1 - Enter Prize: \$6,900,000

SOLVE THIS CHALLENGE

Summary Timeline Forum Teams 1 Resources FAQ

Background Prize Overview Guidelines

### Background

# HeroX Prize Platform

2024 Renew America's Schools Prize Competitor Agreement

As a competitor, it is expected that you read, and comply with, the rules for the specific prize challenge you are participating in. Please read the [Official Rules Document](#) for this prize competition. By accepting this agreement on the HeroX platform, you are also accepting the terms and conditions of the [Official Rules Document](#).

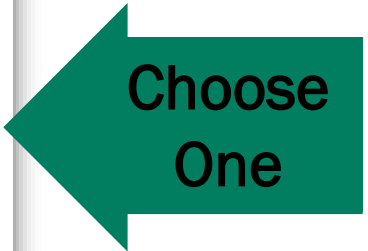
When you reach the bottom of the document, Accept Button will be enabled.



Competitor Registration

Would you like to compete as a team? \*

You still will be able to create or join other teams later.



# HeroX Prize Platform

The screenshot shows the HeroX Prize Platform interface for the "2024 Renew America's Schools Prize". The page is titled "American-Made Challenges" and features a navigation bar with icons for chat, notifications, search, and a profile. The main content area is divided into a table of prize details and a description of the challenge.

	PHASE 1 Prize PORTFOLIO + TEAM	PHASE 2 Cooperative Agreement STRATEGIC PLAN + ENERGY AUDITS	PHASE 3 Cooperative Agreement IMPLEMENTATION
Number of Anticipated Awardees	Up to 23 winners. Minimum of 10 schools per portfolio selected.		
Award	\$300K cash prize each	\$500K – \$1M*	\$7M – \$14M*
Cost Share	No cost share required	Minimum 5%	Minimum 25%
Total Award Funding (\$1.80M)	Up to \$6.9M	\$10 – \$15M	\$150 – \$170M

\*Winner will receive funding based on portfolio size

**2024 Renew America's Schools Prize**

Funding energy efficiency and renewable energy projects at public K-12 schools to lower energy costs and improve indoor air quality.

Education | Energy, Environment & Resources | Government

Stage: Phase 1 - Enter | Prize: \$6,900,000


[BEGIN ENTRY](#) [JOIN A TEAM](#)

Navigation: Summary | Timeline | Forum | Teams (2) | Resources | FAQ

Sub-navigation: Background | Prize Overview | Guidelines

**Background**

**BEGIN ENTRY**

 Submit your entry by **5 pm ET** on **June 13, 2024.**

# What's Next?

1. Follow the challenge on the HeroX Prize Platform:  
<https://www.herox.com/renewschoolsprize>
2. Read the rules:  
[HeroX](#) → [Resources Tab](#).
3. Start your submission package!
4. Join Office Hours on 4/24 & 5/29
5. Upload your completed prize submission package by **5 p.m. ET** on **June 13, 2024**.

	PHASE 1 SCEP Prize PORTFOLIO + TEAM	PHASE 2 Cooperative Agreement STRATEGIC PLAN + ENERGY AUDITS	PHASE 3 Cooperative Agreement IMPLEMENTATION
Number of Anticipated Awardees	Up to 23 winners. Minimum of 10 schools per portfolio selected.		
Award	\$300K cash prize each	\$500K - \$1M*	\$7M - \$14M*
Cost Share	No cost share required	Minimum 5%	Minimum 25%
Total Award Funding (\$1BOM)	Up to \$6.9M	\$10 - \$15M	\$150 - \$170M

Stage: Phase 1 - Enter      Prize: \$6,900,000

[BEGIN ENTRY](#)    [JOIN A TEAM](#)

Summary | Timeline | Forum | Teams

Background | Prize Overview | Guidelines

**Background**

2024 RENEW AMERICA'S SCHOOLS  
OFFICIAL PRIZE RULES

March 2024

Submission Due: Thursday, June 13 by 5 p.m. ET

1



# Key Submission Reminders

- 1** Check entries in HeroX to confirm all materials are submitted.  
Submissions could be deemed ineligible due to an incorrect entry
- 2** DOE strongly encourages competitors to submit 1-2 days prior to the deadline to allow for full upload of application documents and to avoid any potential technical glitches.
- 3** Make sure you click the “submit” button.  
The "submit" button in HeroX will appear only once all required fields are filled out. Applications can be edited up until the "submit" button is clicked. Changing the application after submitting will un-submit the application until it has been re-submitted.
- 4** Keep records of your application as a best practice.

Applications must be submitted by **5pm ET**

**June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

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

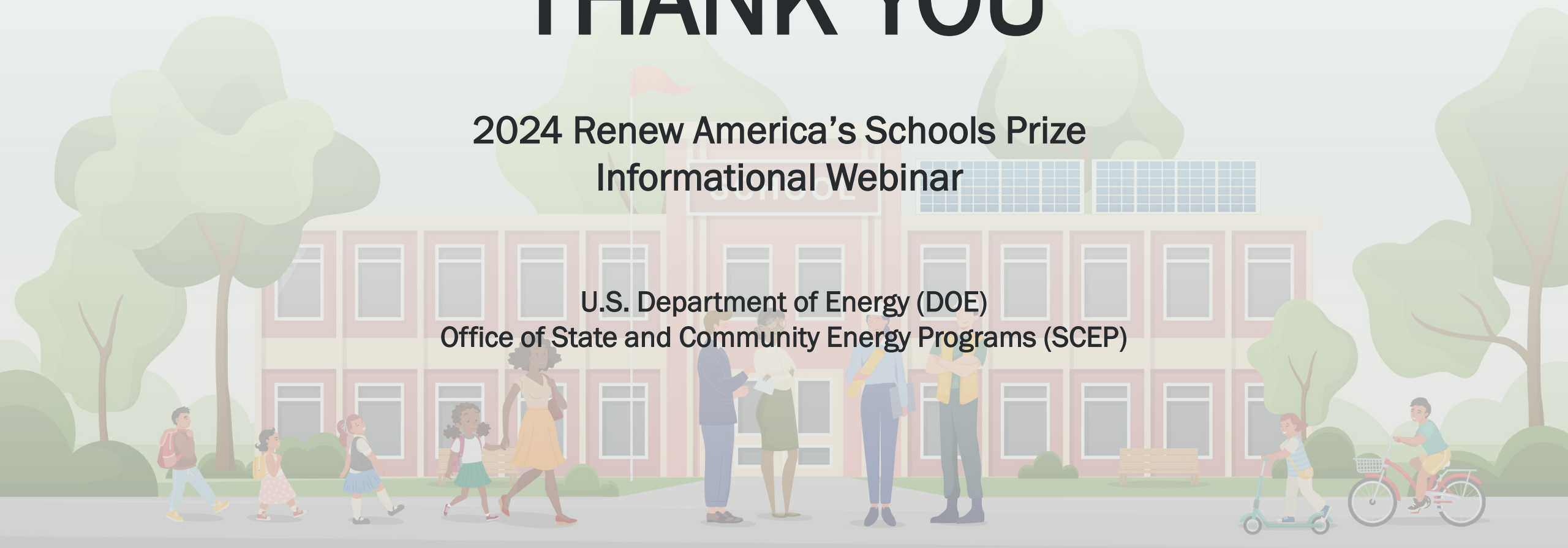
# 2024 Renew America's Schools Prize



# THANK YOU

## 2024 Renew America's Schools Prize Informational Webinar

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)  
Office of State and Community Energy Programs (SCEP)



**SCEP**  
STATE & COMMUNITY ENERGY PROGRAMS

Informational Webinar  
March 21st and March 26th, 2024

# 2024 Renew America's Schools Overview = \$180M across 3 Phases (0.0)



**SCEP**  
STATE & COMMUNITY ENERGY PROGRAMS

PHASE 1

**Prize**  
PORTFOLIO + TEAM

PHASE 2

**Cooperative Agreement**  
STRATEGIC PLAN + ENERGY AUDITS

PHASE 3

**Cooperative Agreement**  
IMPLEMENTATION

**Number of Anticipated Awardees**

Up to 23 winners. Minimum of 10 schools per portfolio selected.

**Award**

\$300K cash prize each

\$500K – \$1M\*

\$7M – \$14M\*

**Cost Share**

No cost share required

Minimum 5%

Minimum 25%

**Total Award Funding (\$180M)**

Up to \$6.9M

\$10 – \$15M

\$150 – \$170M

*\*Winner will receive funding based on portfolio size*

# Winner Will Receive Funding Based on Portfolio Size (0.0)



**SCEP**  
STATE & COMMUNITY ENERGY PROGRAMS

## PHASE 1

**Prize**  
PORTFOLIO + TEAM

## PHASE 2

**Cooperative Agreement**  
STRATEGIC PLAN + ENERGY AUDITS

## PHASE 3

**Cooperative Agreement**  
IMPLEMENTATION

**10–14 Schools  
& School Facilities\***

**\$300K**

**\$500K**

**\$7M**

**15–19 Schools  
& School Facilities**

**\$300K**

**\$750K**

**\$10.5M**

**20+ Schools  
& School Facilities**

**\$300K**

**\$1M**

**\$14M**

*\*Portfolios must have 10 or more schools/school facilities*