2024 Renew America's Schools Prize

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is accepting submissions for the Renew America's Schools Prize, which will invest an anticipated $180 million in school facilities that demonstrate the need for both energy improvements and financing. The Prize will focus on supporting schools that serve a high percentage of students eligible for free and reduced-price lunch, and/or which qualify as rural.

The **Renew America's Schools** program funds eligible energy efficiency and renewable energy projects at public K-12 schools, helping school communities decrease energy use and costs, improve indoor air quality, and foster healthier learning environments. Applications are due Thursday, June 13 by 5 p.m. ET on **HeroX**.

Eligibility

Entities eligible for participation in the 2024 Renew America's Schools Prize must meet the following requirements as described in Section 40541(a)(3) of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

Teams must consist of at least one local educational agency (LEA); and one or more:

1. Schools

2. Nonprofit organizations that have the knowledge and capacity to partner and assist with energy improvements

3. For-profit organizations that have the knowledge and capacity to partner and assist with energy improvements

4. Community partners that have the knowledge and capacity to partner and assist with energy improvements

Each application must identify a minimum of 10 K–12 public schools or school facilities in its proposed portfolio. These can be from different LEAs and geographic areas.

Eligible Types of Improvements

- **Energy efficiency improvements** such as 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.

- **Renewable energy improvements** such as rooftop solar, micro wind turbines, alternative fueled vehicle infrastructure, and purchase or lease of alternative fueled vehicles.

Application Process

This application is a one-step process with no concept paper. To apply, submit all required application materials to **HeroX** by **Thursday, June 13 by 5 p.m. ET.** Applications will be reviewed on five equally weighted criteria.

Five Merit Review Criteria:

CRITERION 1
Need for Planning & Energy Assessments

CRITERION 2
Team Composition, Capability, and Experience

CRITERION 3
Implementation Plan for Phase 2

CRITERION 4
Impact & Replicability

CRITERION 5
Community Benefits Plan

Application Package

Tell us about your project with a Technical Narrative (10 pages max), Community Benefits Plan (5 pages max), and summary slide. Templates are provided.

Tell us about your schools/school facilities with the Energy Justice Mapping Tool Reports and School Energy Assessment (SEA) Form Tool. Instructions on how to run these reports are provided on the HeroX Challenge Resources tab.

Tell us about your team with Resumes and Letters of Commitment (1 page for each resume and letter).

Funding Information

2024 Renew America's Schools Overview = $180M across 3 Phases

	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 their portfolio size.

	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

Application Guidance

Good news! This year's application is simpler and includes similar elements to the 2022 Renew America's Schools Funding Opportunity. All competitors who meet the eligibility can apply, including those that applied to the 2022 Renew America's Schools Grant.

DOE suggests the following steps for previous applicants:

1 Assemble your consortia.

- See if any previous 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 (10 schools or school facilities).
- If not, reach out to other schools or school facilities and LEAs.
- Re-run the EJ Mapping Tool reports and the SEA Form reports to provide the most up-to-date information.

3 Compile your application materials.

- Refer to the templates provided in **HeroX** under the Resources tab.
- Carry over applicable information from your previous Project Narrative to the Technical Narrative and Community Benefits Plan.

Applicant Support

Leverage the Schools Teaming Partner List. This list can be found on HeroX under the **Resources** tab. Industry experts can join, and LEAs can browse the list to find additional capacity and expertise.

Watch Webinars and Office Hours.

- Register and find recordings for Informational Webinars 1 & 2, and Office Hours 1 & 2 on the HeroX **Timeline** tab.
- Access other relevant webinars and recordings on the Webinars & Technical Assistance section of the **Renew America's Schools Program** page.

Informational Webinar #1	**Informational Webinar #2**	**Office Hours #1**
Thursday, March 21 at 3 p.m. ET	Tuesday, March 26 at 2 p.m. ET	Wednesday, April 24 at 1 p.m. ET
Office Hours #2	**Applications Due**	
Wednesday, May 29 at 2 p.m. ET	Thursday, June 13 by 5 p.m. ET	

Questions?

For more information, refer to the Official Prize Rules.

Submit questions to **Schools@doe.gov** or consult the **FAQ** on HeroX.