



2024 Renew America's Schools Prize - Office Hours #1

April 24, 2024

Renew America's Schools Program

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)

Notice

- Participation in today's webinar will not convey any advantages or disadvantages in the application evaluation process.
- Your participation is completely voluntary.



Welcome

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

- Please note that video and speaking capability has been disabled for attendees.
- We will address some, but not all, questions posted in the chat with approved and published answers.
- 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



- 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: [2024 Renew America's Schools Prize | HeroX](#)
- If you have questions, please email schools@doe.gov

Agenda

- I. Overview - 2024 Renew America's Schools Prize
- II. Program Partnerships Scenarios
- III. Portfolio Examples of Schools/School Facilities
- IV. Q&A Highlights
- V. Navigating the Q&A
- VI. Conclusion: Key Reminders

I. Overview - 2024 Renew America's Schools Prize

Anticipated Schedule

| Milestone | Date |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Prize Issue Date: | March 20, 2024 |
| Office Hour #2: | May 29, 2024 @ 2 p.m. ET |
| Submission Deadline: | June 13, 2024 by 5 p.m. ET |
| Expected 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.

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



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



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.

Refer to the Official Prize Rules at <https://www.herox.com/renewschoolsprize/resources>.

Phase 2: Strategic Plan + Energy Audits



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.

Refer to the Official Prize Rules at <https://www.herox.com/renewschoolsprize/resources>.

Phase 3: Implementation



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.

Refer to the Official Prize Rules at <https://www.herox.com/renewschoolsprize/resources>.

II. Program Partnership Scenarios

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**.

The example scenarios are hypothetical and not intended to be used as baseline requirements.

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**.

The example scenarios are hypothetical and not intended to be used as baseline requirements.

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.

The example scenarios are hypothetical and not intended to be used as baseline requirements.

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**.

The example scenarios are hypothetical and not intended to be used as baseline requirements.

III. Examples of Schools/School Facilities

Reminder: Portfolio Minimum

- 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. [\(See Prize Rules Section 0.0\)](#)
- Winners will receive funding based on portfolio size. (shown in graphic below)



Example 1 - Current Recipient

White River School District

White River, South Dakota

- 1 campus with 3 connected schools.
- Rural, remote, serving Tribal communities.
- Considered 3 schools.



Example 2 - Current Recipient

Clinton School District

Clinton, Arkansas

- High School, Junior High, Elementary School, High School Auditorium/Gym
- Rural, remote
- Considered **4 school facilities.**

High School
Auditorium/Gym

High School
Junior High

Elementary
School



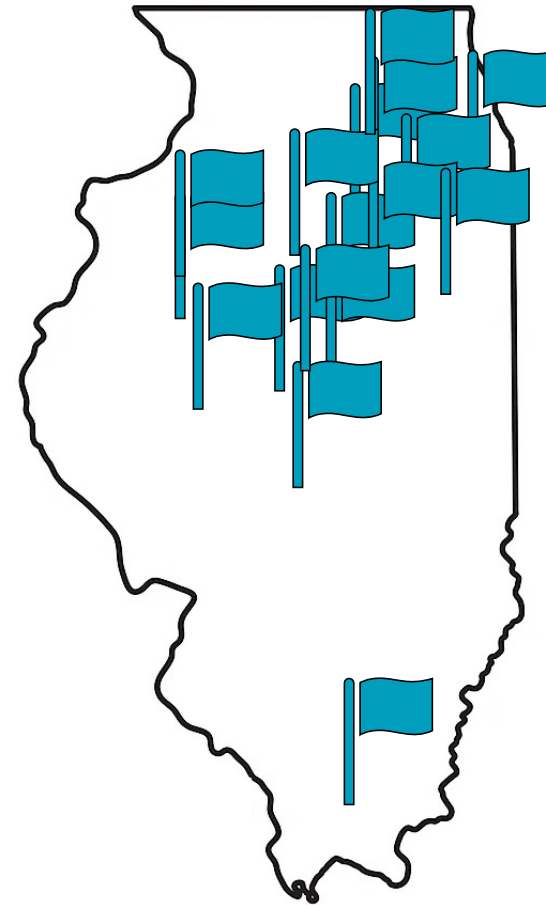
Example 3 - Current Recipient

Public School Bus-to-Grid

Assisted Resilient Microgrids at Illinois School Districts

Multiple LEAs, Illinois

- 16 Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) located across a large geographic area.
- LEAs mostly small and rural.
- Considered **16 school facilities**.

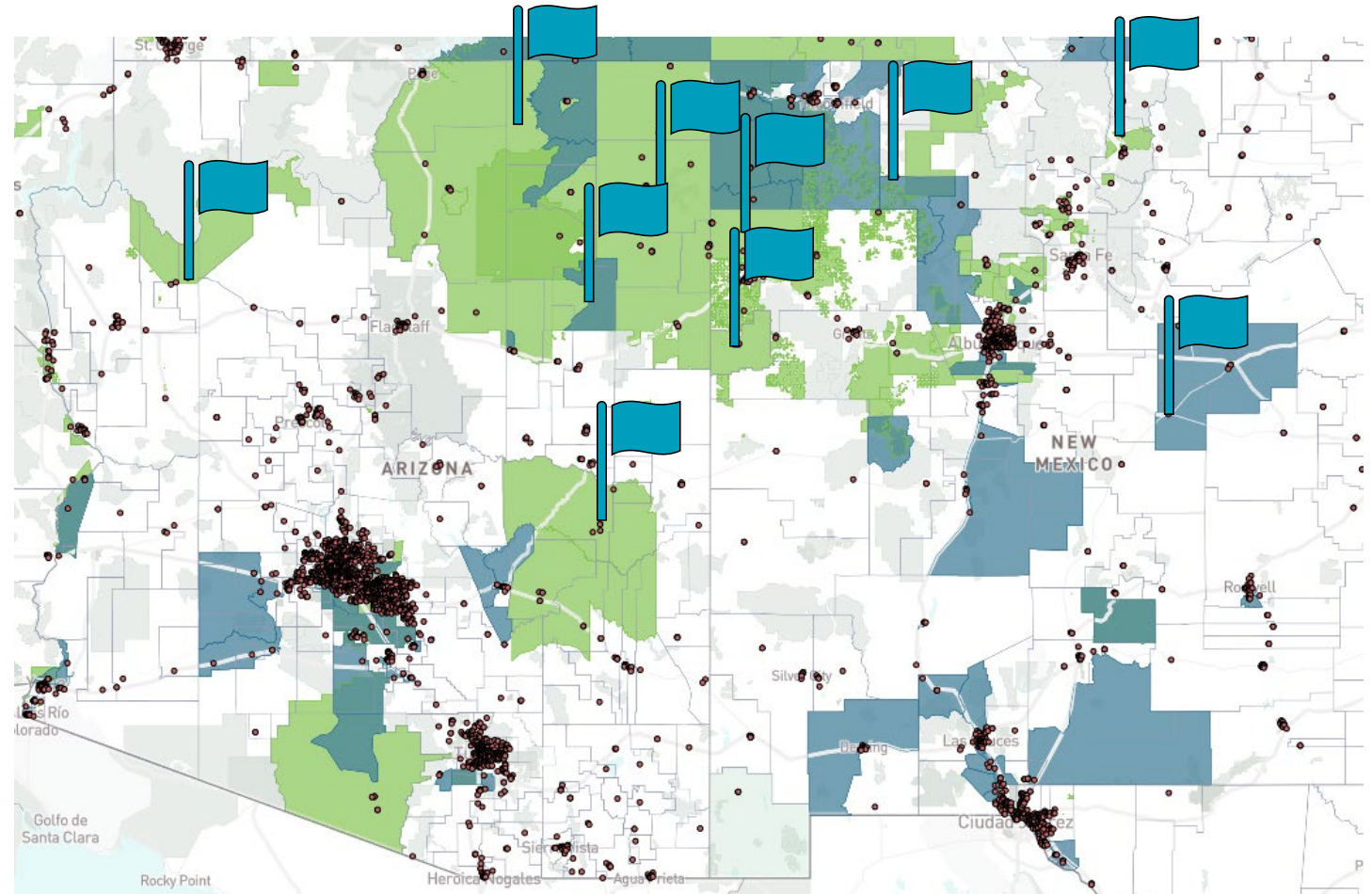


Example 4 - Rural and Tribal

Rural and Tribal Partnership

Arizona and New Mexico

- Xxx
- Rural and Tribal
- Considered 10 school facilities.



IV. Q&A Highlights

QUESTION: Are LEAs with fewer than 10 school/school facilities able to apply?

Answer: Each application must include a minimum of 10 school/school facilities; however, the portfolio may span multiple LEAs and there is no regional limitation or restriction.

QUESTION: Do portfolio schools and/or their LEAs have to be geographically proximal?

Answer: DOE does not mandate portfolio schools and/or their LEAs to be geographically connected or close.

QUESTION: There is a reference that Districts need to have between 10-14 school buildings, yet we only have 6. Are we eligible for this grant opportunity?

Answer: The change in minimum portfolio size does not limit or prohibit smaller school districts and/or schools from applying. As an example, five smaller school districts could partner together that each have two school/school facilities that would make an eligible submission to meet the minimum portfolio size.



Q&A Highlights: Energy Audits

QUESTION: Are energy audits required in the application stage?

Answer: Energy audits are not required in the Prize application. 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. For more information on the SEA Form, see the [Official Prize Rules Section 1.6.3](#). ASHRAE Level 2 Energy Audits will be required as part of Phase 2.

QUESTION: If we have essentially already completed ASHRAE level 2 audits through an ESPC (ESCO) process but have not done any implementation, are we still eligible to apply for the Phase 1 Prize and move through to Phase 2 and Phase 3 Implementation?

Answer: We encourage all eligible applicants to apply regardless of where they are in their planning process. We encourage you to read through the [Official Prize Rules Section 2.4](#) as there are more requirements than just Energy Audits in Phase 2.

QUESTION: Can we use the estimated direct pay or other rebates as part or whole of our cost share?

Answer: 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. Stacking funds and leveraging tax credits and/or private sector capital are encouraged. (Refer to Appendices B-E, Section XX.)

QUESTION: As tax-exempt entities, how would the tax credit work?

Answer: Tax-exempt and governmental entities can benefit from certain clean energy investment and production credits using new options enabled by legislation enacted in 2022. We encourage you to visit the IRS website to learn more. <https://www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/elective-pay-and-transferability>.

[Register now](#) for the DOE's School Program
May 7 webinar on how schools can access
clean energy and transportation tax credits.



V. Navigating the Q&A

Have a question?

We will post answers to ALL questions submitted to us, either through email or events such as Webinars and Office Hours, in the 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 Informational Webinars 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 Virtual Office Hours 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: https://www.herox.com/renewschoolsprize</p> |
| DOE | 1.2 | N/A | Application Overview | Who should apply to the Renew America's Schools program? | <p>Entities eligible for participation in the 2024 Renew America's Schools Prize must meet the eligibility requirements as described in Section 40541(a)(3) of the BIL. 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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -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. <p>To apply, competitors will need to register and complete their submission package on the Renew America's</p> |

Have a question?

Step 1: Check the Fact Sheet

1) Navigate to the 2024 Renew America's Schools Prize [HeroX page](#) and click "Resources"

American-Made Challenges 9,128 Share Follow (225)

| | PRIZE 1 SCEP Prize PORTFOLIO + TEAM | PRIZE 2 Cooperative Agreement STRATEGIC PLAN + ENERGY ALLOTS | PRIZE 3 Cooperative Agreement IMPLEMENTATION |
|--------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Number of Anticipated Awardees | Up to 23 winners. Minimum of 30 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 |

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: Informational Webinar #2 Prize: \$6,900,000

SOLVE THIS CHALLENGE

Summary Timeline Updates 1 Forum 5 Teams 225 **Resources** FAQ

Challenge Resources

[HeroX Competitor Registration Instructions](#)

2) Click on "Renew America's Schools Prize Fact Sheet"

[School Energy Assessment \(SEA\) Form](#)
Feb. 21, 2024

[Community Benefits Plan Template](#)
Feb. 21, 2024

[Phase 1 Submission Summary Slide Template](#)
Feb. 21, 2024

[Renew America's Schools Prize Fact Sheet](#)
March 28, 2024

[DOE Teaming Partner List](#)
March 6, 2024

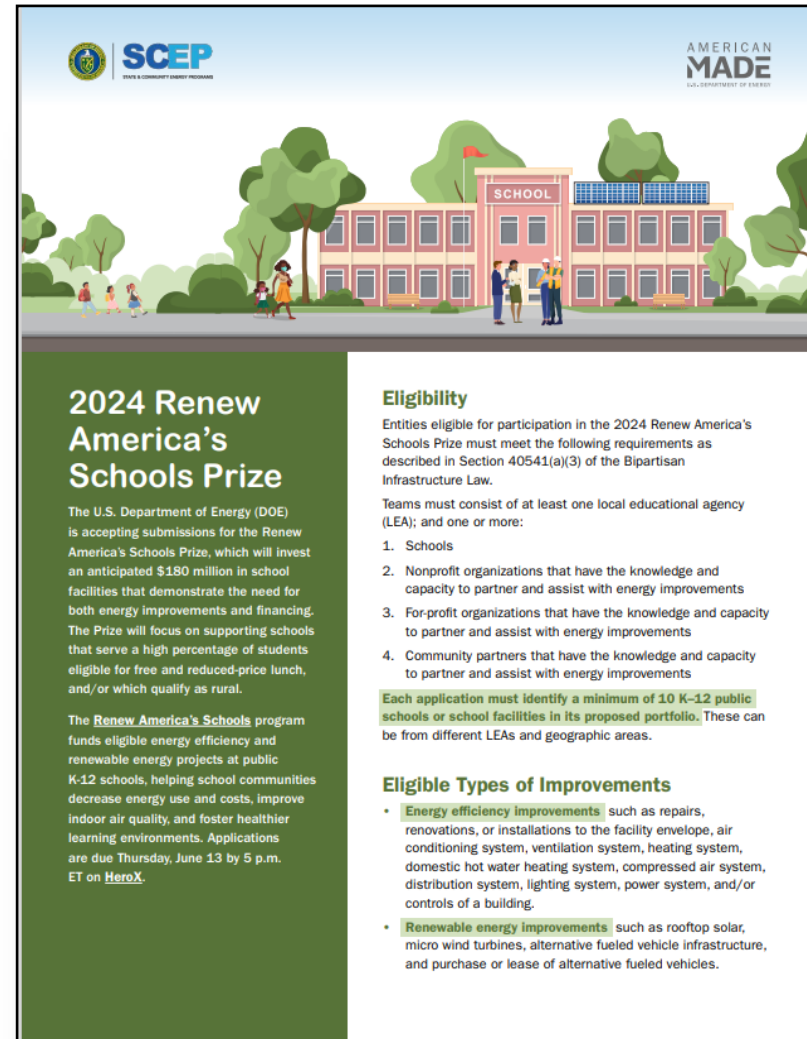
[DOE Q&A Spreadsheet](#)
March 12, 2024

[Funding Scenarios](#)
March 19, 2024

Have a question?

The *Fact Sheet* is a 3-page document that addresses the most frequently asked questions about this Funding Opportunity, including:

- Organization and project eligibility
 - Application process and guidance
 - Funding information
-and more!



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.

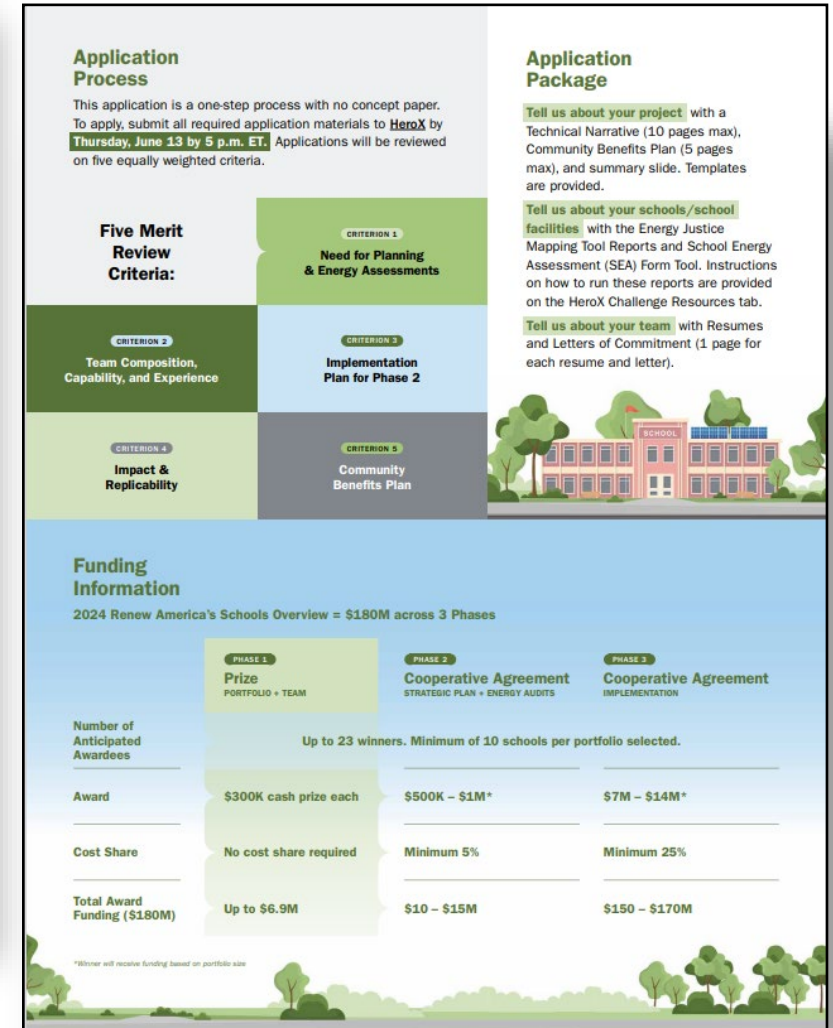
Teams must consist of at least one local educational agency (LEA); and one or more:

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.

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).

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

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 |
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*Winner will receive funding based on portfolio size

Have a question?

Step 2: Check the existing answers on the DOE Q&A Spreadsheet

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A link to the [DOE Q&A Spreadsheet](#) is located under the FAQ Tab on HeroX

Have a question?

The *Q&A Spreadsheet* includes even more answers to Frequently Asked Questions (identified as DOE questions), as well as questions that were submitted by other organizations.

- We recommend skimming the DOE questions
- Search for key terms using “Ctrl + F,” or “Command + F” on a Mac”

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| DOE | 1.3 | N/A | | | To apply, competitors will need to register and complete their submission package on the Renew America's Schools HeroX prize page before June 13th, 2024, at 5 p.m. E.T.: https://www.herox.com/renewschoolsprize | |
| DOE | 1.4 | N/A | | | Applications are assessed across five criteria: Need for Planning and Energy Assessments; Team Composition, Capability, and Experience; Implementation Plan for Phase 2; Impact and Replicability; and Community Benefits Plan. For more information on review criteria and scoring protocols, see the Official Prize Rules Section 1.7 . See also Appendix A.13, Program Policy Factors . | |
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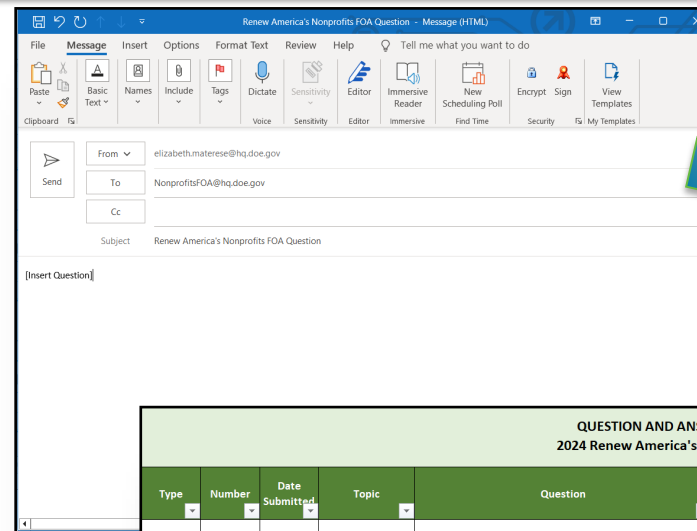
Note there are **63** Frequently Asked Questions, identified as “DOE” questions in Column B



Have a question?

Step 3: Submit a question to be answered in the Q&A.

1. Send your question via email to schools@doe.gov.
- 2) Check back for the updated Q&A Spreadsheet on HeroX.
- 3) Search for the answer to your question. If you can't find your question, search for key terms using "Ctrl + F" or "Command + F."



1

2 & 3

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Addressing Questions in the Chat

Examples of Question Topics:

- Application Overview
- Application Eligibility
- Cooperative Agreement (Phases 2 and 3)
- Financing
- Prize Application Process
- Teaming/Partnering
- What's changed in this Application

VI. Conclusion and Key Reminders

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. [Register](#) for the next Office Hours on 5/29
5. Upload your completed prize submission package by **5 p.m. ET** on **June 13, 2024**.

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| 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](#)

2024 RENEW AMERICA'S SCHOOLS
OFFICIAL PRIZE RULES

March 2024

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

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 13th, 2024

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

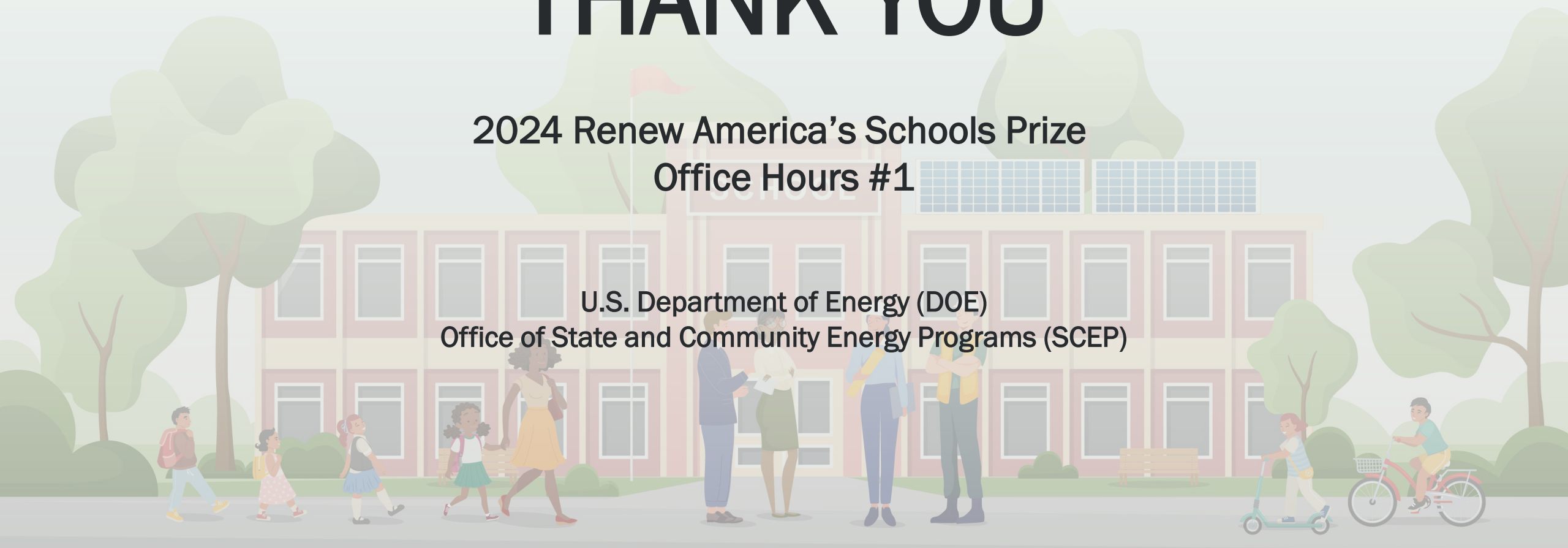
2024 Renew America's Schools Prize



THANK YOU

2024 Renew America's Schools Prize Office Hours #1

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



SCEP
STATE & COMMUNITY ENERGY PROGRAMS

Office Hours
April 24th, 2024