

# Community Energy Innovation Prize

## PCFO IGAP Grant Snapshot

September 20, 2023

<p><b>Agency:</b> Department of Energy (DOE)</p>	<p><b>Bureau:</b> Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE), Office of Economic Impact and Diversity (ED), and Advanced Materials and Manufacturing Technologies Office (AMMTO)</p>
<p><b>Application Deadline:</b> Phase 1 Submissions  <b>Clean Energy Ecosystem &amp; Manufacturing Ecosystem Tracks:</b> 02/02/2024  <b>Collegiate Track:</b> 11/03/2023</p>	<p><b>Max Award:</b> Varies (see “Prize Structure” for detail)</p>

### Description

The Community Energy Innovation Prize supports community-based organizations, the private sector, nonfederal government entities, and collegiate teams in developing and carrying out activities related to clean energy that enable business and technology incubation and acceleration as well as other community-based capacity building, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

### Prize Structure

The Community Energy Innovation Prize has three phases and three tracks aimed at supporting clean energy innovation and entrepreneurship in disadvantaged communities. Competitors must submit applications and win awards to compete in the next phase. Awards are distributed as cash prizes and there are no restrictions on how funds may be used. In addition to prize awards, winning competitors in all three tracks will receive in-kind mentorship and other support services.

Track	Clean Energy Ecosystem	Manufacturing Ecosystem	Collegiate Track
<b>Prize Pool</b>	\$4.86 million	\$2.18 million	\$450,000
<b>CONCEPT Phase</b>	Up to 16 prizes of \$100,000 each	Up to 8 prizes of \$100,000 each	Up to 10 prizes of \$15,000 each
<b>Progress Phase</b>	Up to 16 prizes of \$100,000 each	Up to 8 prizes of \$100,000 each	Up to 10 prizes of \$20,000 each
<b>IMPACT Phase</b>	Up to 16 prizes of \$10,000 each	Up to 8 prizes of \$10,000 each	
<b>GRAND PRIZE</b>	Total prize pool of up to \$1.5 million to be distributed among GRAND PRIZE winners	Total prize pool of up to \$500,000 to be distributed among GRAND PRIZE winners	Total prize pool of up to \$100,000 to be distributed among GRAND PRIZE winners

**Eligible Recipients** The Prize is open to individuals, for-profit entities, nonprofits, nonfederal government entities (including states, counties, Tribes, and municipalities), and academic institutions. Applicants are subject to additional requirements listed on page 7 of the [official prize rules](#).

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**Eligible Projects** Competitors can submit separately to each prize track but must submit distinct materials with the appropriate activities and budget for each track. Competitors may not compete with multiple projects within a single track.

- Clean Energy Ecosystem Track: DOE aims to support historically underserved communities and organizations. Prizes will support projects that advance community-based energy transition programs from a wide range of clean energy initiatives, technologies, and areas of focus.
- Manufacturing Ecosystem Track: DOE aims to support historically underserved communities and further the development of manufacturing innovation ecosystems. Innovation ecosystems are defined as “an evolving set of stakeholders, resources, and activities that drive technological advancement.” Successful competitors will bring together multi-sector partners to address key barriers to advancing manufacturing innovation, business models, and market development. These projects may include manufacturing-related education and workforce development, entrepreneurship, resilient supply chains, circular economy development, or other goals related to clean energy manufacturing.
- Collegiate Track: DOE aims to support the next generation of climate leaders to make an impact in their communities and support community-based clean energy transition programs. This track will support students in working with community partners on a project related to the clean energy transition and create measurable impacts, while developing professional skills in a real-world setting.

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**Matching Grant Requirements** No matching funds are required.

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**New or Existing Program** New

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**Tips for Being Competitive** Competitive applicants will align with Justice40 goals, as well as the three programmatic goals specific to the Community Energy Innovation Prize:

- Academic Programs: Enable clean energy and climate innovation, and entrepreneurship programming and capabilities at colleges and universities that serve large populations of students underrepresented in STEM, Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs), community colleges, and undergraduate institutions.

- Workforce Development: Create or increase participation in clean energy and climate-smart job training and job placement/hiring, including programs that target participation from disadvantaged communities, formerly incarcerated individuals/returning citizens, and youth transitioning out of foster care.
  - Clean Energy Technology: Foster grassroots innovation ecosystems and/or deployments related to a just and equitable clean energy economy through activities focusing on community-centric networks and bottom-up solutions for sustainable development, based on the needs of the communities involved.
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**Labor Requirements**      None specified

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**Partners Required**      Competitors are encouraged to form multidisciplinary teams and partnerships to bring a range of perspectives to their work. The HeroX platform provides a space where parties interested in collaboration can post information about themselves and learn about others who are interested in competing in this prize. Specific partnership requirements for tracks are as follows:

- Manufacturing Ecosystem Track: Competitors must include at least one organization connected to manufacturing. This organization can be but is not limited to being a local manufacturer, a manufacturing-specific trade group, association, union, or another entity that can reasonably represent the interests of the manufacturing sector.
- Collegiate Track: In this track, students are required to work alongside a community partner.

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**Agency Contact**      communityenergy@nrel.gov

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**Upcoming Events**

- [Register for the Collegiate Track Informational Webinar](#): October 2, 2023 at 1pm MT
- [Register for the Clean Energy and Manufacturing Ecosystem Track Informational Webinar](#): October 12, 2023 at 1L:00pm MT

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**Anticipated Award Date**      The anticipated award date for the CONCEPT Phase are:

- Clean Energy and Manufacturing Ecosystem Tracks: March 7, 2024
- Collegiate Track: December 1, 2023

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**Total Allocation**      \$7.49 million

## How To Apply

- Register on the [HeroX platform](#).
  - Explore the [HeroX platform](#) to find partners or form teams.
  - Submit your CONCEPT Phase application by February 2, 2024 for the Clean Energy Ecosystem & Manufacturing Ecosystem Tracks and by November 3, 2023 for the Collegiate Track.
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## Resources

- [Community Energy Innovation Prize Program Page - HeroX Platform](#)
- [Official Prize Rules - HeroX Platform](#)