



Energy CLASS Prize Informational Webinar

December 7, 2022

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Agenda

- 1 Energy CLASS Prize Introduction and Welcome

- 2 Background and Prize Overview

- 3 How to Apply to Phase 1

- 4 Phase 1 Winner Selection and Announcement Process

- 5 Live HeroX Demo

- 6 Q&A

Housekeeping

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- Technical difficulties - contact Zoom Support at: 888-799-9666.
- A video/audio recording of this webinar and the slide deck will be made available

Informational FOA Webinar

Renew America Schools Grant

- This webinar is for the **Energy CLASS Prize**
- Application for the FOA is separate from the prize submission
- More details about the FOA can be found at:
<https://www.energy.gov/clean-energy-infrastructure/grants-energy-improvements-public-school-facilities>

Energy CLASS Prize Overview



What is the Energy Champions Leading the Advancement of Sustainable Schools (CLASS) Prize?

The Energy CLASS Prize:

- Seeks to build capacity within local educational agencies (LEAs) to **identify and implement energy and health improvements** in their facilities and classrooms.
- Provides resources to staff and **train personnel on operations and maintenance, strategic energy management, project development, funding pathways, and related topics** to deepen bandwidth and knowledge for advancing the fiscal and environmental sustainability of their schools.
- Focuses on operation and maintenance training and continuing education of LEA staff in some of our neediest school districts so that they can gain the knowledge needed to **lead energy and indoor air quality projects and identify funding to implement improvements.**
- The Energy CLASS Prize is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of State and Community Energy Programs (SCEP)

Prize Funding and Phases



Energy CLASS Prize TIMELINE

\$4.5 Million
in Awards

PHASE

1

Application

Submissions due by February 2023

- Up to 25 local educational agencies (LEAs) selected
- \$100,000 in cash prizes to each selected LEA to support energy management professionals-in-training in Phase 2

PHASE

2

Skills Development and Coaching

May 2023–May 2024

- Courses and 1:1 support
- Chance to win a \$50,000 bonus prize upon completion



Building LEA Staff Capacity for School Benefits



Phase 2 Training Topics In Phase 2, LEA Energy Champions will be invited to participate in 80-160 hours of educational content



Helping LEAs translate skills into real-world actions

Phase 2 also offers LEA Energy Champions 60-80 Hours of Professional Coaching to help turn this work into real world solutions



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Energy CLASS Prize

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Energy CLASS Prize

Building capacity within local educational agencies to identify and implement energy and health improvements in public school facilities.

Education

Energy, Environment & Resources

Government

Stage:
Enter

Prize:
\$4,500,000

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Overview

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Entries

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FAQ

To apply, visit:
[Herox.com/energy-class](https://herox.com/energy-class)



Start your application here.

Phase I Application Strategy



May 6, 2022 - Members of the Montbello High School's robotics team, the Lobo-Bellos, coached by Roderick Jackson, NREL's Laboratory Program Manager for Building Technologies R&D. (Photo by Werner Slocum / NREL)



Phase 1 Application

- In Phase 1, LEAs will submit their statement of need and letters of support, demonstrate their commitment to improving energy performance and indoor air quality, and identify staff to participate in the program.
- LEAs may choose to fund one person or portions of multiple people across different functions to attend the trainings and put learnings into practices within their schools in Phase 2.
- Up to 25 LEAs who demonstrate a need for and commitment to staff capacity building will receive \$100,000 each and be invited to participate in 80-160 hours of virtual training and 60-80 hours of coaching in Phase 2.
- The Phase 1 application is open now on [HeroX](#) thru the submission deadline on **February 28, 5pm E.T.**



Phase 2 (Skill Development and Coaching)



- In Phase 2, winning LEAs will be invited to participate in the Energy CLASS Training Network and receive 80-160 hours of primarily virtual educational courses delivered by industry training professionals and 60-80 hours of coaching
- Trainings may be completed by a single person or by multiple members from the applicant's team.
- In addition to DOE-funded trainings, teams will receive professional coaching pertaining to building upgrades associated with the specific LEA district.
- At the conclusion of the Phase 2, competitors summarize progress and actions taken during Phase 2 and submit their plans for future improvements for a chance to win a \$50,000 bonus prize.
- Phase 2 is only open to Phase 1 winners.
- Phase 2 is anticipated to run May 2023 to May 2024 with training and coaching taking place over the 2023-2024 school year from roughly September 2023 to May 2024.

Important Dates

Phase 1: Application

Open: November 29, 2022

Close: February 28, 2023, 5 p.m. E.T.

Evaluation period: February–March 2023

Winner Notification: April 2023 (Anticipated)

Phase 2: Skills Development and Planning (Anticipated)

Open: May 2023

Phase 2 Orientation and Networking: May 2023–August 2023

Phase 2 Trainings and Coaching: September 2023–May 2024

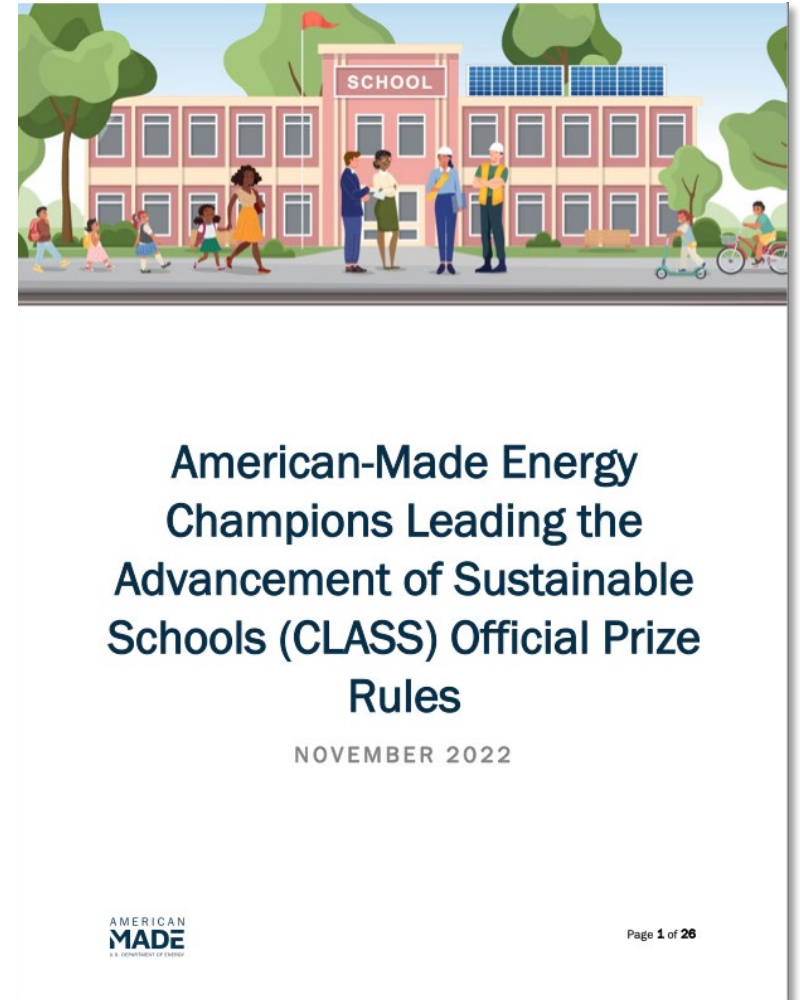
Close: May 2024

Evaluation period: May–June 2024

Winner Notification: July 2024

Eligibility

- You must be an U.S. Local Educational Agency (LEA) to apply to the Energy CLASS Prize
- Non-LEA individuals and organizations (such as parent teacher associations or 501c3s) are not eligible but are encouraged to partner with LEA competitors and provide support.
- LEAs that contain Charter schools are eligible to apply.
- Multiple LEA may apply as a team, However, submissions with multiple LEAs must designate a lead LEA (HeroX "Team Captain") who will receive 100% of the funding if the team wins.
- Additional Eligibility can be found in the [official rules document on HeroX](#) and in the [Energy CLASS FAQ](#)

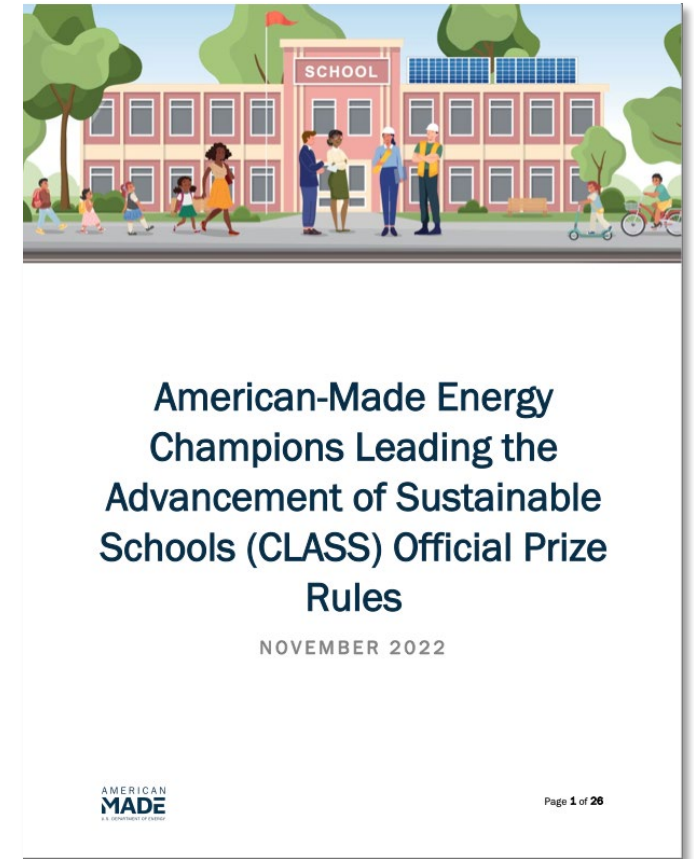


How to Apply to Phase 1

Phase 1 Submission Elements

Phase 1 submission elements include:

- ✓ Cover page (required, to be made public)
- ✓ Summary slide (required, to be made public)
- ✓ [Energy Justice Mapping Tool for Schools Report\(s\)](#) for the LEA and/or prioritized schools (required, not public)
- ✓ Technical narrative (required, not public)
- ✓ Photos (optional, not public)
- ✓ Letters of commitment or support (required, not public)
- ✓ Logistical Questions for Applicants (optional, not public)



Cover Page and Summary Slide

Cover Page (Required)

List basic information about your submission:

- Team name
- LEA name
- Location: city, state, 9-digit zip code
- Specific school names you hope to address
- National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) ID number for the school district and prioritized schools.
- Addresses of schools you plan to address
- Project lead (name, contact information)
- Business contact (name, contact information)
- Other key team members and roles (please list Energy Champion(s) to participate in the trainings and coaching)

Summary Slide (Required)

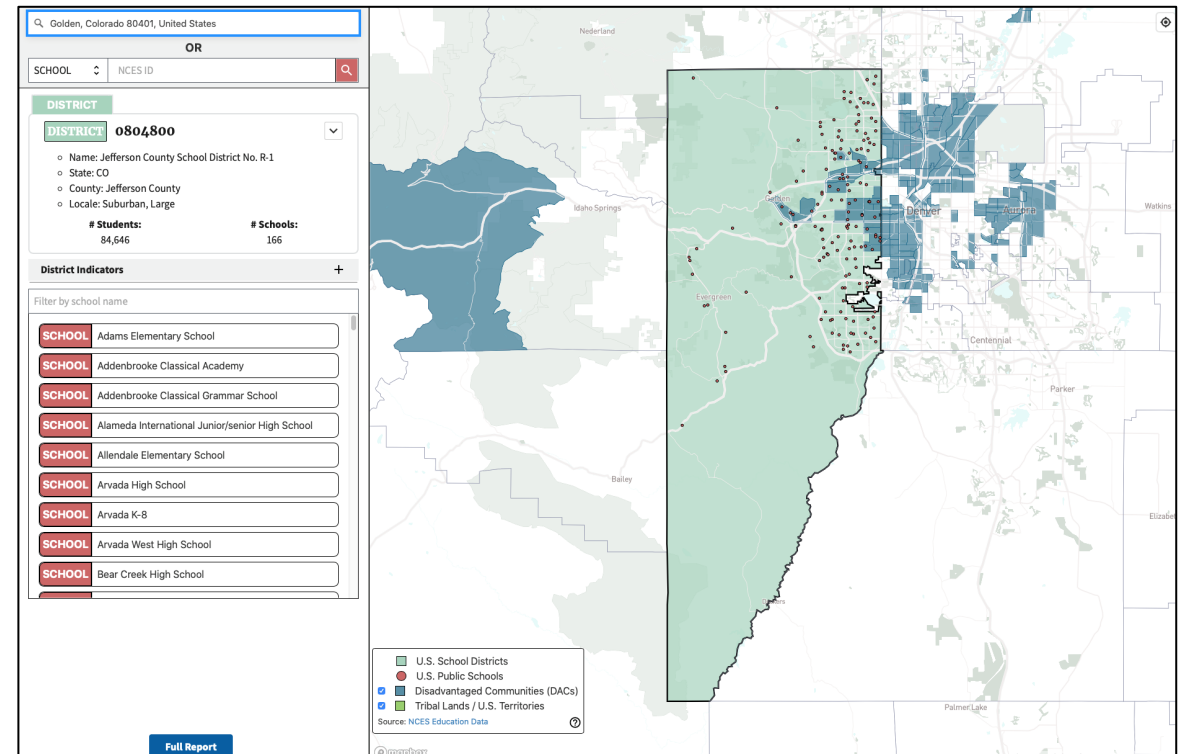
Make your own public-facing, one-slide submission summary that contains technically specific details but can be understood by most people.

- **Need/Challenge:** Describe your LEA's need for training and coaching through the Energy CLASS Prize. What staff and resource constraints do you face that limit your ability to implement building upgrades?
- **Proposed Facilities to Address:** Include a picture and/or graphic that best captures the schools that you hope to address in the future with building upgrades to improve the indoor air quality and energy efficiency in your district.
- **Impact:** Describe the impact the Energy CLASS Prize could have on your LEA if selected.
- **Team/ Proposed Energy Champion(s):** Describe your team and the Energy Champion(s) who will participate in the Energy CLASS Prize if selected.

Energy Justice Mapping Tool for Schools Reports (Required)

Upload School Profiles (minimum 3)

- Applicants should access DOE's "Energy Justice Mapping Tool for Schools," which can be found at <https://energyjustice-schools.egs.anl.gov>
- The tool is intended to allow users to explore and produce reports for a specific school facility that include the metrics such as:
 - If the school(s) are within a Disadvantaged Community (DAC)
 - If the school(s) are in a rural location (coded as 41, 42, 43)
 - The percentage of free and reduced lunch eligibility
 - If the school(s) qualifies for a Title 1 Schoolwide programming
 - If the school(s) are a designated community shelter
- The tool supports the Biden-Harris Administration Justice40 Initiative with a goal that 40 percent of the overall benefits of certain Federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities.
- Please upload to HeroX one PDF for each school you plan to prioritize and combine multiple pages into a single PDF document. These will help reviewers assess the LEA and schools' need for this program.



Technical Narrative (Required)

- Maximum 2,500 words (about 5 pages) + optional images, charts, graphs, or footnotes
- Suggested Content:
 1. Please include a needs statement describing the community your LEA serves and how that relates to need for this support. Content may include descriptions of the student population, area median income, and general community demographics. DOE will prioritize under- resourced and disadvantaged LEAs for the Energy CLASS Prize.
 2. Please describe your LEA's resources and capacity for energy and facility management. Some things to consider here are:
 - Does your LEA have in-house staff capable of assessing, planning, and implementing energy and facility upgrades? How many LEA employees have energy management skills? How many schools is an individual energy or facility manager covering? How recently have schools in your district—or the prioritized schools your LEA hopes to build energy management capacity for—had comprehensive energy assessments or undergone energy and facility planning?
 - What is your staff's level of expertise in evaluating, planning, and/or implementing various energy and facility improvements, such as energy efficiency improvements, lighting upgrades, renewable energy improvements, weatherizing, building electrification, and improving indoor air quality?
 - What steps has your LEA has taken to issue bonds or secure funding or financing for energy improvements in schools in the past? Include information about how participation in the Energy CLASS Prize will help your LEA overcome funding or other challenges you have faced in the past.

Technical Narrative (Required)

Suggested Content (continued):

3. Please describe the condition of the school facilities you hope to assess through the Energy CLASS Prize. How will building upgrades improve the condition of these schools, and what impacts will that have on the community?
4. How would better energy management and indoor air quality benefit students, teachers, and others in these schools? For example, are there schools in your LEA with weather-related damage that continue to pose operational, structural, and/or health impacts that inhibit the ability of students to effectively learn? Have students lost learning time due to inadequate heating or cooling capacity or other indoor environmental hazards?
5. Please identify the structure/composition of the Energy Champion team that will participate in the Energy CLASS Prize trainings and coaching program if selected for advancement to Phase 2. Indicate how you envision each team member participating (i.e., will all team members attend all trainings, or will your team divide the trainings up? Will one person be in charge of the coaching relationship, or will the whole team interface with the coach?) Please also indicate whether your proposed Energy Champion(s) are existing staff or planned new hires. If new hires will participate, please describe your plan for getting them in place in time to begin trainings within 3 months of being awarded.

Photos and Letters of Commitment

Photos (optional)

- Attach one-page of photos showing the school facilities you hope to address through the Energy CLASS Prize.

Letter(s) of Commitment and Support (required)

- Attach a letter of commitment from at **least one LEA representative** responsible for overseeing or approving staffing and financial decisions related to energy and facilities management in schools. This is required.
- Letter should also **highlight related LEA actions that demonstrate a commitment** to energy improvements, greenhouse gas emissions reductions, improved indoor air quality, and/or other related efforts.
- Letters of support from **other relevant entities** (e.g. others in LEA leadership positions, Superintendent, School Board, Teachers, Principals, etc.) to demonstrate support for your participation in the Energy CLASS Prize are also encouraged.
- This could include letters of **support from community members** that you believe are critical to the success of future building upgrades.
- Please limit letters to a **single page each** and do not submit multipage letters from a single organization. Please combine multiple letters into a **single document**.


Live HeroX Demo

www.HeroX.com/energy-class



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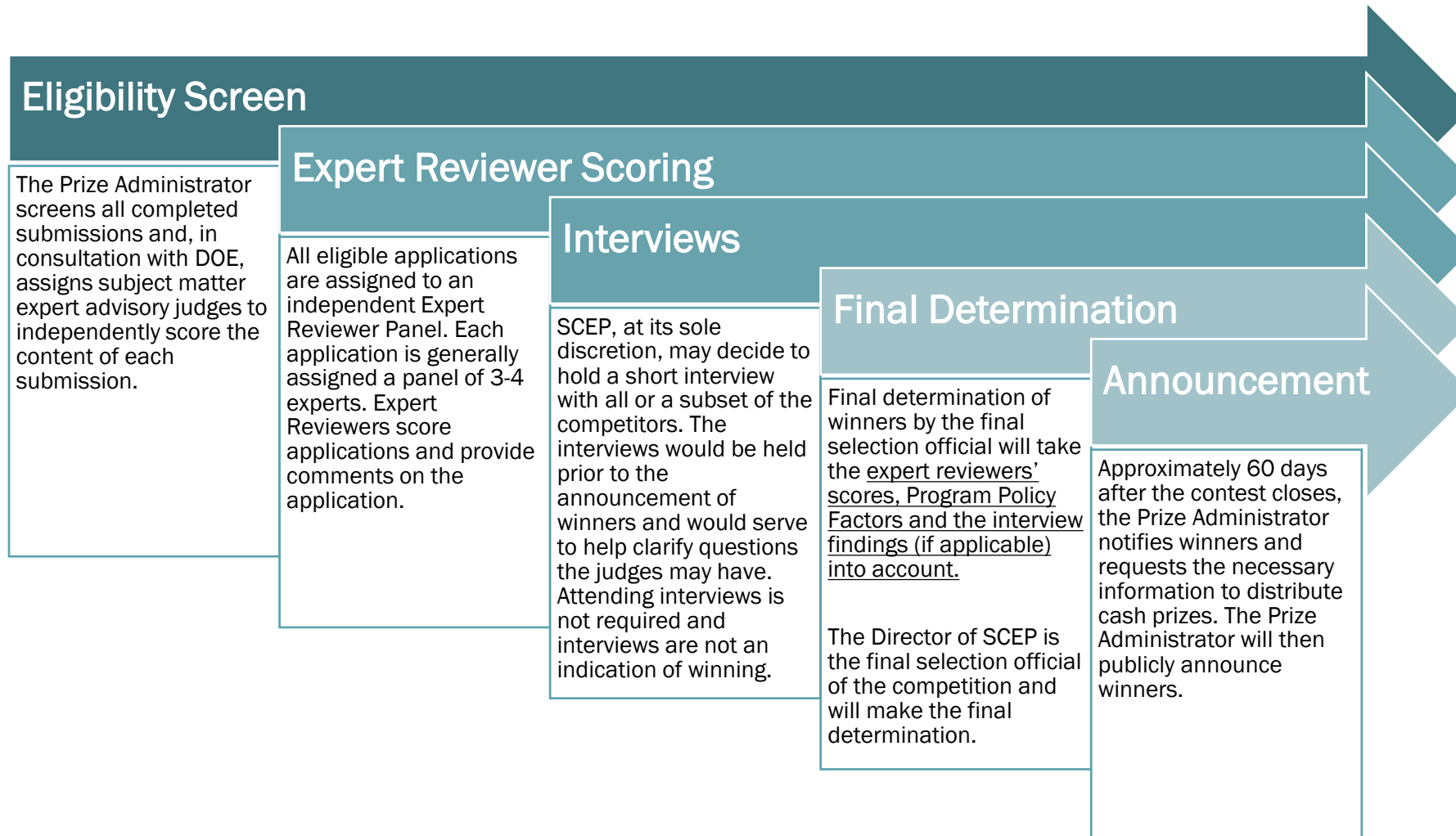
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Phase 1 Winner Selection and Announcement

Winner Selection and Announcement Process



How We Score

- 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 scoring criteria.

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

- Expert reviewers will score submissions based on the judging criteria (and judges will sign a nondisclosure agreement).
- The final score from an individual expert reviewer for a submission package equals the total sum of the scores for all the criteria.
- All expert reviewers' scores will then be averaged for a final score for the submission package.

Phase 1 Scoring Criteria

Criterion	Scoring Criteria Statement
Expert reviewers give a score of 1 to 6 for each bulleted statement below:	
Criterion 1: Need for Capacity Building (33.3% weighting)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The LEA’s need, based on Energy Justice Mapping Tool for Schools report show that the LEA and the school facilities it plans to address is in a disadvantaged community, which is located in a rural location (coded as 41, 42, 43), has percentage of free and reduced lunch eligibility over 50%, qualifies for a Title 1 Schoolwide programming, and/or includes a designated community shelter
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The need statements in the Technical Narrative indicate that the LEA is under resourced and lacks staff capacity and/or knowledge to address needed energy and facility upgrades.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current conditions at schools within the LEA have hindered student performance, contributed to negative health outcomes, or other negative occupant impacts.
Criterion 2: Demonstrated Support and Commitment (33.3% weighting)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The applicant demonstrates support from the appropriate department within the LEA to participate in and apply learnings from the Energy CLASS Prize by providing a letter of support.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The applicant demonstrates commitment to energy and health improvements in their facilities, greenhouse gas reductions, and/or other related goals.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The applicant demonstrates support from the school community and relevant stakeholders to participate in the Energy CLASS Prize, shown by providing letter(s) of support.
Criterion 3: Likelihood of Success of the Energy Champion Team (33.3% weighting)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The applicant shows a strong commitment to using prize funds to fund staff who will participate in Energy CLASS Prize trainings and coaching over the 12-month program and begin implementing recommended steps.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The applicant has identified specific people to participate in the trainings or has a sound plan to get people in place to participate in the trainings within 3 months of award.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The applicant is likely to successfully implement energy and indoor air quality improvements if accepted into Phase 2.

Program Policy Factors

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. The following is a list of such factors.

In addition to the reviewers' scores, the below program policy factors may be considered in determining winners:

- Geographic diversity and potential economic impact of projects
- Whether the use of additional DOE funds and provided resources are nonduplicative and compatible with the stated goals of this program and the DOE mission generally.
- The degree to which the submission exhibits technological or programmatic diversity when compared to the existing DOE project portfolio and other competitors.
- The level of industry involvement and demonstrated ability to accelerate commercialization and overcome key market barriers.
- The degree to which the submission is likely to lead to increased employment and manufacturing in the United States or provide other economic benefit to U.S. taxpayers.
- The degree to which the submission will accelerate transformational technological, financial, or workforce advances in areas that industry by itself is not likely to undertake because of technical or financial uncertainty.
- The degree to which the submission supports complementary DOE funded efforts or projects, which, when taken together, will best achieve the goals and objectives of DOE.
- The degree to which the submission expands DOE's funding to new competitors and recipients who have not been supported by DOE in the past.
- The degree to which the submission enables new and expanding market segments.
- Whether the project promotes increased coordination with nongovernmental entities for the demonstration of technologies and research applications to facilitate technology transfer.
- Whether submission content sufficiently confirms the competitor's intent to commercialize early-stage technology and establish a viable U.S.-based business in the near future.

Q & A

Become an Energy Champion Today!

- Read the [Rules](#) on HeroX and review the [FAQs](#)
- Create an account on [HeroX](#) and click on the “Accept Challenge” button
- Submit a Phase 1 application via HeroX by the **February 28, 2022 at 5pm E.T.**
- Help us get the word out!
- For questions: energyclassprize@nrel.gov





Thank You!