

AMERICAN
MADE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Energizing Rural Communities Prize



IE Webinar: March 30, 2023



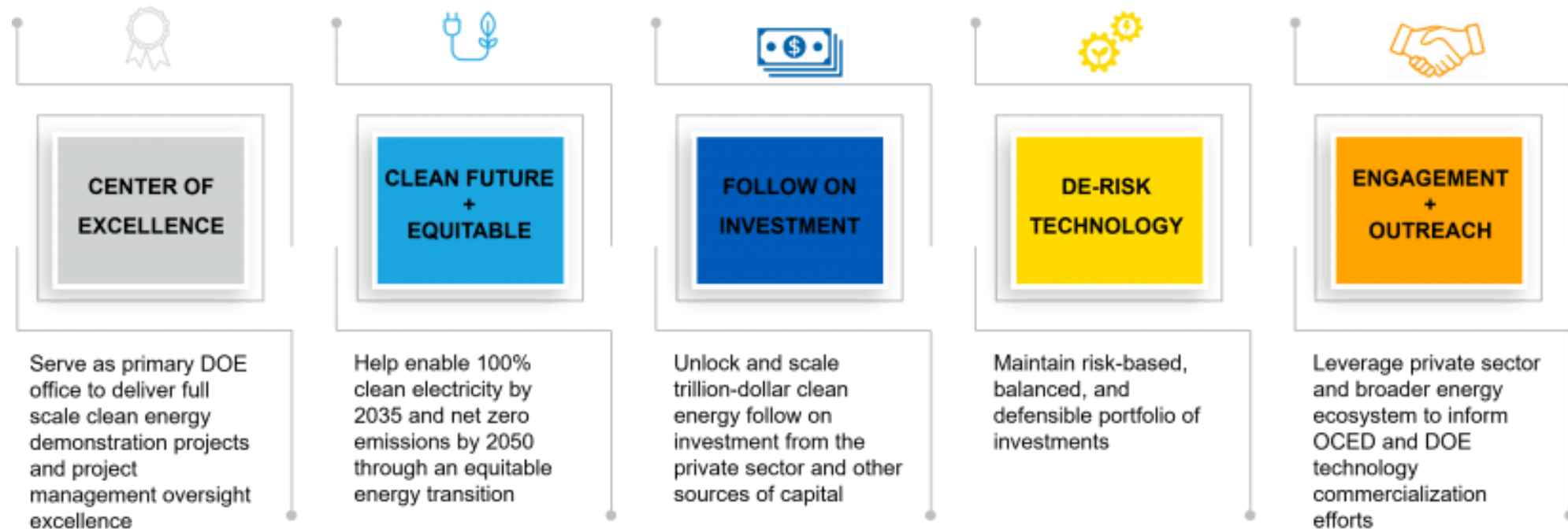
OCED
Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations

What is OCED?

The Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations (OCED) was established in December 2021 as part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to accelerate clean energy technologies from the lab to market and fill a critical innovation gap on the path to achieving our nation's climate goals of net zero emissions by 2050.

OCED's mission is to deliver clean energy demonstration projects at scale in partnership with the private sector to accelerate deployment, market adoption, and the equitable transition to a decarbonized energy system.

To achieve this mission, OCED has a clear mandate:



What is ERA?

BIL 40103(c) ENERGY IMPROVEMENT IN RURAL OR REMOTE AREAS (ERA)

\$1,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2022 through 2026

(2) REQUIRED ACTIVITIES.

The Secretary **shall** carry out activities to improve in rural or remote areas of the United States—

- (A) the resilience, safety, reliability, and availability of energy; and
- (B) environmental protection from adverse impacts of energy generation.

(3) FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, **may** provide Federal financial assistance to rural or remote areas for the purpose of—

- A) overall cost-effectiveness of energy generation, transmission, or distribution systems;
- (B) siting or upgrading transmission and distribution lines;
- (C) reducing greenhouse gas emissions from energy generation by rural or remote areas;
- (D) providing or modernizing electric generation facilities;
- (E) developing microgrids; and
- (F) increasing energy efficiency.

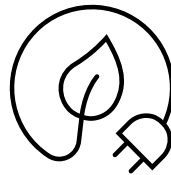
Justice 40 Initiative

White House Executive Order 14008 directs 40% of the overall benefits of certain federal investments to flow to disadvantaged communities



Federal
investments

- Clean energy
- Energy efficiency
- Clean transit
- Affordable and sustainable housing
- Training and workforce development
- Remediation + reduction of legacy pollution
- Development of clean water infrastructure



DOE J40 priority
benefits

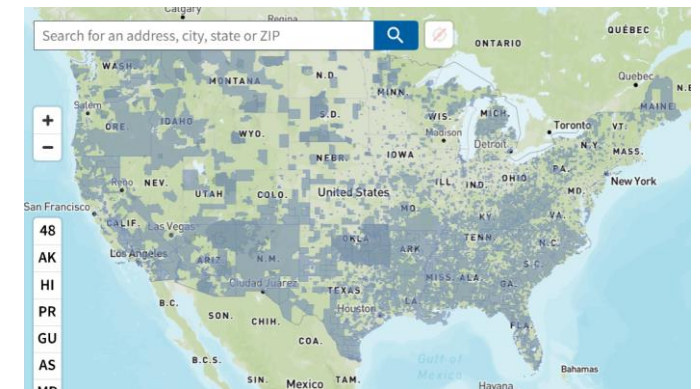
In disadvantaged communities:

- Decrease energy burden
- Decrease environmental exposure/burdens
- Increase parity in clean energy access
- Increase access to low-cost capital
- Increase clean energy enterprise creation
- Increase clean energy job pipeline/training
- Increase energy resiliency
- Increase energy democracy



Disadvantaged
communities

- Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool <https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/>
- DOE's Disadvantaged Communities Reporter <https://energyjustice.egs.anl.gov/>



ERA Funding Opportunities

\$15 million

Energizing Rural Communities Prize

- Today's webinar will focus on the prize.



\$300 million

FOA Energy Improvements in Rural or Remote Areas

- For information on ERA FOA, visit: [OCED eXCHANGE: Funding Opportunity Exchange \(energy.gov\)](https://energy.gov/OCED-eXCHANGE/Funding-Opportunity-Exchange)

Energizing Rural Communities Prize

The \$15 million Energizing Rural Communities Prize challenges individuals and organizations to develop **partnership** plans or innovative **financing** strategies to help rural or remote communities improve their energy systems and advance clean energy demonstration projects in rural or remote areas. The term “rural or remote area” is defined as a **city, town, or unincorporated area that has a population of not more than 10,000 inhabitants.**



Potential Competitors

- **Non-federal-government entities** such as municipalities, states, counties, federally recognized tribal governments, territories, public housing authorities, and/or regional planning organizations.
- **Indian Tribes** which includes Alaska Native Regional Corporations and Village Corporations, Intertribal Organizations, and Tribal Energy Development Organizations.
- **Community-based organizations (CBOs)** that interface with utilities, trade organizations (ie. regional chapter of NRECA, APPA).
- **Community-based funding organizations** such as green banks, credit unions, or community development financial institutions (CDFIs).
- **Nonprofit or for-profit organizations** such as utilities, energy upgrade service providers, project developers, unions, faith-based organizations, and other entities. Private entities must be incorporated in and maintain a primary place of business in the United States with majority domestic ownership and control.
- **Academic institutions and student groups.** Academic institutions must be based in the United States.
- **Individuals** such as local entrepreneurs and technology developers.

The prize encourages submissions from individuals, organizations, and communities that historically have not received DOE funding.

Prize Timeline



Energizing Rural Communities Prize TIMELINE

The Energizing Rural Communities Prize consists of two tracks, both following the same phased timeline:

Partner Track

\$10M Prize Pool

Finance Track

\$5M Prize Pool

PHASE



Awards up to
\$100,000

March 1, 2023

Phase 1 Opens
*Competitors develop and submit
a partnership or finance plan*

May 24, 2023

Phase 1 Closes

July 2023

Winner Announcements

PHASE



Awards up to
\$200,000

July 2023

Phase 2 Opens*
*Phase 1 winners implement their
partnership or finance plan*

July 2024

Phase 2 Closes

August 2024

Winner Announcements

**Phase 2 is only open to Phase 1 winners within each track.
All dates subject to change.*

PARTNER Track

Formation of partnerships that advance development of clean energy projects in rural or remote areas.

Facilitate new or existing partnerships that enable development of clean energy projects in rural or remote communities. Successful competitors will create connections that lead to collaborative efforts for the development of clean energy projects in rural or remote communities. Collaborative efforts could include providing engineering services to advance project concepts, encouraging multiple communities to aggregate similar energy projects to unlock economies of scale, or facilitating equipment acquisition.

\$10 million cash prize pool	
Phase One Prizes	Up to 60 cash prizes of \$100,000 each and in-kind mentorship services
Phase Two Prizes	Up to 20 awards of \$200,000 each, selected based on project implementation.

FINANCE Track

Improve access to capital for clean energy projects in rural or remote areas of the United States.

Connect communities to capital for current or future clean energy projects. This capital may be used to support innovative business models, new approaches to financing clean energy projects, the expansion of existing business models to new rural and remote areas, and innovative ways to leverage other fiscal incentives such as tax credits.

\$5 million cash prize pool	
Phase One Prizes	Up to 30 cash prizes of \$100,000 each and in-kind mentorship services
Phase Two Prizes	Up to 10 awards of \$200,000 each, selected based on project implementation.

Next Steps

Recruit

Team members,
community partners,
local organizations

Register

Your team on
HeroX

Read

The rules to
plan your
participation

Connect

With Power
Connectors to put
together your plan

Design

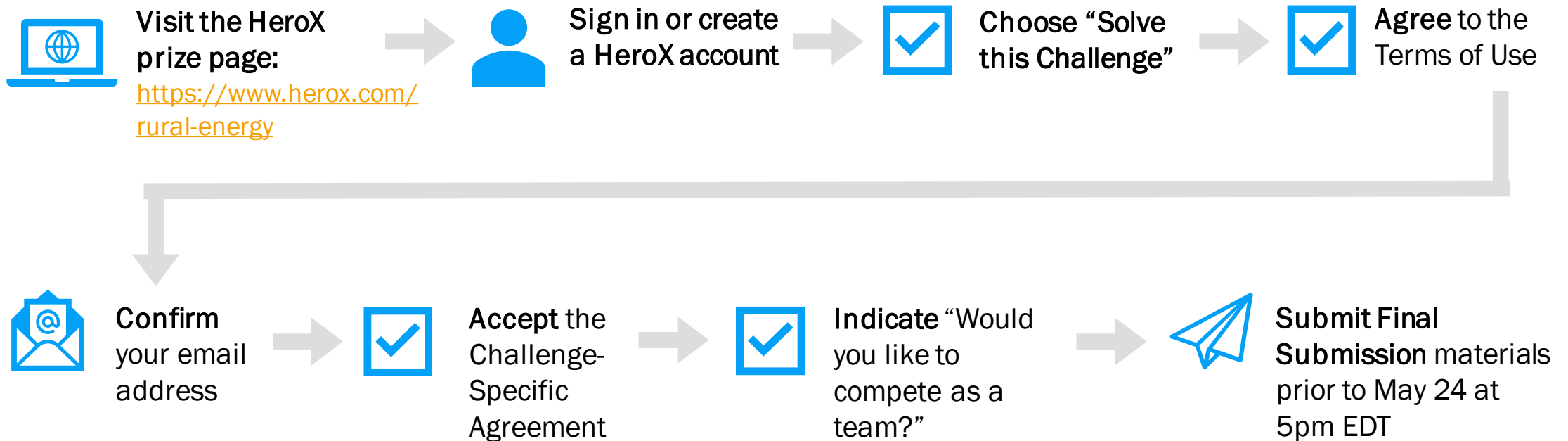
Your plan and
submission materials
by 5/24/23



Upcoming Webinars

- **PARTNER Track Webinar: April 5, 2023, 2:00pm MT/4:00pm ET:**
- This one hour webinar will dive deeper into the PARTNER Track. [Register here.](#)
- **FINANCE Track Webinar: April 6, 2023, 11:00am MT/1:00pm ET,** This one hour webinar will dive deeper into the FINANCE Track. [Register here.](#)
- **Office Hour Support:**
- 30-minute meetings to ask questions and/or get feedback on your application.
- [Sign up for a time slot with CEBN.](#)
- Sign up for a time slot with EFN.
- **Networking Events**
- These sessions will provide networking opportunities with other competitors and breakout groups focused on individual tracks.
- **March 30, 10:00am MT/12:00pm ET.** [Register here.](#)
- **April 13, 9:00am MT/11:00am ET.** [Register here.](#)

Register and Compete



Competitors may submit multiple applications to both tracks, but the Prize Administrator will only accept and review one submission per track per community served.

Email: ruralenergyprize@nrel.gov
Forum: www.herox.com/rural-energy



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY



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BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW: ENERGY IMPROVEMENT IN RURAL OR REMOTE AREAS

The prior presentation was designed to explain the ERA Prize for the IE Webinar, but we also have an open Funding Opportunity Announcement!

Anticipated Award Size and Funding Amount:

Topic Area No.	Topic Area Title	Anticipated Number of Awards	Anticipated Cost Share per Award		Total Anticipated Fed Share ¹
			Award Size (Fed Share)	Applicant Share ²	
1	Community-Scale Demonstrations	4-8	\$5 million (M)–\$10 M	\$1 M–\$10 M	\$40M
2	Large-Scale Demonstrations	3-20	\$10 M– \$100 M	\$2 M–\$100 M	\$260M
Notes:				Total¹	\$300M

1. Total anticipated under this FOA.

2. Twenty percent (20%) or fifty percent (50%) applicant cost share depending on applicant's cost share eligibility, see [Section 4.2 Cost Sharing](#).

Visit [OCED eXCHANGE: Funding Opportunity Exchange \(energy.gov\)](#) for information on the FOA, a pre-recorded webinar, opportunity for technical assistance and all the information needed to apply

DE-FOA-0002970 Upcoming Dates

Program Announcement	Timing (approximate and subject to change)
ERA FOA Informational Webinar	Video available at link below
ERA FOA Concept Papers Due (no cost technical assistance available)	April 14, 2023
Full ERA Applications Due	June 28, 2023
OCED eXCHANGE: Funding Opportunity Exchange (energy.gov)	