HeroX.com/BuildingsUP

Building Capacity To Rapidly Increase Energy Efficiency Upgrades and Efficient Electrification of U.S. Buildings

The Buildings Upgrade Prize (Buildings UP)

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Buildings UP is designed to rapidly scale energy efficiency and efficient electrification building upgrades in communities across the country. This capacity-building prize supports teams with solutions that:

- **Accelerate building upgrades** for efficiency and on-site emissions reductions beyond current best practices in the applicant's identified area of focus.
- **Demonstrate scalability and replicability** across building type(s), climate zone(s), and/or, community type(s).
- **Advance holistic and lasting energy efficiency and efficient electrification** initiative development.
- **Benefit underserved communities** by ensuring that benefits accrue to equity-eligible buildings, their occupants, and surrounding communities.

WHO CAN APPLY

- Non-federal-government entities
- Nonprofit or for-profit organizations
- Community-based organizations
- Indian tribes

MINIMUM TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Strategies that focus on installation of **efficient electric heating and cooling equipment** in commercial and residential buildings (e.g., heat pumps and/or heat pump water heaters, geothermal heat pumps) and **weatherization and envelope improvements** (e.g., insulation, air sealing, window improvements) where needed to reduce energy costs. Additional strategies may include:

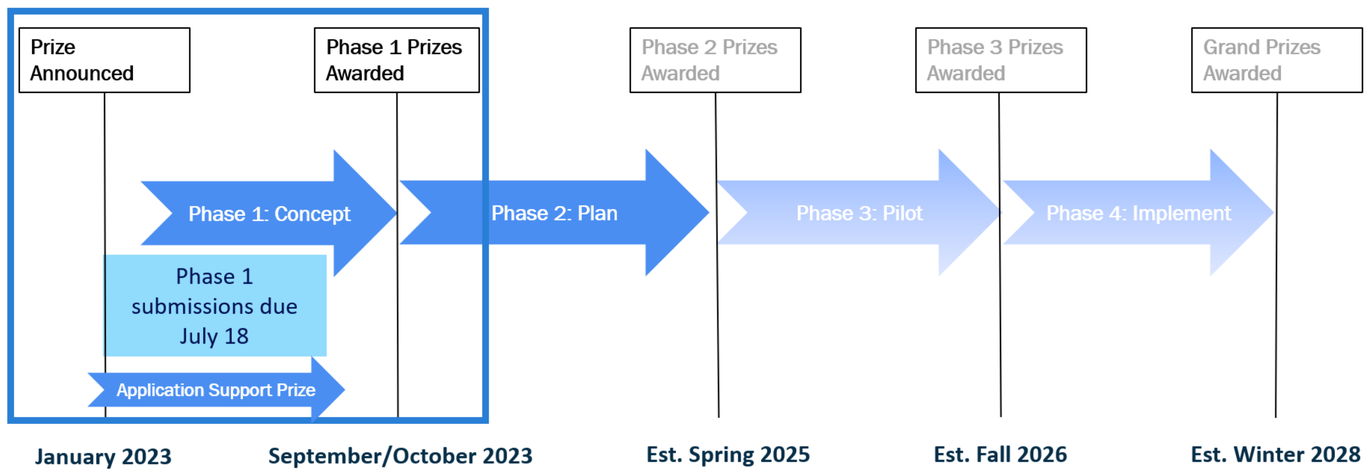
- Efficient electric appliances
- Electric vehicle chargers
- On-site and community solar
- Electric panel upgrades
- Building controls
- Energy storage

EQUITY-ELIGIBLE BUILDINGS

- Buildings located within Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST)-designated and/or DOE-designated Justice40 census tracts, federally recognized tribal lands, and U.S. territories.
- Affordable housing and housing occupied by low-income residents.
- Underserved commercial, nonprofit, and public buildings.
- Locally defined equity-eligible buildings.

Buildings UP Phase 1

- $22M+ in cash prizes and technical assistance
- Seeking 20–60 teams to join the "coopetition"
- Two pathways: Equity-Centered Innovation and Open Innovation
- Phase 1 Concept submissions due July 18, 2023, via the HeroX application portal
- Up to 50 application support prizes of 10 hours of technical assistance and $5,000 each



*Subsequent phases are envisioned to offer similar prizes and are subject to the availability of funds.

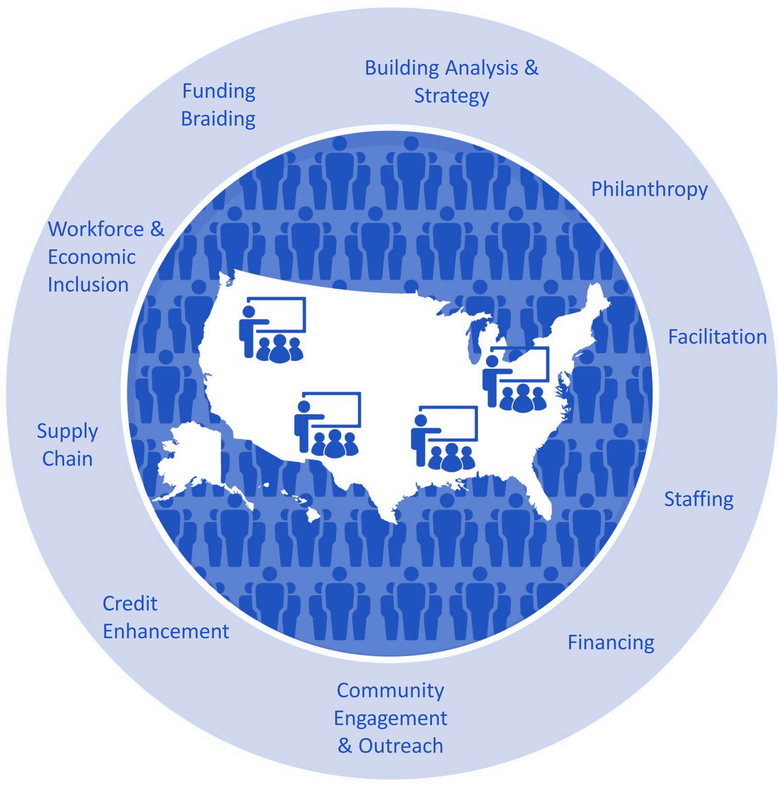
Equity-Centered Innovation Pathway
$400,000 in cash prizes for each winning team

Develop replicable, scalable, innovative building upgrade initiatives **in equity-eligible buildings* (i.e., 80% equity-eligible).**

Open Innovation Pathway
$200,000 in cash prizes for each winning team

Develop replicable, scalable, innovative building upgrade initiatives. **May include a focus on equity but are not required.**

Access to Technical Assistance is awarded to winning teams in both pathways.



Technical Assistance (TA)
American-Made Prize Power Connectors, webinars, and 1:1 support

Regional Navigators
Each team assigned a point of contact who meets with teams regularly, tracks progress, provides local connections, and guides teams to appropriate TA in prize network

Buildings UP Team Network
20 to 60 teams selected for multi-year cohort. Online platform for teams to share resources and information

Technical Assistance Support Provided By:

ACEEE · ELEVATE · HR&A · Emerald Cities Collaborative

NREL is a national laboratory of the U. S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, operated by the Alliance for Sustainable Energy, LLC.

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