

# Buildings Upgrade Prize

## PCFO IGAP Prize Snapshot

March 27, 2023

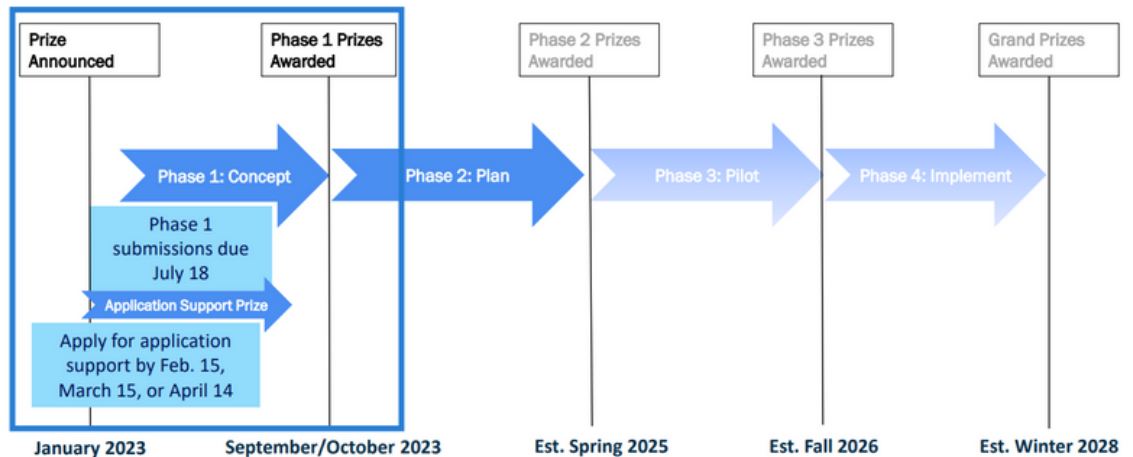
<b>Agency:</b> Department of Energy	<b>Bureau:</b> Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
<b>Application Deadline:</b> July 18, 2023	<b>Max Award:</b> Depends on pathway

### Description

The Buildings Upgrade Prize (Buildings UP) is a capacity-building prize focused on reducing greenhouse gas emissions in existing buildings through energy efficiency and efficient electrification. In Phase 1, Buildings UP will award over \$22 million in cash prizes and technical assistance.

### Prize Structure and Timeline

The prize is envisioned to consist of four phases over approximately five years.



#### Phase 1: Applications are due July 18, 2023

Teams may apply to one of two pathways:

- Equity-Centered Innovation Pathway:** Teams propose a new initiative or innovation to an existing initiative for delivering scalable and replicable building upgrades for “equity eligible” buildings, which include buildings in disadvantaged communities, low- and moderate-income (LMI) households, and underserved commercial, nonprofit, and public buildings.
  - Award size: \$400,000
- Open Innovation Pathway:** Teams propose a new initiative or innovation to an existing initiative that addresses a geographic area or building type and can achieve scalability and replicability of building upgrades.
  - Award size: \$200,000

DOE expects to make 20-60 awards in Phase 1. Winners of both pathways will be eligible to advance to Phase 2 and access technical assistance.

**Phase 1 Application Support Prize: Submissions are due April 14**

Buildings UP is offering an application support prize to encourage new and under-resourced applicants during Phase 1. Up to 50 teams will each be awarded \$5,000 (\$250,000 total) and 10 hours of technical assistance (500 hours total) to support their Concept Plan submission development in Phase 1.

**Applications are due on April 14, 2023.**

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**Eligible Recipients**

- Community-based organizations
- Local governments
- Tribes
- Utilities
- Nonprofit organizations
- For-profit organizations

Entities must be incorporated in and maintain a primary place of business in the United States with majority domestic ownership and control.

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**Matching Grant Requirements**

None

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**Eligible Projects**

Phase 1 is focused on the development of innovative approaches that address barriers to building upgrades.

**Eligible Building Upgrades**

The minimum technologies and strategies teams must include in their initiatives include:

- Efficient electric heating and cooling equipment
- Weatherization and envelope improvements

Additional strategies and technologies teams may incorporate into their initiatives include:

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

**Eligible Buildings**

Buildings targeted for upgrades may include one or multiple building types, such as:

- Single family
- Multifamily
- Manufactured housing
- K–12 schools
- Higher education
- Commercial real estate

- Hospitality
  - Health care
  - Retail
  - Food service/grocery
  - Government buildings
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## Tips for Being Competitive

Strong applicants will demonstrate how their proposed project can meet the prize goals:

- Accelerate building upgrades for efficiency and on-site emissions reductions
  - Demonstrate scalability and replicability
  - Advance holistic and lasting energy efficiency and efficient electrification initiative development
  - Benefit underserved communities
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## Agency Contact

buildingsup@nrel.gov

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## Upcoming Events

- [April 4, 2023 at 4pm ET](#): Application Support Webinar
- [April 7, 2023 at 2pm ET](#): Informational Prize Overview Webinar
- [April 8, 2023 at 12pm ET](#): Application Support Webinar
- [May 4, 2023 at 11am ET](#): Informational Prize Overview Webinar
- [June 13, 2023 at 2pm ET](#): Informational Prize Overview Webinar

Webinar recordings and presentation slides for previous events can be found on the [HeroX Prize Page](#).

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## Partners Required

DOE expects applications to be submitted by teams of eligible entities. All teams must include:

- A **Lead Organization** that commits at least one full-time equivalent (FTE) staff person for the duration of their involvement in Buildings UP. This FTE may be hired after Phase 1 awards are announced.
  - A **Designated Prize Recipient** that is a legal entity and can receive prize funds. The Designated Prize Recipient can be a fiscal sponsor for a participating organization that is not a legal entity. The Lead Organization may also be the Designated Prize Recipient.
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## Total Allocation

\$22 million for Phase 1

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## Anticipated Award Date

September/October 2023

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## Anticipated Award Date

- [Application Support Prize Submission Form](#)
- [Buildings UP Prize Page - HeroX](#)
- [Official Rules Document - HeroX](#)