

Solutions for Lasting, Viable Energy Infrastructure Technologies (SOLVE IT) Prize

PCFO IGAP Prize Snapshot
January 24, 2024

<u>Agency:</u> US Department of Energy (DOE)	<u>Bureau:</u> American-Made Program
<u>Application Deadline:</u> Phase 1 applications due April 12, 2024	<u>Max Award:</u> \$730,000

Description

The SOLVE IT Prize aims to empower communities in addressing energy challenges by encouraging competitors to create plans for clean energy projects tailored to their unique needs. Competitors will work on community-scale clean energy planning to build support, develop plans, and enable the implementation of innovative and equitable energy technologies, fostering long-term partnerships for sustainable solutions.

Prize Structure and Timeline

The SOLVE IT Prize has three phases. For phases 2 and 3, only winners of the previous phase will be eligible to apply.

- Embark Phase:** Competitors will identify a community, a challenge facing that community that can be addressed by a clean technology solution, and a clear plan for engaging with the community. Competitors will demonstrate that they have what it takes to carry out their project.
- Engage Phase:** Teams will engage with their community stakeholders to develop the community's vision for their future clean energy or decarbonization project.
- Establish Phase:** Teams will create plans for carrying out at least one specific, technically novel clean energy or decarbonization project. Winners will demonstrate proof that they have obtained the confirmed commitments needed to carry out their projects.

	Est. # of Winners	Prizes	Timeline
Phase 1: Embark	25	\$80,000 each	Jan - April 2024
Phase 2: Engage	10	\$150,000 each	May - Nov 2024
Phase 3: Establish	3	\$500,000 each	Dec 2024 - July 2025

Eligible Recipients

The competition is open to individuals or entities that collaboratively work with communities to develop and carry out projects benefiting communities and aligning with their priorities. Eligible participants include, but are not limited to, individuals, private entities (both for-profit and non-profit), consortia, academic institutions, labor unions, non-governmental organizations, and non-federal government entities (such as tribes, states, counties, and municipalities) in the United States, with specific requirements outlined as follows:

- An individual prize competitor (not part of a group) must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.
 - A group of individuals competing as a team can win, provided the online account holder of the submission is a U.S. citizen or permanent resident. Team members must be legally authorized to work in the United States.
 - Private entities must be incorporated in and maintain a primary place of business in the United States.
 - Academic institutions must be based in the United States.
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Eligible Projects

This prize will reward innovative clean energy solutions addressing ongoing energy-related issues at the community level, providing economic, environmental, health, and other co-benefits to specifically disadvantaged, underserved, or overburdened communities. Communities can choose from a range of energy-related challenges and identify solutions based on promising clean energy and decarbonization technologies, including:

- Advanced materials and manufacturing technologies
 - Advanced nuclear reactors
 - Bioenergy
 - Building efficiency
 - Carbon management
 - Clean hydrogen and fuel cells
 - Grid modernization
 - Geothermal energy
 - Industrial efficiency and decarbonization
 - Long-duration energy storage
 - Solar energy
 - Vehicles
 - Water power
 - Wind energy
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Matching Grant Requirements

None required

Tips for Being Competitive

Phase 1 application will be evaluated on three criteria:

- **Experience (40%):** States a clear mission, a demonstrated history of productive community work, access to necessary skills and knowledge for energy technologies, the ability to collaborate with stakeholders, a credible connection to the community, and a proposed work aligned with at least one of DOE's eight policy priorities for Justice40 Initiative implementation.

- **Energy Challenges and Community Needs (30%):** Demonstrates a thorough understanding of its energy challenges, needs, inequities, and opportunities, including impacts to the community and innovative clean energy solutions that can address them, emphasizing the significant constraints on balanced and just economic development or the severe impact on community well-being or health.
- **Engagement Plan (30%):** Outlined clear and achievable next steps, including a path to develop, implement, and track progress on a clean energy project action plan, a robust plan for meaningful engagement with local stakeholders, and specific equity goals, fostering inclusivity and addressing systemic barriers in clean energy.

Partners Required Partners are not required.

Agency Contact SOLVEIT@nrel.gov

Upcoming Events • EMBARK Phase Introductory Webinar - January 30 at 3pm ET: [Register here](#)

Total Allocation \$5 million

Anticipated Award Date Phase 1 awards will be made in May 2024

Resources

- [SOLVE IT Program Page - HeroX](#)
- [Official Rules - HeroX](#)