

**Thriving Communities Network
Learning Series:
US Department of Energy's American
Made Challenges**

**Presented by Kerene Tayloe
Office of Community Engagement**



Agenda

- Introduction
- Understanding DOE Prizes
- Current Open Prizes
- AMC Prize Roundtable



Who Is OCE?

I am charging the Office of State and Community Energy Programs (SCEP) with establishing an Office of Community Engagement that will serve as the center point for the Department's work at the community level. The Office of Community Engagement will build capacity to field incoming requests for technical assistance from all communities and provide in-depth clean energy development assistance to select communities. To further that goal, the Office of Community Engagement will be connecting with all offices across the Department to bring your expertise to bear with external communities.

While the Office of Community Engagement will be organized in SCEP, this must be a DOE-wide effort, as every single office has so much to offer communities across the country. This new structure will help bring cohesion across offices in this work, much like how the Office of Public Affairs helps to coordinate communicators in offices across the Department.



Jennifer M. Granholm
Secretary of Energy
DOECAST October 7, 2022

MISSION

- **DOE's commitment:**
 - **Access** to DOE for **EVERY community**, with off-the-shelf resources available for all.
 - **Proactive**, strategic engagement with **communities** across every region.
 - Ability to provide additional capacity to give in-depth **assistance to specific communities**.

KEY FUNCTIONS

- **Capacity Building:** Equip stakeholders with the necessary knowledge and resources to effectively navigate the clean energy landscape.
- **Technical Assistance:** Provide in-depth technical assistance to select communities, tailored to their specific needs and clean energy goals.
- **Expertise Mobilization:** Leverage the expertise of DOE offices across the department to enrich community engagement efforts.

"Our mission is simple yet profound: to engage and empower communities across the country in the pursuit of clean energy solutions. We're not just addressing environmental or energy concerns; we're fostering a movement that will bring transformative change to the lives of everyday Americans."

- Rose Dady, OCE Director, Jan '24

Ways We Connect

Biweekly Virtual Office Hours

Get Engaged Process:

- www.energy.gov/getengaged
- 202-586-0822
- getengaged@hq.doe.gov

External Engagement

- Stakeholder Meetings
- Conference / Events
- Technical Assistance Clearinghouse

Internal Engagement

- Each Community Engagement Specialist 4 program offices
- Community Engagement Workgroup
- Cross Agency Marketing Materials
- Stakeholder Energy Hub Page
- S3 Stakeholder Collaboration

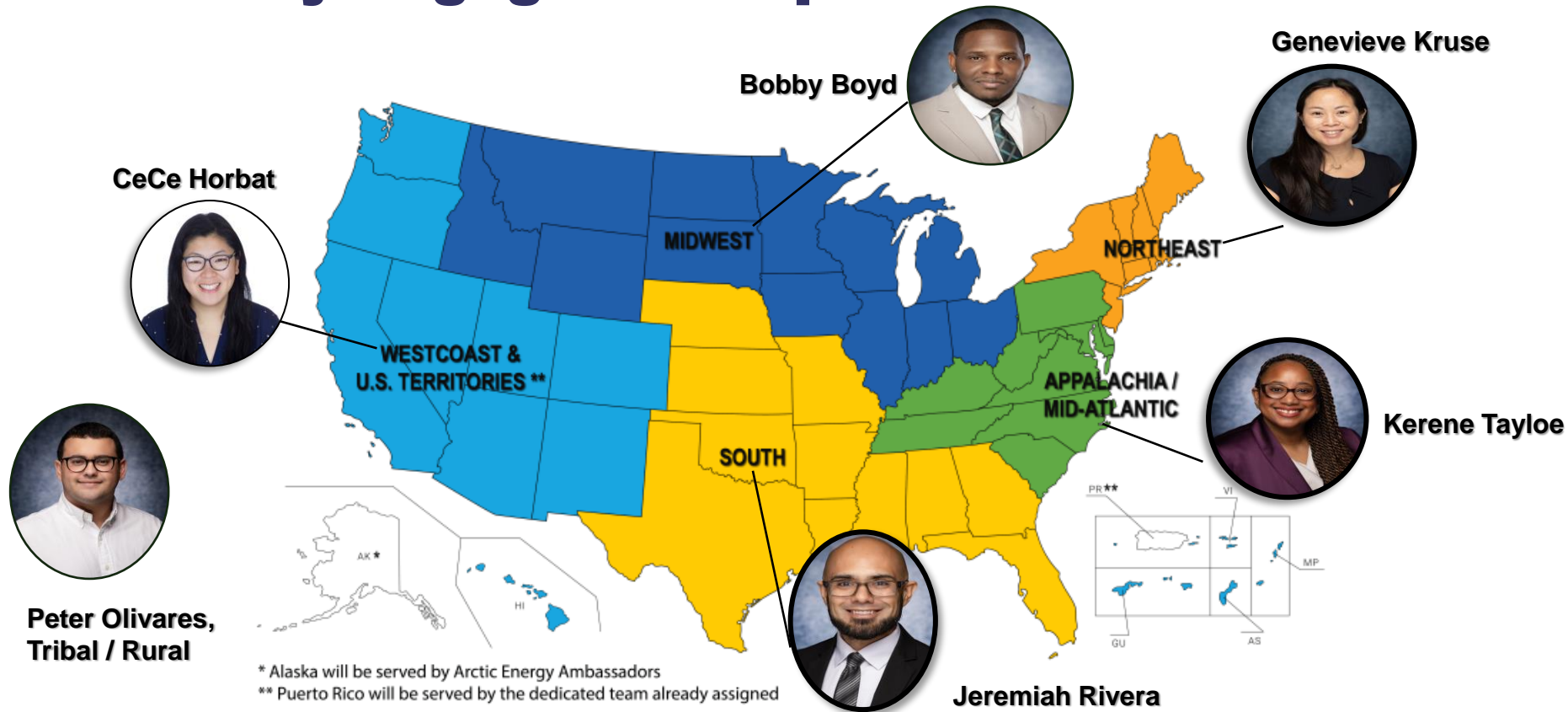
Interagency Support

- Thriving Communities Network
- Rural Desk Officer (RPN/WH Domestic Policy Council)
- ICIC (Interagency Community Investment Committee) OVP/HUD
- ACCESS
- FEMA Mit-FLG
- IWG

Special Projects

- Equity Action Plan –
 - 5.3: Support capacity building in Tribal Nations & disadvantaged communities (w/ Chris Castro)
 - 5.5 Improve DOE's ability for effective and responsive two-way communication, including Nation-to-Nation communication, for Tribal and disadvantaged communities.
- REDI Steering Group
- Environmental Justice Strategic Plan
 - Goal 4: Enhance public participation in agency decision making

Community Engagement Specialists



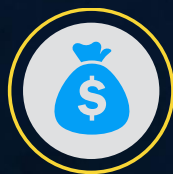


supercharge

A REVOLUTION OF **BOLD IDEAS**

Fast track your ideas for the clean energy revolution

AMERICAN
MADE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY



\$400M
in cash prizes
and support



80+
prizes



450+
Network
members

About DOE Prizes

- A funding mechanism authorized under the America Creating Opportunities to Meaningfully Promote Excellence in Technology, Education, and Science Reauthorization Act of 2010 (COMPETES Act) (15 USC § 3719)
- **DOE uses prizes to incentivize scientific and technological innovation through cash awards and non-cash assistance**
- Prize Authority: The Secretary of Energy's authority to run prize programs under COMPETES was delegated to the Under Secretary of Energy who then re-delegated this authority to the Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EE-1)
 - The Technology Office Director is the only officially designated “Judge” of the prize. Initially approves prize budget and scope. Briefs senior leadership as necessary (Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary and Deputy Assistant Secretary).
- DOE can administer prizes in-house or procure an external administrator
 - 2018: Management and Operation (M&O) Contract with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) to administer prizes through American Made Challenges, a prize administration resource available to all DOE offices.

Prizes Offer Competitors

- The lowest barrier to access DOE funding
- A safe environment for risk taking that encourages new ideas, creativity, and pays for results
- A level playing field for tackling ambitious goals where people from all backgrounds and skillsets can succeed
- Collaboration with public, private, and philanthropic entities supporting and sponsoring a prize
- Win cash and get recognized for excellence in a particular area



Technology

Innovation of a specific clean energy technology to help move the United States toward net-zero emissions. Many of these prizes overlap with other categories of student, community, and entrepreneur-related prizes.



Entrepreneurial

Small businesses and startups benefit from prizes that feature opportunities for entrepreneurs to win vouchers. These provide access to cutting-edge facilities and experts at the DOE national laboratories to help bring clean energy ideas to market.



Student and Workforce

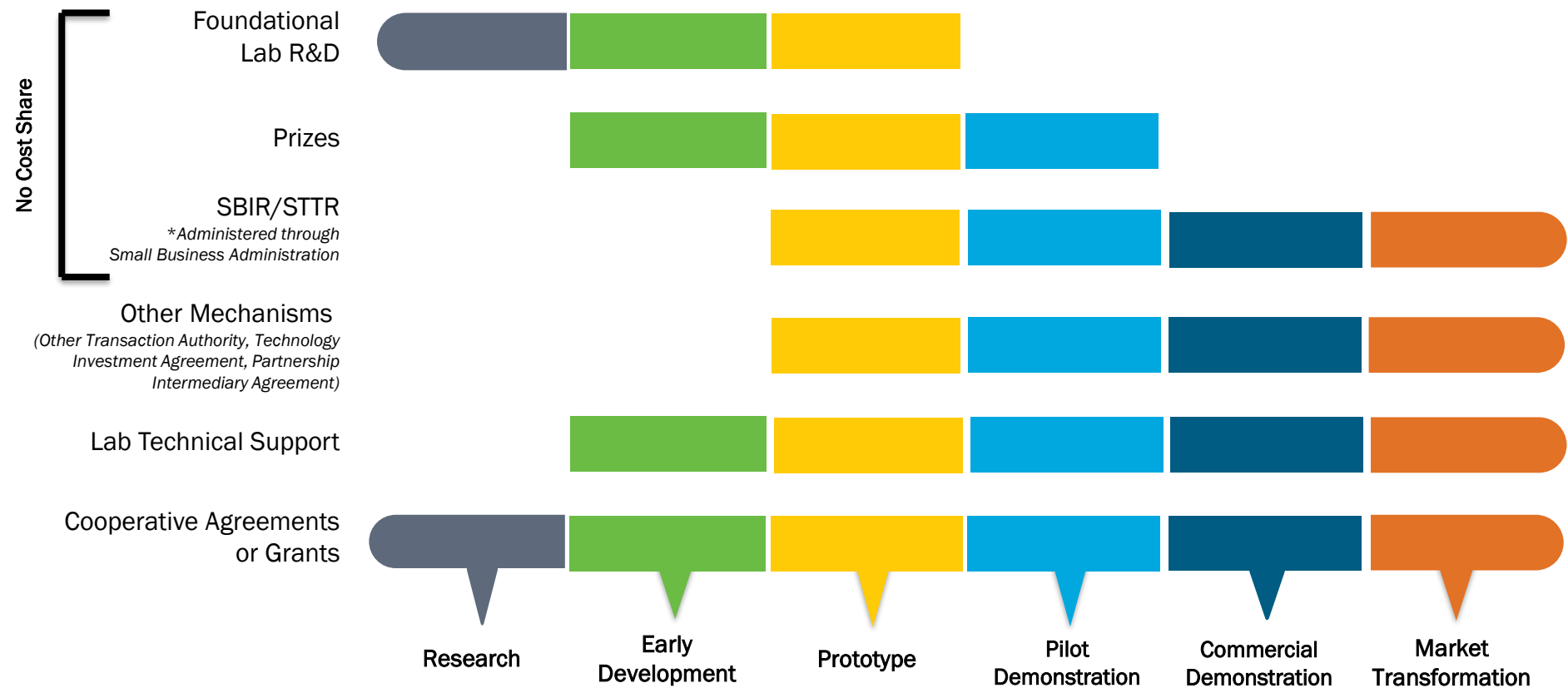
Students and clean energy professionals have opportunities to get involved with a clean energy prize or competition to help jumpstart a clean energy career. Competitors learn about new technologies, make connections through the American-Made Network, and build a foundation for working towards clean energy goals.



Community

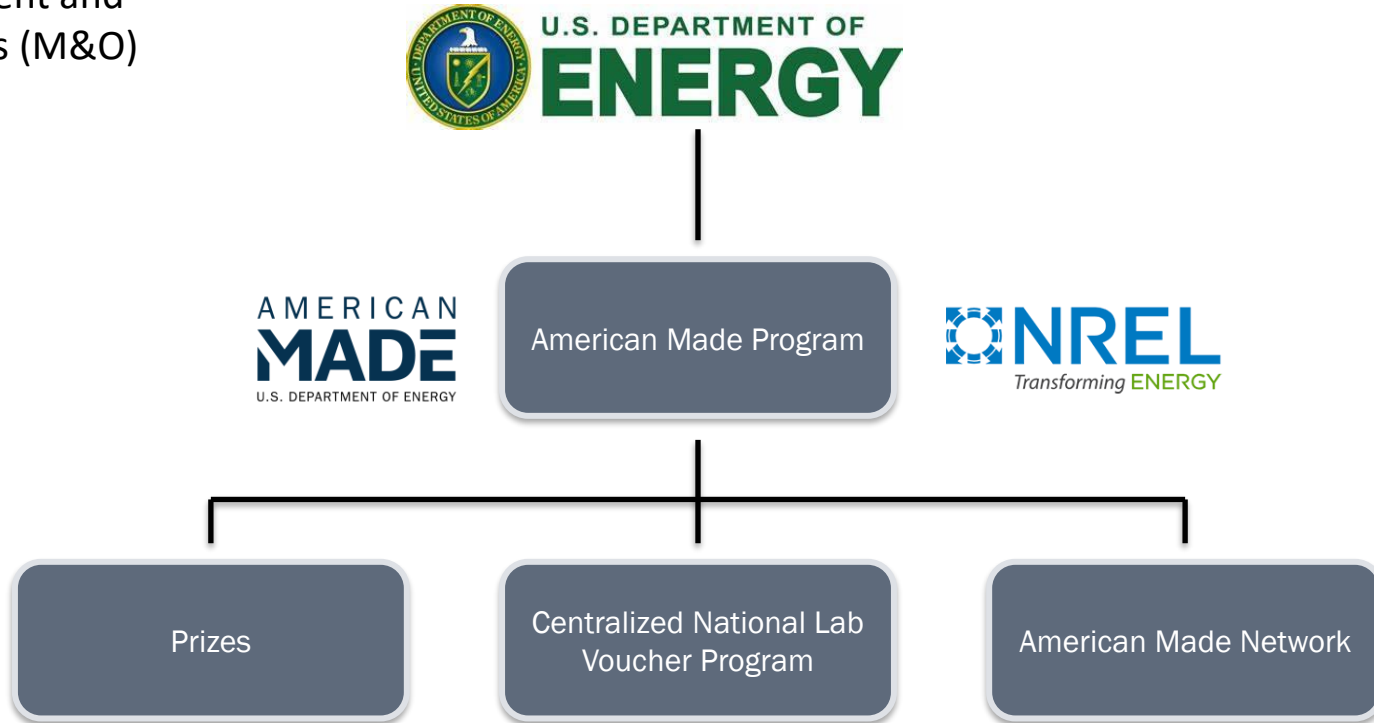
Communities are the lifeblood of our nation, and their needs vary widely from place to place across the country. Our community-based prizes offer communities and those working at local organizations a chance to compete for federal funds and solve a local clean energy challenge.

Common DOE Funding Mechanisms



DOE Contracts with NREL to Act as External Administrator

Management and
Operations (M&O)
Contract



How DOE Works with National Labs on Prizes

Internally to American Made Program

- Management and Operations Contract (M&O) – Procured NREL as Prize Administrator
- Centralized National Lab Voucher Program – award testing vouchers as prizes
 - Facility use, testing and validation, technical assistance



Externally to American Made Program

- Annual Operating Plans – support prize development as subject matter expert
- Prize Submission Reviewers



AMERICAN MADE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

The American-Made program is your **fast track to the clean energy revolution**. Funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, we incentivize innovation through prizes, training, teaming, and mentoring, connecting the nation's entrepreneurs and innovators to America's national labs and the private sector.



More than 80 Prizes Worth of Experience!



By American-Made ... 36 ☆

Collegiate Wind Competition

Helping college students prepare for jobs in the wind and renewable energy workforce through real-

📅 Enter - 37 ... **\$280K Prize**



By American-Made ... 37 ☆

HBCU Clean Energy Education Prize

Advancing clean energy programming, opportunities, and connections for historically

📅 Pre registra... **\$7.8M Prize**



By American-Made ... 44 ☆

Heliostat Prize

The American-Made Heliostat Prize is a 3-contest challenge designed to accelerate

📅 Enter - 83 Da... **\$3M Prize**



By American-Made ... 49 ☆

Hydropower Collegiate Competition

Challenging multidisciplinary teams of collegiate students to offer unique solutions to

📅 Judging Cl... **\$325K Prize**



By American-Made ... 101 ☆

The Marine Energy Collegiate Competition

Challenging multidisciplinary teams of undergraduate and graduate students to offer

📅 Judging Cl... **\$420K Prize**



By American-Made ... 104 ☆

Microbattery Design Prize

Seeking designs for microbatteries to support new uses for small electronic devices with

📅 Enter - 51 D... **\$1.1M Prize**



By American-Made ... 839 ☆

Energizing Rural Communities Prize

Supporting innovative partnership and finance plans to help rural or remote communities

📅 Enter - 15 Days Remain...

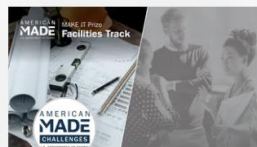


By American-Made ... 45 ☆

MAKE IT Prize Strategies Track

Enabling vibrant clean energy technology manufacturing activity in communities

📅 Pre registration



By American-Made ... 76 ☆

MAKE IT Prize Facilities Track

Catalyzing domestic manufacturing of critical clean energy technology components

📅 Pre registration



By American-Made ... 56 ☆

2023 Sunny Awards

Recognize community solar projects and programs that increase equitable access to the

📅 Enter - 66 ... **\$200K Prize**



By American-Made ... 74 ☆

High-Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) Prize

Propose new HVDC technology solutions to strengthen the U.S. energy grid

📅 Enter - 29 ... **\$200K Prize**



By American-Made ... 548 ☆

Community Power Accelerator Prize

Fast-tracks the efforts of solar developers to learn and grow their operations to support multiple

📅 Won **\$10M Prize**



By American-Made ... 1.1K ☆

Buildings Upgrade Prize

Supports actionable and scalable solutions to advance energy efficiency and efficient electrification

📅 Enter



By American-Made ... 158 ☆

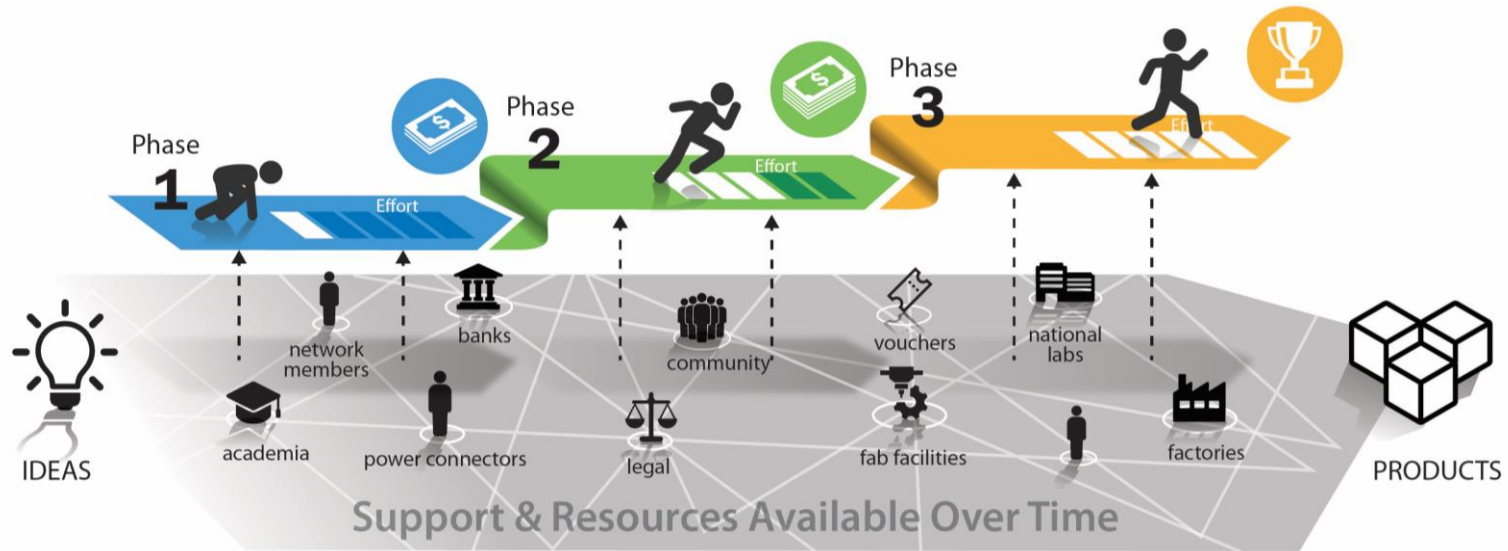
DAC Pre-Commercial EPIC Prize

Regional incubators develop creative and impactful plans to support entrepreneurs and

📅 Enter - 44 Days Remai...

Prizes offer a low barrier to entry and enable training and growth opportunities along the way

A phased prize approach positions innovators, students, and communities for success and the underlying network supports, connects, mentors, educates, and accelerates ideas, partnerships, and progress.



Prizes are Successful in Bringing in and Lifting up New Competitors

- **Makes innovation easy, fast, and agile** with rapid innovation cycles and network support, prizes help to provide a low barrier to entry and an achievable path to technology or program development success
- **Inspires the next generation** of scientists, engineers, entrepreneurs, and community leaders to enter the clean energy work environment and solve important problems and challenges
- **Expands participation** from innovators with diverse backgrounds and from underserved communities, providing new opportunities for funding, knowledge transfer, and building technical and business skills.
- **Provides opportunities** for innovators to leverage government investment to grow new businesses, develop solutions, increase opportunities, expand jobs, and position themselves as a qualified individual/organization for future DOE funding and external partnerships and investments



Example: Coalition-led Workforce Development

Missoula's Clean Energy Workforce Coalition

Missoula, MT

Mission: Diversify the clean energy workforce—by women, for women—and increase access to family-supporting careers. Includes women of color, and low-income and Indigenous women.

- **Goal:** Create and scale a clean energy workforce development pipeline by formalizing local collaborations among community organizations with existing relationships and common missions



Participating Coalition Members

- Climate Smart Missoula
- Mountain Home Montana
- Missoula County
- Missoula Economic Partnership

Through the Community Clean Energy Coalition Prize in 2023, this team developed a local workforce development program aimed at increasing the number of indigenous and low-income women who are ready to enter the clean energy workforce.

They received a total of **\$230,000** in cash prizes for their work!

American-Made Prizes Make an Impact on New Businesses and Jobs



Connecting Tomorrow's Grid
Solar Monitoring &
Asset Management



\$650k Prize



\$3M additional funds raised



10 New jobs created



1,000+ Renewable
energy projects
in 22 states

Atlanta based Wattch won the grand prize of Solar Prize Round 3 in 2019, **totaling \$650k in total prize money**. The team attributes their success to winning the prize, which opened opportunities to customers, partners, and investors.

Throughout the prize they worked with network mentors, Power Connectors and received ongoing prize support.

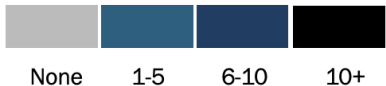
This early—career team created a new business, raised more than \$3M in external funding, and has hired more than 10 new employees!

American-Made Network Summit Event



https://whova.com/portal/registration/jisea_202309/

NETWORK



- 450+ Support organizations
- 110 Accelerator & Incubator programs focused on energy/clean tech
- 33 Academic institutions
- 17 National Laboratories
- 100 Corporate partners

American-Made Challenges: U.S. Department of Energy

American-Made Network Services



The Results

- ↑ Increased number of first-time applicants
- ↑ More diversity in applicant pool
- ↑ Better quality applications
- ↑ More geographically diverse applicants
- ↑ Stronger innovation
- ↑ Setting up for future success

Power Connector Network

A new diverse cohort of Power Connectors was selected at the end of March 2024. Power Connector key activities include, *recruitment, outreach, training, mentoring, program support, monitoring & evaluation* and *prize support*.

Current Power Connector Key Capabilities











- Extensive experience working the minority serving institutions (MSIs)
- Experts in curriculum development, business development services, hardware manufacturing & development, clean energy technical services & more
- Professional services that include marketing, communications, financial modeling, business strategy development, commercialization services, and more
- Experts that have worked with more than 300 prize competitors
- Professional networks with the ability to reach 100,000+ professionals & organizations

Deloitte.

**BANKS
&
COMPANY**



Current Open Prizes (Details to follow)

 <p>RECYCLING</p> <p>Re-X Before Recycling Prize</p> <p>Prize Pool \$5.6 million in prizes Open to New Applicants, Submission Deadline 10/22/2024</p>	 <p>SOLAR UTILITY SCALE</p> <p>Science Synthesis Prize</p> <p>Prize Pool \$125k in prizes Open to New Applicants, Submission Deadline 11/05/2024</p>	 <p>SOLAR</p> <p>Solar Prize Round 8</p> <p>Prize Pool \$4.22 million in prizes Open to New Applicants, Submission Deadline 09/26/2024</p>	 <p>ALL CLEAN-TECH OR RENEWABLE ENERGY SECTORS</p> <p>TCF Open Voucher Call</p> <p>Prize Pool \$2.1 million in prizes Open to New Applicants, Submission Deadline 10/03/2024</p>		
 <p>GEO THERMAL</p> <p>Geothermal Collegiate Competition</p> <p>Prize Pool \$10k in prizes Open to New Applicants, Submission Deadline 12/20/2024</p>	 <p>MANUFACTURING BUILDINGS</p> <p>L-Prize</p> <p>Prize Pool \$12.2 million in prizes Open to New Applicants, Submission Deadline 08/05/2025</p>	 <p>STUDENTS</p> <p>TCU Energy and Food Sovereignty Nexus...</p> <p>Prize Pool \$4.1 million in prizes Open to New Applicants, Submission Deadline 11/27/2024</p>	 <p>PHOTOGRAPHY</p> <p>Framing the Future: Industrial Technology...</p> <p>Prize Pool \$27k in prizes Open to New Applicants, Submission Deadline 11/21/2024</p>	 <p>MANUFACTURING ALL CLEAN-TECH OR RENEWABLE ENERGY SECTORS</p> <p>Good Jobs in Clean Energy Prize</p> <p>Prize Pool \$3.38 million in prizes Open to New Applicants, Submission Deadline 01/31/2025</p>	 <p>AIR CAPTURE</p> <p>Commercial DAC Pilot Prize</p> <p>Prize Pool \$52.5 million in prizes Open to New Applicants, Submission Deadline 02/07/2025</p>

Check back often and join our Newsletter to find new opportunities!

Solar Prize Round 8

The American-Made Solar Prize Round 8 is a multimillion-dollar prize competition designed to energize U.S. solar innovation through a series of contests that accelerate the entrepreneurial process from years to months. Competitors leverage the American-Made Network, our innovation engine of more than 400 organizations, including world-class experts at the U.S. Department of Energy's 17 national labs, clean tech accelerators, incubators, universities, facilities, and more. Through the Solar Prize Round 8, teams have the chance to win part of more than \$4.2 million in prizes to help them advance in the competition and accelerate the development of their solution toward commercialization.

Prize is **Open**

Total Prize Pool: \$4,220,000

Submissions due: September 26, 2024 at 5:00 pm EST



MSI Contract Readiness Prize

The MSI Contract Readiness Prize is a one-phase capacity building prize that aims to boost equity across the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) contracting for small, medium, and large Historically Black Colleges (HBCUs), Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), and other Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs), including Asian American, Native American, Pacific Islander Serving Institutions (AANAPISIs), Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs), and Predominantly Black Institutions (PBIs). This prize builds on the successes of the Biden Administration's Justice40 Initiative that is working toward environmental justice for all Americans by involving MSIs as key strategic partners.

Prize is **Open**

Total Prize Pool: \$300,000

Submissions due: October 4, 2024 at 2:00 pm PDT



Energy and Food Sovereignty Nexus Prize

The Energy and Food Sovereignty Nexus Prize encourages Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) to develop student-led demonstration projects that increase their knowledge on clean energy and food sovereignty on TCUs lands. Projects may include but are not limited to:

- Greenhouses heated or cooled by geothermal (ground-source) energy
- Greenhouses powered by wind or solar
- Solar arrays that provide shade for crops to grow or livestock to graze.

Prize is **Open**

Total Prize Pool: \$4,100,000

Submissions due: November 27, 2024 at 9:00 am MST



Geothermal Collegiate Competition

The Good Jobs in Clean Energy Prize encourages building new and newly focused place-based coalitions to create quality, accessible jobs and training partnerships in their community. Each coalition is required to include, at a minimum, one coalition representative from each of the five key stakeholder groups below:

1. Labor organizations
2. Clean energy employers
3. Community-based organizations
4. Public agencies
5. Education and workforce providers

Prize is **Open**

Total Prize Pool: \$10,000

Submissions due: December 20, 2024 at 5:00 pm EST



Good Jobs in Clean Energy Prize

The Good Jobs in Clean Energy Prize encourages building new and newly focused place-based coalitions to create quality, accessible jobs and training partnerships in their community. Each coalition is required to include, at a minimum, one coalition representative from each of the five key stakeholder groups below:

1. Labor organizations
2. Clean energy employers
3. Community-based organizations
4. Public agencies
5. Education and workforce providers

Prize is **Open**

Total Prize Pool: \$3,375,000

Submissions due: January 31, 2025 at 5:00 pm EST





CP Smith
Cooperativa Hidroeléctrica de la
Montaña
Prize Recipient




Jade Garrett
Positive Deviancy, LCC
Platinum Connector



Chanceé Lundy
Lundy Legacy
Power Connector

AMC Prize Roundtable

Stay Connected .. Get Engaged



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
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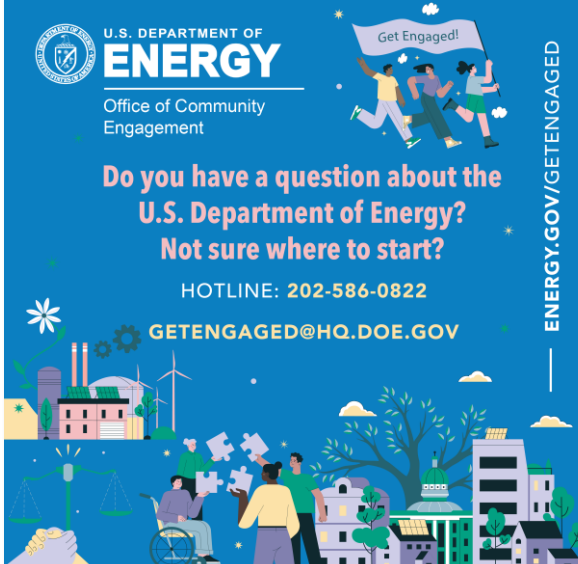
Office of Community
Engagement

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Do you have a question about the
U.S. Department of Energy?
Not sure where to start?

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ENERGY.GOV/GETENGAGED



Get Engaged Hotline:
202-586-0822

Get Engaged Email Address:
getengaged@hq.doe.gov

Website:
[Office of Community Engagement
Homepage | Department of Energy](#)

**Bi-Weekly Office Hours
Registration**
[Meeting Registration](#)

Kerene Tayloe
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Office of Community
Engagement

Get Engaged!

The Office of Community Engagement's mission
is to catalyze a rapid transition to a clean energy
economy while centering
justice, equity, and inclusion.

- OCE will provide off-the-shelf resources for all
and increase its engagement with communities.
- OCE serves as a resource hub, essentially as a
front door to the U.S. Department of Energy's
programs and resources.

HOTLINE: 202-586-0822
GETENGAGED@HQ.DOE.GOV

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