



SOLVE IT Prize

Enabling innovative solutions for local energy-related challenges.

[Government](#) [Non-Profit & Social Impact](#) [Technology](#)

Stage: Enter

Prize: \$5,000,000

Overview

The Solutions for Lasting, Viable Energy Infrastructure Technologies (SOLVE IT) Prize aims to empower communities to identify and implement innovative clean energy solutions in a way that works for their unique needs and challenges.

Communities across the country are faced with long-standing energy challenges, including pollution from heavy industry and other sources, high energy costs, aging grid infrastructure, and more. Clean energy technologies can help address many of these challenges while providing other economic, health, and workforce benefits.

Many communities, however, lack the resources and capacity to consider the best possible approach to a clean energy transition. The SOLVE IT Prize was designed to support communities as they identify and implement innovative clean energy solutions in a way that works best to address their unique needs and challenges. In doing so, the SOLVE IT Prize looks to promote the commercialization of promising energy technologies that will lead to an equitable and just energy transition.

The prize will award competitors with a demonstrated history of productive work with communities. Competitors will work collaboratively with stakeholders interested in community-scale (neighborhood-, town-, or city-scale) planning around clean energy to engage their communities, build a network of support for clean energy or decarbonization projects, and develop plans for carrying out these projects.

Prize Structure

Over three phases, competitors will work with communities to develop a credible path forward on clean energy projects that help address local challenges.

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.



For more information, review the [official rules document](#).

The U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Technology Transitions (OTT), Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations (OCED), and Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) have collaborated to launch the SOLVE IT Prize. The prize is part of the American-Made program and is administered by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory. SOLVE IT is funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) through the Technology Commercialization Fund (TCF).

Guidelines

The competition is open to individuals, nonprofits, local government entities, economic development organizations, educational institutions, and other organizations with a history of successful participatory community-based initiatives. Of particular focus are disadvantaged and energy-burdened communities at the neighborhood, town, and city scale.

Please review the [official rules document](#) for the complete application process and instructions for competing.

If you want to subscribe to updates on the prize click the "Follow" button at the top of the page. If you have any questions, you may use the contact feature on the HeroX platform, or [message us directly](#).

Challenge Timeline

Start

Dec. 12, 2023, 10:50 a.m. PST

Date Launched

Jan. 11, 2024, 8 a.m. PST

Enter

Prize Full Launch (Anticipated)
March 13, 2024, 6:33 p.m. PDT

April 12, 2024, 2 p.m. PDT

Submission Deadline

Phase 1: Embark Submission Deadline at 5pm EST (Anticipated)

April 15, 2024, 3 p.m. PDT

Judging

(Anticipated)

April 29, 2024, 7 a.m. PDT

Judging Closed

(Anticipated)

May 9, 2024, 8 a.m. PDT

Winner Announcement (Anticipated)

Phase 1: Embark Winner Announcement (Anticipated)

May 9, 2024, 11 a.m. PDT

Enter

Phase 2: Engage Opens (Anticipated)

Nov. 25, 2024, 2 p.m. PST

Submission Deadline

Phase 2: Engage Submission Deadline at 5pm ET (Anticipated)

Nov. 25, 2024, 3 p.m. PST

Judging

(Anticipated)

Dec. 5, 2024, 2 p.m. PST

Judging Closed

(Anticipated)

Dec. 19, 2024, 9 a.m. PST

Winner Announcement (Anticipated)

Phase 2: Engage Winner Announcement (Anticipated)

Dec. 19, 2024, 11 a.m. PST

Enter

Phase 3: Establish Opens (Anticipated)

June 12, 2025, 2 p.m. PDT

Submission Deadline

Phase 3: Establish Submission Deadline at 5pm ET (Anticipated)

June 13, 2025, 11 a.m. PDT

Judging

(Anticipated)

June 27, 2025, 8 a.m. PDT

Judging Closed

(Anticipated)

Finish

July 10, 2025, 9 a.m. PDT

Winner Announcement (Anticipated)

Phase 3: Establish Winner Announcement (Anticipated)