Housekeeping

- Attendee microphones and cameras are disabled.

- Webinar is being recorded and will be made available on HeroX.

- Submit questions through the "Q&A" box. Answers will be compiled and shared via HeroX in the coming days.

- If you experience issues, please check your audio settings under the "Audio Settings" tab.
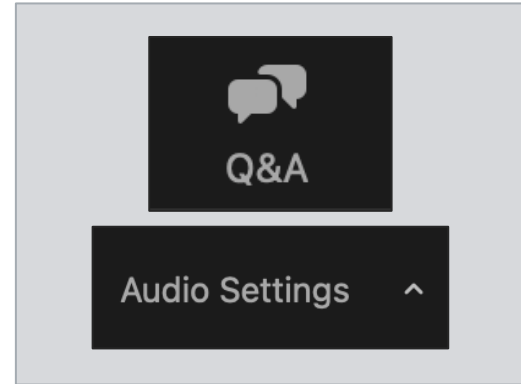
Agenda

1. Overview of the American-Made Program
2. Introduction to the SOLVE IT Prize
3. Background Information
4. Prize Eligibility and Timeline
5. Phase 1: Embark – What To Submit
6. Assessment
7. Looking Ahead - Phases 2 and 3
8. How to Compete
9. Support and Resources

supercharge

A REVOLUTION OF **BOLD IDEAS**

$260M in cash prizes and support

70+ prizes
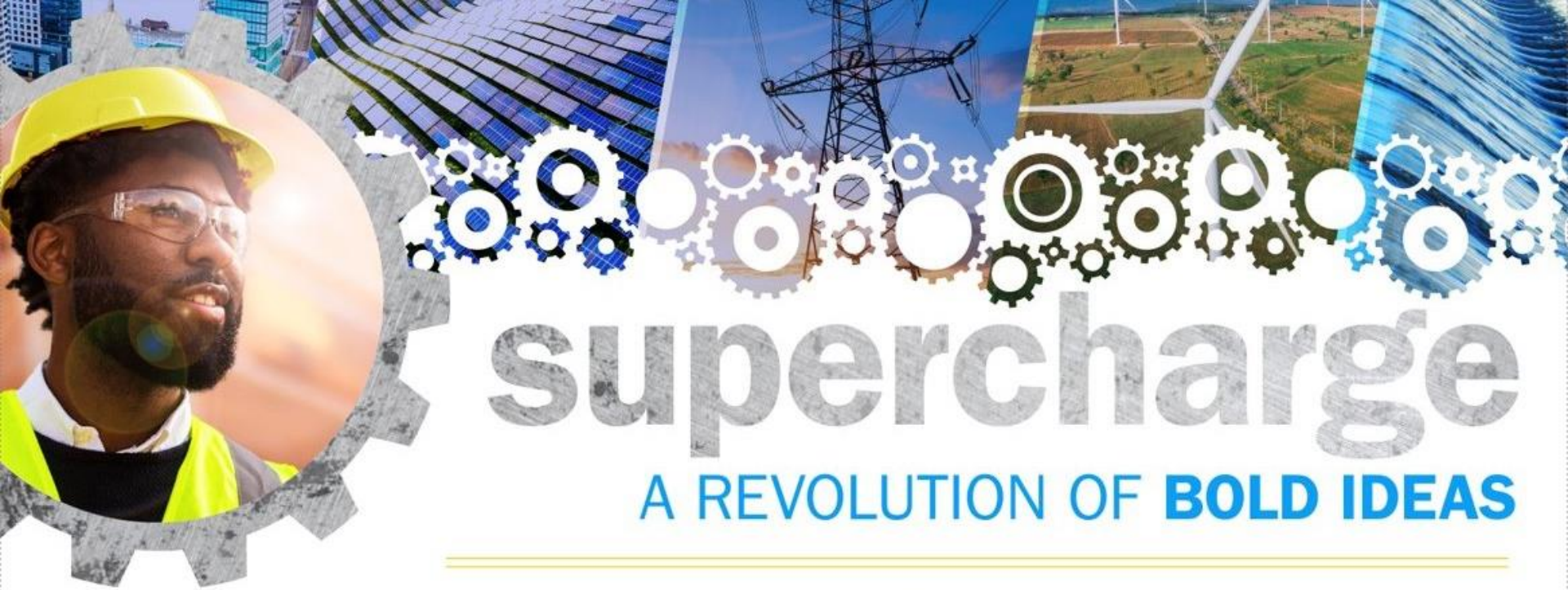
450+ Network members

AMERICAN MADE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Prize Overview & Background

Solve It Prize Overview

The Solutions for Lasting, Viable Energy Infrastructure Technologies (SOLVE IT) Prize aims to empower communities to identify and implement **innovative solutions for local energy-related challenges, promoting wider, more equitable technology uptake.**

The prize offers a total prize pool of up to **$5 million** in cash prizes. Teams may win up to **$730,000 across three phases** of the SOLVE IT prize.

Competitors will work collaboratively with stakeholders interested in **community-scale clean energy planning:**

- To engage their communities in the planning process
- To build a network of support for clean energy or decarbonization projects
- To develop plans for carrying out these projects

Prize Objectives

Through the SOLVE IT Prize, DOE aims to:

- Reward innovative clean energy solutions that address ongoing energy-related issues at the community level

- Enable solutions to persistent energy challenges

- Support economic growth, workforce opportunities, improved public health, greater energy independence, and local backup power

- Provide resources and capacity for communities to develop their own project action plans for a clean energy transition

SOLVE IT Prize Areas of Interest

Projects that will benefit disadvantaged communities are of particular interest:

- Providing lasting economic, environmental, and health benefits
- Supporting workforce, energy independence, and resiliency power

Innovative solutions may include:

- First-of-a-kind demonstrations at a particular size or scale
- Innovative applications or approaches
- Novel combinations of clean energy technologies

Please see pages 8-9 of the official prize rules for a list of eligible technologies.

The Department of Energy's (DOE's) Office of Technology Transitions (OTT) works to expand the commercial impact of the Department's research investments and drive private sector uptake of clean energy technologies.

DOE's Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations' (OCED's) mission is to deliver clean energy technology demonstration projects at scale in partnership with the private sector to accelerate deployment, market adoption, and the equitable transition to a decarbonized energy system.

DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy's mission is to accelerate the research, development, demonstration, and deployment of technologies and solutions to equitably transition America to net-zero greenhouse gas emissions economy-wide by no later than 2050, and ensure the clean energy economy benefits all Americans, creating good paying jobs for the American people—especially workers and communities impacted by the energy transition and those historically underserved by the energy system and overburdened by pollution.

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Technology Commercialization Fund Overview

- The DOE Technology Commercialization Fund (TCF) was established by Congress through the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and reauthorized by the Energy Act of 2020 to "promote promising energy technologies for commercial purposes."

  - 0.9% the Department's applied energy research, development, demonstration (RD&D) and commercial application budget is applied to TCF each fiscal year.

- In November 2021, Congress passed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), more commonly known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL),which provided **$62 billion** in new funding to support a broad array of clean energy activities and programs. 0.9% of the RD&D and commercial application funding provided by BIL is allocated to the TCF.

- Under BIL TCF, OTT pursues activities that broadly support the commercialization of promising energy technologies while simultaneously enhancing and improving American infrastructure, competitiveness, opportunity, and equity and addressing the climate crisis.

SOLVE IT will support communities as they identify and implement innovative solutions in a way that addresses their unique needs and challenges, helping promote the commercialization of promising energy technologies that will lead to an equitable and just energy transition.

Eligibility and Timeline

Who Is This Prize For?

This prize is for any organization, group, or individual who:

- ✓ Is committed to working with communities to make positive changes

- ✓ Has experience working with communities

- ✓ Recognizes community challenges that can be solved by clean energy solutions

- ✓ Wants to engage with their community stakeholders on clean energy topics

Eligibility

☑ Private entities

☑ Non-federal government entities

☑ Individuals

☑ Non-profits

☑ Academic Institutions

Full eligibility details in the official rules:

https://www.herox.com/SOLVEIT/resource/1644

SOLVE IT Prize Timeline

1

✓ EMBARK

Estimated 25 Winners
$80,000 each

Prove you can work with your community on energy solutions to local issues.

January–April 2024

2

✓ ENGAGE

Estimated 10 Winners
$150,000 each

Teams will work with their communities to identify innovative clean energy solutions.

May–November 2024

3

✓ ESTABLISH

Estimated 3 Winners
$500,000 each

Teams will complete action-oriented plans and prove they have made the most progress toward their clean energy projects.

December 2024–July 2025

Important Dates

Phase 1: Embark
- Open to Submissions: January 11, 2024
- Submission Deadline: April 12, 2024, at 5pm ET
- Winners Announcement: May 2024*

Phase 2: Engage
- Open to Submissions: May 2024*
- Submission Deadline: November 2024*
- Winners Announcement: December 2024*

Phase 3: Establish
- Open to Submissions: December 2024*
- Submission Deadline: June 2025*
- Winners Announcement: July 2025*

*Anticipated date

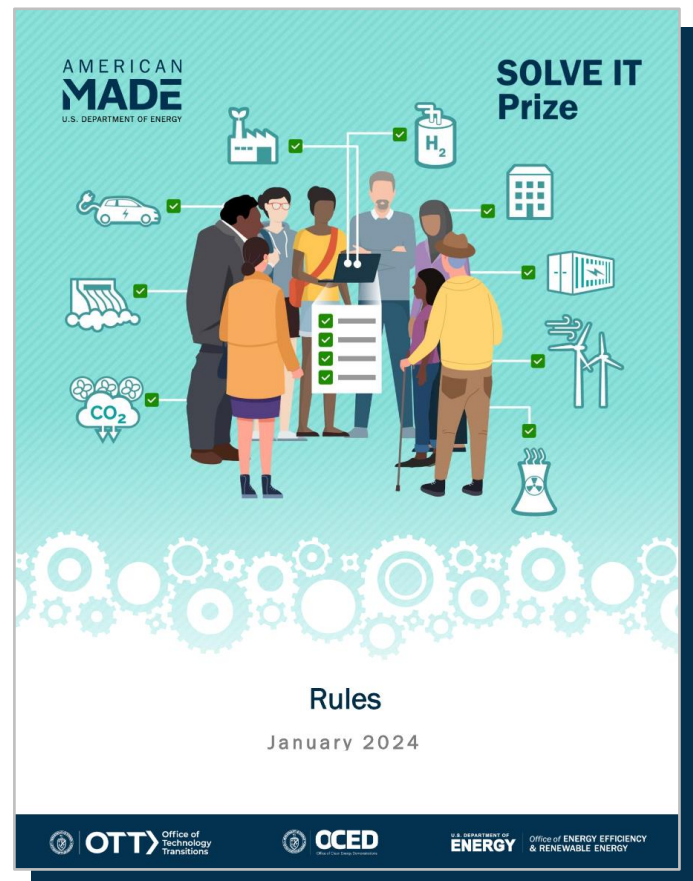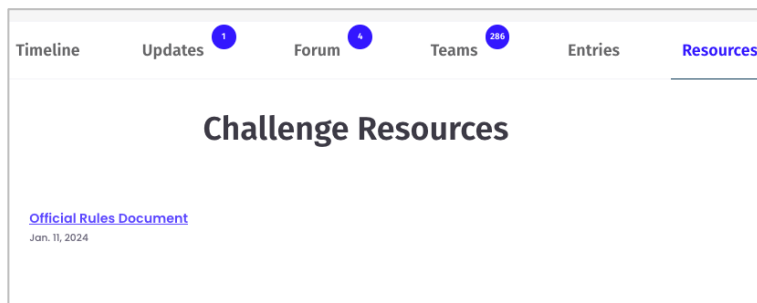# Official Rules Document

Read the Official Rules for a full description of all required submission elements: https://www.herox.com/SOLVEIT/resources

Phase 1: Embark Goal

To win **Phase 1: Embark** teams will show the following:

- That they have **identified a community** and described challenges facing that community that can be **addressed by a clean energy technology solution** within the areas of interest for this prize.

- That they **have or can assemble a team with the necessary experience** and have a **track record of successful community engagement.**

- That they have a **clear approach for engaging with this community.**

Submission Package

- Cover page

- Narrative

- Submission summary slide *(will be made public)*

- Letters of support *(optional)*

Cover Page

- Submission title

- Team name

- Short description (1–3 sentences) of you/your team and the target community.

- List of team members (names, nine-digit zip codes, and links to professional profiles).

- Other partners (if any), brief descriptions, and nine-digit zip codes.

- Competitor's city, state, and nine-digit zip code.

Narrative

Competitors will submit a concise narrative describing: their **experience** working with communities and **history of successful community-based projects**; the **community** and their relationship to that community; the **challenge(s)** in that community; and a **plan** for engaging with relevant stakeholders.

Narrative Elements:
- Experience
- Energy Challenges and Community Outreach
- Engagement Plan

2,000-word maximum, and may include up to 5 tables/figures.

Summary Slide

- A public-facing, one-slide summary that introduces your team, your community, and your energy-related challenge(s).

- Any text must be readable in a standard printed page and a conference room projection and should be in at least 14-pt font.

- Summary slides will be made public, and are meant to be an easy and approachable way to display your team and mission.

Letters of Support (Optional)

- Letters of support or other documentation from partners or other relevant entities that are critical to the success of your effort. Examples of letters of support could include (but are not limited to):

  o Letters from representatives in the community you will work with;
  o Letters from representatives in the communities you have previously worked with;
  o Letters from potential partners you will work with for Phase 2 'ENGAGE' activities.

- Each letter should be one page, and all letters should be uploaded in a single PDF file.

- Letters of support are optional.

Submission Narrative Suggested Content

Category #1: Experience

- Introduce yourself and member organizations/supporters, and shared mission, vision, and goals.

- Demonstrate that you have experience working with communities. Include examples of successful participatory community initiatives, including how you worked with the community and the outcomes of this work.

- Describe your track record with and commitment to justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion, as well as environmental and energy justice, including how this commitment is currently or planned to be measured or tracked.

Submission Narrative Suggested Content

Category #2: Energy Challenges and Community Needs

- Clearly define the community you are focusing on and describe your relationship to that community.

- Describe the specific energy challenges, needs, or inequities facing this community.

- Briefly describe potential solutions that might address these energy challenges.

- Show how these possible solutions align with DOE's areas of interest for this prize as described in Section 1.4: Areas of Particular Interest.

Submission Narrative Suggested Content

Category #3: Engagement Plan

- Describe your approach for comprehensive, successful, and effective community engagement and how you plan to measure progress toward community engagement goals.

- Describe the resources, including resources to help evaluate different technologies for various scenarios, that you will need to successfully engage with your community.

- Describe any actions required to access or obtain these resources.

Phase 1: Embark - Assessment

Experience (40%)

- The competitor's mission and goals are clear and well-described.

- The competitor has a demonstrated history of productive work with communities, including examples of successful participatory community-based initiatives.

- The competitor has access to or can obtain the necessary skills, knowledge, and experience needed to lead discussions on a range of energy technologies.

- The competitor demonstrates the ability to work with broad stakeholders to develop a shared vision and solution.

- The competitor demonstrates a credible connection to and relationship with the community.

- The competitor's proposed work will advance at least one of DOE's eight policy priorities for Justice40 Initiative implementation.

This criterion will be weighted at 40%

Energy Challenges and Community Needs (30%)

- The community identified in the submission is well-defined.

- The team demonstrates a thorough understanding of the named community, including its energy challenges and needs, inequities facing the community, and opportunities to address these issues.

- The competitor has clearly identified a challenge or challenges impacting the community and has considered how this might be addressed through innovative clean energy solutions as described in Section 1.4.

- The submission shows how the identified challenge(s) pose significant constraints on the community's ability to pursue balanced and just economic development and/or severely impacts community well-being or health.

This criterion will be weighted at 30%

Engagement Plan (30%)

- The competitor has described clear and specific next steps. These steps are reasonable and achievable with resources currently available to the competitor or that will be available after the Phase 1 award.

- The competitor demonstrates a clear path to successfully develop, implement, and track progress on a clean energy project action plan.

- The competitor has outlined a clear and robust plan to meaningfully engage local stakeholders in a manner that influences decisions.

- The competitor has included specific diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility goals and describes how progress toward these goals will be tracked. Examples could include fostering a welcoming and inclusive environment; supporting groups underrepresented in clean energy; advancing equity; and/or encouraging the inclusion of individuals from underrepresented groups and those facing systemic barriers to quality employment.

This criterion will be weighted at 30%

Looking Ahead – Phases 2 and 3

Looking Ahead

Phase 2: Embark

During this phase, winners from Phase 1: Embark will:
- Engage with their community stakeholders to **develop the community's vision for their future clean energy or decarbonization project**, in accordance with the Phase 1: Embark submission.

- Demonstrate the results of a **comprehensive and innovative engagement effort** that has identified community priorities.

- Identify a **clean energy solution** to address these priorities.

Phase 3: Establish

During this phase, winners from Phase 2: Engage will:
- Create Clean Energy Project Action Plans that **clearly articulate a credible path forward to carrying out at least one specific, technically novel clean energy or decarbonization project**.

- Winners will prove that they **have at least one binding commitment in place to support project implementation** and provide a clear and reasonable project plan (the Clean Energy Project Action Plan).
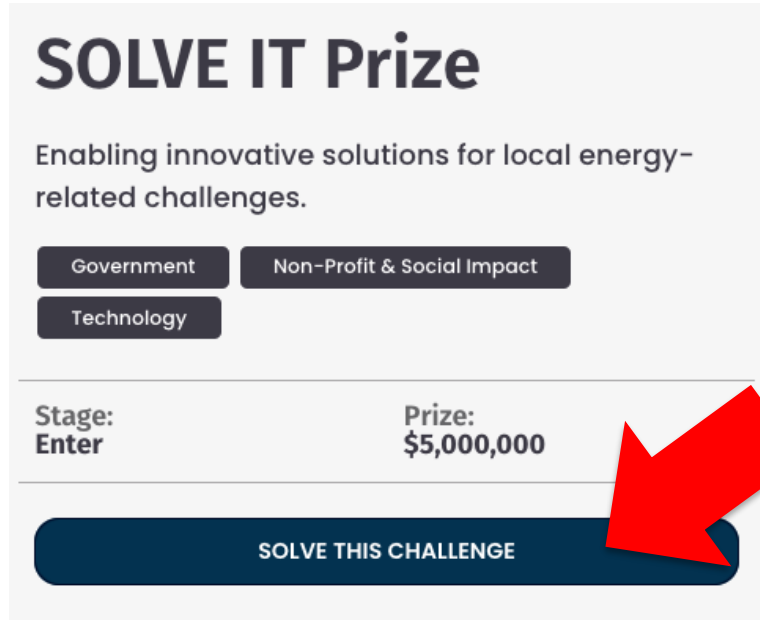
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December 2024–July 2025

Where to Apply - HeroX

How to Register and Compete

SOLVE IT Prize

Enabling innovative solutions for local energy-related challenges.

Government   Non-Profit & Social Impact

Technology

Stage: **Enter**   Prize: **$5,000,000**

SOLVE THIS CHALLENGE

HeroX Prize Page:
https://www.herox.com/SOLVEIT

o   Select "Solve this Challenge"
o   Sign in or create a HeroX account
o   Agree to Terms of Use
o   Confirm your email address
o   Accept the Challenge-Specific Agreement

Submit your submission materials before the Phase deadline.

(Submissions can be saved and returned to at any time **prior to the deadline**, even if they have been submitted.)

American-Made Challenges

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SOLVE IT Prize

Enabling innovative solutions for local energy-related challenges.

Government   Non-Profit & Social Impact   Technology

Stage:
Enter

Prize:
$5,000,000

SOLVE THIS CHALLENGE

Summary   Timeline   Updates [1]   Forum [4]   Teams [318]   Entries   Resources   FAQ

Overview   Guidelines

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

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American-Made Challenges

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OTT Office of Technology Transitions   OCED   ENERGY U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY Office of ENERGY EFFICIENCY & RENEWABLE ENERGY

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Enabling innovative solutions for local energy-related challenges.

Government   Non-Profit & Social Impact
Technology

Stage:	Prize:
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AMERICAN MADE | **SOLVE IT Prize**
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

SOLVE IT Prize

Enabling innovative solutions for local energy-related challenges.

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OTT Office of Technology Transitions   OCED   ENERGY Office of ENERGY EFFICIENCY & RENEWABLE ENERGY

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SOLVE IT Prize

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Government   Non-Profit & Social Impact   Technology

Stage:
Enter

Prize:
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American-Made Challenges

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American-Made Challenges

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Competitor Support

Competitor Support – Power Connectors

What Are Power Connectors?
- Organizations under subcontract with the American-Made prize administration team
- Provide prize outreach and free competitor support

What Do They Offer?
- Teaming sessions available to those interested in competing
- Office hours for submission feedback, questions, and general support

How Do I Contact Them?
- Direct contact information is provided on the HeroX platform
- Office hours available via Forum and Resources

Questions & Clarifications

Thank You!