

TCU Energy and Food Sovereignty Prize

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Informational Webinar

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Welcome

- We'll get started shortly
- Webinar is being recorded
- The recording and deck will be available on HeroX, the prize platform
- Please ask questions in the Q&A

Agenda

- 1 Prize Overview
- 2 Eligibility and Prizes to Win
- 3 Prize Timeline
- 4 Expectations for Prize Submissions
- 5 Next Steps and How to Apply
- 6 Questions

Prize Overview

- This prize offers \$4.1 million to Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) for creating projects at the intersection of clean energy and food sovereignty.
- The Energy and Food Sovereignty Nexus Prize encourages TCUs to develop student-led demonstration projects that increase their knowledge on clean energy and food sovereignty on TCU campuses. Projects may include but are not limited to:
 - Greenhouses heated or cooled by geothermal (ground-source) energy
 - Greenhouses powered by wind
 - Solar arrays that provide shade for crops to grow or livestock to graze.



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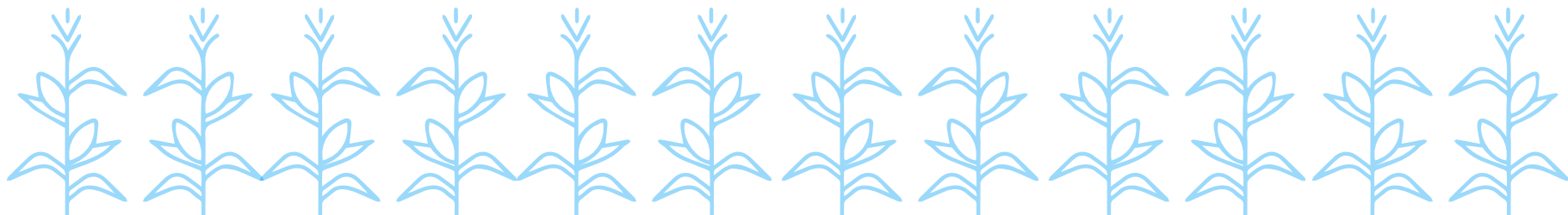


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Prize Eligibility

- **This is an exclusive prize available to the 35 U.S.-based TCUs.** Registration is now open for TCU student-led teams.
- One team per TCU is eligible to apply.
- Competing teams must be student-led and faculty-supported.
- Funds won in this prize competition will be awarded directly to TCUs to support projects on TCU campuses.
- TCUs are welcome to apply as part of a consortium (one TCU will assume the lead role, and projects may be located on any TCU campus)



Prizes to Win

This prize is composed of three successive phases. Eligibility for each subsequent phase is dependent on winning the previous phase.

- **Phase 1: Teaming**

Up to 30 winners | \$40,000 cash prize to each winning TCU, including a \$10,000 travel allowance for participation in the 2025 Indian Energy Program Review

Build a team and summarize your project.

- **Phase 2A: Planning and Permitting**

Up to 20 winners | \$75,000 cash prize to each winning TCU

Create a detailed project plan.

- **Phase 2B: Construction**

Up to 20 winners | \$60,000 cash prize to each winning TCU

Construct your project.

- **Phase 3: Presentations and Awards**

First place: \$75,000 | Second place: \$50,000 | Third place: \$35,000 | Up to 4 Honorable Mention prizes: \$10,000 each

Attend and speak at the 2025 Indian Energy Program Review.

TIMELINE

TCU Energy and Food Sovereignty Nexus Prize

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Phase 1

Teaming

Form a team and develop
a project plan

Up to **30 teams** win **\$40,000** for
their TCUs for project deployment

3 months

Submissions Due: December 2024



Phase 2a

Planning and Permitting

Complete all prework
and permitting

Up to **20 teams** win **\$75,000** for
their TCUs for project deployment

3 months

Submissions Due: April 2025



Phase 2b

Construction + Demonstration Planning

Construct project and develop
demonstration plan

Up to **20 teams** win **\$60,000** for
their TCUs for project deployment

5 months

Submissions Due: September 2025



Phase 3

Demonstration Results and Sustainability

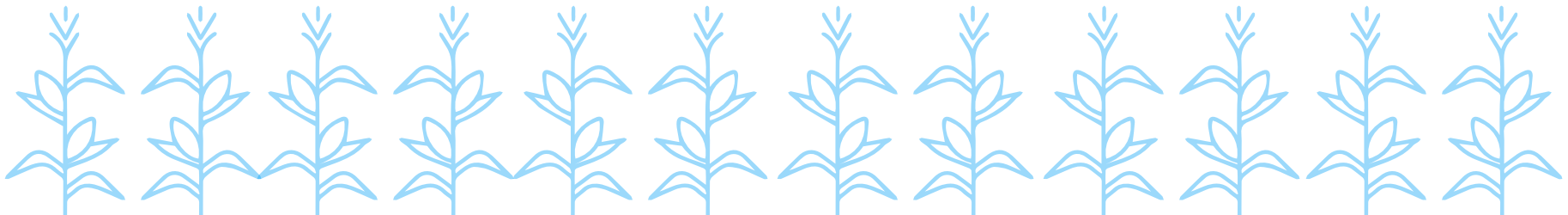
Winning teams to share results,
sustainability plans, and celebrate learnings

Prizes from \$10,000 - \$75,000
to TCUs of **7 winning teams**

November 2025

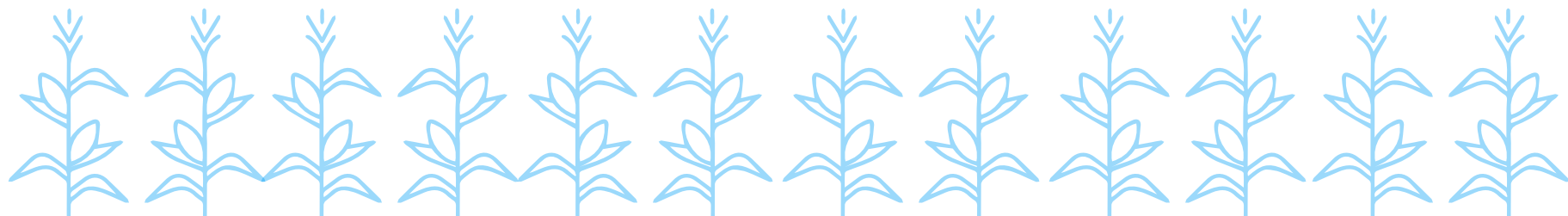
Scope of Prize Projects

- TCUs are encouraged to incorporate local traditional crops and/or livestock into their designs, as well as relevant clean energy systems to ensure food is sustainably grown for their environments. Students' valuable exposure and hands-on experience in energy and food sovereignty can then be shared to benefit Tribes.
- Proposed 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
- As students and faculty advance through three phases of the prize, they will form teams and create a plan, complete all permitting and prework, build their project, and demonstrate their learnings.



Power Connector Support

- An American Made Network Power Connector will be identified later this month who will provide additional guidance and support to TCU teams interested in this prize
- We will provide an email address and/or office hours for teams to take advantage of this opportunity once the Network partner is identified



Phase 1 Submission Expectations

- TCU student-led teams will recruit student members and develop a plan for their energy and food sovereignty nexus demonstration project. This will include developing a project schedule and team roster, identifying faculty support, and building project plans.
- Each submission package for Phase 1 is required to have the following elements:
 - Online 90-second video (public)
 - Cover page information (some elements will be made public)
 - Project Narrative (not public)
 - Summary PowerPoint slide (public)
 - Letter of commitment from TCU (not public)
 - Optional: Additional letters of commitment or support from community and/or partner organizations (not public)

Phase 1 Review Criteria

- Student teams must address 3 questions posed in the Project Narrative section in a response that does not exceed 2,500 words.
- This overview below is provided as a general guide; full review criteria can be found in Section 3.6.3 of the Official Prize Rules
 - **Question 1: Proposed Project Overview, Innovation, and Community Benefits**

Responses should address the project's approach to integrating energy and food sovereignty, preliminary design, and the anticipated benefits to the Tribal community and sustainability.
 - **Question 2: Project Plan**

Responses should address key project milestones, permitting, material procurement, and construction details. It should also include general information on the project budget and timeline, partnerships and outside organizational support, and a discussion of the potential risks and challenges, with plans to mitigate them.
 - **Question 3: Team and Experience**

Responses should include an introduction to the TCU and surrounding community, the student team (including roles and responsibilities), the faculty advisors and their backgrounds, and an overview of the team's diversity and experience working on similar projects.

Why Participate

TCU students who choose to participate in this prize will be provided with opportunities, including but not limited to:

- Use clean energy to grow food self-sufficiently with sources on Tribal lands
- Provide up to \$250,000 in cash prizes for TCUs
- Increase the use of renewable energy on Tribal lands
- Help TCUs grow food
- Gain leadership experience
- Share learnings with other Tribes and leaders
- Participate in the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Indian Energy Annual Program Review in Denver with expenses covered from Phase 1 cash prize

Next Steps

- Follow the Energy and Food Sovereignty Nexus Prize on herox.com/tcuenergyandfood.
- Create a HeroX account and click “Solve This Challenge” to begin a submission.
- While a singular account of a team captain will submit the official proposal, all team members may create an account and join the virtual team on HeroX.
- Remember to complete all required elements of the submission package (Video, Cover Page, PowerPoint Slide, Narrative, Letter of Support) before **December 4, 2024 at 5 p.m. ET.**

The screenshot shows the 'American-Made Challenges' page on the HeroX platform. At the top, it says 'American-Made Challenges' with a view count of 2,439 and buttons for 'Share' and 'Follow (38)'. The main challenge is titled 'Energy and Food Sovereignty Nexus Prize' and is sponsored by the 'U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY Office of Indian Energy'. The challenge description states: 'Prize pool of up to \$4.1M to Tribal Colleges and Universities for creating projects at the intersection of clean energy and food sovereignty'. Below this, there are two category buttons: 'Education' and 'Energy, Environment & Resources'. The 'Stage' is listed as 'Enter' and the 'Prize' is '\$4,100,000'. At the bottom, there is a prominent 'SOLVE THIS CHALLENGE' button.

American-Made Challenges 2,439 [Share](#) [Follow \(38\)](#)

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Energy and Food Sovereignty Nexus Prize

Prize pool of up to \$4.1M to Tribal Colleges and Universities for creating projects at the intersection of clean energy and food sovereignty

[Education](#) [Energy, Environment & Resources](#)

Stage: Enter Prize: \$4,100,000

[SOLVE THIS CHALLENGE](#)

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HeroX Demonstration

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Thank You! Questions