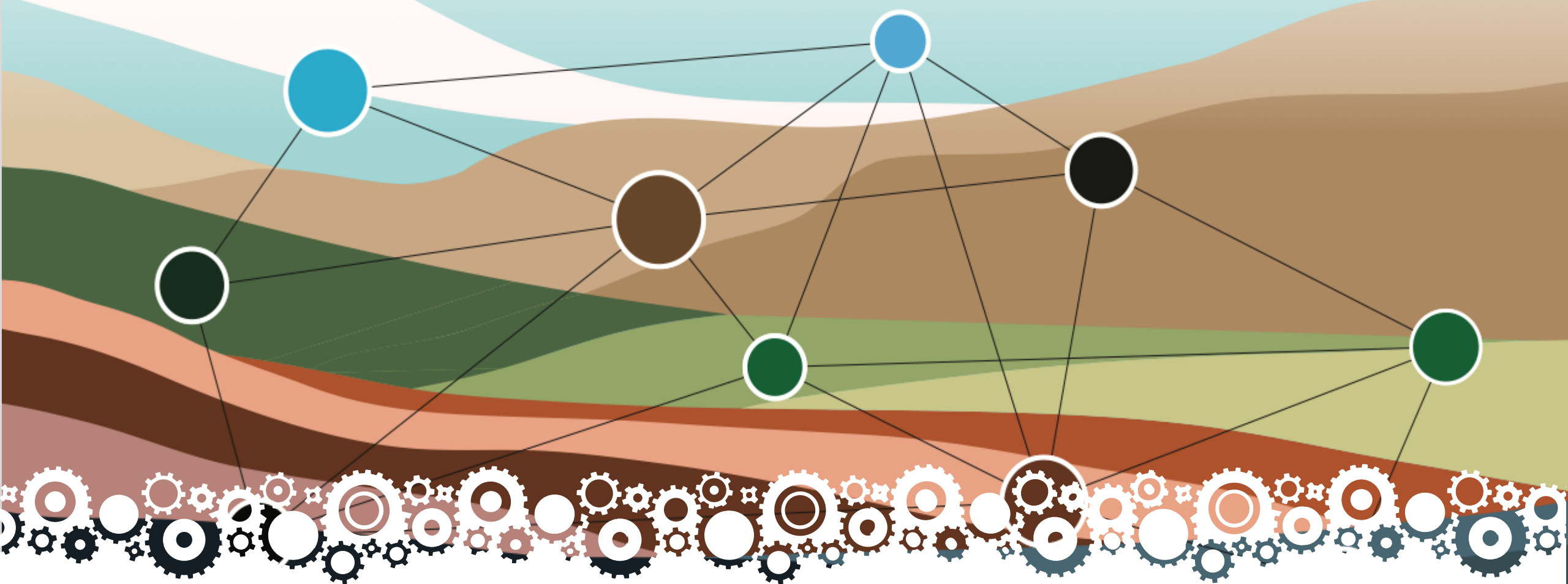




Tribal Energy Capacity Expansion (TECE) Prize

Informational Webinar

October & November 2026



**National
Laboratory
of the Rockies**



Clara Houghteling

*National Laboratory of the Rockies
Researcher*



Cameron Schofield

*National Laboratory of the Rockies
Project Manager*

*In the audience: Rin Ball from the Integrated Energy Systems Office,
U.S. Department of Energy*



Agenda

- 1 American-Made Program Overview
- 2 Integrated Energy Systems Office (IESO) Overview
- 3 Tribal Energy Capacity Expansion Prize Overview
- 4 The HeroX Platform
- 5 Q&A

This webinar is being recorded and will be made available on HeroX after the event.

Housekeeping

This webinar is being recorded and will be available on [HeroX](#).

Questions

- We welcome your questions!
- To submit a question, **please type into the Q&A box** on the right-hand side of your screen next to the chat box. We will post responses to all questions on the HeroX prize page within the next few weeks.

Technical Issues:

- If you experience technical issues, please check your audio settings under the “Audio” tab.
- If you continue experiencing issues, you can direct message the host.

American-Made Program

Cameron Schofield



American-Made Program by the Numbers

Since 2018, the American-Made program has amplified innovation with...

100+

prizes and competitions
launched

7,000+

eligible phase 1 submissions
received

1,600+

teams funded

300+

technical assistance
vouchers awarded

550+

network members
onboarded

32

network organizations
subcontracted

\$242M+

in cash prizes and
vouchers awarded

\$225M

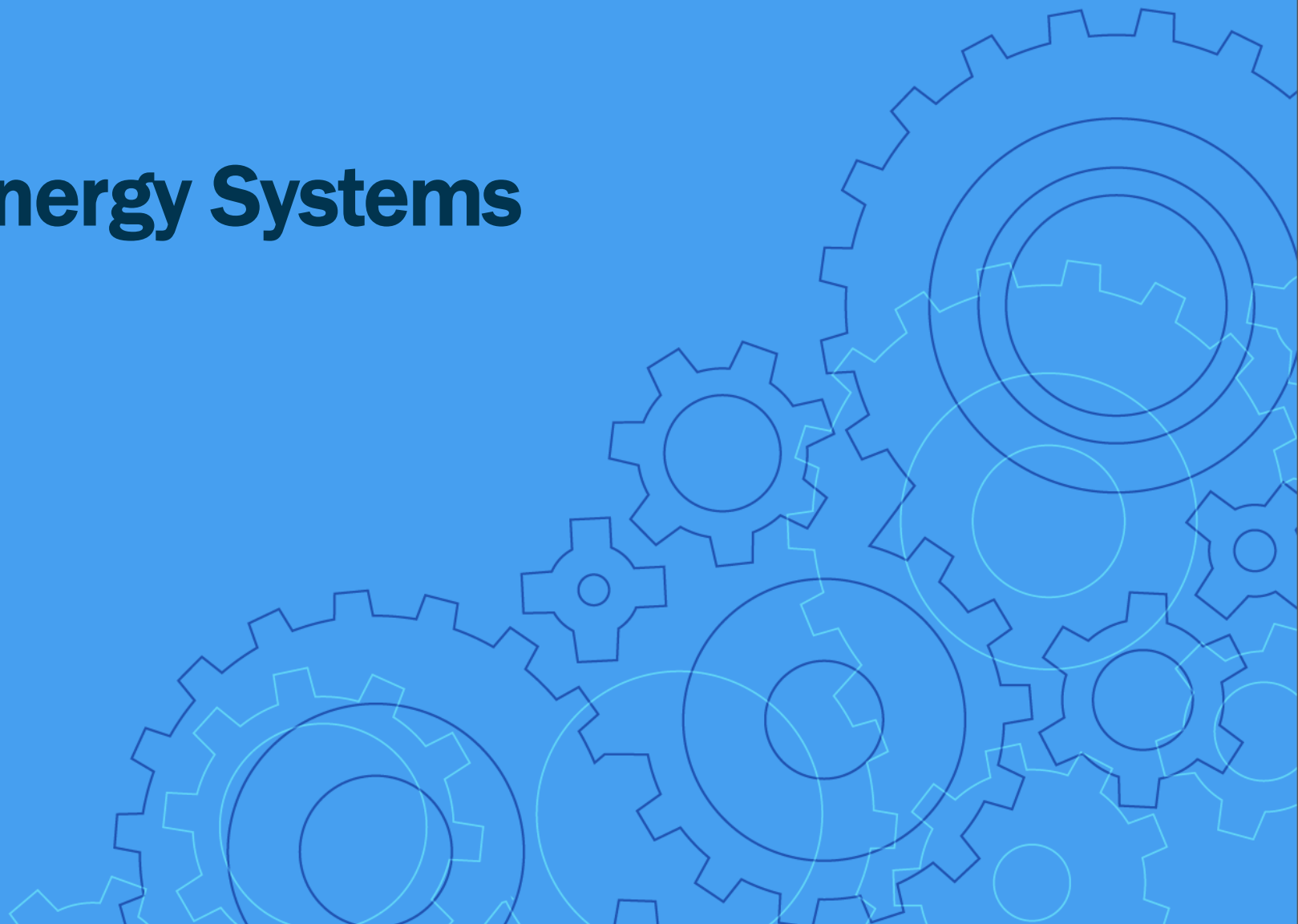
in cash prizes awarded

\$17.8M

in technical assistance
vouchers awarded

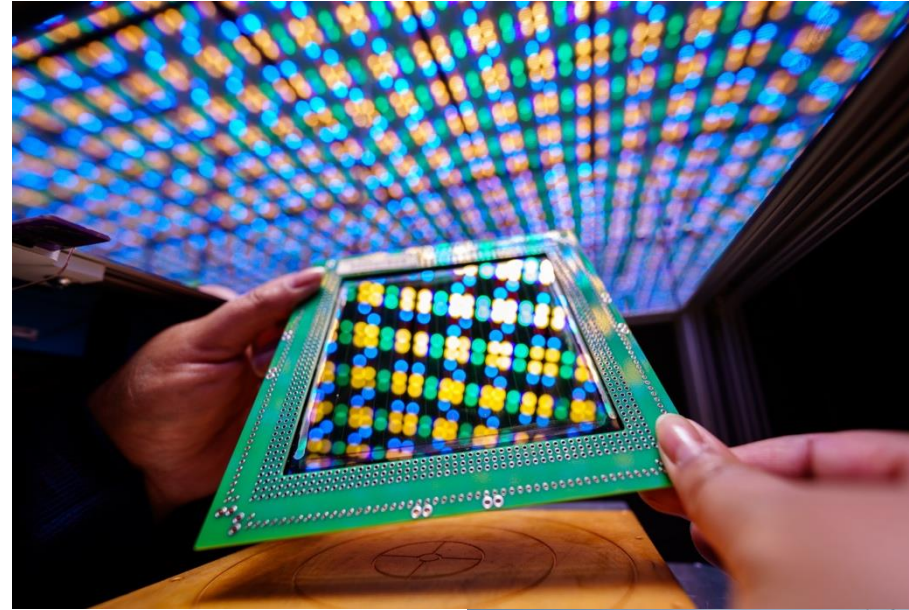
DOE Integrated Energy Systems Office (IESO)

Cameron Schofield



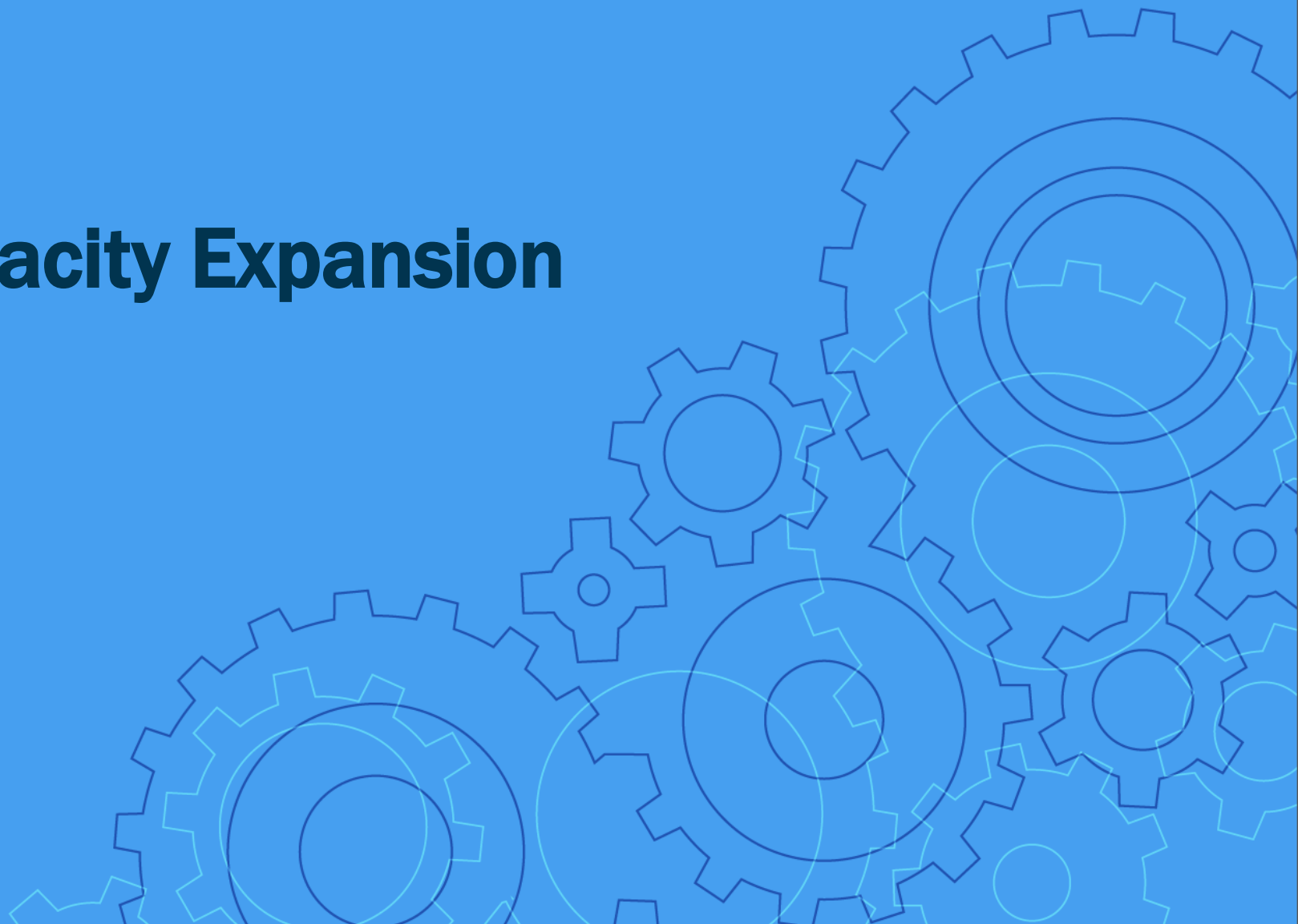
Integrated Energy Systems Office (IESO)

The Integrated Energy Systems Office (IESO) works to **improve the security, reliability, and affordability of American energy** through research, innovation, and the development of advanced energy solutions. IESO prioritizes grid resilience, American technological leadership, and reduced energy costs for consumers.



Tribal Energy Capacity Expansion (TECE) Prize

Clara Houghteling



Prize Overview

The TECE Prize aims to **foster the vital role of Tribes in energy decision-making and permitting**, expanding their capacity to advance Tribal priorities in these processes.

Key Details:

- Teams will compete in three phases (through 2028)
 - Phase 1A has concluded
 - Phase 1B is now open to applicants
- \$6 million in cash prizes available
- Submissions may relate to any energy technology or combination of technologies, including associated activities and infrastructure, such as large energy end-user projects (e.g., data centers) and supply chain development.
- Technical assistance is offered to winning teams to support the development and implementation of the solutions proposed in each team's application.

Prize Phases and Awards

Phase	Number of Winners	Award Per Winner	Technical Assistance Per Winner
Phase 1—Capacity Needs Consisting of two rounds: 1. Phase 1A (Concluded) 2. Phase 1B	Up to 14 winners (total for two rounds)	\$40,000	40 hours
Phase 2—Capacity Development	Up to 14 winners Up to 4 winners may receive a bonus prize for collaboration among multiple Tribes.	\$200,000 Bonus: \$150,000	150 hours
Phase 3—Implementation	Up to 14 winners Up to 4 winners may receive a bonus prize for collaboration among multiple Tribes.	\$125,000 Bonus: \$50,000	No technical assistance

Phase 1A & 1B: Capacity Needs

In Phase 1, participants will **identify their capacity-building needs** to improve their Tribe's engagement in energy decision-making and permitting processes.

Phase 1 consists of two distinct rounds:

- Phase 1A (concluded)
- Phase 1B (now open for submissions)

Up to 14 winning participants across both rounds (6 teams in Phase 1A and up to 8 teams in Phase 1B) will receive \$40,000 and 40 hours of technical assistance. Winners from both rounds, Phase 1A and 1B, are eligible to submit to Phase 2.

The Prize Phases

Phase 1
Award

Phase 1:
Capacity Needs

- You are here!
- Identify priority focus areas related to energy decision-making/ permitting
 - Identify capacity-building needs to address focus areas

+ Option to apply for Multi-Tribe Collaborative Bonus Prize

Phase 2
Award

Phase 2:
Capacity Development

- Continue to refine the priority focus areas
- Engage with Tribal community members and other relevant parties
- Scope your capacity development and energy action plans

+ Option to apply for Multi-Tribe Collaborative Bonus Prize

Phase 3
Award

Phase 3:
Implementation

- Finish your capacity development and energy action plans
- Capacity development: show progress toward the capacity development goals in your plan
- Energy action: show progress addressing the focus areas identified in previous phases

TECE Prize Timeline

Dates are subject to change at the discretion of DOE.
Please refer to HeroX for the most up-to-date timeline.



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Read the Rules!

Official Rules for the TECE Prize can be found on the prize's HeroX page:

<https://www.herox.com/TECEPrize/resources>

Learn more about...

- Competitor Eligibility
- Prize Background and Goals
- Technical Assistance
- Future Phases
- Submission Materials
- Judging Criteria

Tribal Energy Capacity Expansion Prize Rules



U.S. DEPARTMENT of ENERGY

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)

Integrated Energy Systems Office

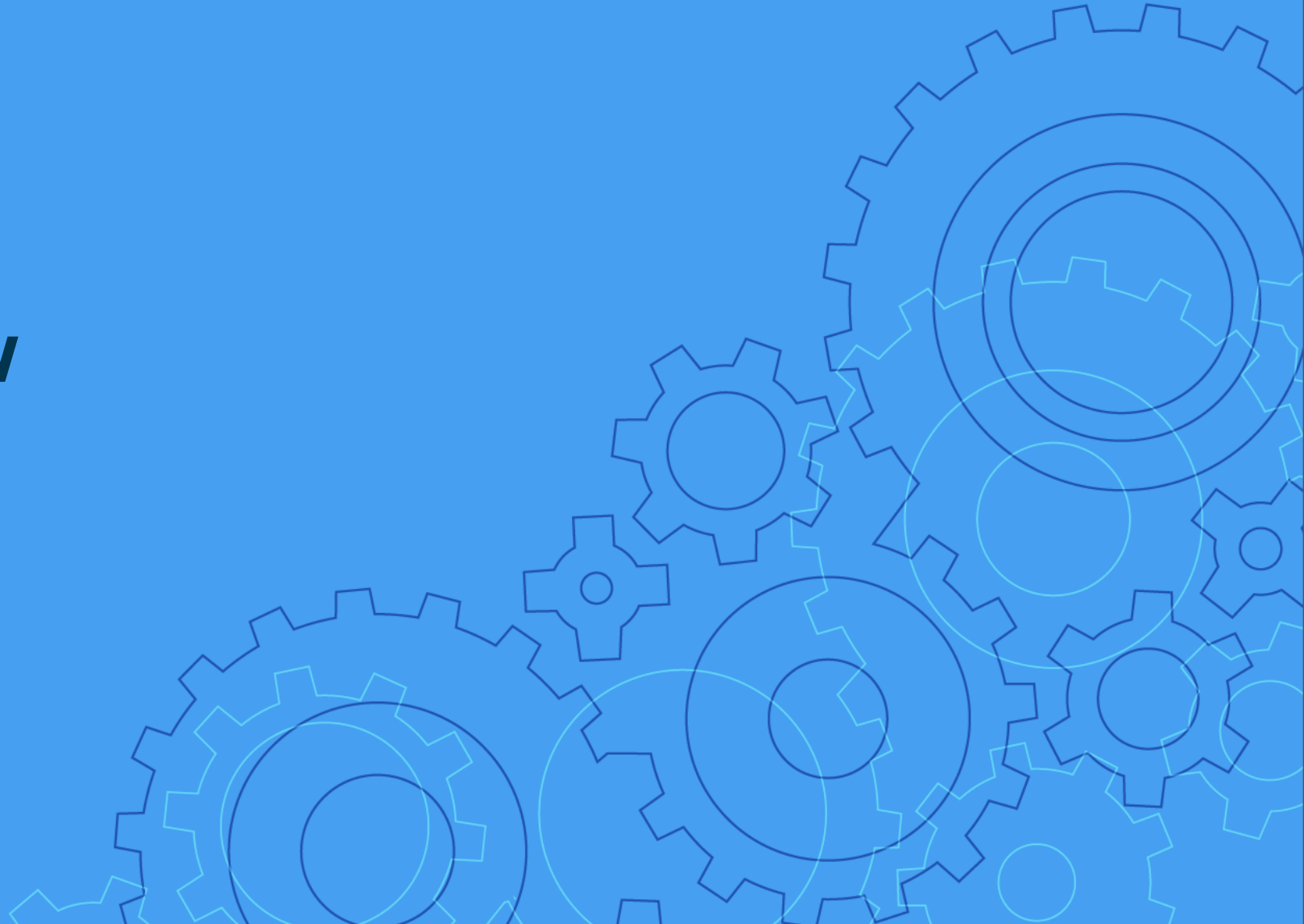
Application due: December 4, 2026, 5:00 p.m. E.T.

Modifications

Mod. No.	Date	Description of Modification
1	08/18/2026	The official rules are being reissued to improve readability, address updated requirements, and to ensure alignment with Administration and departmental priorities, and the U.S. Department of Energy's statutory authorities. This modification includes a substantial rewrite of the official prize rules. For ease of readability, the rules below are provided as a clean version. A red-lined version of the rules is available upon request by emailing TECEPrize@nlr.gov

Phase 1 Overview

Clara Houghteling



Phase 1B Goals & Prizes

Participants are challenged to **identify the “focus areas” of greatest need or concern** for the Tribe related to energy decision making, development, or permitting.

Teams will describe how anticipated internal capacity-building efforts will enable them to effectively address these focus areas and assess current capabilities to implement these efforts.

In Phase 1, winning teams will be selected based on their needs assessment and capacity development concept. Up to 14 winning teams from all rounds (i.e., the 6 Phase 1A winning teams plus up to 8 Phase 1B winning teams) will each receive \$40,000 in cash prizes and up to 40 hours of technical assistance.

Phase 1B Process Overview

Submission – In their Phase 1 submissions, teams summarize:

- **Focus areas of potential impact from energy development,**
- **Likely capacity-building needs** to effectively engage around these impacts,
- **Their team's ability** to develop a capacity-building plan.

Teams complete their submission packages and submit online before the Phase 1B submission deadline on December 4.

Assessment – The prize administrator screens submissions for eligibility and completion. Subject-matter expert reviewers are assigned to independently score the content of each submission. *See the prize rules for the scoring criteria.*

Winner Notification – After the winners are notified, the prize administrator requests the necessary information to distribute the cash prizes.

Teams Roles & Eligibility

Team Roles

Lead Participant

The Tribal entity or organization responsible for managing correspondence, reporting, and distributing the award to the team members.

Supporting Organizations

An organization that is not a Tribal entity and is a member of the participant team.

Must include at least one Tribal entity.

Eligibility Criteria

- All participant teams must include at least one Tribal entity.
 - A tribal entity is federally recognized Tribe, Tribal organization, or intertribal organization. See the prize rules for definitions.
- Teams may include supporting organizations, such as Tribal business entities, nongovernmental organizations, private entities, and academic institutions.
- Teams participating in the prize must have been established to serve the interests of Tribal Nations.

See the prize rules to read the full eligibility criteria.

Phase 1 Submission Materials

A complete submission package for Phase 1 should include the following items:

- Cover page
- Proposal narrative
- Technical assistance interest form
- Transparency of Foreign Connections Disclosure (*for Private Entities and Academic Institutions only*).

Submission Package Details



Cover Page

List basic information about your team and submission, including:

- Project title
- Team name
- Short description
- Lead participant organization or entity (name, organization type, and address)
- Lead participant point of contact (name, organization, and title. Contact phone, email, and address)*
- Project team members (names, organizations, contacts, and if applicable, links to their professional online profiles)
- Other partners (if any)
- Team location (city, state, and nine-digit zip code).

***NOTE:** If the lead participant is not the Tribal entity, be sure that the submission package contains a written explanation of the relationship between the Tribe(s) and the lead participant organization, including how the lead participant organization has been engaged to serve the expressed interests of the Tribe(s) or Tribal communities. This information may be included either in the proposal narrative or in a letter of commitment.

Submission Package Details



Proposal Narrative

Maximum 1,500 words and five supporting images or figures (PDF).

1. Impacts & Outcomes
2. Capacity-building Needs
3. Team Capabilities

Submission Package Details



Proposal Narrative

Maximum 1,500 words and five supporting images or figures (PDF).

1. Impacts & Outcomes:

- **What types of energy infrastructure impacts do you need additional capacity to address?** Describe how an existing, proposed, or future energy infrastructure development project could impact your Tribal entity(ies).
- **What topic areas or actions do you want to focus on to better engage with the energy infrastructure you've identified?** Define and describe focus areas (e.g., “environmental considerations,” or “comments in permitting processes”) that highlight the real-world priorities of the Tribal entity(ies) in considering impacts and opportunities related to energy development.

2. Capacity-building Needs

3. Team Capabilities

Submission Package Details



Proposal Narrative (*cont.*)

Maximum 1,500 words and five supporting images or figures (PDF).

1. Impacts & Outcomes

2. Capacity-Building Needs:

- **How do you imagine that additional capacity will equip the Tribal entity(ies) to address the focus areas you've identified?** Explain what types of capacity-building activities you anticipate could help to promote the priorities of the Tribal entity(ies) in energy development and decision-making processes.
- **What capacity-related challenges have you faced in trying to address energy development in the past?** Describe how the previous efforts of the Tribal entity(ies) to engage in energy development or decision-making processes were hindered by a lack of capacity.

3. Team Capabilities

Submission Package Details



Proposal Narrative (*cont.*)

Maximum 1,500 words and five supporting images or figures (PDF).

1. Impacts and Outcomes

2. Capacity-building Needs

3. Team Capabilities:

- **What skills, experience, and dedication will your team bring to your capacity-building efforts?** Describe how you will use existing resources to form a committed team.
- **Will you work with partners?** If relevant, identify partners that can lead or support near-term energy capacity building and engagement.

Submission Package Details

Technical Assistance Interest

- Participants must also submit a technical assistance interest form.
 - Indicate any topics and type(s) of technical assistance that may be of interest should you be selected as a winner from Phase 1.
- A profile of the National Laboratory of the Rockies capabilities that are available to participants will be shared with teams, as well as a template request form.
- Teams are encouraged to use the optional template request form in their submissions; however, teams may use any form or format of their choosing.
 - The technical assistance request form template may be found on [HeroX](#).
- After awards are made, requests for technical assistance will be reviewed and matched with technical experts.

Submission Package Details

Transparency of Foreign Connections Disclosure

(for Private Entities and Academic Institutions only)

- If the application includes a private entity or an academic institution, the transparency of foreign connections disclosure is required.
- See instructions here: <https://www.energy.gov/ia/transparency-foreign-connections>.

The HeroX Platform

Cameron Schofield



How to Register and Compete

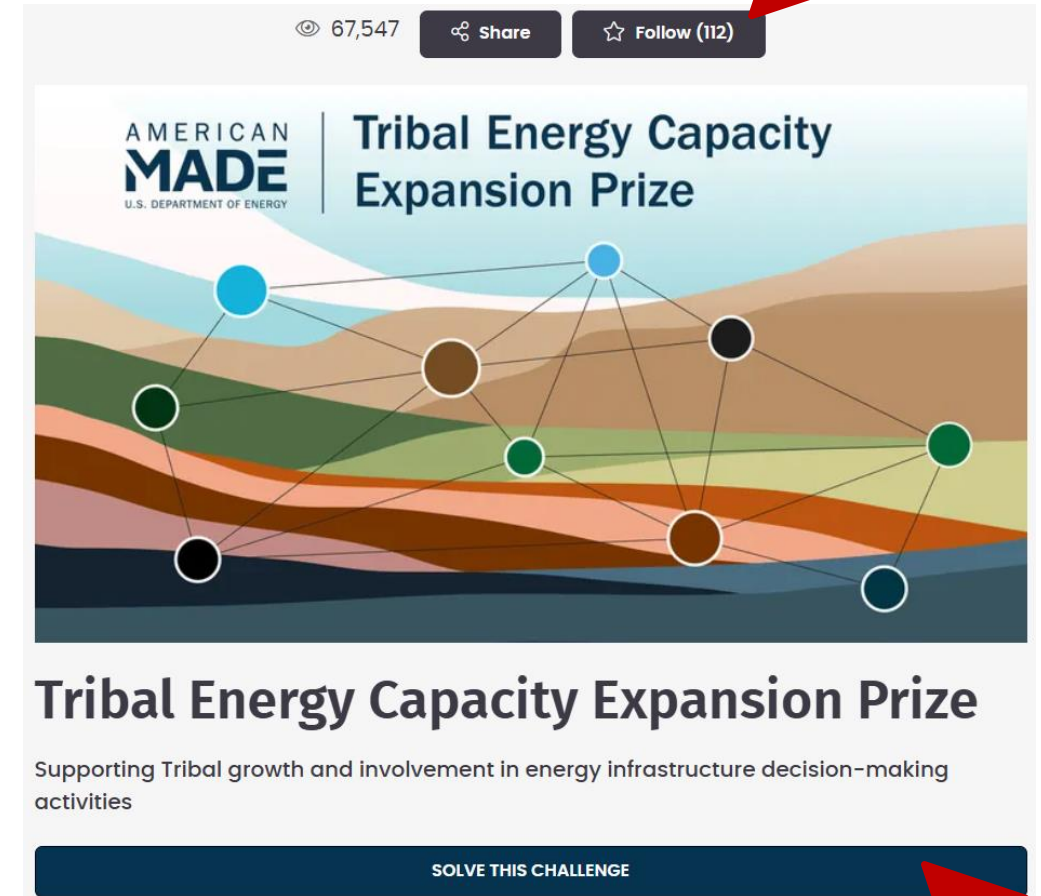
HeroX Prize Page:

<https://www.herox.com/TECEPrize>

- Select “Follow Challenge”
- Then click “Solve This Challenge”
- Sign in or create a HeroX account
- Agree to Terms of Use
- Confirm your email address
- Accept the Challenge-Specific Agreement

Submit your materials before the Phase 1B deadline of 11:59 p.m. AKT December 4.

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



Follow, Read, Submit!

On HeroX, you can:

- Follow the prize page to receive important updates from prize administrators
- Read the Official Rules document
- Access resources like optional templates and today's webinar
- Utilize the partnering forum to connect with potential team members
- Post questions to the forum and read frequently asked questions
- Submit your application materials.

HeroX Features

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Tribal Energy Capacity
Expansion Prize



67,547

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Tribal Energy Capacity Expansion Prize

Supporting Tribal growth and involvement in energy infrastructure decision-making activities

Energy, Environment & Resources

Stage:
Phase 1B Launch and Submissions Open

Prize:
\$6,000,000

SOLVE THIS CHALLENGE

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Prize Overview

Tribal Nations and supporting organizations do critical work to engage their communities in important decisions around energy infrastructure and its impacts on economic opportunities, cultural resources, and the homelands and spaces that they steward. The **\$6 million Tribal Energy Capacity Expansion (TECE) Prize**, funded by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and facilitated through the National Laboratory of the Rockies, addresses an urgent need for additional resources to help Tribal Nations grow their capacity in energy infrastructure permitting and decision-making.

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Tribal Energy Capacity Expansion Prize



Tribal Energy Capacity Expansion Prize

Supporting Tribal growth and involvement in energy infrastructure decision-making activities

Energy, Environment & Resources

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Prize:
\$6,000,000

SOLVE THIS CHALLENGE

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Challenge Timeline

7 completed | 10 upcoming | Ends Feb. 28, 2029

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Tribal Energy Capacity Expansion Prize



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Updates ²

Forum ²

Teams ¹¹²

Resources

FAQ

Challenge Updates

2 updates

OCTOBER 2026

 NLR Prize Moderator | Oct. 9, 10 a.m.

NEW

Informational Webinar Next Tuesday

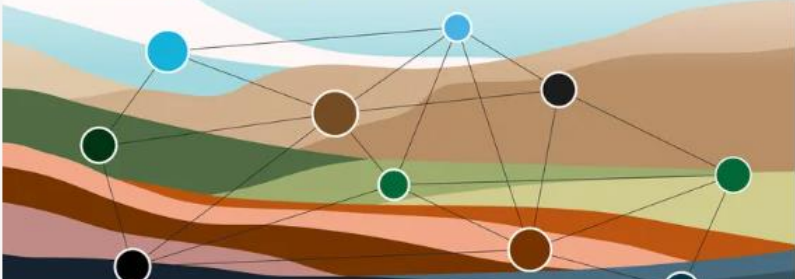
Don't forget, Tuesday, Oct. 13, at 3 p.m. ET (11 a.m. AKT), is your first opportunity to join an [informational webinar](#) to learn more about the Tribal Energy Capacity Expansion (TECE)

HeroX Features

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Tribal Energy Capacity Expansion Prize



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Tribal Energy Capacity Expansion Prize

Supporting Tribal growth and involvement in energy infrastructure decision-making activities

Energy, Environment & Resources

Stage:
Phase 1B Launch and Submissions Open

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Challenge Forum

Search forum

+ New topic

Forum Sections 1 section



Teaming & Partnership Opportunities

Use this space to find partners! Create a post with information you would like to share publicly about your team, mission, contact info, and what type of partners you're looking for.

2

THREADS

2

POSTS

HeroX Features

American-Made Program

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Tribal Energy Capacity Expansion Prize



Tribal Energy Capacity Expansion Prize

Supporting Tribal growth and involvement in energy infrastructure decision-making activities

Energy, Environment & Resources

Stage:
Phase 1B Launch and Submissions Open

Prize:
\$6,000,000

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Tribal Energy Capacity Expansion (TECE) Prize Official Rules Document

Aug. 13, 2026

Instructions on Registering on HeroX as a Team or Individual

Aug. 13, 2026

HeroX Features

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Tribal Energy Capacity
Expansion Prize



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Tribal Energy Capacity Expansion Prize

Supporting Tribal growth and involvement in energy infrastructure decision-making activities

Energy, Environment & Resources

Stage: Phase 1B Launch and Submissions Open

Prize: \$6,000,000

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CHALLENGE GUIDE

Frequently Asked Questions

17

questions

Expand all Collapse all

- 01

1) Do I have to register on HeroX.com to follow the challenge, leave a comment or register to compete in the challenge?

+
- 02

2) Does it matter if I register as a team or an individual?

+

Reminders

- Read the rules to learn more about the prize, check eligibility, and find more details about submission materials
- Submit all materials via HeroX by **Dec. 4 at 11:59 p.m. AKT**
- Send any questions to our team at TECEPrize@nlr.gov



Thank You!

Q&A

Please post your question(s) to the webinar Q&A chat.
Responses to questions will be made available on the
HeroX site.

