

Local Energy Resources Network



Meeting 18
April 11, 2023

Featuring guests from NREL and DOE



Welcome!

Purpose

Interactive 1-hour meetings designed to be a regular space where local governments - and those who work with them - can help each other learn about (and possibly inform) available opportunities to advance their energy and climate goals.

TODAY'S AGENDA

- Opportunity Roundtable
- Featured presentation with Emily Dalecki from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory
- Featured presentation with Kassandra Grims from the Department of Energy
- BPC Workshop



Opportunities

Need/Have
Board

View all
Opportunities

Policy Drives Investment

Agencies Scope/ Design Assistance Programs & Gather Input

Applicants Apply to Funding Solicitation

State

- FY 21-22 Budget (\$15B climate resilience)
- FY 22-23 Budget (\$38.8B climate change)
- Cap and Trade auction revenue allocations (~\$19B raised since 2013)
- **NEW** FY 23-24 Gov Proposed Budget (letter opposing \$6B in cuts to climate programs)
- Other legislative action (e.g. SB 852 local climate resilience financing districts, **NEW** SB 511 statewide local GHG inventories)
- State agency proceedings (e.g. *CPUC microgrid, CEC IEPR, *CARB Scoping Plan)

Federal

- Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) (2021) = \$47B in climate resilience funding
- FY 22-23 Budget (\$44.9B climate change)
- Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) (2022)
- **NEW** Biden's Proposed FY 23-24 Budget (\$52.2B climate change)

Funding

- EPA: Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving (EICPS) - due April 14, 2023
- EPA: Environmental Justice Government-to-Government Program (EJ2G) - due April 14, 2023
- EPA: Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) - Metro area Notice of Intent due April 28, 2023, application due May 31, 2023
- DOE: Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) (\$550M IILJ) - Pre-award Info Sheet due April 28, 2023. **NEW** TA website
- DOE: Buildings Upgrade Prize (Buildings UP) Phase 1 - winners selected March-May until funds are expended
- CEC: CA Automated Permit Processing Program (CalAPP) (\$20M) - due May 2, 2023
- DOE: Clean Energy to Communities (C2C) (\$6.5M)- due May 17, 2023
- SCG: Transformative Climate Communities - due August 1, 2023, free TA available now
- IRS: Consumer clean energy tax credits live!

On the horizon ... (applications anticipated in next 3 months)

- OPR: Regional Resilience Planning & Implementation Grant Round 1 (\$21M) Spring 2023, Intent to Apply & Request for Help Surveys
- DOE: Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) (\$550M IILJ) - Competitive Q1 2023
- DOE: Building Codes Implementation for Efficiency and Resilience - TBD
- DOE: Home Energy Rebate Program (IRA, \$582M allocated to CA) see summary (\$582 State allocation)
- EPA: EPA's Environmental and Climate Justice Program - Summer 2023
- EPA: GreenHouse Gas Reduction Fund - Summer 2023

Input

- SGC: Draft Round 2 Regional Climate Collaboratives Program Guidelines - Comment period ends April 15, 2023, bi-weekly office hours
- CARB/CCEC Listening Sessions: Addressing Obstacles to Local Climate Action Planning - April 26, 2023 (more details to come)
- CEC: Home Energy Rebate Programs Workshops (more details to come)

Other Assistance

- CivicWell: CivicSpark - Apply to host a fellow
- Access Clean CA: EV Incentives Benefits Tool



Featured Guest



*Market and Policy Analyst for the
National Renewable Energy Lab*

Emily Dalecki



Solar Power in Your Community

Helping Local Governments Increase Access to and Deployment of Solar Energy Technologies





Today's Speakers



Emily Dalecki, MPA, MSES
Market & Policy Analyst
Strategic Energy Analysis Center
National Renewable Energy Lab

Solar Futures

The 2022 edition of *Solar Power in Your Community* highlights new and existing technologies and strategies to maximize the benefits of solar to all communities

Solar Deployment 2020-2050

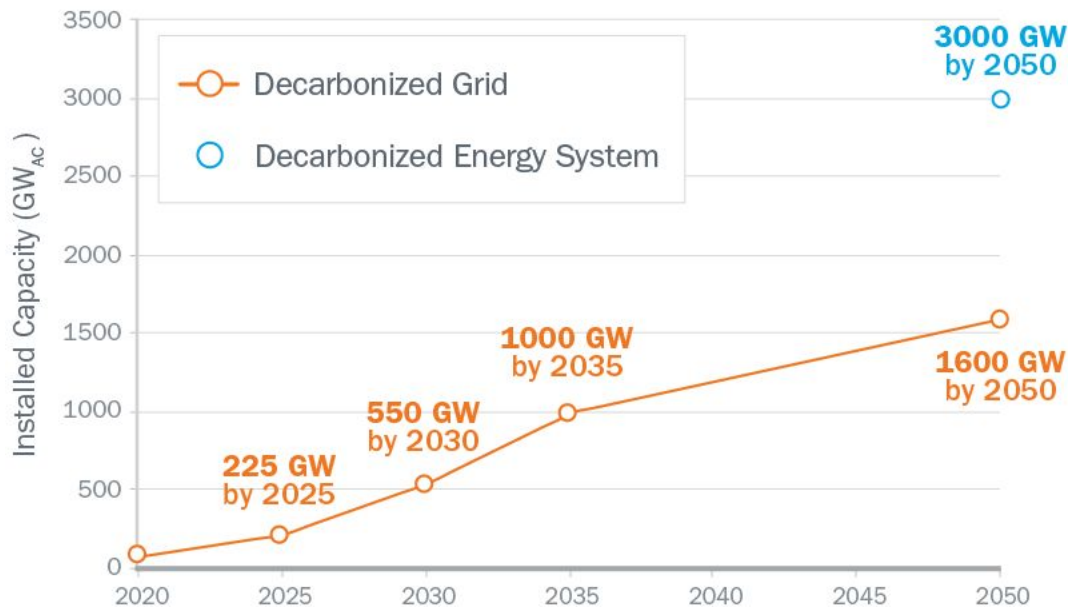


Figure Source: Solar Futures Study,
DOE, energy.gov/eere/solar/solar-futures-study

Solar Power in Your Community- Topic Areas

1. Organizing and Strategizing a Local Solar Effort



Solar Spotlight: Ensuring LMI Inclusion in Solar Efforts

2. Making Solar Available and Affordable for Residents and Businesses

3. Updating Local Policies and Processes

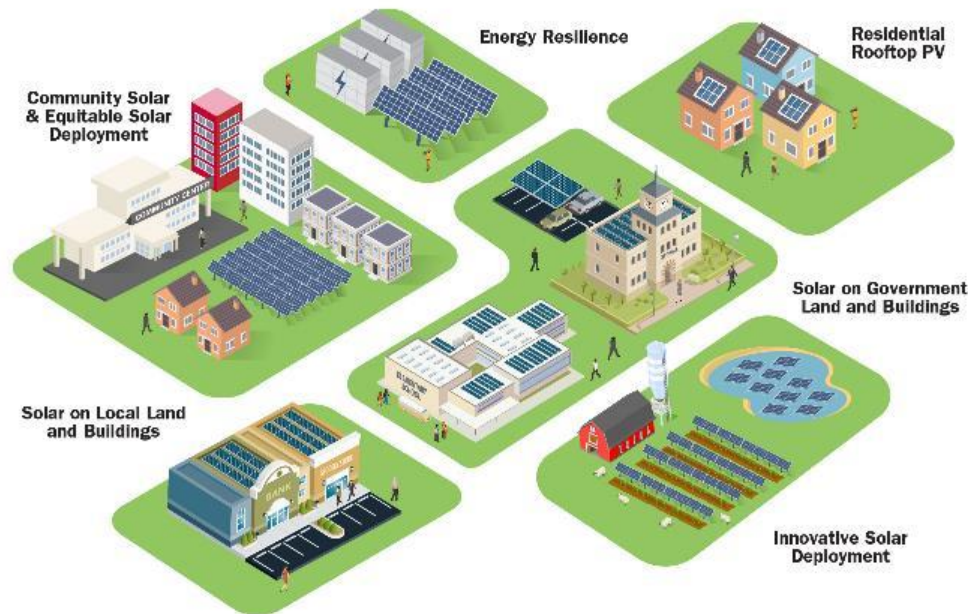
4. Developing Local Workforce Training and Education Programs

5. Educating and Empowering Potential Customers using Inclusive Strategies



Solar Spotlight: Racial Equity in Solar Adoption

6. Installing Solar on Local Land and Buildings

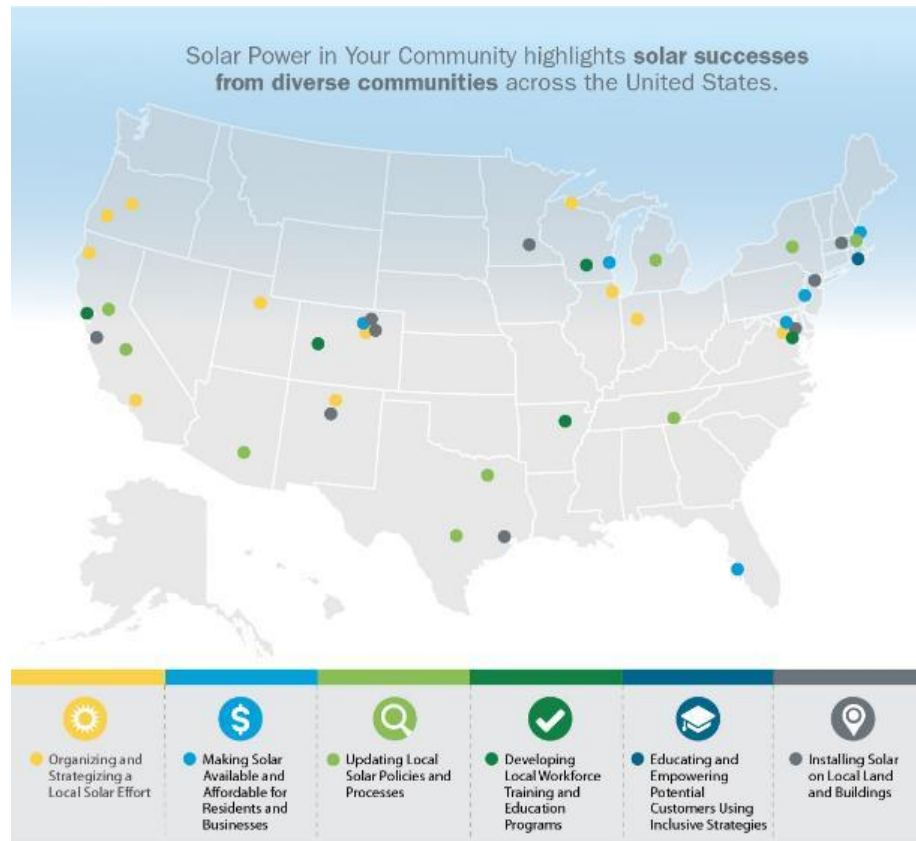


Navigating the Solar Power in Your Community Guidebook

- Topic introduction and recommendations for implementation
- Real world case studies of communities to have implemented the topic or technology
- Resources with in-depth information on discussed topics or technologies



Suggestions for adoption of discussed topics are marked with the “Tip” icon!



Setting Solar Targets and Incorporating Solar into Existing Plans

Establishing Solar Installation Targets:

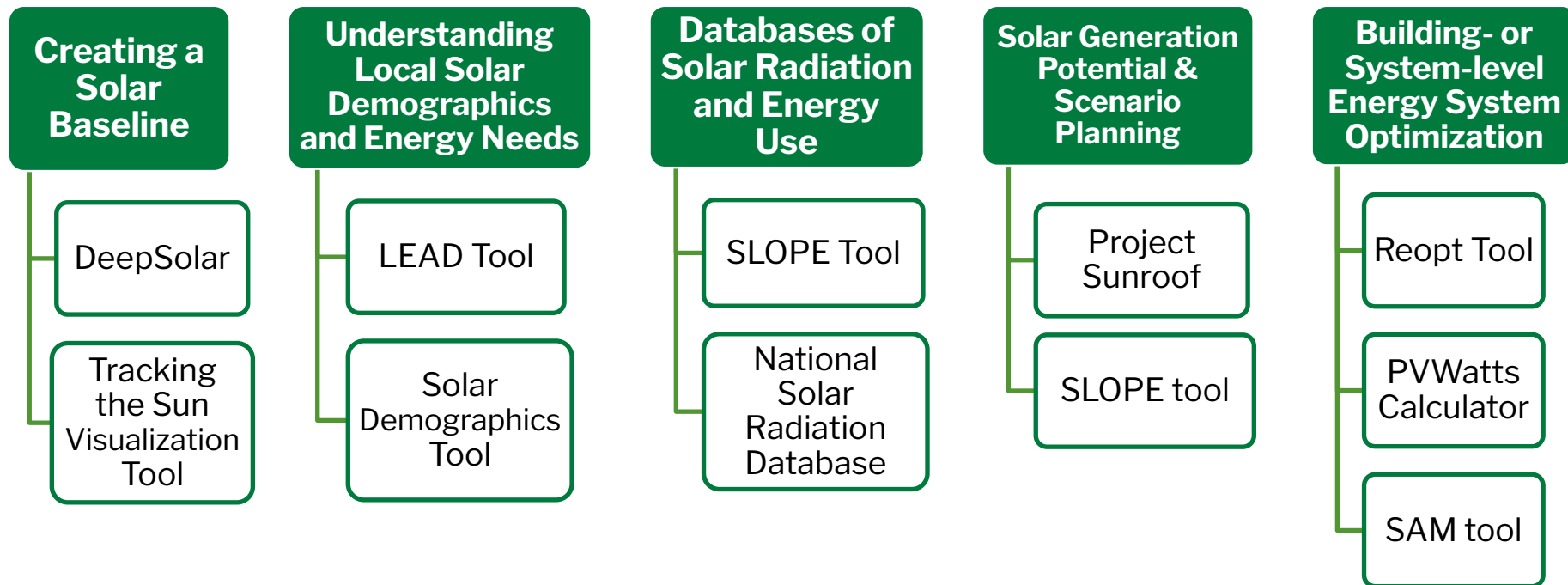
- Develop an installation baseline
- Consider local policies and priorities
- Set realistic solar targets
- Incorporate specific goals such as low- and moderate-income targets

Incorporating Solar into Existing Plans:

- Sustainability Planning
- Climate Action Planning
- 100% Renewable or Carbon-Free Targets
- Resilience Planning

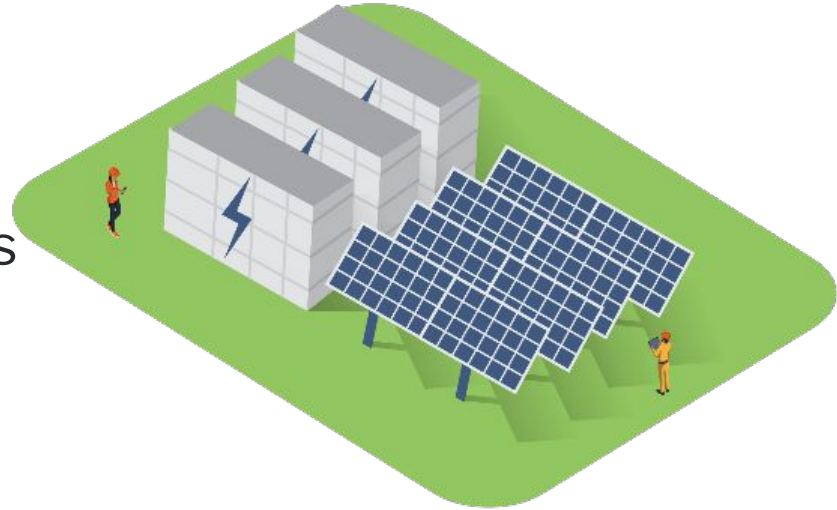


Tools for Solar Planning



Updating Local Policies and Processes

- Solar Access and Solar Rights Laws
- Updated language for zoning ordinances
- Solar mandates or solar-ready policies
- Streamlined solar permitting and inspections
- Overall process transparency for adopting solar



Developing Local Workforce Training and Education Programs

To develop a robust local solar workforce and to integrate solar energy into education, communities can consider:

- Local solar education opportunities in K–12 schools
- High school vocational training programs
- Solar in higher education, including local community colleges
- Local workforce training programs
- Programs for hiring veterans such as Solar Ready Vets
- Working with labor unions





Solar Spotlight: Ensuring LMI Inclusion in Solar Efforts

Local LMI solar programs may include strategies to improve energy equity and access to solar such as:

- Specific LMI carve-outs for existing solar programs
- Creating an LMI-specific community solar program, which may be especially beneficial to renters or those without suitable roof space
- Solar on multi family homes, which can be implemented through local housing authorities or mandated for privately owned multifamily housing
- Loans, grants, rebates, and overall cost reductions for LMI solar adoption
- Creating a Solarize campaign targeted at LMI customers
- Working with the local utility or state Public Utility Commission on LMI solar programming

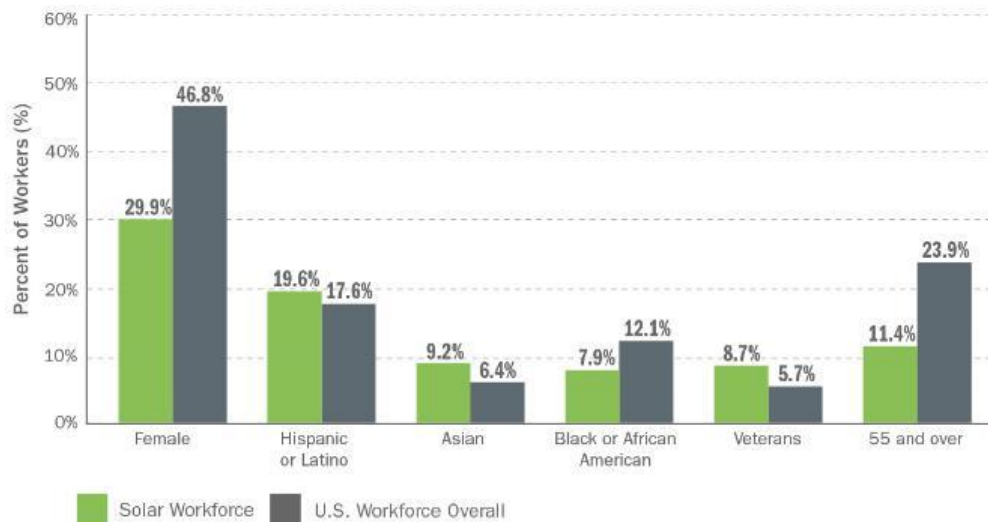


Solar Spotlight: Racial Equity in Solar Adoption

Ways that local jurisdictions can help create a more equitable local solar market:

- Adopt specific goals to ensure racial equity
- Account for historical injustices
- Ensure diversity and representation on local advisory committees
- Include underrepresented minorities in decision-making
- Partner with a minority-owned business
- Partner with local schools, universities, and nonprofits on educational and training programs
- Learn about “Ban the Box” policies

Solar Employment by Demographic



Educating and Empowering Potential Customers using Inclusive Strategies

Examples of messaging that can be used in educational materials:

- Economic benefits
- Financing options
- Positive environmental impacts
- Resilience during natural disasters and power outages
- Renter-friendly solar opportunities
- Solar for MFAH
- Local success stories



Opportunities from DOE for Local Governments to Expand Solar Access

- Apply to SolSmart
 - SolSmart designates communities as SolSmart Gold, Silver, or Bronze
 - More information:
 - Visit solsmart.org/contact-us
- Adopt SolarAPP+ for Solar Permitting
 - Tool designed to automate permit review for residential rooftop solar, and other technologies
 - More information:
 - Visit solarapp.nrel.gov
 - Email team@solar-app.org

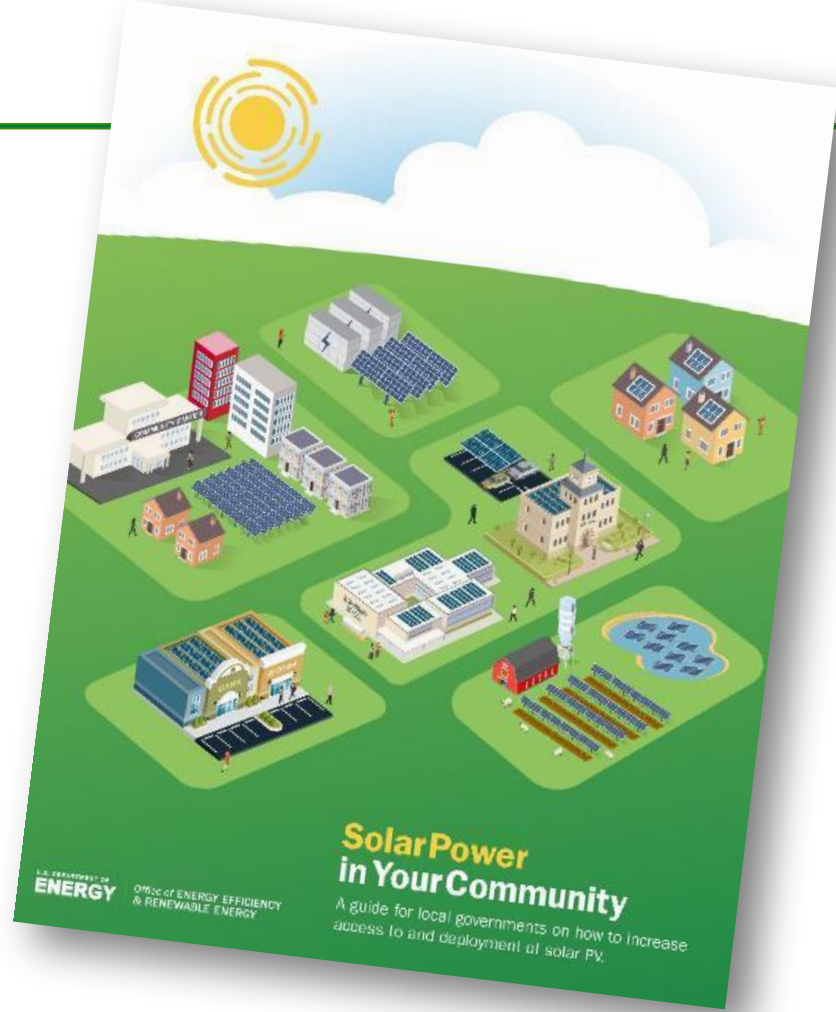


We want to hear from you!

If you have used this guidebook, or plan to use this guidebook, we would love to hear from you:

- How the guidebook was useful to you
- Any information you felt was missing
- Other feedback or recommendations

Provide feedback using the QR code or email Emily Dalecki at emily.dalecki@nrel.gov





Questions?

For comments, additional questions, or more information, email Emily Dalecki, at Emily.Dalecki@nrel.gov





Thank You

Access the Solar Power in Your Community
guidebook at energy.gov/solarguidebook





Featured Guest

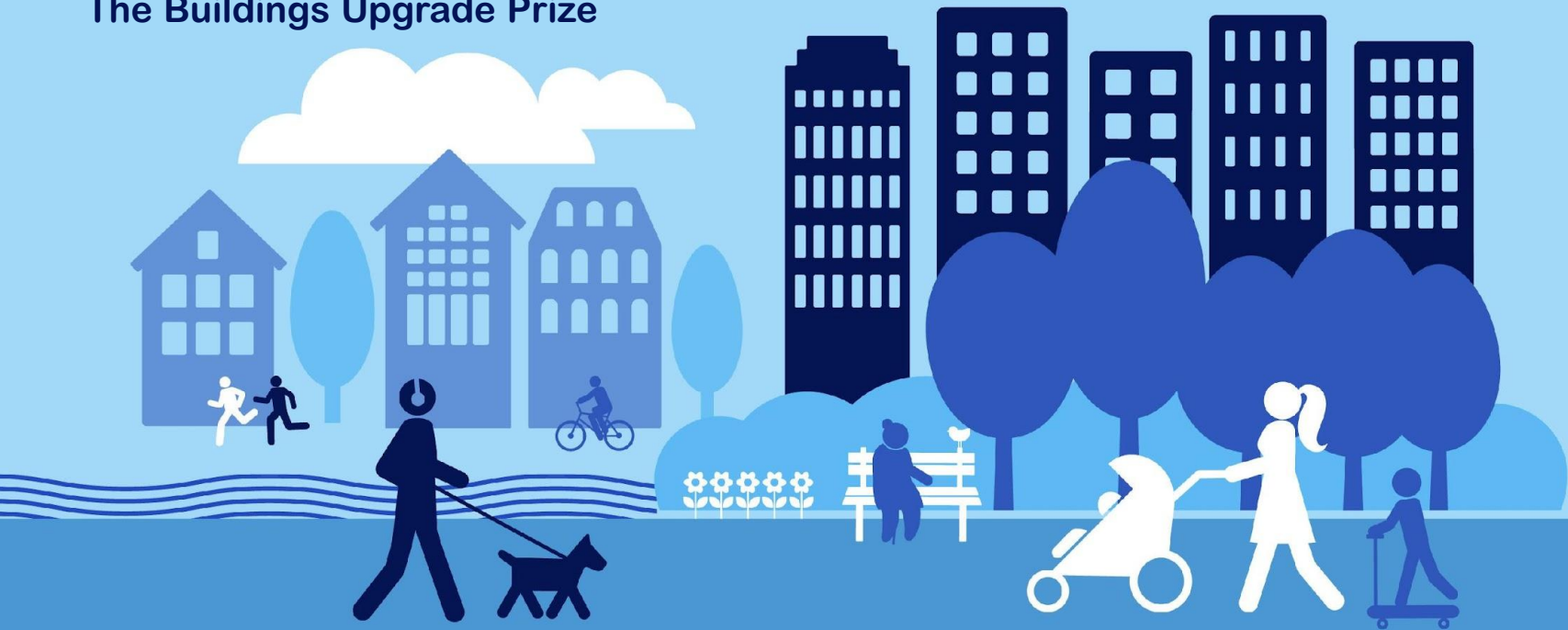


*Science and Technology Policy
Fellow for the Dept. of Energy,
Building Technologies Office*
Kassandra Grimes

Buildings UP

The Buildings Upgrade Prize

AMERICAN
MADE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY



CivicWell Introductory Webinar

April 11, 2023

Kassandra (Kassie) Grimes, she/her, Fellow, DOE

Funded
by:



Office of **ENERGY EFFICIENCY
& RENEWABLE ENERGY**

BUILDING TECHNOLOGIES OFFICE

Administered
by:



Technical assistance support provided
by:



The Buildings Upgrade Prize (Buildings UP)

Buildings UP is designed to rapidly scale energy efficiency and efficient electrification building upgrades in communities across the country. The prize is envisioned to consist of four phases over approximately five years.

Application support prizes available for new and under-resourced teams.

Phase 1: Concept

- \$22M+ in Prizes to Teams + Technical Assistance
- Applications due by July 18, 2023
- Seeking 20–60 teams to join the “coopetition.”



www.heroX.com/buildingsUP

Grants vs. Prizes

Financial Award Process

Write and submit
concept papers

Concept paper review

Applicants write and
submit full applications

Full applications review

Selections and
negotiations

Begin performing

Prepare and submit
reimbursement request

Request reviewed and
reimbursement issued

Prize Award Process

Begin performing

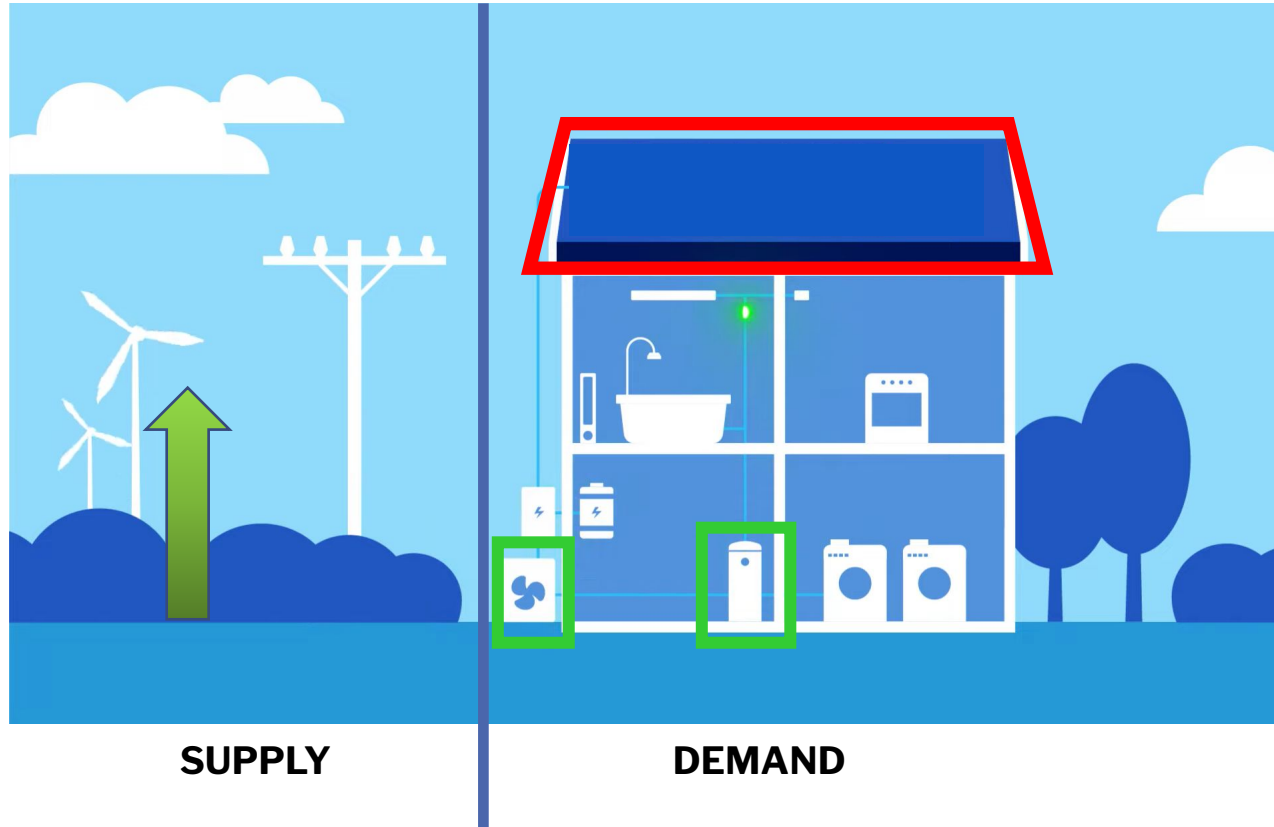
Achieve predefined goal

Complete submission
packet

Judges score
submissions

Winners receive
payment

Why Efficiency + Efficient Electrification?



Prize Goals

Buildings UP aims to address persistent non-technical barriers to improving building energy efficiency and reducing on-site emissions (e.g., administrative, financial, social, and other barriers).

Buildings UP is a capacity-building prize to support teams with solutions that:

- **Accelerate building upgrades** for efficiency and on-site emissions reductions beyond current best practices in the applicant's identified area of focus
- **Demonstrate scalability and replicability** across building type(s), climate zone(s), and/or, community type(s)
- **Advance holistic and lasting energy efficiency and efficient electrification** initiative development
- **Benefit underserved communities** by ensuring that benefits accrue to equity-eligible buildings*, their occupants, and surrounding communities.

*Equity-eligible buildings include buildings in disadvantaged communities; low- and moderate-income (LMI) households; and underserved commercial, nonprofit, and public buildings.

What can a team look like?

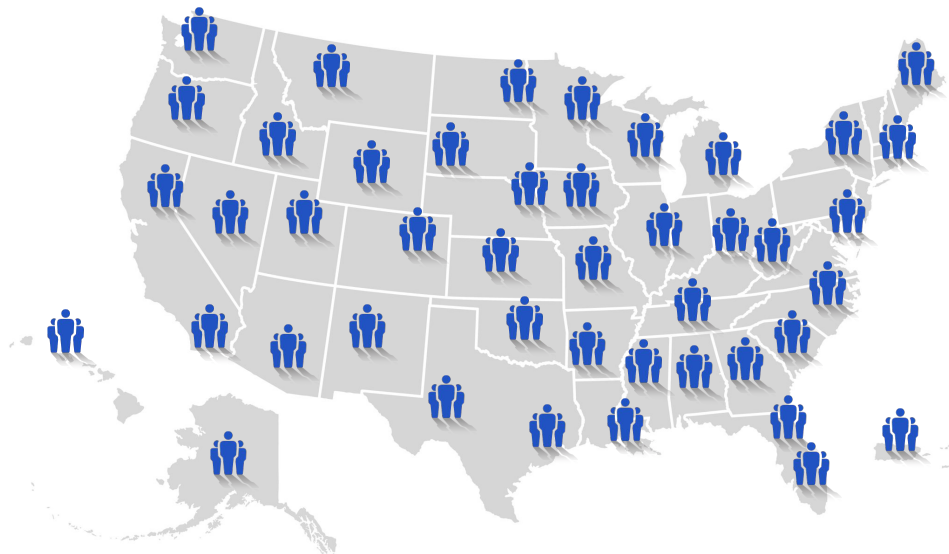
Organization Types

- Non-federal government and
- Tribes
- Non-profit organizations
- For-profit organizations
- Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) with its own nonprofit legal status OR utilizing a fiscal sponsor with a nonprofit legal status.

Primary Place of Business

Entities must be incorporated in and maintain a primary place of business in the United States with majority domestic ownership and control.

Additional eligibility information can be found in the official rules.



Teams must enter in Phase 1.
Subsequent Phases are only open to Phase 1 awardees.

Phase 1: Pathways & Prizes

Equity-Centered Innovation Pathway

\$400,000 in cash prizes for each winning team

- Develop replicable, scalable, innovative building upgrade initiatives **in equity-eligible buildings* (i.e., 80% equity-eligible).**

Open Innovation Pathway

\$200,000 in cash prizes for each winning team

- Develop replicable, scalable, innovative building upgrade initiatives. **May include a focus on equity but are not required.**

Access to Technical Assistance is awarded to winning teams in both pathways.

Equity-Eligible Buildings

Geographic
Location (Justice 40
Census Tracts, Tribal
Lands, Territories)

Affordable
Housing
(Subsidized, Naturally
Occurring)

Underserved
Commercial
(including Title 1
Schools, Community
Services, Non-profits)

Team-Defined

Additional information is in Section 3.5 of the official rules.

Example Projects*

A rural electric cooperative partners with a local CBO and the county to help LMI single-family home residents



transition from propane heat to efficient electric heat pumps.

A K-12 school district and an energy services company partner to electrify district buildings.



A CBO in a midsize town in the southeast partners with the local government to bring heat pumps (and air conditioning!) to affordable housing buildings throughout the community.



A national residential property owner teams up with multiple local governments and utilities on an initiative to electrify its properties in three major markets.



A business improvement district in a large city neighborhood partners with local houses of worship



to bring efficient electric heating and cooling equipment to small businesses.

+Innovations!

*Minimum technologies and strategies teams must include in their initiatives:

- Efficient electric heating and cooling equipment (e.g., heat pumps and/or heat pump water heaters).
- Weatherization and envelope improvements where needed to reduce energy costs (e.g., insulation, air sealing, window improvements)

Seeking Innovations to Address Non-Technical Challenges to Widespread Building Upgrades

- **Lack of contractor and occupant familiarity** with technologies
- **High first costs for upgrades**, limited short-term payback
- **Lack of retrofit materials** and equipment
- **Insufficient workforce** to complete upgrades
- **Lack of reach of funding and incentive programs** to historically underserved households and building owners
- **Inconsistent quality of work** and consumer mistrust.

Application Support Prize Overview

The Application Support Prize is available for the first 50 winners.

Award Criteria for Application Support Prize

In addition to the eligibility requirements of Phase 1, applicants must:

- Confirm no organizations on their team have secured funding from DOE's Building Technologies Office in the past 5 years
- Ensure the lead organization represents a community with equity-eligible buildings or its mission is to serve communities with equity-eligible buildings
- Demonstrate that application support would allow them to develop a competitive Phase 1 submission and confirm an intent to apply.

Application Support Prizes

- \$5,000 cash prize
- Up to 10 hours assistance

Support Provider

- Elevate
- <https://www.elevatenp.org/about/>

Rolling submission due dates

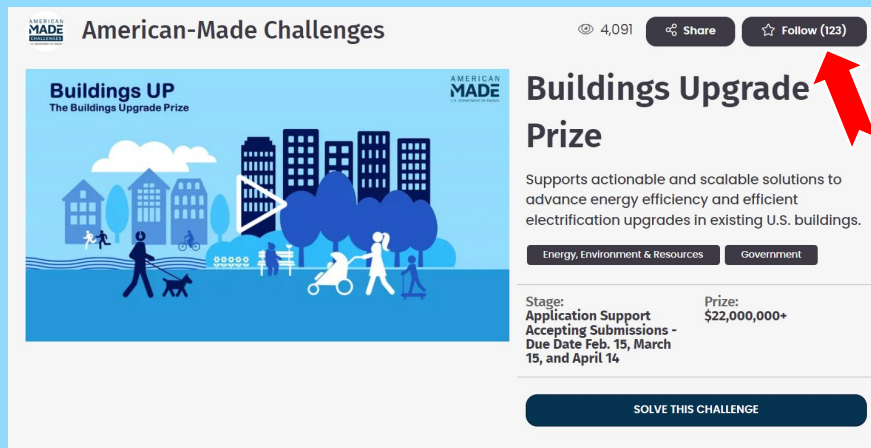
- February 15
- March 15
- April 26

Next Steps for Competitors

- Follow the prize on HeroX.com, read the [rules](#), and review the [FAQs](#).
- Register for an Informational Webinar: May 4, 11 AM ET.
- Register for upcoming (optional) training webinars with R2E2 on HeroX.com
- Create an account on HeroX and click on the “Solve this Challenge” button.
- Team up and submit a Phase 1 “Concept” application via HeroX by July 18, 5 PM ET.

Follow www.HeroX.com/BuildingsUP

Questions: buildingsUP@nrel.gov



AMERICAN MADE American-Made Challenges 4,091 Share Follow (123)

Buildings Upgrade Prize

Supports actionable and scalable solutions to advance energy efficiency and efficient electrification upgrades in existing U.S. buildings.

Energy, Environment & Resources Government

Stage: Application Support
Accepting Submissions - Due Date Feb. 15, March 15, and April 14

Prize: \$22,000,000+

SOLVE THIS CHALLENGE



BPC Workshop

Topic: Discussion

*Early Bird
Registration
is Now Open!*

14th Annual California Climate & Energy Forum

Investment, Innovation, and Inclusion:
Locals Leading a Clean Energy, Climate-Stable Future for All



June 13 - 14, 2023 · Santa Rosa, CA

Registration is open for the [2023 CCEC Forum!](#)
Early Bird ends April 16th

LERN survey next steps

- Results
 - 75% think LERN is very or immensely valuable
 - Especially hearing about available funding opportunities
 - But many find it difficult to know which grants are most relevant for their needs and to apply
 - Respondents suggested more attendee conversation/collaboration, more focus on how to apply, and more local grant case studies
- Polls
- Check out our [Funding Resources Database](#)
- Contact me for individualized grant help:
ahacker@civicwell.org

Local Energy Resources Network



What's Next?

- Next meeting **May 9, 2023**
- Share [invitation](#) with others



CCEC Serves Local Needs



wEEkly Update



CURRENTS Quarterly



Webinars



Annual Forum



Active Funding Opportunities



Funding Program Database



Technical Assistance



Technical Assistance Directory



Local Government Roundtables



Best Practice Database



Interviews and Case Studies