



Buildings Upgrade Prize

Grant Snapshot

Agency: Department of Energy	Bureau: Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy	New or Existing Program: New
Application Deadline: July 18, 2023	Maximum Award: Depends on pathway	Total Allocation: \$22 million for Phase 1

Description

The Buildings Upgrade Prize (Buildings UP) is a capacity-building prize focused on reducing greenhouse gas emissions in existing buildings through energy efficiency and efficient electrification. In Phase 1, Buildings UP will award over \$22 million in cash prizes and technical assistance.

Links to Grant Opportunity:

- [Official Rules Document](#)
- [Buildings UP Prize Page](#)
- [Application Support Prize Submission Form](#)

Eligible Recipients

- Community-based organizations
- Local governments
- Tribes
- Utilities
- Nonprofit organizations
- For-profit organizations

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

Matching Grant Requirements	None
Eligible Projects	<p>Phase 1 is focused on the development of innovative approaches that address barriers to building upgrades.</p> <p>Eligible Building Upgrades The minimum technologies and strategies teams must include in their initiatives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Efficient electric heating and cooling equipment- Weatherization and envelope improvements <p>Additional strategies and technologies teams may incorporate into their initiatives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Efficient electric appliances- Electric vehicle chargers- Geothermal heating and cooling- On-site and community solar- Electric panel upgrades- Building controls- Energy storage <p>Eligible Buildings Buildings targeted for upgrades may include one or multiple building types, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Single family- Multifamily- Manufactured housing- K–12 schools- Higher education- Commercial real estate- Hospitality Health care- Retail Food service/grocery- Government buildings
Tips for Being Competitive	<p>Strong applicants will demonstrate how their proposed project can meet the prize goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Accelerate building upgrades for efficiency and on-site emissions reductions

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demonstrate scalability and replicability - Advance holistic and lasting energy efficiency and efficient electrification initiative development - Benefit underserved communities
Prize Structure & Timeline	<p>Phase 1: Applications are due July 18, 2023</p> <p>Teams may apply to one of two pathways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Equity-Centered Innovation Pathway: Teams propose a new initiative or innovation to an existing initiative for delivering scalable and replicable building upgrades for “equity eligible” buildings, which include buildings in disadvantaged communities, low- and moderate-income (LMI) households, and underserved commercial, nonprofit, and public buildings. - Award size: \$400,000 - Open Innovation Pathway: Teams propose a new initiative or innovation to an existing initiative that addresses a geographic area or building type and can achieve scalability and replicability of building upgrades. - Award size: \$200,000 <p>DOE expects to make 20-60 awards in Phase 1. Winners of both pathways will be eligible to advance to Phase 2 and access technical assistance.</p>
Examples of Prior Award Recipients	<p>N/A</p>
Agency Contact	<p>buildingsup@nrel.gov</p>
Upcoming Webinars and Information Sessions	<p>May 4, 2023 at 11am ET: Informational prize Overview Webinar June 13, 2023 at 2pm ET: Informational Prize Overview Webinar</p> <p>Webinar recordings and presentation slides for previous events can be found on the HeroX Prize Page.</p>
Types of Partners Required	<p>DOE expects applications to be submitted by teams of eligible entities. All teams must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A Lead Organization that commits at least one full-time

equivalent (FTE) staff person for the duration of their involvement in Buildings UP. This FTE may be hired after Phase 1 awards are announced.

- A Designated Prize Recipient that is a legal entity and can receive prize funds. The Designated Prize Recipient can be a fiscal sponsor for a participating organization that is not a legal entity. The Lead Organization may also be the Designated Prize Recipient.

**Anticipated Award
Date**

September/October 2023