

H EALTH & WELLNESS

E DUCATION

R ECOGNIZE PARTNERSHIPS

O PTIMIZE PERFORMANCE

E NERGY EFFICIENCY

S HARE BEST PRACTICES

EARN BADGES IN ALL SIX

HEROES

CATEGORIES AND WIN \$25,000

FOR A PROJECT AT YOUR SCHOOL!

LAUSD

2024-2025

HEROES FOR ZERO

CONTEST

REGISTER BY:

September 20, 2024

**WE'RE LOOKING FOR
ZERO NET ENERGY**

HEROES!



2024-2025 HEROES for Zero Contest Rules

Objective:

- The goal of the Heroes for Zero (Net Energy) contest is and education and awareness of the critical topic of energy conservation. Zero Net Energy (ZNE) refers to schools that generate as much energy as they consume.
- The contest seeks to encourage student teams to engage in activities that help make their schools “ZNE Ready”. To be ZNE Ready, we need to use less energy and think about how we use energy before preparing schools for solar power.

Eligibility

- The contest is open to student teams at all grade levels (K-12) at District schools or affiliated charter schools located on a District-owned site for which LAUSD pays the utility costs. Principal must approve of participation. If multiple teams, each school can submit one team’s submittal as their entry. An ideal team will be comprised of students from a range of grade levels to comprehensively represent the student body. Activities can then be developed and assigned on a grade-appropriate basis.

Registration & Required Steps

- **Schools must register their team online by September 20, 2024** at <https://bit.ly/HEROES-4-Zero-Contest>. Details of the projects are not required at that time. The kick-off meeting is on Monday, September 30, 2024 via Zoom from 3:30-4:30 p.m.
- Then teams are required to do the following:
 1. Perform a baseline school electricity usage audit
 2. Create an energy conservation plan that includes the HEROES categories
 3. Implement energy efficiency measures
 4. Perform a follow up electricity usage audit at least three months after energy efficiency measures implementation
 5. Create a 3-minute video that demonstrates how your team’s HEROES activities led to energy efficiency at your school.

Entry Format:

Entries are **due on Friday, March 14, 2025**. Successful entries will be creative and innovative, but still feasible. Entries will include:

1. An electricity usage audit results report, and
2. An illustration of your activities in the form of a video no longer than 3 minutes.

Entries should demonstrate a researched, fact-based understanding of the subject matter. Entries should address the six elements of **HEROES**. Teams will be able to earn badges in each of the categories:

Health and Wellness	How can being energy efficient lead to a healthier space or community?
Education & Awareness	How can we learn about and help others become more aware of energy efficiency?
Recognizing Partnerships	How can we work with partners across LAUSD or with community-based organizations?
Optimization of Performance	How efficient is our school and what can we do to maximize efficiency?
Efficiency	What will we do during the contest to reduce energy consumption at our school?
Sharing Best Practices	How can what we’ve learned help other schools, groups, or our neighborhood?

Judging

- District headquarters in partnership with Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, the Division of Instruction, and, potentially, other organizations and community groups, will determine the winning schools. Each entry will be assigned a points score. Individual judge scores are weighted and the top scores (receiving anywhere between an 85-100 overall score) are awarded accordingly. Up to fifteen elementary, middle, and high school teams will be declared semi-finalists. Of those, the top three in total points will be declared top winners.
- On Earth Day, **April 22, 2025**, the winning schools will be announced. All participants will be invited to join the online recognition ceremony at the virtual Earth Day Climate Literacy Symposium.

Prizes (sponsored by LADWP):

- Each registered school will receive a 3 X 5 HEROES for Zero banner and HEROES category badges.
- Within the semi-finalists, three schools will receive \$25,000 towards a sustainability-related project at their school.
- Each of the remaining semi-finalist teams will receive \$5,000 towards a sustainability-related project at their school.
- The top three winning teams will be awarded at an in-person ceremony at District headquarters in downtown Los Angeles.