



Student Video Contest

Goal of the Contest

Every day, dedicated teams work behind the scenes to keep your campus running with district energy, unsung heroes who rarely get nor seek credit for their work to keep the student body going. As a result, we're asking students to work together and help celebrate their accomplishments (along with a little school pride) by creating a video that showcases the system that keeps you up and running as you're running between classes and activities.

The **Campus Video Contest** is a friendly one, designed to celebrate and raise awareness of how our collegiate institutions' district energy systems—and the professionals who operate them—deliver reliable, economical, efficient, and environmentally responsible heating, cooling, and power for their campuses.

Who better to tell that story than the students who benefit from the work being done to keep their campus thriving?

Entrants will produce short videos (maximum three minutes) showcasing their campus energy systems, with a central focus on how district energy supports their institution's sustainability goals.

Here's what to do:

- Create a short video (up to 3 minutes) about your campus energy system.
- Focus on how district energy supports your school's sustainability goals.
- Be creative! Your video could include:
 - Interviews with staff, students, or operators
 - A behind-the-scenes tour of energy facilities
 - Animations, graphics, or fun explainers about how the system works
 - Your take on how it helps the environment and campus life
 - Stories that connect energy and campus pride

Keep it short, clear, and engaging—the goal is to show others why district energy matters.

Winning entries will be featured on the IDEA website, YouTube channel, and social media platforms, helping to educate both your classmates and the broader public about the vital role of district energy in advancing campus sustainability.

Winners will be invited to attend CampusEnergy2026 and be celebrated on stage as part of a large ceremony celebrating your work.

Questions? Contact Scott Szycher at scott.idea@districtenergy.org or call (508) 366-9339.



You can view
previous year's
winners here 

**Submissions
are due** no
later than Tuesday,
December 23rd.
Please contact IDEA
directly if you are
interested so we can
assist you with further
guidance and to assist
you in the process.

www.districtenergy.org

Student Video Contest — Official Rules and Regulations

1. ELIGIBILITY

- a. Entrants must be students enrolled full-time or part-time in colleges and universities that are Members in Good Standing of the International District Energy Association for calendar years 2025-26.
- b. Entrants' submissions must be approved by an individual who is on the Facilities or Utilities staff of their institution.
- c. All submitted video entries will remain the property of the International District Energy Association and all entrants must allow IDEA permission to use their submission for public education.

2. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Videos may be submitted in one of the following ways:

Option One:

Send your video as an .mp4 file to scott.idea@districtenergy.org with 'CampusEnergy2026 Student Video Contest' in the subject line. If your file is over 10MB, please send via file transfer service like WeTransfer.

Option Two:

Mail your completed entry form and a digital copy of your video on a CD, DVD or flash drive to:

CampusEnergy2026 Student Video Contest
International District Energy Association
1800 West Park Drive, Suite 350
Westborough, MA 01581

SUBMISSION DEADLINE – Tuesday, December 23, 2025

3. HOW THE WINNERS WILL BE SELECTED

A panel of senior IDEA members will evaluate your video based on its content, message, and creativity. Winning entries will stand out by telling a clear and compelling story about the system and the people behind it, highlighting the impact of district energy with an original and fun approach.

IDEA will post all entries on our YouTube channel for our members to view and submit comments and likes to the ones they like. We ask entrants to create your own social media posts linking to your video, tagging IDEA, to spread awareness with your networks about your post. The number of posts/likes/comments will also be considered in the evaluation process up until Wednesday, January 7.

Winners will be notified by Friday, January 16 and celebrated at CampusEnergy2026 at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center at National Harbor near Washington D.C., February 17-20, 2026.

4. PRIZES

The contest is designed to give entrants the opportunity to submit videos that respond to the goal. The prizes will be awarded to the entrants who submit the best entries as determined in accordance with these official rules.

GRAND PRIZE

- The student(s) who created the winning video will receive a \$2,000 prize to split among the team. A maximum of two students from the winning team will receive paid airfare + lodging to attend CampusEnergy2026 at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center at National Harbor near Washington D.C., February 17-20, 2026, where you will have the opportunity to meet with members of the IDEA Board of Directors and key business leaders in the District Energy industry.
- The Facilities or Utilities department of the entrant's institution will receive 1 free conference registration and paid lodging for up to 4 nights to attend the IDEA2026 Annual Conference in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada on June 23-26, 2026.
- The entrant's College/University will receive public recognition from IDEA through social media and a formal press release for their commitment to reliable, economic, efficient and environmentally sound means of heating, cooling and powering their campuses.

SECOND PLACE

- The student(s) who created the second place video will receive \$1,000.
- The entrant's College/University will receive public recognition from IDEA through social media for their commitment to reliable, economic, efficient and environmentally sound means of heating, cooling and powering their campuses.

THIRD PLACE

- The student(s) who created the third place video will receive \$500.
- The entrant's College/University will receive public recognition from IDEA through social media for their commitment to reliable, economic, efficient and environmentally sound means of heating, cooling and powering their campuses.

Student Video Contest — Fine Print

5. SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

- a. Each submission must be a maximum of three (3) minutes long.
- b. Each submission will be tied to one “primary” entrant. In the event that a group of students work together on a submission, the submission will be entered under the name of the primary entrant. It will be the responsibility of the primary entrant to distribute the prize among the winning group. It is important to note that only one prize will be given to each primary entrant.
- c. The submission must be original work, created solely by the entrant; it must not have been previously published, released or distributed in any form; must not have won any award; and must not infringe the copyright, trademark, privacy, publicity, or other personal or proprietary rights of any person or entity.
- d. Music used in the submission must be original and/or not require any additional clearances for IDEA to use or post on public websites or to use in public forums of any kind.
- e. The submission should avoid reference to any names, products or services of any company or entity or to any third party trademarks, logos, trade dress or promotion of any brand, product or service.
- f. If any persons appear or are referred to in the submission, the entrant is solely responsible for obtaining consent and release, prior to submitting the video.
- g. Formal submission of your video will represent any required institutional and other applicable clearances. In the event where clearances are not covered, video (submission) will be disqualified from the competition.
- h. Submissions should be in good taste. Submissions that contain inappropriate content or objectionable material may be rejected at any time at IDEA’s discretion.
- i. Should entrant include personally identifiable information about yourself in your submission, you acknowledge and agree that such information will be disclosed publicly and you are solely responsible for any consequences thereof.
- j. You may not be, nor may you work with parties in conjunction with your submission who are:
 - i. represented under contract (e.g., by a talent agent or manager) that would limit or impair IDEA’s ability to display your submission in any media form;
 - ii. subject to an acting or modeling contract that would make your/their appearance in the submission a violation of any third-party rights; or
 - iii. under any other contractual relationship, including but not limited to guild and/or union memberships, that may prevent IDEA from being able to use the submission worldwide in all media in perpetuity on a royalty-free basis, without any payment or fee obligations.
- k. IDEA reserves the right to disqualify any submission that it believes violates or potentially violates any of the foregoing requirements or otherwise fails to comply with any provision of these Official Rules or the Site Usage Agreement for the Site. The decisions of IDEA on this and all matters pertaining to the contest shall be final and binding.
- l. Entrants agree to indemnify and hold IDEA harmless from and against any suits, claims, losses, damages and expenses, including reasonable attorney fees that may arise from or in connection with any entrant’s submission and the use and or display of the entrant’s submission.
- m. Entrants should retain a copy of their submission in its original format. An entrant selected as a winner will need to provide the submission in its original format. Failure to do so may result in disqualification and the selection of an alternate winner. By entering the contest, entrants agree, acknowledge and understand that all submissions may be posted by IDEA for viewing by the general public and otherwise used by IDEA in its sole discretion. IDEA does not guarantee the posting of any submission and reserves the right not to post a submission for any or no reason. All submissions become the property of IDEA.

6. GRANT OF RIGHTS

All entrants grant IDEA the right to display their submissions online for purposes of this contest. Finalists further grant IDEA the right to display their submissions on third party sites such as YouTube.com and districtenergy.org for promotional purposes. Winners hereby grant IDEA a royalty free license, without without geographic or time limitation, geographic or time limitation to display his or her submission for promotional or advertising related purposes in any and all media. The use of the submissions after the contest is complete for advertising and promotional purposes will be attributed to the entrant. Winners agree to sign any documents that may be necessary to affect the assignment of licensing rights.

7. CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

- a. **Conduct:** IDEA reserves the right in its sole discretion, to modify the terms and conditions of the contest, cancel, terminate, and/or suspend the contest and to disqualify any entrant that tampers with the entry process, violates these official rules, or acts in a disruptive or unsportsmanlike manner.
- b. **Incidents:** Without limiting the foregoing, IDEA may modify, cancel, terminate, and/or suspend the contest if, in IDEA’s sole opinion, an incident of any kind occurs to corrupt or impair the administration, security, integrity, fairness or play (as intended) of the contest, including without limitation: (i) earthquake, flood, fire, storm or other natural disaster, act of God or (ii) labor controversy or threat thereof, civil disturbance or commotion, disruption of the public markets, war or armed conflict (whether or not officially declared).
- c. **Release:** By participating in this contest all entrants agree to release, indemnify and hold harmless IDEA from and against any liability, injury, death, loss or damages to entrant or any person or entity, including without limitation damage to personal or real property, caused in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, by reason of their participation in this contest (or related activities) or their acceptance, possession or use/misuse of a prize.
- d. **Publicity:** Except where prohibited, entrants hereby grant IDEA the right to use their names, likenesses, voices, opinions and biographical information for publicity or promotional purposes.
- e. **Entry Errors/Internet:** IDEA is not responsible for lost, late, incomplete, damaged, stolen, invalid, unintelligible or misdirected information. IDEA is not responsible for lost or late entries nor for electronic transmission errors resulting in omission, interruption, deletion, defect, delay in operations or theft or destruction or unauthorized access to or alterations of entry materials, or for technical, network, telephone equipment, electronic, computer, hardware or software malfunctions or limitations of any kind, or inaccurate transmissions of or failure to receive entry information by IDEA or presenter on account of technical problems or traffic congestion on the Internet or at any website or any combination thereof. If for any reason the program is not capable of running as planned, including infection by computer virus, bugs, tampering, unauthorized intervention, fraud, technical failures, or any other causes beyond the control of IDEA which corrupt or affect the administration, security, fairness, integrity, or proper conduct of this contest, IDEA reserves the right at its sole discretion, to disqualify any individual who tampers with the entry process, and to cancel, terminate, modify or suspend the contest. IDEA reserves the right to select winners from eligible entries received as of the termination date. If there is a dispute as to the identity of the entrant, the prize will be awarded to the authorized account holder of the email address. The “authorized account holder” is defined as the natural person to whom the email address is assigned.

8. SEVERABILITY

If any provision(s) of these official rules are held to be invalid or unenforceable, all remaining provisions hereof will remain in full force and effect.