

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Win Up to \$22,000 for Your Community!**

Mason City, Petersburg, and Virden residents will face off to compete for a chance to win up to \$22,000 for their community in the new Energy Education Challenge. Local nonprofit Elevate Energy will work with residents to educate their friends and neighbors on how to reduce their energy use; the community with the greatest participation will reap the greatest reward!

Thanks to a generous gift from the Illinois Science, Energy, and Innovation Foundation, Elevate Energy's Energy Education Challenge will award \$15,000 to the community with the most residents that get involved. The communities in second and third place will each receive \$10,000. In addition, the local organizations that most engage residents in the winning community will receive \$3,500 each, and two organizations in each of the two runner-up communities will receive \$2,000 each.

Engagement will be determined by a point system, where residents and community groups can earn points by signing up for energy efficiency programs, hosting or attending community education efforts, and reducing energy use. The Challenge is being facilitated by local nonprofit organization Elevate Energy.

Tina Williamson, Field Organizer for Elevate Energy, is working in the three communities to coordinate engagement. "It's so exciting to see people want to learn more about energy efficiency. The Community Challenge is great because it encourages people to spread that knowledge to their neighbors, and work together collectively to reduce their energy use," said Williamson. "Additionally, who doesn't love a little friendly competition to bring some money to their community?"

The challenge has just begun and will run through late October of this year. There are plenty of ways to get involved: residents can host Elevate Energy at their home to talk with their friends or community group about energy efficiency, join a volunteer team to engage their neighbors in the challenge, or enroll in energy efficiency programs, to name a few.

Contact Tina Williamson at [tina.williamson@elevateenergy.org](mailto:tina.williamson@elevateenergy.org) to learn more about how you can get involved and help your community win the grand prize.

*Elevate Energy works across Illinois and throughout the Midwest educating residents and implementing efficiency programs that lower costs, protect the environment, and ensure the benefits of energy efficiency reach those who need them most.*

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