



EMPOWER
A BILLION LIVES

YOU ARE INVITED TO COMPETE IN EMPOWER A BILLION LIVES 2025



Despite decades of efforts by governments and NGOs, around 675 million people in the world today still live with no access to electricity, 2.3 billion people have no access to clean cooking solutions, and 3 billion live with energy poverty so severe that it impacts their lives and livelihood. Climate change and new technologies, such as solar and EVs, could widen the gap between haves and have-nots even more. However, 21st century technologies also hold the promise of scalable solutions to abundant energy that are clean, affordable and equitable.

We are looking for passionate, enthusiastic and talented people and teams to come together and develop effective scalable solutions to energy access.



You can participate in EBL 2025 - a global biennial competition on Energy Access, and become part of creating transformative solutions. These solutions need to build on technical, business and regional know-how, and should propose, demonstrate, field-test and validate their solutions - thus reducing technical and market risk, accelerating time to scale and impact. Innovation can be in any area, including technology, business model or use of novel social networking aspects to get to scale and impact quickly.

Building on the success of Empower a Billion Lives (EBL) 2019 and 2023 - attracting over 500 teams from 70 countries with field demonstrations held energy access areas, there have been 20 prize winners in the various tracks, student prizes, honorable mentions, and a Global Grand Prize of at least **\$150,000 USD**



Teams are invited from across the globe - Open to all teams from companies, research organizations, entrepreneurial startups, student teams from colleges and universities.
Join the challenge that has provided over USD 1 Million in prizes and team support



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BE A PART OF THE EMPOWER A BILLION LIVES 2025 GLOBAL COMMUNITY



EBL 2025 Competition Tracks Include:

Technology Provider:

- Energy Supply
- End-Use/Productive Use/ Clean Cooking
- Enabling Technologies

Local Entrepreneurship Energy Resilience

- Teams can field-test in a in a representative community not in the Global South.

Student Teams:

- Student Teams are not required to field-test in an energy access community.



- Log in to www.empowerabillionlives.org and register your team.
 - Review the requirements and view the resources on the website.
 - Submit a brief 3-page Concept paper.
- The selection process will lead to field trials and the EBL 2025 Global Final in 2025.

EBL 2025 Global Final at the IEEE Southern Power Electronics Conference in Johannesburg, South Africa
29 November - 2 December 2025

- 1 November 2024 - Concept Paper Due
- 28 February 2025 - Full Proposal Due
- 30 June 2025 - Field Testing Ends