



NESEA/IMAGINING TOMORROW 2007 SCIENCE FAIR GUIDELINES AND RULES

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Our knowledge about clean energy technologies and our understanding of the implications for adopting them are increasing every day – much faster than textbooks and standard classroom materials can cover.

Because of this, NESEA, as part of the Imagining Tomorrow program in Massachusetts, is working with the Massachusetts State Science Fair (MSSF) this year to motivate and recognize student work in science on the issues of clean energy.

Now in its 57th year, the Massachusetts State Science Fair is both an opportunity and a showcase for inquiry-based learning in all areas of science. We are pleased to be able to join with them to present the following awards:

AWARDS:

- ✓ High-School Regional: The best qualifying project at each of the high-school regional science fairs will receive a cash award of \$125, a Certificate of Recognition, and a “Visionary in Residence” T-shirt.
- ✓ Middle-School Regional: The best qualifying project at each of the middle-school regional science fairs will receive a Certificate of Recognition, and a “Visionary in Residence” T-shirt.
- ✓ High-School and Middle School State Fairs: The two best qualifying projects at the high-school state fair level will each receive a cash award of \$125, as well as certificates and T-shirts; the two best qualifying projects at the state middle-school fair level will each receive certificates and T-shirts.

Please note that there are two paths to the State Fair: to be a winner at a regional fair, or to be a delegate directly from your school.

RULES TO QUALIFY:

1. At both the regional and state fairs, award recipients will be chosen from among the winners as selected by the MSSF organization. Please see the Massachusetts State Science and Engineering Fair website for any information about rules and entry procedures, <http://www.scifair.com/>, as well as for the dates of the fairs in your area.
2. The student project must be related to clean energy issues, technologies, or solutions. See guidelines for details and examples.
3. The student report required by the MSSF to accompany the entry should include information on how the project is connected to clean energy issues, technologies, and solutions.



GUIDELINES FOR PROJECTS:

All Clean Energy Award projects must focus on a topic that is related to clean energy issues, technologies, or solutions. This can be in any of the MSSF categories, from Astronomy, Biology, and Behavioral Science, through Electronics, Engineering to Math and Physics. You must include comments on the connection to clean energy in the report that you submit with the entry, although this only need be a paragraph or two.

Examples are:

Benefits of Renewable Energy: Explore or investigate a problem that could be addressed by the adoption of clean energy or reduced energy use.

Conversion of Renewable Energy Sources into Usable Power: Explore an energy conversion technology. These could include (but are not limited to) conversion of solar radiation into electrical, hot water, space heat (as in passive solar design) or lighting; the use of wind power and the factors that result in an appropriate design; hydropower and related technologies; or projects that look at factors related to the use of biomass for fuel.

Improved Efficiency of Energy Use: Explore how to accomplish a specific task with less energy. This could include (but is not limited to) studies of technological systems or comparisons between technological and biological energy transformations.

Reduced Energy Use through Behavioral Changes: Explore or investigate the how, what, where, or when of human behavior that can lead to or result in a reduction of energy use. These may include surveys of human behavior or motivation, behavior experiments, or statistical analysis of human behavior.

For additional potential examples, check out "Questions to Consider: [About Science and Technology](#)" at www.itomorrow.theforesightproject.org.

Any questions should be addressed to itomorrow@nesea.org.

Use your imagination and enjoy your journey of discovery!