

## Rules and Guidelines for *Focus on Energy* Film Festival

SCARCE has the final say on all decision and the review of the submitted short videos (hereinafter “Films”). These rules and guidelines are subject to change

### **Overall goal of the Festival:**

Students will create Films in world languages that highlight the electrical smart grid while effectively reaching an audience that does not normally respond to educational efforts in English. Students are also encouraged to show cultural awareness and sensitivity when making the Films in their native language.

### **Festival schedule:**

Films must be submitted by February 28, 2017, unless the deadline is extended by SCARCE.

Overall schedule:

- January 20 – Teams submit applications and register for workshop.
- January 28 – Student workshop and video camera training.
- February 28 – Deadline for submitting Films for judging.
- April 23 – *Focus on Energy* Film Festival.

### **Film format:**

Films must be no longer than 3 minutes in length to be considered for prizes. Filmmakers must submit a high definition MP4 video file, regardless of which editing software you are using to edit your Film. The data rate must exceed 20 mbps in order to project your Film at any screening or event.

**Procedure for submission:** Films must be uploaded to the SCARCE website. Complete the form and upload the video by February 28, 2017, at <https://www.scarce.org/film-festival-video-submission/>

### **Film topics:**

As required by the Illinois Science and Energy Innovation Foundation (ISEIF), which is providing the grant money that makes this Festival possible, each Film must contain a reference to smart meters and the smart grid and have a message relevant to that topic. Please find an introduction to the smart grid at <https://www.comed.com/Pages/default.aspx#> Otherwise, film makers are encouraged to go in novel and creative directions that are culturally appropriate.



**Equipment:**

Film maker may choose to use their own camera but it must have the capability to capture video in HD so that the Film will be suitable for a wide screen projection system at a movie theater. We do not recommend that you use cell phones for Films to be shown in a wide format movie theater.

SCARCE will loan video cameras and tripods to those who need them. After the project is complete, camera equipment may be donated to sponsoring schools and houses of worship and cultural organizations.

**Video editing software:**

Film makers are permitted to use any type of software to edit your Film. Adobe Premiere Elements 14 or 15 will be provided to you free of charge if desired.

PLEASE NOTE: While this equipment is provided for free, if any loss or damage occurs to any equipment, peripherals, or cords, teams may be financially responsible for its loss.

**Filming guidelines:**

Film makers must use English subtitles. Professional translators will assure that translations are literally and culturally accurate.

**Nudity, dangerous or violent behavior, use of drugs or alcohol, offensive language, or hate speech is strictly prohibited. Any use of these offenses will result in dismissal from the program and disqualification from the contest. Borrowed equipment will be immediately returned.**

**Copyrights:**

Film makers are not permitted to include any copyrighted music or performance in your Film without a release from all copyright holders. If music is purchased teams must provide a receipt of purchase along with the video submission.

Filmmakers may use your own music or use public domain sources. Be aware that the artists listed on the public domain sites may have specific requirements that you are expected to follow. All music must be cited in the credits of the Film whether it is free or not.

Do not use any trademarks (logos, symbols, characters, etc.) in your Film. This may disqualify your Film from being shown at the Festival.

**Judging criteria:**

Films will be judged on the following criteria, each of which will be weighted equally:

- Script/story – how well does the Film educate on the smart grid and smart meter,
- Creativity – how did the Film affect the viewer, producing an emotional response,



- Originality – was it a unique effort, and
- Technical aspects – quality of cinematography, sound design and soundtrack, editing, special effects.

For the People’s Choice Category, teams will have the opportunity to self-promote their Film through social media and other means for a fixed period of time (to be defined). The winner will be determined by the number of votes tallied for each Film that will be listed on the *Focus on Energy* Film festival website.

**Prize details:**

Cash prizes of up to \$5,000 will be awarded to the teams with the winning film in the following categories:

- Best College Film
- Best High School Film, and
- People's Choice Awards for High School and College Teams.

Prize money will be distributed evenly among team members, not to exceed \$5,000 per team and/or \$1,000 per team member. For example, a winning team of 4 would receive \$4,000 so that each member receives \$1,000. A winning team of 6 would receive \$5,000 so that each member receives \$833.33.

**Eligibility:**

Only valid team members that are currently affiliated students with a sponsoring educational or cultural organization are eligible for prizes. We reserve the right to verify affiliations.

**Composition of teams:**

Valid team members must be students, in good standing, and currently registered in classes at the participating educational institution. Teams must be registered in advance of filming. A team includes any registered group of members who perform creative and technical work in a way that contributes to the creation of the Film. Film makers may film individuals who appear in the Film who are not team members. These individuals will not be recipients of prize money. Release forms signed by anyone participating in the production of your Film is required.

**Exposure:**

These films whether they win or not, may be used in cooperation with ISEIF on websites all over Illinois. They may be used at other educational events. Student teams must agree that SCARCE and ISEIF will have rights to show the Film in order to be eligible for prize money.



**Sponsoring organizations:**

SCARCE thanks ISEIF for its support of this project. ISEIF was created to inform and engage Illinois consumers in the transformation to a digital electric grid. ISEIF accomplishes this through funding innovative education, outreach, and research projects in correspondence with smart meter deployment timelines. See <http://www.iseif.org/>

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*Focus on Energy* Film Festival Rules and Guidelines



## Terms and Conditions of Entry

1. I, the representative of the project being submitted (the “Film”), acknowledge and agree as follows in connection with the Film’s submittal for consideration for the SCARCE Focus on Energy Film Festival (the “Festival”) and future use by SCARCE and ISEIF.
2. I hereby represent and warrant to the Festival that (a) I am duly authorized, on my own behalf and on behalf of all other persons or entities who have any ownership rights in the Film, to exhibit this Film at the Festival, (b) this exhibition will not violate any law or any right or consent of any person or entity and (c) the Film is not subject to litigation nor is it threatened by any litigation.
3. I further represent and warrant that, to the best of my knowledge, the exhibition of the Film at the Festival will not violate or infringe any copyright, patent, privacy right, publicity right, trademark, service mark or any other personal or property right of any person or entity and that my Film does not constitute a defamation of any person or entity.
4. If accepted, I acknowledge that the Festival’s presentation of the Film does not create any confidential or fiduciary relationship between the Festival and I. I understand that I will not receive any compensation for such exploitation. I acknowledge that no obligation of any kind is assumed by or may be implied against the Festival because of the Festival’s acceptance of the Film. I understand and acknowledge that the selection of my Film by the Festival does not in any way constitute an express or implied endorsement or approval by the Festival of the content of the Film or any opinion expressed therein.
5. I agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Festival, the affiliate, subsidiary and parent entities of each, and the officers, directors, employees, attorneys, advisors and agents of each of the foregoing from and against any and all claims, losses, or liabilities (including reasonable attorneys’ fees) that may be asserted against any of the foregoing or incurred by any of the foregoing at any time in connection with the Film or the Festival’s use thereof, and/or arising from any breach or alleged breach of any representation made by me to the Festival.
6. In the event that the Film is accepted into the official Festival program, myself and all other parties involved with the Film agree that the Film will not associate with nor receive support from corporations during or related to the Film’s participation in the Festival that are not official sponsors or supporters of the Festival without prior written consent of the Festival. Methods of support include: hosting a dinner, party or junket for or in conjunction with the Film, providing media space for roundtable or one-on-one interviews, etc.
7. If accepted, I hereby grant without reservations, to the Festival and to SCARCE and ISEIF the complete rights to the film. This includes but is not limited to (a) the right to use footage, stills and/or titles, and information from the Film for promotional purposes and (b) the right to issue



and authorize publicity concerning the filmmakers and the Film and to use all associated names, likenesses and biographical information as well as beyond the needs and desires of the festival. The Film may be used wherever SCARCE and ISEIF choose. I also agree to provide contact information for the director and producer(s) of the Film and grant the Festival the right to provide this information to organizations sponsoring Festival events at its discretion.

8. I represent that I am 18 years of age or older, or that if I am younger than the legal age to enter into contracts in my state, I have provided a written consent from my parent or legal guardian. I agree that any controversy arising out of or in connection with my Film and the Festival will be governed by the internal laws of the State of Illinois. I hereby waive any and all rights and benefits which I might otherwise have or be entitled to litigate any such dispute in court, including without limitation a trial by jury.

9. I acknowledge that I have read and understood the rules and regulations for submitting a Film to the Festival.

10. By completing my submission on <https://www.SCARCE.org>, I acknowledge that this constitutes my full and complete acceptance of the terms hereof. I acknowledge that no oral representations of any kind have been made by the Festival.

Team name: \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_

Language used: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature:

Student name (print) \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or guardian (if applicable):

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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## Equipment Checkout Form

Team name \_\_\_\_\_

School or organization \_\_\_\_\_

Contact info:

Name	Phone	Email address

Equipment description:

Equipment received by (Printed Name) \_\_\_\_\_

Student signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

All members sign?

Equipment checked out to student by: \_\_\_\_\_

**Equipment return (SCARCE use only)**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Received by: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes:

