

Announcing the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon® Mentor Program!

Program Details

The U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon® Mentor Program pairs Solar Decathlon alumni with 2021 Design Challenge teams. The Mentor Program is intended to lower the barrier to entry for first-year teams and help them learn the ins and outs of the competition; however, all teams are welcome to apply. Mentors provide support to student teams during the competition period, from November 2020–April 2021; mentor support may include nontechnical review and feedback on project direction, deliverables, and presentation. Solar Decathlon Design Challenge or Build Challenge alumni from any competition year may become mentors.

Commitment

- Mentors commit to providing up to 15 hours of support for student teams during the competition.
- Mentors work with only one collegiate institution and should not complete any project work on the team's behalf.
- Student teams will be responsible for leading the relationship with their mentor, including scheduling meetings and completing follow-up work. Teams are expected to keep mentors updated on their project's progress and outcomes.

Benefits

- The Mentor Program will foster growth in mentors' leadership skills while helping teams achieve success in the Design Challenge through critical project feedback and advice; this is expected to be particularly beneficial for students with limited experience in the competition.
- Mentors will be recognized on the official Solar Decathlon website and social media channels and receive a certificate from the U.S. Department of Energy.
- Mentors will be invited to participate virtually in the Solar Decathlon Competition Event on April 16–18, 2021, which will include opportunities to network with industry expert jurors, sponsors, and other Solar Decathletes.

Please contact the Solar Decathlon organizers at SDdesign@nrel.gov if you are interested in becoming a mentor, or if your 2021 Design Challenge team would like to be paired with a mentor.