

2017



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

SOLAR DECATHLON

## MEDIA RESOURCES

### MEDIA CONTACTS

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#### Solar Decathlon Online and Multimedia Resources

	Visit <a href="http://www.SolarDecathlon.gov">www.SolarDecathlon.gov</a> , check out our online <a href="#">media resources section</a> , view and share our <a href="#">videos</a> and <a href="#">photos</a> .
	Download high-resolution images on the Solar Decathlon Flickr page: <a href="http://www.flickr.com/photos/solar_decathlon">www.flickr.com/photos/solar_decathlon</a>
	Watch video content: <a href="http://www.youtube.com/doesolardecathlon">www.youtube.com/doesolardecathlon</a>
	Like our page on Facebook: <a href="http://www.facebook.com/DOESolarDecathlon">www.facebook.com/DOESolarDecathlon</a>
	Follow the Twitter account: <a href="https://twitter.com/DOESolarDecathlon">@DOESolarDecathlon</a> and join the conversation: <a href="#">#SD2017</a> , <a href="#">#SolarDecathlon</a> , and <a href="#">#SolarDecathlon2017</a>
	Take a snap using the Solar Decathlon geofilter and add it to our story!
	Check us out on Instagram and post your own pics! <a href="https://instagram.com/doesolardecathlon/">https://instagram.com/doesolardecathlon/</a>
	Browse and share our design renderings and more on Pinterest: <a href="http://pinterest.com/energy/solar-decathlon">http://pinterest.com/energy/solar-decathlon</a>



+1 our Google+ page: <https://plus.google.com/114448452386743774310>



Read the Solar Decathlon blog: [www.SolarDecathlon.gov/blog/](http://www.SolarDecathlon.gov/blog/)

### Media Registration

Members of the media are encouraged to register in advance by visiting [here](#). All media should visit the on-site media trailer within the Solar Decathlon village at the 61<sup>st</sup> and Peña Station on the University of Colorado A line commuter rail in Denver, Colorado. Outlets that are interested in visiting the Solar Decathlon before **October 4**, please email us [here](#), or call us at 202-28-SOLAR (76527).

### General Media Access

Key Media Days	October 4-5 and October 14
Open to the Public	October 5-8, 11:00 AM – 7:00 PM October 9, 1:00 PM – 7:00 PM October 12-15, 11:00 AM – 7:00 PM

### Media Parking

There will be a designated lot, along with some off-street parking, for media. Please contact us at 202-28-SOLAR (76527) or email us [here](#) to make arrangements if you have equipment needs.

### Access to Houses Outside of Public Hours or on Closed Days

The Solar Decathlon is open to the public Oct. 5-9 and Oct. 12-15. The event is closed to the public Oct. 10-11, while the houses are evaluated for the competition. To access the Solar Decathlon village outside of public hours, please make special arrangements with the event media contacts.

### Advance Access for House Assembly/Construction

Trucks roll onto event site & assembly begins	September 23, 8:00 AM
House assembly	September 23 – October 3

**Media who wish to be on-site during assembly must pre-register** by sending an email to [SolarDecathlonMediaRelations@ee.doe.gov](mailto:SolarDecathlonMediaRelations@ee.doe.gov). Those on-site during assembly must be prepared with personal protective equipment (which includes a hard hat, safety glasses, a shirt with at least 3-inch sleeves, long pants, a safety vest, and hard-toed, over-the-ankle boots). You will also need to complete a waiver and emergency medical forms when you arrive and be accompanied through the event site by a Solar Decathlon organizer with an Event Security ID.

### Video Crews

No special permitting is required for news or video crews (unless using footage to produce a commercial film) at the 61<sup>st</sup> and Peña Station during the Solar Decathlon.

## MEDIA EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

In addition to the hours the event is open to the public listed above, we invite the media to:

Media Preview Day – October 4	Program & guided tour of Solar Decathlon village & access to teams, houses and organizers for interviews and visual opportunities	10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
	All-team photo in Solar Decathlon village	8:00 AM – 8:30 AM
	Media set-up and advance seating	9:00 AM – 9:30 AM
	Opening Ceremony featuring keynote address from Deputy Energy Secretary Dan Brouillette	9:30 AM – 11:00 AM
	Interview availability and house access	11:00 AM – 7:00 PM
Final Awards Presentation – October 14	Program and winner announcement featuring Acting Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy Daniel Simmons	9:30 AM – 11:00 AM

Additional announcements throughout the week:

- Architecture & Water Contest Results: Thursday, October 12, 10:00 AM
- Innovation & Communications Contest Results: Friday, October 13, 10:00 AM
- Engineering & Market Potential Contest Results: Saturday, October 14, 9:30 AM
  - Announced in conjunction with overall winner

### B-roll & Video Available

B-roll will be made available on our [Solar Decathlon Vimeo](#) page immediately after the Opening Ceremony on Oct. 5, and then again after the conclusion of the Final Awards Presentation on Oct. 14. You can also access our broadcast-quality video through our online Media Resources (<https://www.solardecathlon.gov/2017/media-resources.html>).

## WHERE IS 61<sup>ST</sup> AND PEÑA STATION?

The U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon 2017 takes place at the RTD (Regional Transportation District) 61st & Peña Station on the University of Colorado A line commuter rail. 61<sup>st</sup> and Peña Station is situated one stop from Denver International Airport, and six stops from Union Station in downtown Denver, Colorado.

The address for the station is 6045 N. Richfield St., Denver, Colorado. The event site is in an area just to the east of N. Richfield St. Free parking will be available for media (see above). Public parking costs \$2.00 in the solar-covered parking lot operated by RTD. Look for signs to parking. The RTD lot is closest to the event site.

If you have questions, please email John Horst, U.S. Department of Energy at [SolarDecathlonMediaRelations@ee.doe.gov](mailto:SolarDecathlonMediaRelations@ee.doe.gov).

### Driving Directions to the Solar Decathlon Village – By Car

#### 70 East

- Exit Peña Blvd towards airport
- Exit E. 56<sup>th</sup> Avenue and turn right
- Turn left at Tower Road
- Turn left at 61<sup>st</sup> Avenue
- Follow the road signs to parking

#### From the Airport

- Follow Peña Blvd west
- Exit Tower Road and turn left
- Turn right at 61<sup>st</sup> Avenue (N. Richfield St.)
- Follow the road signs to parking

### By Public Transportation

We encourage event attendees to use public transportation, if possible. Regularly scheduled trains arrive at 61<sup>st</sup> and Peña Station during the Solar Decathlon public exhibit hours. See Regional Transportation District's A line schedule [here](#).

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### WHAT IS THE SOLAR DECATHLON?

The U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon is a collegiate competition of 10 contests that challenge student teams to design and build full-size, energy-efficient solar houses. The winner is the team that best blends design excellence and smart energy production with innovation, market potential, and water and energy efficiency. Solar Decathlon 2017 will also feature a sustainability expo, professional development and consumer workshops, and middle school education events.

### WHERE WILL THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY SOLAR DECATHLON 2017 TAKE PLACE?

Solar Decathlon 2017 will be located in Denver, adjacent to the 61st & Peña station on the University of [Colorado A line commuter train](#) connecting Denver International Airport to downtown Union Station.

### WHEN IS THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY SOLAR DECATHLON 2017 OPEN TO THE PUBLIC?

The Solar Decathlon village and competition houses are open to the public, free of charge for nine days over two long weekends:

- Thursday, Oct. 5–Sunday, Oct. 8, 2017: 11 a.m.–7 p.m.
- Monday, Oct. 9, 2017: 1 p.m.–7 p.m.
- Thursday, Oct. 12–Sunday, Oct. 15, 2017: 11 a.m.–7 p.m.

During the remaining dates and times, the Solar Decathlon village is closed to the public for competition activities.

### IS THE SOLAR DECATHLON ONLY ABOUT SOLAR?

The U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon is about more than just “solar.” The houses are highly energy-efficient in all ways. Each team builds a self-sufficient house powered by solar energy that also showcases energy-efficient amenities and smart home systems that reduce energy use without sacrificing the comfort of modern conveniences. The energy-efficient houses created by the Solar Decathlon teams demonstrate that improving energy efficiency in our homes is one of the easiest ways to save money and energy.

The Solar Decathlon also features other innovative ideas and consumer products, such as:

- New modular construction strategies to reduce construction waste and increase the flexibility and affordability of efficient houses;
- Strategies for minimizing water use and maximizing water re-use, such as greywater reclamation, filtration and re-use; rainwater catchment and filtration; low-flow fixtures; dry toilets; and native, low-water landscaping;
- Houses that feature key accessibility and design elements that provide easy access such as adjustable countertops and wheelchair accessibility; and
- Houses that respond to a diverse set of local issues such as extreme weather, high real-estate costs, and challenges with urban in-fill.

## WHO COMPETES IN THE SOLAR DECATHLON?

Teams from colleges and universities across the globe participate in the Solar Decathlon. Today's students are tomorrow's engineers, architects, scientists, entrepreneurs, and homeowners. The Solar Decathlon encourages students to incorporate energy and water efficiency and clean energy into their future professional projects and personal lives. The competition fosters collaboration among students from different academic disciplines, including engineering, architecture, interior design, business, marketing, and communications, who otherwise might not work together until they enter the workplace.

## WHICH TEAMS ARE COMPETING IN SOLAR DECATHLON 2017?

- Las Vegas: University of Nevada, Las Vegas (Las Vegas, Nevada)
- Maryland: University of Maryland (College Park, Maryland)
- Missouri S&T: Missouri University of Science and Technology (Rolla, Missouri)
- Netherlands: HU University of Applied Science Utrecht (Utrecht, Netherlands)
- Northwestern: Northwestern University (Evanston, Illinois)
- Swiss Team: École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, School of Engineering and Architecture Fribourg, Geneva University of Art and Design, and the University of Fribourg (Lausanne, Switzerland)
- Team Alabama: University of Alabama at Birmingham and Calhoun Community College (Birmingham, Alabama)
- Team Daytona Beach: Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and Daytona State College (Daytona Beach, Florida)
- UC Berkeley/U of Denver: University of California at Berkeley and University of Denver (Berkeley, California)
- UC Davis: University of California, Davis (Davis, California)
- Wash U St. Louis: Washington University (St. Louis, Missouri)

## HOW ARE THE COMPETITORS SELECTED?

Teams composed of faculty and students from post-secondary institutions submit proposals and plans for consideration. Applications are evaluated by a panel of engineers, scientists, and building experts. Teams are required to meet specific criteria to demonstrate their ability to design and build an innovative, entirely solar-powered house; raise funds; support the project through well-integrated curricula; and assemble a team to carry the project through to completion. In addition, a panel of professionals evaluates conceptual designs from proposers. The results of their evaluations, combined with scores based specific criteria determine the Solar Decathlon teams.

## HOW MANY STUDENTS HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THE SOLAR DECATHLON OVER THE YEARS?

The U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon has positively impacted more than 35,000 collegiate participants in 274 collegiate teams competing worldwide, including the flagship U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon, Solar Decathlon Europe, Solar Decathlon China, and Solar Decathlon Latin America and Caribbean.

## WHAT TYPES OF ACADEMIC DISCIPLINES ARE INVOLVED IN THE SOLAR DECATHLON?

Solar Decathlon teams are multi-disciplinary. In most cases, the teams include students studying:

- Architecture
- Engineering, for example mechanical, structural, and architectural
- Construction management
- Building science
- Interior design
- Communications and various related specialties, such as marketing communications, public relations, graphic design, Web design, and writing
- Business and marketing.

Teams often represent multiple institutions to ensure all the required disciplines are involved. Many teams include students in trade programs such as construction or building science, heating, ventilation and air conditioning, technician training, and solar installer training. Teams are also allowed to reach out to local professional and trades communities to involve and learn from qualified professionals active in many fields.

## WHAT ARE THE 10 SOLAR DECATHLON 2017 CONTESTS?

1. **Architecture:** A jury of architects evaluates each team's architectural concept and design approach; the implementation of the design and its innovative features; and required documentation for the project.
2. **Market Potential:** Teams design a primary residence for year-round occupancy for a specific target client. A jury of professionals from the homebuilding industry evaluates the overall attractiveness of each team's design to its selected target client and the market impact potential of the house.
3. **Engineering:** A jury of engineers evaluates the engineering design and implementation of each team's house based on the engineering approach, design, efficiency, and performance.
4. **Communications:** A jury of communications professionals evaluates each team's communication strategies, materials, and efforts to educate, inform, and interest the team's local communities, visiting public at the event, and diverse online audiences.
5. **Innovation:** This is a new contest for Solar Decathlon 2017. A jury of industry professionals will evaluate each team's research, approach to sustainability, innovations for the target client, and durability and safety of innovative elements, while also evaluating whether the price is right for the target client.
6. **Water:** Solar Decathlon 2017 is rewarding smart water solutions for the first time. A jury of industry professionals evaluates each team's approach to water conservation, water use and reclamation, and landscaping water impacts.
7. **Health and Comfort:** Team houses must minimize the flow of cooled air in summer or heated air in winter to the outdoors, operate heating and cooling systems that keep temperature and humidity steady, all while maintaining healthy indoor air quality.
8. **Appliances:** The Appliances Contest is designed to mimic the appliance use of an average U.S. home. Teams earn points for operating their refrigerator and freezer, washing and drying laundry, and simulating cooking tasks and hot showers.

9. **Home life:** Teams are required to engage in common household activities that use electricity. They cook and share meals with friends and neighbors, watch television, use computers, and host game nights. And, for five days, they “commute” at least 25 miles in an electric vehicle charged by the house solar electric system.
10. **Energy:** The Energy Contest evaluates each team's energy production and a theoretical value to a utility of the energy each team both contributes to and takes from the Solar Decathlon electricity grid. For the first time, this contest includes real-time energy pricing.

### HOW IS THE 2017 COMPETITION DIFFERENT FROM PREVIOUS COMPETITIONS?

The U.S. Department of Energy’s Solar Decathlon 2017 is the eighth edition of the competition. Each edition is slightly different, evolving as industry and market conditions change. Following each competition, DOE evaluates lessons learned, team feedback, and other factors to revise the contests and rules for the following competition. With varying levels of emphases, Solar Decathlons have included contests that challenge collegiate teams to address:

- Architectural and engineering design, and building science
- Energy efficiency through contests such as Appliances, Home Entertainment, Lighting, and Hot Water
- Home comfort—indoor temperature, humidity, and air quality—through the Comfort Zone or Health and Comfort contests
- Transportation with an electric vehicle, sometimes through a dedicated Getting Around or Commuting contest, or wrapped into another contest such as Home Life
- Energy production using solar energy systems. These were stand alone in the early years of the competition, but became tied to the grid beginning in 2009. Like the Energy Balance contests of the past, the 2017 Energy contest evaluates the teams’ abilities to achieve a net zero energy consumption during the competition by generating as much electricity from solar as they use. New for 2017 is the “energy value” component of the contest, which is designed to mimic the utility arrangements such as net-metering agreements and time-of-use electricity rates that a consumer with solar-powered house may have. Time-of-use rates are typically based on the idea that electricity is in greater demand, and thus more expensive, during the times of day that temperatures are highest and most people are awake and at home using significant electricity.
- Also new this year is the Water Contest, which rewards smart water solutions. Always ahead of their time, past Solar Decathlon teams have consistently integrated water use and reuse strategies into their designs, even though no points were awarded for this effort. Criteria for the Water Contest include water conservation, reclamation and reuse, and considerations of water use in landscape design. This new contest is important not only because water is a precious resource (particularly in Denver and the western U.S.), but also because water and energy are inextricably linked—it takes water to make the energy we use, and it takes energy to treat and deliver the clean water we require.

The Solar Decathlon website features more information about the [Solar Decathlon 2017 contests](#), including full technical details in the [Solar Decathlon 2017 Rules](#).

## WHAT GOES INTO BUILDING AND OPERATING A SOLAR DECATHLON HOUSE?

The student teams spend almost two years designing and building their houses and preparing for the competition. Students test their houses to ensure optimal energy production and maximum efficiency.

The competition places demands on the buildings' energy systems to maintain the house within a certain temperature range, to provide lighting, to run appliances, and much more. The houses generate energy with photovoltaic (also called solar electric) systems that produce electricity and with solar thermal systems for space heating and cooling and water heating.

## WHAT IS A SOLAR DECATHLON HOUSE MADE OF?

The seven U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlons have seen houses constructed from a wide-variety of materials from traditional wood frame to structural insulated panel construction to those using marine technologies or those using new construction techniques. Following are houses from the recent [2015 Solar Decathlon](#) that feature a variety of construction materials and techniques:

**[Stevens Institute of Technology](#), First Place, Solar Decathlon 2015:** The Stevens team was motivated to minimize damage from storms such as Superstorm Sandy, which devastated Hoboken, New Jersey, where Stevens is located. The team made several innovative design decisions for SURE HOUSE:

- An innovative composite sheathing that wraps the underside of the house keeps up to 6 feet of floodwater from entering the structure.
- A rainscreen system on its façade to allow drainage and evaporation.
- An open web wooden truss floor system allows for airflow, which minimizes rotting, mold, and structural issues, if water does penetrate the structure.

**[Clemson University](#), Solar Decathlon 2015:** For its Indigo Pine house, Clemson created a unique framing system, called Sim[PLY], in which each component is individually numbered, flat-packed, and shipped to the building site to be assembled in a three-dimensional puzzle. Sim[PLY] components lock together with a tab-and-slot connection secured by stainless steel zip ties.

**[Crowder University](#), Solar Decathlon 2015:** Crowder, located in Missouri, designed its ShelterR<sup>3</sup> house to survive tornadoes. It includes a multi-layered wall assembly of sheathing, polycarbonate, and fiber cement cladding, and an enveloping impact-resistant fence make the house formidably strong.

Information about Solar Decathlon houses from past competitions can be found in the Solar Decathlon website's [History section](#).

## HOW MUCH DO THE HOUSES COST?

The construction costs of the team houses vary. As part of the [Market Potential contest](#), each team chooses a specific target market for which they design the house. And for the [Innovation Contest](#), teams are encouraged to take innovative approaches to design rather than limiting themselves to the most affordable or off-the-shelf products. Evaluation criteria in both contests encourage teams to keep a practical eye on the cost effectiveness and overall benefits of their choices to the target market.

## WHAT HAPPENS TO THE HOUSES AFTER THE COMPETITION?

Some of the houses are sold to recover costs or raise money for future teams. Some houses are used for student housing or as residences for park rangers or faculty. Most of the houses, however, are used for research and are on display for [public tours](#) at their respective universities. Learn more about each of the houses from the following Solar Decathlon competitions:

- [2015](#)
- [2013](#)
- [2011](#)
- [2009](#)
- [2007](#)
- [2005](#)
- [2002](#)

## WHY IS THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY SOLAR DECATHLON IMPORTANT?

The U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon inspires and challenges college students to think creatively about energy innovation in design throughout their education and professional lives. The competition requires colleges and universities to integrate requirements of the competition, such as energy-efficiency and renewable energy system design, into curricula. Competition rules also require a multidisciplinary approach, ensuring that students from different disciplines who normally don't work together must work together, learn from each other, and experience the wide variety of clean energy and sustainable design workforce opportunities. Indeed, success in the competition is only possible with the enormous and coordinated effort of a multidisciplinary team. The Solar Decathlon is truly a unique experience.

The combination of new curricula and students working across disciplines, before they enter the workplace, means that solar decathletes are uniquely prepared to transform the status quo in the residential building industry and many other areas of the economy as well. Wherever their professional paths lead, they take the knowledge and passion they acquire in the Solar Decathlon with them, building new businesses that fuel innovation and the clean energy economy.

The solar decathletes not only learn from their participation in the competition, they are also teaching and inspiring others at the same time. Through free onsite public tours, the decathletes teach tens of thousands of Solar Decathlon visitors, and thousands of middle school teachers and kids who participate in education activities at the event. Many others learn from the students virtually through videos, information, and designs available by visiting team websites and [www.solarDecathlon.gov](http://www.solarDecathlon.gov).

## WHY IS THE SOLAR DECATHLON IMPORTANT TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY?

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proud to support the Solar Decathlon and other DOE [student competitions](#). These competitions are key to DOE's efforts to provide workforce development opportunities to ensure employers have the qualified workers they need to support domestic job growth in the clean energy industry. Clean energy is domestic energy and includes renewable energy and energy efficiency. Energy efficiency supports the domestic energy industry by ensuring those resources, and the jobs required to develop those resources, will last for generations to come, while also minimizing costs to the consumer. Renewable energy is an increasingly important part of the U.S. domestic energy portfolio, providing energy security through independence from foreign sources of energy and greater resiliency through a diversity of fuel sources. Renewable energy provides consumers with greater energy choice and opportunities to save money and gain energy independence.

The Solar Decathlon provides a unique training opportunity to the next generation of clean energy professionals, such as architects, engineers, entrepreneurs, and more. The competition offers a multi-disciplinary, collaborative, hands-on, real-life experience that students rarely have the opportunity for in college, or in graduate school.

The Solar Decathlon is more than a student competition focused on workforce development. It is DOE's largest public outreach event. The event provides a live demonstration of many of the energy saving and innovative technologies available to consumers that are based on DOE investments over many years. The Solar Decathlon enables the visiting public to touch and feel the future of energy in our homes, businesses, and even our vehicles.

### WHY SHOULD EMPLOYERS BE INTERESTED IN THE SOLAR DECATHLON?

The U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon is an internship like no other. Prospective employers can feel confident that solar decathletes are filled with all the energy, enthusiasm, passion, learned skills, and innovative thinking they could hope for. And even better, these important qualities are tempered by the reality of hands-on experience. Solar Decathletes have been directly involved in formulating big new ideas and designing what's never been done before. They have also had to build what they design on time and within a budget. And they must ensure that what they built actually works well. Holding such responsibility and accountability for a project start to finish, solar decathletes gain unparalleled readiness to begin their professional careers.

### WHAT IS STEM EDUCATION, AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

STEM stands for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Each of these four subject areas touches some aspect of our lives, businesses, industries, and governments every day. STEM is everywhere, so it's incredibly important that students at all levels are provided STEM educational and workforce development opportunities. The Solar Decathlon provides STEM opportunities in all four areas—science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Examples of STEM education success stories from Solar Decathlon 2015 include:

- Students from Steven's Institute of Technology in Hoboken were personally affected by the flooding, power outages, and destruction of an estimated 350,000 homes in the wake of Hurricane Sandy. Their answer, the [SURE HOUSE](#), winner of Solar Decathlon 2015, made a strong case for disaster-proof living: it "floats" above floodwaters in a completely storm-resistant shell, supplies power when the grid is down using a storm-rugged PV system, and boasts surplus power to charge electronic devices for neighbors without electricity.
- [ShelteR3](#), [DURA House](#), and [Casa del Sol](#) (drought-resistant) also addressed the disaster-proof theme. The Crowder College and Drury University Shelter team was personally impacted by the Joplin Tornado and determined to come up with a solution that delivers minimal assembly, storm-resistance, and easy deployment during storm recovery efforts.
- Innovating in the green building trades: Clemson's [Indigo Pine](#) home requires no special machinery in construction. Clemson engineered an innovative structural system called Sim[PLY] that assembles like a jigsaw puzzle, reducing house plans to a set of digital files that can be emailed anywhere in the world and cut out on a router.
- STEM Workforce: [Cal Poly's INHouse](#) 3rd place winner in Solar Decathlon 2015 demonstrates the success of the school's philosophy of "Learning by Doing." More than 100 students from the school participated in the project, which raised awareness about careers in clean energy and demanded academic rigor to design, build, and operate a winning contender in the event.

- STEM Workforce: Missouri Science & Technology's [NEST home](#) was designed as an educational vehicle to persuade visitors of the benefits of clean energy while training a next-generation workforce to design, build, and operate a solar efficiency home.

## WHAT ARE THE PRIZES FOR THE 2017 SOLAR DECATHLON?

For the first time in 2017, teams are eligible for cash prizes. At the end of the competition, the teams will be ranked according to their net score and will earn prizes as follows:

- 1st: \$300,000
- 2nd: \$225,000
- 3rd: \$150,000
- 4th: \$125,000
- 5th – and greater: \$100,000

## ABOUT THE IMPACT OF THE SOLAR DECATHLON

Since the first Solar Decathlon in 2002, the event has:

- Educated the public about the benefits, affordability, and availability of clean energy solutions by generating widespread media coverage and harnessing digital tools to reach millions of people.
- Established a worldwide reputation as a successful workforce development program and an engaging consumer education event offered free of charge to the public.
- Included 274 collegiate teams competing worldwide: the flagship U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon, Solar Decathlon Europe, Solar Decathlon China, and Solar Decathlon Latin America and Caribbean.
- Positively impacted more than 35,000 collegiate participants worldwide.
- Included 141 collegiate teams and more than 18,000 students in the competitions held in the United States.
- Expanded to Africa, China, Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East to involve an additional 133 teams and nearly 18,000 participants through Solar Decathlon Europe 2010 (Madrid, Spain), Solar Decathlon Europe 2012 (Madrid, Spain), Solar Decathlon China 2013 (Datong), Solar Decathlon Europe 2014 (Versailles, France), and Solar Decathlon Latin America and Caribbean 2015 (Santiago de Cali, Colombia). The first Solar Decathlon China was held in 2013 and another is planned for 2018. Solar Decathlon Middle East—to be held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates—is planning two events: the first in 2018 and the second in 2020. Solar Decathlon Africa, to be held in Morocco, is being planned for 2019. A second Solar Decathlon Latin America and the Caribbean will be held in Cali, Columbia in summer 2018.

In 2015, the Solar Decathlon:

- Welcomed more than 64,000 visitors
- Provided more than 300,000 house tours over 8 days
- Hosted more than 3,000 middle-school and high-school students and teachers
- Reached millions of readers and viewers in markets across the globe through newspapers, radio, TV, online coverage, social media channels, and face-to-face at the competition.



The past Solar Decathlon winning teams are:

- 2015 – Stevens Institute of Technology
- 2013 – Vienna University of Technology
- 2011 – University of Maryland
- 2009 – Technische Universität Darmstadt
- 2007 – Technische Universität Darmstadt
- 2005 – University of Colorado, Denver and Boulder
- 2002 – University of Colorado at Boulder

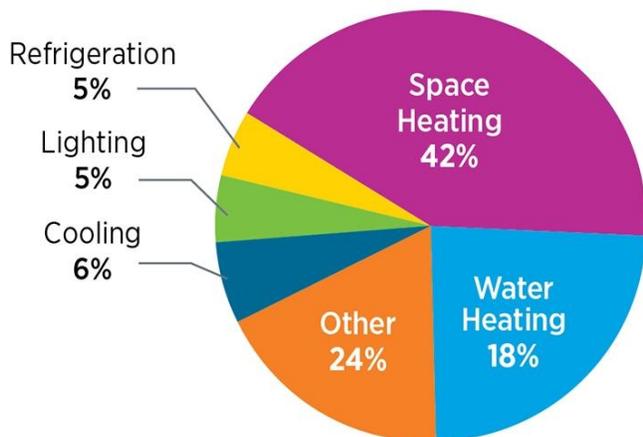


## ENERGY FACTS AND FIGURES

### RESIDENTIAL ENERGY USE

The U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon develops highly qualified workers for the growing U.S. solar, wind, and energy efficiency industries. According to the Energy Department's U.S. Energy and Employment [report](#) of January 2017:

- About 374,000 workers are employed full or part time by solar firms, with more than 260,000 full time
- The solar workforce increased by 25% in 2016
- Wind employment increased by 32% in 2016; 102,000 workers are employed in the field
- Veterans make up about 11% of the solar and wind workforce, as compared to 7% for the U.S. workforce overall.
- 2.2 million Americans are employed in the design, installation, and manufacture of energy efficiency products and services, which added 133,000 jobs in 2016.
- There are nearly 290,000 manufacturing jobs, producing Energy Star® certified products and energy efficient building materials in the United States.



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, AEO2014 Early Release Overview.

#### 5 Tips to Save Money by Saving Energy

1. Set your programmable thermostat
2. Seal your windows, doors, and ducts
3. Switch to energy-saving lighting
4. Look for ENERGY STAR appliances
5. Improve the insulation in your attic and walls

Learn more energy-saving tips at <https://energy.gov/energysaver/energy-saver>

### SAVE ENERGY AND MONEY

The typical U.S. family spends more than \$2,000 on utility bills each year. In 2015, energy expenditures for households exceeded \$247 billion. By making quick and affordable changes, Americans can save hundreds of dollars each year. For example, using a smart or programmable thermostat can help the average American family save up to 10% on heating and cooling bills per year. By upgrading the five most frequently used light fixtures or bulbs with models that have earned the ENERGY STAR, Americans can save \$45 each year. Families and businesses have saved more than \$430 billion with ENERGY STAR programs and appliances since its inception in 1992.

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY LEADERSHIP BIOGRAPHIES

These biographies of Department of Energy personnel are provided for members of the media reporting on the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon.



Dan Brouillette  
**Deputy Secretary of Energy**

Dan Brouillette is the Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy. Mr. Brouillette has three decades of experience in both the public and private sector. Most recently he was the Senior Vice President and head of public policy for USAA, the Nation's leading provider of financial services to the military community. Before joining USAA, Mr. Brouillette was a Vice President of Ford Motor Company, where he led the automaker's domestic policy teams and served on its North American Operating Committee.



Daniel Simmons  
**Acting Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy**

In his role as Acting Assistant Secretary for the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE), Daniel Simmons leads EERE to achieve its vision of a strong and prosperous America powered by clean, affordable, and secure energy. He oversees technology development in the energy efficiency, renewable power and sustainable transportation sectors. Daniel is also serving as EERE's Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary. He previously served on the Presidential Transition Team. Before joining the Department of Energy, Daniel served as the Institute for Energy Research's Vice President for Policy, overseeing its energy and environmental policy work at the state and federal level.



Linda Silverman  
**Solar Decathlon Director**

Linda Silverman is Director of the Department of Energy's [Solar Decathlon](#), an award-winning design competition that increases public awareness of renewable energy, energy efficiency and innovative building design. The Solar Decathlon challenges university schools of architecture and engineering to design, build and operate highly efficient solar powered houses. Linda has been at the Energy Department since 1988, and has worked on a variety of issues, including workforce development and education, renewable energy market analysis, and climate change policy. Linda holds an M.A. in International Affairs from the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies and a B.S. in Finance from the University of Colorado.