



U.S. DEPARTMENT
OF ENERGY
SOLAR
DECATHLON



About the Solar Decathlon

The U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon® is a collegiate competition, comprising 10 contests which challenge student teams to design and build highly efficient and innovative buildings powered by renewable energy. Winning teams blend design excellence and smart energy production with innovation, market potential, and building efficiency. The Solar Decathlon offers collegiate teams a unique opportunity to develop critical career skills that prepare them to enter the clean energy workforce. This Solar Decathlon, which spans 2019 and 2020, gives teams the option to participate in one of two Challenges: the Design Challenge or the Build Challenge.

Media Contacts

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Solar Decathlon Social Media

#SolarDecathlon

#SolarDecathlonBuild

#SolarDecathlonDesign

#SDlivingthedream



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[DOESolarDecathlon](https://www.youtube.com/DOESolarDecathlon)



[solar_decathlon](https://www.twitch.tv/solar_decathlon)



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EERE Social Media



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General Media Access

Additional details with location, dates, and times will be added as they become available. General media days:

- April 17—19, 2020: 2020 Solar Decathlon Design Challenge, Golden, Colorado
- May/June 2020: Solar Decathlon Community Exhibitions
- June 25—July 5, 2020: Solar Decathlon Build Challenge National Showcase

2020 Design Challenge

Teams competing in the annual Solar Decathlon Design Challenge work for one or two academic semesters. Participants prepare creative solutions for real-world issues in the building industry.

Qualifying teams complete a design project and attend the Solar Decathlon Design Challenge Weekend in April 2020, where they present their designs to a panel of industry expert jurors, compare their projects to those of other teams, learn from presentations by thought leaders and collegiate peers, and engage with a variety of organizations about energy careers. Winning teams are recognized at an awards banquet, and winning project presentations are published on the Solar Decathlon Design Challenge [website](#).

Collegiate institutions that participate in the Design Challenge are recognized as leaders who are producing career-ready professionals with cutting-edge skills. Industry partners who collaborate with teams gain national and local recognition and have the opportunity to interact with knowledgeable future design and construction professionals.

This event is open to the media but not to the general public.

Location: National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Golden, Colorado

Date: April 17–19, 2020

For more information please visit the Solar Decathlon Design Challenge [website](#).



2020 Solar Decathlon Community Exhibitions

Teams that compete in the biennial Solar Decathlon Build Challenge must open their homes to the local community for at least two weekends before bringing their homes to the National Showcase event. Most teams will hold Community Exhibitions during the months of May and June.

These events are open to the media as well as the general public.

Locations: Various

Dates: most will be May through June 2020

For more information please visit the Solar Decathlon [website](#).

2020 Solar Decathlon National Showcase Event

Teams that compete in the biennial Solar Decathlon Build Challenge must design and construct fully functional houses, many of which will be displayed at the Solar Decathlon National Showcase as part of the Smithsonian Folklife Festival in Washington, D.C.

This event is open to the media as well as the general public.

Location: Smithsonian Folklife Festival, National Mall, Washington, D.C.

Date: June 24–July 5, 2020

For more information please visit the Solar Decathlon [website](#).

Parking/Public Transportation

It is highly recommended that you make use of the efficient public transit system (Metro rail and Metro bus). Information and schedules for Metro can be found at www.wmata.com.

Metro

The east end of the National Mall can be reached using the following [Metro stations](#): Smithsonian/National Mall at 12th Street on the Mall; Federal Center SW at 3rd and D Streets, SW; L'Enfant Plaza at Maryland Avenue and 7th Street, SW; Archives-Navy Memorial at Pennsylvania Avenue and 7th Street, NW; and Federal Triangle along 12th Street between Pennsylvania and Constitution avenues, NW.

The west end of the National Mall can be accessed using any of the following stations: Farragut West at 17th and I or 18th and I Streets, NW; Foggy Bottom/George Washington University at 23rd and I Streets, NW; and Arlington Cemetery across Arlington Memorial Bridge over the Potomac River.



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D.C. Circulator

The D.C. Circulator National Mall route has 15 stops at the major destinations throughout the National Mall (including Metro stops). The service is convenient, low cost (\$1) and frequent (every 10 minutes), with stops within walking distance of nearly 30 monuments, memorials, and museums.

Parking

Washington, D.C. is a very busy metropolitan area and parking is at a premium throughout the city. Private paid parking garages and lots can be found downtown north of the National Mall. Within the National Mall, metered street parking is generally restricted to three hours and is available along the National Mall on Madison Dr. and Jefferson Dr.; on Ohio Drive along the Potomac River between the Lincoln Memorial and the Jefferson Memorial; or in Lots A, B & C south of the Jefferson Memorial. Free parking is available on Ohio Drive in East Potomac Park. Parking throughout the District of Columbia is generally restricted from 12 a.m. to 6 a.m. EST to facilitate cleaning and maintenance. (See individual area signs for site specific closures/restrictions).