



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Solar Decathlon

Inspire and Support Tomorrow's Buildings Industry Leaders Today

Align your brand with the DOE competition that has created cutting-edge building designs and inspired thousands of students worldwide to enter the clean energy workforce.

The U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon® Design Challenge is a collegiate competition that prepares the next generation of building professionals to design high-performance, low-carbon buildings powered by renewables.

- With the participation of hundreds of collegiate students and faculty each year, Solar Decathlon offers partner organizations an unparalleled opportunity to **create relationships with the building professionals of tomorrow.**
- Solar Decathlon supports a key strategy for tackling climate challenges—developing a workforce well equipped to design and retrofit a high-performance, low-carbon building stock and to **deliver an equitable clean energy future.** As buildings account for 75% of electricity use, 40% of total energy use, and 35% of carbon emissions in the United States, bringing our buildings into the 21st century is critical.
- Our sponsors associate their brands with **one of the most prominent energy efficiency and renewable energy collegiate programs in the nation.** Partners of the Solar Decathlon enjoy benefits such as exclusive networking opportunities, VIP access to Solar Decathlon events and exhibitions, logo promotion on a national scale, social media highlights, and more.



Join us in building the next generation! →

“ Before the Solar Decathlon, I had never considered working in the field of building efficiency. **The Solar Decathlon introduced me to this field in an exciting and captivating manner and opened my eyes to the built environment’s significant role in reducing our carbon consumption.** Not only did it spark new interests for me, but I also acquired many skills that were both different from and complementary to the skills I was learning in the classroom.

Bennett Doherty, 2018 competitor



 <p>357 COLLEGIATE INSTITUTIONS</p>	 <p>48 COUNTRIES</p>	 <p>27,000+ STUDENT PARTICIPANTS</p>	 <p>22 TEAMS FROM MINORITY SERVING INSTITUTIONS IN 2024 CYCLE</p>
 <p>1074 COLLEGIATE TEAMS</p>	 <p>49 U.S. STATES</p>	 <p>22 YEARS OF IMPACT</p>	

About the Solar Decathlon

Now entering its 23rd year, the Solar Decathlon has challenged more than 27,000+ students to create efficient, affordable buildings powered by renewables, while promoting student innovation, STEM education, and workforce development opportunities in the buildings industry.

The [Design Challenge](#) is a one- to two-semester, design-only competition that culminates with a

Competition Event held each April at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) in Golden, Colorado, with hundreds of participants.

The Solar Decathlon portfolio also includes the [Building Science Education curriculum](#), a high school program ([SD Pathways](#)), and a continuing education program for mid-career professionals ([SD Pro](#)).

Sponsorship Opportunities

Sponsors support students throughout the competition cycle, funding educational and engaging in-person and virtual events, which culminate with the annual Competition Event, April 25-27, 2025. Solar Decathlon partners also help fund outreach, competition promotion, and ensuring the [Building Science Education curriculum](#) can remain free to access for anyone, anywhere.

The benefits of sponsorship are far reaching and can include speaking opportunities at Solar Decathlon events, social media promotion, exclusive networking events, and more, depending on sponsorship level.

“ I left with such inspiration to design for a better world by working with other people that have the same goal.

2023 Design Challenge Student



Solar Decathlon Sponsorship

Solar Decathlon offers several sponsorship levels and packages can be customized for your organization's needs. The most popular options are:

BRONZE
\$5,000

SILVER
\$10,000

GOLD**
\$15,000+

Logo displayed on website and promotional materials, including social media

One invited participant (in addition to a juror) for the Final Competition Event at NREL

Access to student lead contact information

Table at Sponsor Networking Event

Eligibility to nominate a competition juror for Semifinal or Final Competition Event*

Bronze level recognition, plus:

Speaking opportunity at awards ceremony

Dedicated social media post and promotion

Two invited participants (in addition to a juror) for the Final Competition Event

Promotion of company career opportunities in a student newsletter

Silver level recognition, plus:

Three invited participants for the Final Competition Event (in addition to a juror)

Speaking opportunity to announce the grand winner

Promotion as headline sponsor

Blog placement and promotion on Solar Decathlon website

Promotion of company video

Eligibility to nominate a grand juror*

Premium placement and table size at Sponsor Networking Event

* Nominations will be taken under consideration but juror slots are not guaranteed for sponsors and are dependent on expertise and panel composition.

** One Gold Level sponsorship awarded per competition cycle

Designing the Future

Teams competing in the annual **Design Challenge** create residential or commercial building designs that are evaluated on how well they meet the nation's rapidly evolving demands for efficient, cost-effective, and resilient buildings that respond to targeted community needs.

Each team designs a retrofit or new construction building to compete in one of four divisions across residential and commercial building types. The Design Challenge competition ends each year with the Competition Event, where students present their designs to an expert panel of jurors and winners are crowned.

Design Challenge

RESIDENTIAL

Single-Family Housing
Multifamily Building

COMMERCIAL

Education Building
Open Commercial

10 CONTESTS

Architecture



Market



Life-Cycle



Health



Efficiency



Engineering



Envelope



Grid-Interactivity



Community



Presentation



History

Solar Decathlon began on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., in 2002 as a design and build competition. Since that time, DOE has hosted ten Solar Decathlon Build Challenge competitions in the United States and has also expanded internationally, with six global competitions.

The Solar Decathlon Design Challenge began in 2014 and attracts the participation of hundreds of collegiate students each year, with its educational components integrated into collegiate institution curricula across the country. Together, the U.S. and international editions of the Solar Decathlon have included more than 40,000 students around the world.