



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 buildings and inspired thousands of students worldwide to enter the clean energy workforce.

The U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon® is a collegiate competition that prepares the next generation of building professionals to design and construct 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, construct, 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 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 participant



**308**

COLLEGIATE INSTITUTIONS



**40**

COUNTRIES



**25,000+**

STUDENT PARTICIPANTS



**22**

TEAMS FROM MINORITY SERVING INSTITUTIONS IN 2022-2023 CHALLENGES



**790**

COLLEGIATE TEAMS



**47**

U.S. STATES



**17**

INTERNATIONAL SOLAR DECATHLON EVENTS



YEARS OF IMPACT

## About the Solar Decathlon

Celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2022, the Solar Decathlon has challenged more than 25,000 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, while the [Build Challenge](#) is a two-year design-build competition.

The competition culminates with a Competition Event held each April at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) in Golden, Colorado, with over 800 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 Professionals).

## 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 21–23, 2023. Solar Decathlon partners also help fund outreach and competition promotion, 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, logo placement at Build Challenge home exhibitions, exclusive networking events, and more, depending on sponsorship level.

In 2023, our sponsors will have the exciting added benefit of being featured and recognized among an international audience as part of the [Solar Decathlon Virtual Village](#). The Virtual Village allows viewers around the world to see and engage with houses as they are constructed during the Build Challenge, garnering significant media attention.

“The competition played a crucial role in fueling my passion for sustainable design. It helped me discover the value of energy modeling in the design process, occupant comfort approach, and interdisciplinary collaboration.”

**Nupoor Kansara, Solar Decathlon 2020 Design Challenge participant**



## Solar Decathlon Sponsorship

Solar Decathlon offers several sponsorship levels, with recognition and placement for benefits listed below dependent on sponsorship level. Sponsorship packages can be customized for your organization’s needs. The most popular options are:

### STEWARD

\$25,000

### SUPPORTING

\$10,000

### CONTRIBUTING

\$5,000

#### RECOGNITION

- On website, social media, event materials, & virtual village
- During key live & virtual events
- In build challenge houses
- During industry & DOE presentations

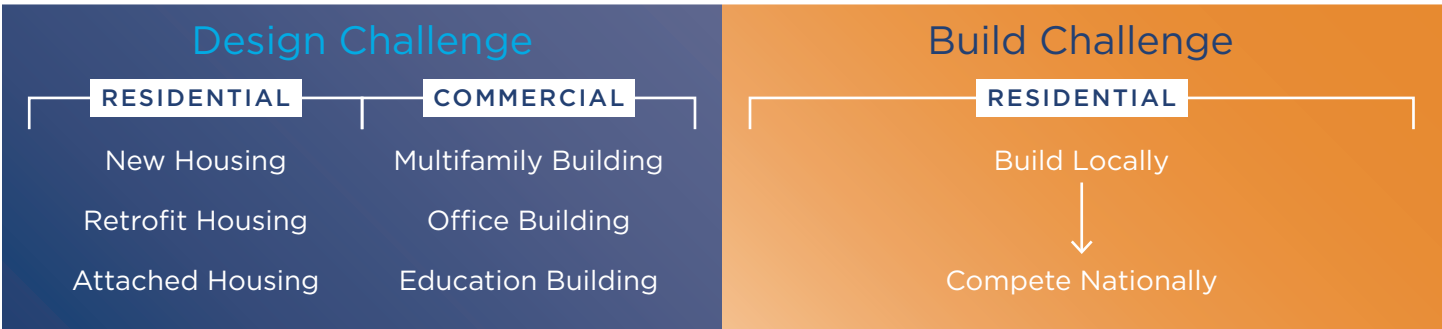
#### INCLUSION

- In competition events, including VIP opportunities
- In Career Connections events
- In national K-12 & public education materials
- In national & regional media & community outreach

# One Competition, Two Challenges

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 or retrofits a building to compete in one of six 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.

Teams competing in the biennial **Build Challenge** design, build, exhibit, and operate residential houses in their local communities. Build Challenge homes are built to serve a specific target market with a long-term purpose in mind, including sales to homeowners, research and demonstration, public exhibition, and more. Each house is extensively measured for its real-world performance, and students present to multiple juries who evaluate their designs and select finalists to proceed to the next phase and receive prize funding. The current Build Challenge began in 2021 and will culminate with the Competition Event and Virtual Village in April 2023.



## 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 nine 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 Solar Decathlon competitions have included more than 40,000 students around the world.

