

Inspiring Tomorrow's Building Industry Leaders

The U.S. Department of Energy [Solar Decathlon®](#) is a collegiate competition that has inspired thousands of students worldwide to enter the clean energy workforce since its inception in 2002. Today, the 10



contests that are the foundation of the Solar Decathlon challenge students to design and build high-performance, low-carbon buildings that improve our quality of life through greater affordability, resilience, and energy efficiency. The winners are those teams that best blend architectural and engineering excellence with innovation. Solar Decathlon comprises two Challenges: the Design Challenge (annual) and the Build Challenge (biennial). Solar Decathlon offers several sponsorship opportunities, with support levels ranging from \$5,000 to \$100,000 or more (see p. 3).

Solar Decathlon Sponsorship Opportunities

Sponsors of the Solar Decathlon support student teams' activities, including the Solar Decathlon Competition Events, which are held each April at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) in Golden, Colorado. The 2022 Solar Decathlon Competition Event will be held April 22-24, 2022. The 2023 event will be held April 21-24, 2023. Sponsors allow us to host robust in-person and virtual events and promotional activities that greatly benefit participating students, and bring substantial positive exposure to sponsors.

Our sponsors associate their brands with one of the most prominent energy efficiency and renewable energy programs in the nation. Your support creates opportunities to educate and inspire the future clean energy workforce. Solar Decathlon sponsorship is based on our two-year event cycle, where Design Challenge and Build Challenge teams come together each April at the Competition Event (two Design Challenge events, and one Build Challenge event), though we are flexible with your organization's needs.

Sponsorship Important Dates

- **Commitment Deadline:** Oct. 1, 2021
- **Payment Deadline:** Jan. 5, 2022
- **Contact:** Stacy Hunt
406-550-9397/solardecathlon@nrel.gov

New for 2022 – Join us as we celebrate 20 years of Solar Decathlon!

Solar Decathlon—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 demand for efficient, cost-effective, and resilient buildings that respond to targeted community needs. Each team designs a building to compete in one of six divisions, including the new Retrofit Housing Division.

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 education, and more. Each house is extensively measured for its real-world performance, and students present to multiple juries. The next Build Challenge begins in 2021 and will culminate at our Competition Event and Virtual Village in April 2023. The Virtual Village features the hard work of our student teams, and garners national media attention for our program and our sponsors.



Figure 1: Solar Decathlon Virtual Village

All student teams will converge at our competition events held annually at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory. Up to 60 Design Challenge Finalist Teams will present their designs to a panel of expert jurors. Build Challenge teams also will present their work to a panel of jurors, who will evaluate their design to provide approval to proceed to the next phase and select teams to receive prize funding. This annual event brings together students from collegiate institutions across the world to compete and exchange ideas. **Join us!**

Solar Decathlon Sponsorship Benefits*

BENEFIT CATEGORY	LEVEL	VISIONARY \$100,000	HOST \$50,000	STEWARD \$25,000	SUPPORTING \$10,000	CONTRIBUTING \$5,000
General Solar Decathlon Sponsorship Benefits	Name and Logo on Event Program and SD.gov website	X	X	X	X	X
	Recognition through SD Social Media	X	X	X	X	X
	Inclusion in National Media Outreach	X	X	X		
	Inclusion in Solar Decathlon Webinar Series	X	X	X		
	Recognition in Industry Presentations	X	X	X		
Solar Decathlon Build Challenge Benefits	Inclusion in National K-12 and Public Education Materials	X	X	X		
	Recognition on Signage and Materials at All Houses	X	X	X		
	Promotion in Regional Media and Community Outreach "Shout Pack"	X	X	X		
Solar Decathlon Annual Competition Event Benefits	Recognition in Event Signage and App	X	X	X	X	X
	Recognition During Key Events	X	X	X	X	X
	VIP tickets to Victory Celebration Event	X	X	X	X	X
	VIP Participation in Competition Events, including a VIP Tour of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory	X	X	X	X	X
	VIP Networking Event with Organizers and Jurors	X	X	X	X	X
	Inclusion in Career Connections	X	X	X	X	X
	Opportunity to Provide Branded Resources, Tools, & Training to Teams	X	X	X	X	X
	Speaking Role	X	X	X	X	
	Sponsor-branded Giveaway Allowance	X	X	X	X	
	Inclusion in Solar Decathlon Build Challenge Virtual Village	X	X	X	X	

* Placement dependent on sponsorship level.

History of Solar Decathlon

[Solar Decathlon](#) began on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., in 2002. DOE has since hosted a total of 10 Solar Decathlon Build Challenge competitions in the United States. The competition also has expanded internationally, and now includes six competitions globally. Together, the Solar Decathlon competitions have



impacted more than 50,000 students around the world. The Solar Decathlon Design Challenge competition began in 2014 and has been held annually ever since. The Design Challenge attracts the participation of hundreds of collegiate students each year and boasts substantial integration into collegiate institution curricula across the country.