



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF **ENERGY**

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Norwich University, Stanford University and Team Kentucky/Indiana Take the Affordability Contest and University of Nevada Las Vegas Wins in Market Appeal at U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon 2013

Irvine, Calif. – Demonstrating just how cost-effective, appealing and livable energy-saving houses powered by solar energy can be, Norwich University, Stanford University, and Team Kentucky/Indiana tied for first place in the Affordability Contest, while the University of Nevada Las Vegas claimed first place honors today in the Market Appeal Contest at the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon 2013. These contests encourage teams to design and build reasonably priced houses that are comfortable and attractive and combine highly energy-efficient construction design, energy-efficient appliances, and renewable energy systems.

“The Affordability and Market Appeal Contests underscore that many of the appealing features of these innovative houses are cost-effective now and are well within reach of many Americans,” said Richard King, director of the Solar Decathlon for the U.S. Department of Energy. “Most of the highly efficient designs and products on display in this clean energy competition are affordable today and can help anyone save money by saving energy at home.”

In the Affordability Contest, teams earn the full 100 points for achieving a target construction cost of \$250,000 or less, as evaluated by a professional estimator. A sliding point scale was applied to teams with estimated house construction costs between \$250,001 and \$599,999. No points are awarded to any house that cost \$600,000 or more; however, none of the Solar Decathlon 2013 houses fell within this category.

Norwich University, Stanford University and Team Kentucky/Indiana (made up of students from University of Louisville, Ball State University and University of Kentucky) all tied for first place and earned the full 100 points in the Affordability Contest by constructing houses estimated to cost \$168,385, \$234,092, and \$248,423, respectively. Team Ontario from Queen’s University, Carleton University, and Algonquin College earned second place and 99.2 points with a house estimated to cost \$257,584. Placing third in the contest, Middlebury College earned 98.7 points with a house estimated to cost \$263,083. Full details on the cost estimates for each house will be posted at

http://www.solardecathlon.gov/contest_affordability.html. The average cost of all of the houses in the 2013 competition is estimated at \$279,345.

Professional cost estimator for the Affordability Contest, Senior Estimator at Faithful+Gould Rich Anderson, said, "The winners of the Solar Decathlon 2013 Affordability Contest have demonstrated that innovation in sustainable building can be achieved and implemented in a real-world application. These teams have delivered affordable, livable homes that are also attractive to everyday consumers." Rich has spent time over the last 10 months evaluating each team's house to determine accurate cost estimates for the contest.

The results of the Market Appeal Contest also were announced today, with University of Nevada Las Vegas taking first for its house that is intended for the second-home market in the desert U.S. Southwest, scoring 94 out of 100 possible points. The Market Appeal Contest evaluates the livability, marketability and constructability of each house and its appeal within the housing market of the target client chosen by each team. The Market Appeal Jury, composed of professionals from the sustainable housing industry, evaluated the responsiveness of the house designs to the characteristics and requirements of these target clients.

Speaking on behalf of the Market Appeal Jury, founder and president of Interior Design Solutions and Solar Decathlon 2013 Market Appeal Juror Susan Aiello said, "We loved the design of the UNLV house. The look, the feel, the energy blew the jury away."

Team Austria from Vienna University of Technology placed second in Market Appeal, scoring 93 points with a house that is designed as a sustainable cottage for urban areas as well as mountain and lakeside retreats. Stanford University and Czech Technical University from the Czech Republic tied for third in Market Appeal, each scoring 92 points in the contest.

Following the Affordability and Market Appeal Contest results, Stanford University is in first place overall, University of Nevada Las Vegas is in second place and Team Ontario jumped from 9th place to third place in the overall rankings.

The Solar Decathlon is comprised of 10 contests – each worth 100 points – that evaluate affordability, market appeal, architecture, engineering, communications, comfort, appliances, and the level of energy produced versus energy consumed, among other competition aspects.

Results from the Architecture and Communications Contests, also worth 100 points each, will be announced Friday, October 11 at 10 a.m. in Hangar 244 at the Orange County Great Park in Irvine, Calif. The overall winner of the Solar Decathlon will be announced on Saturday, October 12, also at 10 a.m. in Hangar 244 at the Orange County Great Park.

The Solar Decathlon houses are open to the public for free tours today through Sunday, October 13, from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Media interested in covering the Solar Decathlon may visit our [online press room](#) and download our [online media kit](#). For full event information, shuttle options, current standings, high-resolution photos, videos, an event schedule and daily results, visit www.SolarDecathlon.gov. You may also follow the competition in real time on Facebook at [Facebook.com/DOESolarDecathlon](https://www.facebook.com/DOESolarDecathlon) and Twitter at [@Solar_Decathlon](https://twitter.com/Solar_Decathlon). Photos are also available on Flickr at http://www.flickr.com/photos/solar_decathlon/

More about the Solar Decathlon

The competition shows consumers how to save money and energy with affordable clean energy products that are available today. The two-year projects culminate in an unprecedented display of affordable green living and design at the Orange County Great Park in Irvine, California. The Solar Decathlon also provides participating students with hands-on experience and unique training that prepares them to enter our nation's clean energy workforce, supporting the Obama Administration's goal of transitioning to a clean energy economy, saving money for families and businesses.

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