

MEDIA RESOURCES

MEDIA CONTACTS

U.S. Department of Energy Office of Public Affairs

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SOLAR DECATHLON ONLINE AND MULTIMEDIA RESOURCES



Visit www.SolarDecathlon.gov, check out our online [press room](#), view and download our event [B-roll](#), and take a look at our [videos](#) and [photos](#).



Download high-resolution images on the Solar Decathlon Flickr page:
www.flickr.com/photos/solar_decathlon



Watch team video content: www.youtube.com/doesolardecathlon



Follow the Twitter account: www.twitter.com/Solar_Decathlon
and join the conversation: [#SD2015](#)



Like our page on Facebook: www.facebook.com/DOESolarDecathlon



Browse and share our design renderings and more on Pinterest:
<http://pinterest.com/energy/solar-decathlon>



Check us out on Instagram and post your own pics!
<https://instagram.com/doesolardecathlon/>



Read the Solar Decathlon news blog: www.SolarDecathlon.gov/blog/



+1 our Google+ page: <https://plus.google.com/114448452386743774310>

MEDIA REGISTRATION

Members of the media are encouraged to register in advance by emailing John Horst, U.S. Department of Energy at SolarDecathlonMediaRelations@ee.doe.gov. All media should visit the on-site media trailer within the Solar Decathlon village at Orange County Great Park starting on **September 28**.

General Media Access

Key Media Days **Oct. 7-8; Oct. 17**
Open to the Public **Oct. 8-11; Oct. 15-18 (11:00 AM – 7:00 PM each day)**

Members of the media are not required to register for these general access events, but an RSVP is requested to attend media preview day (details below) and necessary to receive a media parking pass.

Access to Houses Outside of Public Hours or on Closed Days

The Solar Decathlon is open to the public Oct. 8-11 and Oct. 15-18. The event is closed to the public Oct. 12-14 while the houses are evaluated for the competition contests. To access the Solar Decathlon village outside of public hours or during the days it is closed to the public, please make special arrangements with the event media contacts.

Advance Access for House Assembly/Construction

Trucks Roll onto Event Site & Assembly Begins **Monday, Sept. 28, 7:00 AM**
House Construction **Sept. 28 – Oct. 6**

Media who wish to be on-site during assembly must pre-register by sending an email to SolarDecathlonMediaRelations@ee.doe.gov. Those on-site during assembly must be prepared with personal protective equipment (which includes a hard hat, safety glasses, a shirt with at least 3-inch sleeves, long pants, a safety vest, and hard-toed, over-the-ankle boots). You will also need to complete a waiver and emergency medical forms when you arrive and be accompanied through the event site by a Solar Decathlon organizer with an Event Security ID.

Video Crews

No special permitting is required for news or video crews (unless using footage to produce a commercial film) in order to operate within Orange County Great Park during the Solar Decathlon.

MEDIA EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

In addition to the hours the event is open to the public listed above, we invite the media to:

- **Media Preview Day – Wed., Oct. 7***
 - Program & guided tour of solar village & access to teams, houses and organizers for interviews and visual opportunities 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM
- **Opening Ceremony – Thurs., Oct. 8**
 - All-team photo in Solar Decathlon village 8:30 AM – 9:00 AM
 - Media set-up and advance seating 9:00 AM – 9:30 AM
 - Opening Ceremony featuring keynote address from Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM
 - Interview availability and house access 11:00 AM – 7:00 PM
- **Final Awards Ceremony – Sat., Oct. 17**
 - Program and winner announcement featuring Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy David Danielson 9:45 AM – 11:00 AM

Additional announcements throughout the week:

- **Market Appeal & Affordability Contest Results** Thursday, Oct. 15, 10:00 AM
- **Architecture & Communications Contest Results** Friday, Oct. 16, 10:00 AM
- **Engineering Contest Results** Saturday, Oct. 17, 9:45 AM
Announced in conjunction with overall winner

B-ROLL & VIDEO AVAILABLE

Our Vimeo page has a [B-roll package available now from the Opening Ceremony](#) (Oct. 8) and will feature additional B-roll from the Final Awards Ceremony (Oct. 17) when available. You can also access our broadcast-quality B-roll footage through our online pressroom (http://www.solardecathlon.gov/news_press_room.html). Video walkthroughs of each house are available at <http://www.solardecathlon.gov/2015/videos-team.html>.

TRANSPORTATION TO ORANGE COUNTY GREAT PARK

[The Orange County Great Park](#) is situated in the geographic center of Orange County within the city limits of Irvine, Calif. It is approximately halfway between Los Angeles and San Diego, about 15 minutes away from John Wayne Airport (SNA) and accessible via the Interstate 5 and 405 freeways and the 133 and 241 toll roads.



MEDIA PARKING & SATELLITE TRUCKS

Using the driving directions below, free parking is available for members of the media who present media credentials when entering the property and follow signs to the designated parking area. Otherwise, event parking near the general public entrance is \$10.00 per vehicle. Satellite trucks are welcomed and encouraged to make arrangements in advance. Upon arriving to the event, all media should visit the media trailer located between the media parking area and the Solar Decathlon village to check in.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS TO THE MEDIA PARKING LOT – BY CAR

5 North

- Exit Sand Canyon Ave. and turn right
- Turn left on Marine Way
- Turn left at the “T” in the road
- Follow the road signs to parking

405 North

- Exit Sand Canyon Ave. and turn right
- Turn right on Marine Way
- Turn left at the “T” in the road
- Follow the road signs to parking

5 South

- Exit Sand Canyon Ave. and turn left
- Turn right on Marine Way
- Turn left at the “T” in the road
- Follow the road signs to parking

405 South

- Exit Sand Canyon Ave. and turn left
- Turn right on Marine Way
- Turn left at the “T” in the road
- Follow the road signs to parking

The best physical address for Media Parking Lot A at the Orange County Great Park is: 6950 Marine Way, Irvine, CA, 92618. However, GPS and other online maps are unreliable in this area, so we recommend utilizing the directions provided above.

BY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

We encourage event attendees to use public transportation if possible. The [Irvine Station](#) is located adjacent to the [Orange County Great Park](#) and is a multi-modal transportation center supporting travel via Metrolink and Amtrak train service, OCTA bus service and bicycling. Regularly scheduled trains arrive in Irvine during the Solar Decathlon public exhibit hours. Walk two minutes to the Great Park side of the tracks and take a free iShuttle bus to and from the event. Show your train ticket for a free ride.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS THE SOLAR DECATHLON?

The U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon is an award-winning program that challenges collegiate teams to design, build, and operate solar-powered houses that are cost-effective, energy-efficient, and attractive. The winner of the competition is the team that best blends affordability, consumer appeal, and design excellence with optimal energy production and maximum efficiency.

The competition demonstrates to consumers how to save money and energy with affordable clean energy products that are available today. 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.

The first Solar Decathlon was held in 2002; the competition has since occurred every two years in 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011 and 2013. Solar Decathlon 2015 collegiate teams will welcome visitors at the Orange County Great Park in Irvine, California, October 8-11 and 15-18. Open to the public free of charge, visitors can tour the houses, gather ideas to use in their own homes, and learn how energy-saving features can help them save money today. The competition will occur over several weeks, with construction beginning on September 28. For a full event calendar or to access the Solar Decathlon village during days closed to the public, please contact John Horst at john.horst@ee.doe.gov; SolarDecathlonMediaRelations@ee.doe.gov.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE SOLAR DECATHLON?

One of the Energy Department's most successful outreach efforts, the Solar Decathlon helps accelerate the adoption of energy-efficient products and design by:

- Educating students and the public about the money-saving opportunities and environmental benefits presented by clean energy products and design solutions
- Demonstrating to the public the comfort and affordability of homes that combine energy-efficient construction and appliances with off-the-shelf renewable energy systems
- Providing participating students with unique training that prepares them for the clean energy workforce.

WHEN AND WHERE IS SOLAR DECATHLON 2015?

The Solar Decathlon 2015 will be free and open to the public from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 8 – Sunday, October 11, and Thursday, October 15 – Sunday, October 18. It is located at the Orange County Great Park in Irvine, California.



WHO ARE THE SOLAR DECATHLON 2015 TEAMS?

- California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
- California State University, Sacramento
- Clemson University
- Crowder College and Drury University
- Missouri University of Science and Technology
- New York City College of Technology
- State University of New York at Alfred College of Technology and Alfred University
- Stevens Institute of Technology
- The University of Texas at Austin and Technische Universitaet Muenchen
- University at Buffalo, The State University of New York
- University of California, Davis
- Team Orange County (University of California Irvine, Chapman University, Irvine Valley College and Saddleback College)
- West Virginia University and University of Roma Tor Vergata
- Western New England University, Universidad Tecnológica de Panamá and Universidad Tecnológica Centroamericana

Learn more about each team by visiting www.solardecathlon.gov/teams.html

WHAT IS THE COMPETITION?

The U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon is a competition that challenges collegiate teams from around the world to design, build and operate solar-powered houses that are affordable, highly energy-efficient, attractive, and comfortable to live in. The participating students spend almost two years creating houses to compete in 10 contests. The 10 contests for Solar Decathlon 2015 include:

- Affordability
- Appliances
- Architecture
- Comfort Zone
- Communications
- Commuting
- Energy Balance
- Engineering
- Home Life
- Market Appeal

Details on each contest can be found here: www.solardecathlon.gov/contests.html

Each contest is worth a maximum of 100 points, for a competition total of 1,000 points. The team with the most points at the end of the competition wins a trophy and receives recognition at the final awards ceremony. The winning team produces a house that:

- Is cost-effective, attractive, and easy to live in
- Maintains comfortable indoor living conditions



- Supplies energy to household appliances for cooking, cleaning and entertainment
- Provides sufficient hot water
- Balances energy production and consumption.

Details on the rules of the competition can be found here: www.solardecathlon.gov/rules.html

HOW ARE THE TEAMS SELECTED?

Teams applying to compete in Solar Decathlon 2015 were required to demonstrate their ability to design and build an innovative, solar-powered house; raise additional project funds; support the project through an integrated curriculum; and organize a student team able to carry the project through to completion.

WHERE ARE THE PAST SOLAR DECATHLON HOUSES?

Since 2002, 130 teams have participated in the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon. The houses from prior events—now located throughout the U.S. and around the world—continue to serve numerous education, conservation, and community-oriented functions. To view an interactive map displaying where past Solar Decathlon houses are now, please visit:

www.solardecathlon.gov/where_now.html

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY SOLAR DECATHLON HISTORY

SINCE THE FIRST SOLAR DECATHLON IN 2002, THE EVENT HAS:

- Involved 130 collegiate teams that pursued a multidisciplinary approach to studying the requirements for designing and building energy-efficient, solar-powered houses
- Established a worldwide reputation as a successful educational program and workforce development opportunity for thousands of students
- Positively impacted the lives of 20,000 collegiate participants
- Expanded its outreach to K-12 school students by inviting schools to tour the Solar Decathlon village on event Education Days
- Expanded to Europe and China to involve an additional 94 teams and 12,500 participants through Solar Decathlon Europe 2010 (Madrid, Spain), Solar Decathlon Europe 2012 (Madrid, Spain), Solar Decathlon China 2013 (Datong), Solar Decathlon Europe 2014 (Versailles, France), and Solar Decathlon Latin America and Caribbean 2015 (Santiago de Cali, Colombia)
- Educated the public about the benefits, affordability, and availability of clean energy solutions by generating widespread media coverage and harnessing digital tools to reach millions of people.

IN 2013, THE SOLAR DECATHLON:

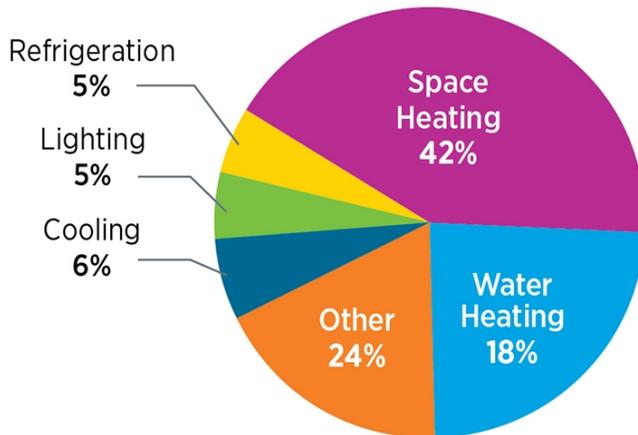
- Welcomed more than 64,000 visitors
- Provided more than 300,000 house tours over 8 days
- Hosted more than 3,000 middle-school and high-school students and teachers
- Reached millions of readers and viewers in markets across the globe through newspapers, radio, TV, online coverage, social media channels, and face-to-face at the competition.

THE PAST SOLAR DECATHLON WINNING TEAMS ARE:

- 2013 – Vienna University of Technology
- 2011 – University of Maryland
- 2009 – Technische Universität Darmstadt
- 2007 – Technische Universität Darmstadt
- 2005 – University of Colorado, Denver and Boulder
- 2002 – University of Colorado at Boulder

ENERGY FACTS AND FIGURES

RESIDENTIAL ENERGY USE



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, AEO2014 Early Release Overview.

5 TIPS TO SAVE MONEY BY SAVING ENERGY

1. Set your programmable thermostat
2. Seal your windows, doors, and ducts
3. Switch to energy-saving lighting
4. Look for ENERGY STAR appliances
5. Improve the insulation in your attic and walls

Learn more energy-saving tips at www.energysaver.gov/

SAVE ENERGY AND MONEY

The typical U.S. family spends more than \$2,000 on utility bills each year. In 2009, energy expenditures for households exceeded \$230 billion. By making quick and affordable changes, Americans can save hundreds of dollars on energy bills each year. For example, using a programmable thermostat can help the average American family save more than \$180 on heating and cooling bills per year. By upgrading the five most used bulbs to energy-saving light bulbs, Americans can save about \$75 per year. As of December 2014, families and businesses have saved more than \$230 billion with ENERGY STAR programs and appliances since its inception in 1992.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY LEADERSHIP BIOGRAPHIES

These biographies of Department of Energy personnel are provided for members of the media reporting on the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon.



DR. ERNEST MONIZ
Secretary of Energy

As United States Secretary of Energy, Dr. Ernest Moniz is tasked with implementing critical Department of Energy missions in support of President Obama's goals of growing the economy, enhancing security and protecting the environment.



DR. DAVID DANIELSON
Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

David Danielson is the Assistant Secretary for the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy at the U.S. Department of Energy. In his role, he oversees a broad energy portfolio, helping hasten the transition to a clean energy economy.



RICHARD KING
Solar Decathlon Director

Richard King is the Director of the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon. Mr. King created the Solar Decathlon in 2000 and directed the 2002, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013, and 2015 events. Mr. King holds a physics degree from the American University and has been with the U.S. Department of Energy since 1986.