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## *News Release*

For immediate release  
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### **Ohio State Team Selected to Compete in National Solar Home Challenge**

A student and faculty team at the Ohio State University, in partnership with the College of Engineering, has been selected to participate in a U.S. Department of Energy-sponsored competition to design, build and operate the most engaging, energy-efficient, solar-powered home.

The prestigious competition, called the Solar Decathlon, challenges university-led teams to develop a solar-powered home that meets various requirements in architecture, engineering, livability, comfort and power generation for space heating and cooling, water heating, and lights and appliances. The competition will culminate in fall 2009, when each team will transport its solar home to the National Mall in Washington, D.C., for display and final judging.

Ohio State is among 20 teams from the United States, Puerto Rico, Canada, Spain and Germany selected from universities around the world. Each team receives \$100,000 from the U.S. Department of Energy for personnel, consultants, permits, travel and other non-material purchases. To build a house that demonstrates the potential for solar-powered homes to use energy-efficient technology without sacrificing design and comfort, the Ohio State team has budgeted an additional \$400,000, which will be raised through cash and in-kind donations.

“Given the size of the Ohio State community and the influence of the university throughout the state of Ohio, it is important that there are university activities like the Solar Decathlon that will ultimately help citizens understand issues of energy usage and conservation,” says Mark Walter, associate professor of mechanical engineering, who is the team’s lead advisor.

Ohio State’s Solar Decathlon team, which is making its first entry in the competition, includes students and faculty from various departments of the College of Engineering and the Knowlton School of Architecture as well as from other disciplines, including political science, construction systems management, and environmental and natural resources.

“The theme for the project is the dual pursuit of ‘Health and Harmony’ in designing and building a home that actively promotes both the healthiness of the environment and the well-being of the inhabitant,” says team member Erin Reilly-Sanders, who is pursuing her master’s degree in architecture.

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Through outreach programs, the team will help the general public, k-12 students and the university community learn to incorporate sustainable ideas and technology into their personal and work environments.

The Solar Decathlon's emphasis on energy parallels that of Ohio State's College of Engineering, which in 2007 established the Center for Energy, Sustainability and the Environment, an effort supported by college and university backing of \$10.9 million over five years. In addition, the energy focus aligns with Ohio State's university-wide Institute for Energy and the Environment, also established in 2007, which will, among other tasks, foster partnerships between colleges within Ohio State as well as researchers at other Ohio universities.

For more information about the Solar Decathlon, visit [www.solardecathlon.org](http://www.solardecathlon.org). More details about Ohio State's team are available at [www.osusolardec.org](http://www.osusolardec.org).

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*Editors: Please see attached fact sheet.*



## ***Ohio State University Solar Decathlon Fact Sheet***

**Event:** The two-year Solar Decathlon culminates with a final display and competition open to the public at the National Mall in Washington, D.C., in fall 2009.

**Competition Basics:** Each team will receive \$100,000 from the U.S. Department of Energy to pay for non-material costs associated with designing, building and operating an energy-efficient, fully solar-powered home. The Ohio State team must solicit additional cash and in-kind donations to raise the estimated \$400,000 that it will take to actually build the house and participate in the competition phase. The Department of Energy's Solar Decathlon complements the President's Solar America Initiative, which seeks to make solar power cost-competitive with conventional forms of electricity by 2015.

**Requirements:** The Decathlon gets its name from the 10 specific areas of competition: architecture, market viability, engineering, lighting design, communications, comfort zone (temperature and humidity), hot water, appliances (refrigerator, freezer, clothes washer, clothes dryer and dishwasher), home entertainment (cooking, lighting, dining, home theater and computer) and producing more energy than is consumed. For the home entertainment portion of the contest, each team must invite four contest neighbors to dinner and a movie in their house. The team with the highest energy surplus receives bonus points.

**Sponsors:** U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, in partnership with its National Renewable Energy Laboratory

**History:** The competition has been held four times, every other year since 2002, and will conclude in 2015. This is Ohio State's first entry in the decathlon.

**Other Resources:** For more information about the Solar Decathlon, visit [www.solardecathlon.org](http://www.solardecathlon.org). More details about Ohio State's team are available at [www.osusolardec.org](http://www.osusolardec.org).

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