

# Informational Webinar Will Begin Shortly



August 18, 2021

Robert Meagley, *U.S. Department of Energy*

Joe Simon, Sara Farrar, Travis Lowder, Jackie Petre,

*National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)*

SOLAR DISTRICT CUP

*“I met with industry professionals and learned that this is exactly what they do for a career. I was excited to hear how relevant our work for this competition was and how it can translate to the real world.”*

–Class of 2021 Student



Webinar Will Begin Shortly



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

**SOLAR DISTRICT CUP**

COLLEGIATE DESIGN COMPETITION

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY** | Office of ENERGY EFFICIENCY  
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SOLAR ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES OFFICE

**NREL**  
Transforming ENERGY

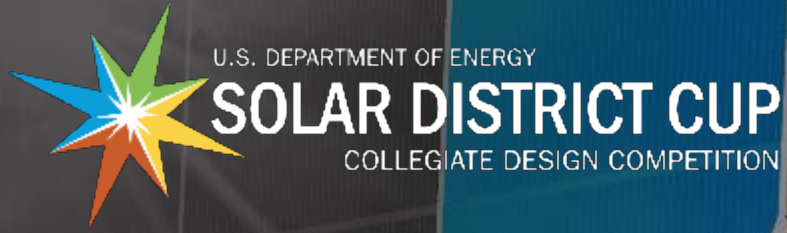


*“I feel like I have a better grasp on how solar is applied in the real world, and all of the different skill sets that go into developing a successful project.”*

–Class of 2021 Student



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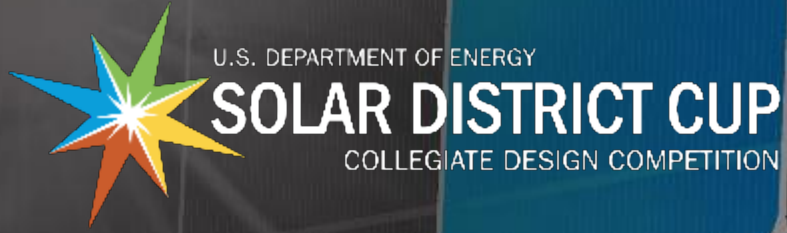


What's one word to describe the Solar District Cup?



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*“Serving as a use case for the Solar District Cup was a great experience for UNL. The student teams presented very creative and professional work. The designs will be influential in future renewable energy projects as we work towards our sustainability goals. This is a wonderful program for everyone involved.”*

–Class of 2021 District Use Case Representative



Webinar Will Begin Shortly





U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

**SOLAR DISTRICT CUP**

COLLEGIATE DESIGN COMPETITION

# Class of 2021-2022 Informational Webinar



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# Webinar Housekeeping

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## Two Options for Audio (select audio mode):

1. Listen through your computer:  
Click the 'up arrow' next to the "mute" button in the bottom left corner.  
Under "Select a Speaker," click "Same as System."
2. Listen by telephone:  
Click the 'up arrow' next to the "mute" button in the bottom left corner.  
Click "Switch to Phone Audio."

**Panelists – reminder to mute your audio device when not presenting.**

## To Ask a Question:

Select the 'Q&A' button at the bottom of your screen and type in your question.

## Having Trouble with the Webinar?

Technical difficulties - contact Zoom Support at: 888-799-9666.

A video/audio recording of this webinar and the slide deck will be made available.





U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

# SOLAR DISTRICT CUP

COLLEGIATE DESIGN COMPETITION

# Welcome!

Robert Meagley, U.S. Department of Energy



# Agenda

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- 1 Introduction
- 2 About the Competition
- 3 Participation Expectations
- 4 Competition Rules
- 5 Divisions and District Use Cases
- 6 Training Provided
- 7 Timeline of Events
- 8 How to Register Your Team
- 9 What's Next
- 10 Closing Q&A



# Introduction

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# Who We Are



**Dr. Robert Meagley**  
DOE



**Joe Simon**  
NREL



**Sara Farrar**  
NREL



**Travis Lowder**  
NREL



**Dr. Aadil Latif**  
NREL



**Jackie Petre**  
NREL

---

## The Solar District Cup Organizers



# About the Competition



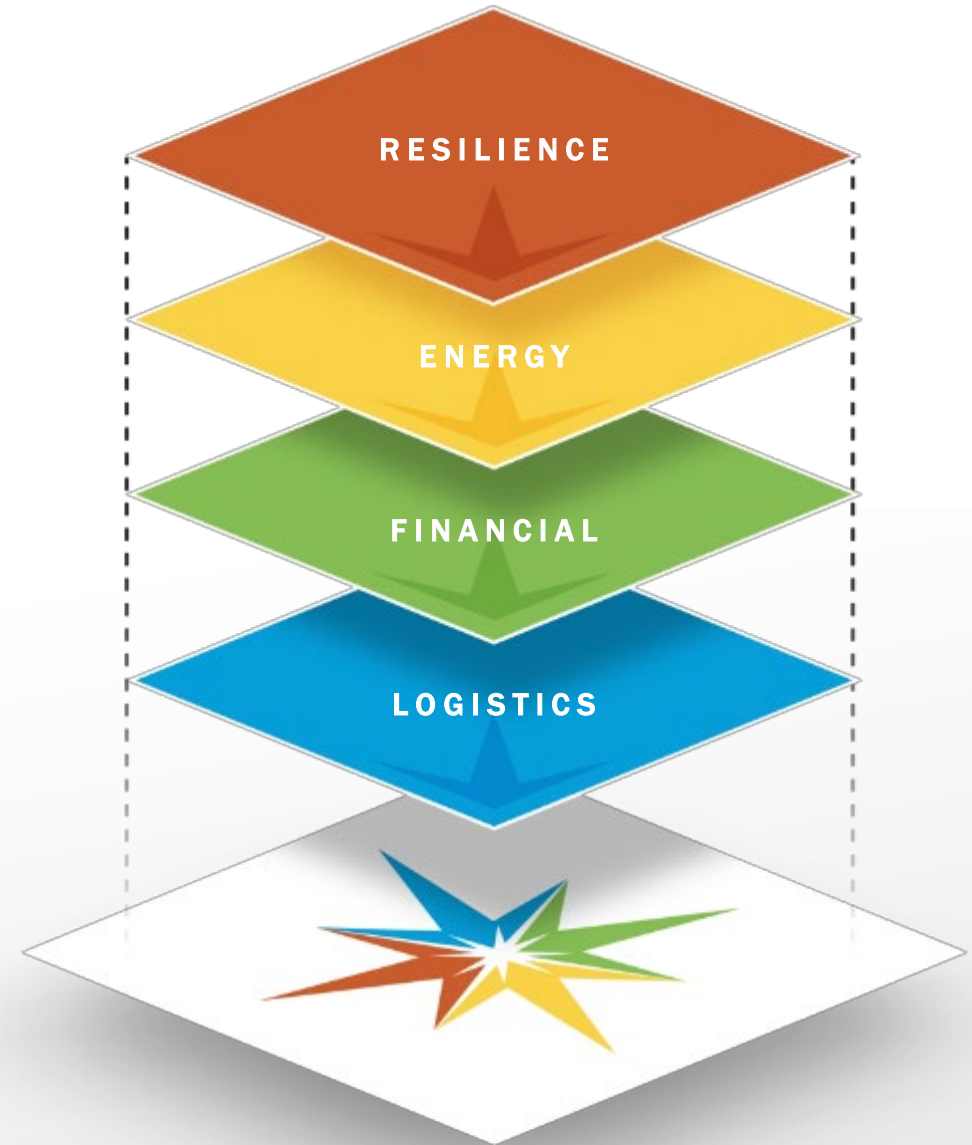
# Solar District Cup

A MULTIDISCIPLINARY COLLEGIATE COMPETITION THAT CHALLENGES STUDENT TEAMS TO **DESIGN** AND **MODEL DISTRIBUTED ENERGY SYSTEMS** FOR MULTIPLE BUILDINGS ON A LOCAL ELECTRICAL DISTRIBUTION NETWORK—ON A CAMPUS, ACROSS A DEVELOPMENT, OR IN AN URBAN DISTRICT.



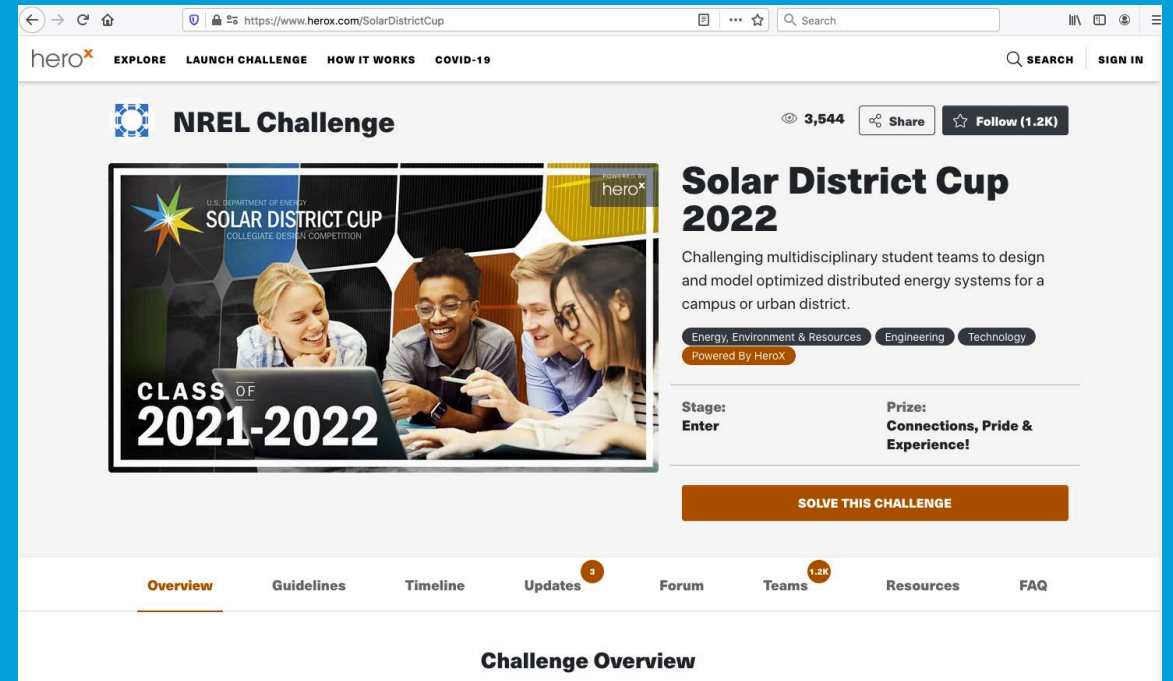
# About the Competition

- Cultivating cross-cutting skills to prepare the next generation for the distributed energy workforce.
- Multiple “divisions,” each with a partner district use case of existing building energy data.
- Two-semester, upper-undergraduate project starting fall 2021 and culminating in a spring 2022 competition event,





# How to Stay in the Know:



Go to [www.herox.com/solardistrictcup](https://www.herox.com/solardistrictcup) and click “follow” if you’re even remotely interested so you receive our updates & reminders about key deadlines.

# What We'll Cover Today

---

**WHO**  
is involved

**WHAT**  
you'll do

**WHY**  
this competition

**HOW**  
and what you win



# Who Evaluates You: Judges

Last year's judges. The Class of 2021-2022 will have new and returning judges.



Siddharth Temburni  
Summit Energy  
Group



Dana Clare Redden  
Solar Stewards



Bakary Coulibaly  
SolAmerica Energy



Dr. Qifeng Li  
University of Central  
Florida



Dr. Olga Lavrova  
New Mexico State  
University



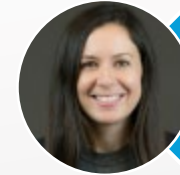
Akshay Jain  
Virginia Tech



Kristen Fornes  
ENGIE North  
America



Ben Schneider  
Adapture  
Renewables



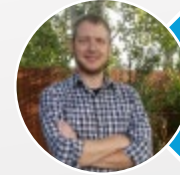
Rachel McLaughlin  
Forefront Power



Alex Parlato  
University of Central  
Florida



Dr. Linda Pickett  
University of  
Nebraska – Lincoln



Chris Herr  
Auraria Higher  
Education Center





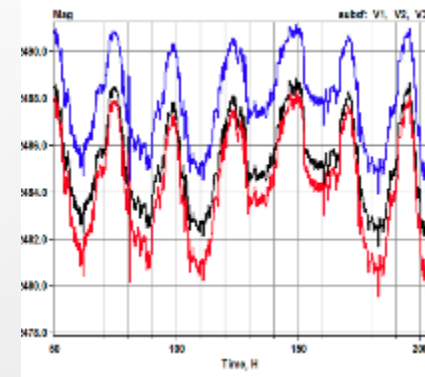
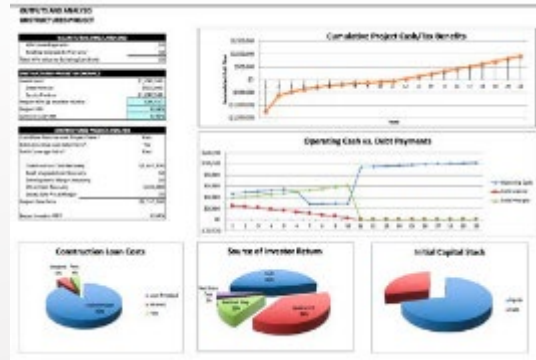
# Who Participated Last Year

- 59 participating teams
- 57 schools
- 21 returning schools from previous year
- 3 schools had multiple teams
- Many teams were multi-disciplinary
- Many types of college students
- Many faculty advisors and industry mentors.



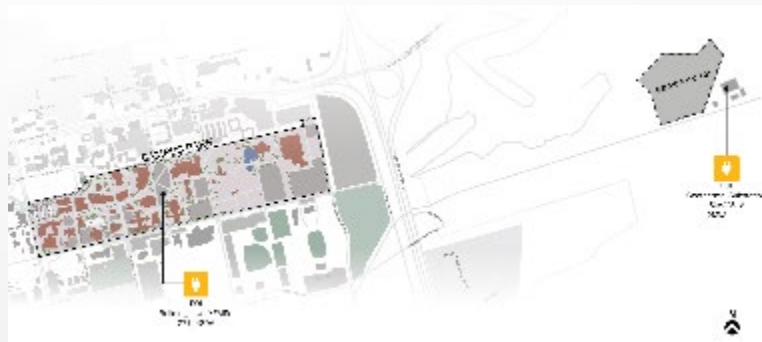
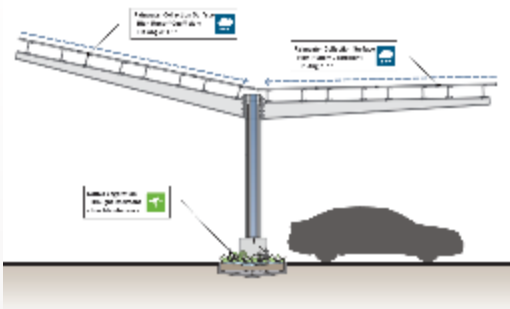
# What You'll Do

- Assume role of solar-plus-storage developer to create:
  - Project pitch
  - Conceptual system design
  - Distribution system impact analysis
  - Financial model
  - Development plan.



# Why We're Conducting the Competition

- Help address workforce gaps for professionals in the energy industry.
- Showcase innovative solutions for increased adoption of distributed solar energy generation at the campus or district scale.
- Inspire industry to think strategically about district energy systems.



# How and What You Win

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- Design a solar + storage system for an assigned campus or district that maximizes energy offset and customer financial savings.
- Gain valuable experience with real-life examples of innovative renewable energy design and engagement with industry.
- Win a trophy and national recognition!

**SOLAR**TODAY *Magazine*

## Going for Gold: The Race for the Solar District Cup

Students from across the country competed in a new collegiate design competition that challenged teams to rethink real-world energy solutions while preparing to enter the solar workforce.





# Participation Expectations

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# About Participation

---

**WHO**  
participates

**WHEN**  
to engage

**WHY**  
participate

**HOW**  
to compete



# Who You Are: Student Eligibility

- A team composed of at least 3 students
- Enrolled student
  - Accredited U.S.-based collegiate institutions
  - At least one class and pursuing a degree
- Any level college student
  - Challenge aimed at upper-level undergraduate
- Multidisciplinary teams highly encouraged

Engineering	Business or finance
Urban planning	Construction management
Communications	Sustainability or environmental policy
Marketing	Architecture
- Faculty advisor and/or mentor
  - Recommended (not required).



# Why Participate

- Build experience with innovative renewable energy design
- Develop real-world solutions that shape the future of solar energy
- Network with industry for career connections
- Enhance education and build resume
  - Senior design or capstone project
  - Elective or independent study course credit
  - Part of class curriculum or thesis
  - Seminar topic
  - Student interest club
  - Extracurricular activity.







# Why Faculty Advise a Team

- Real data and use case for students
- Curriculum support and modeling tools
- Team-based design and analysis project
- Connections to industry.

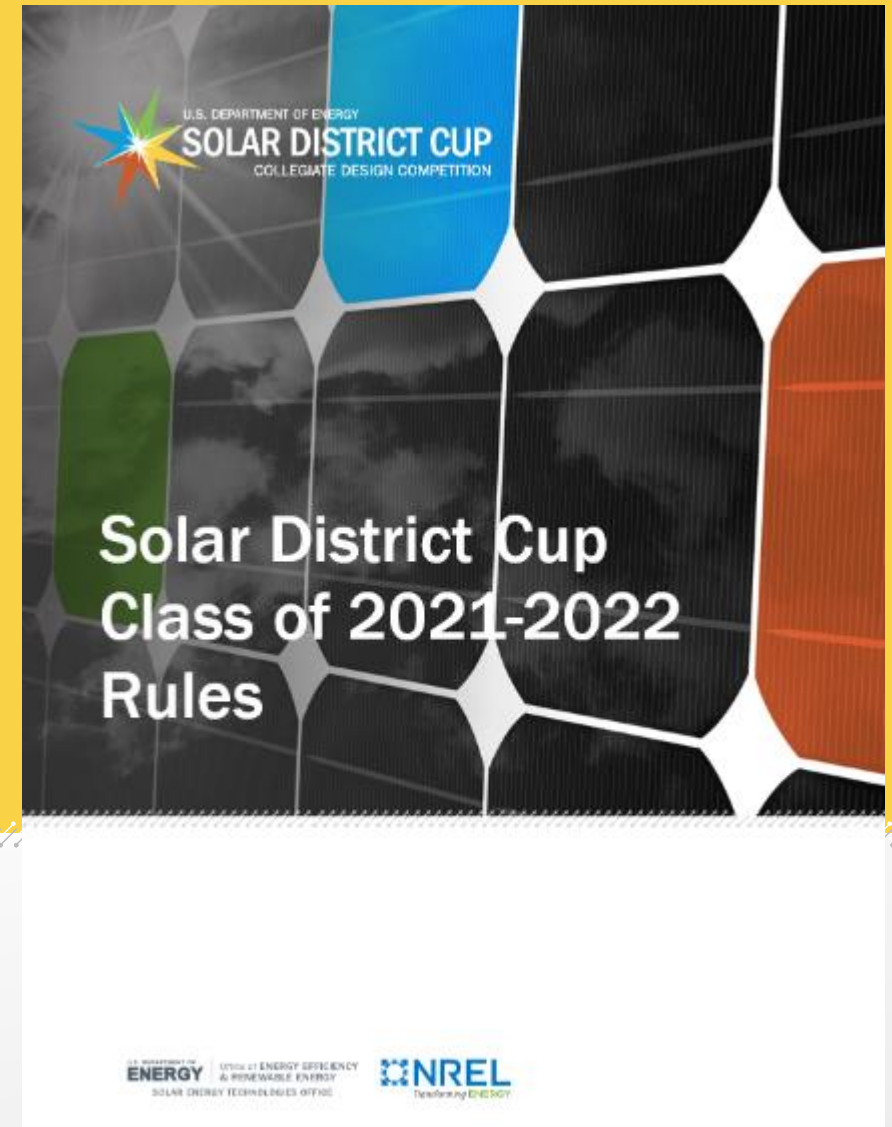
*“This competition gave [my class] much more structure, realism and excitement. This was truly a God-send. This was one of four projects in my senior capstone and I saw the skills from this competition that I wouldn't have focused on so much bleed into their other projects for their improvement.”*

–Class of 2020 Faculty



# Competition Rules Document

- Last year's Rules available for review on HeroX in "Resources" section.
- Class of 2021-2022 Rules to be published by August 31, 2021.

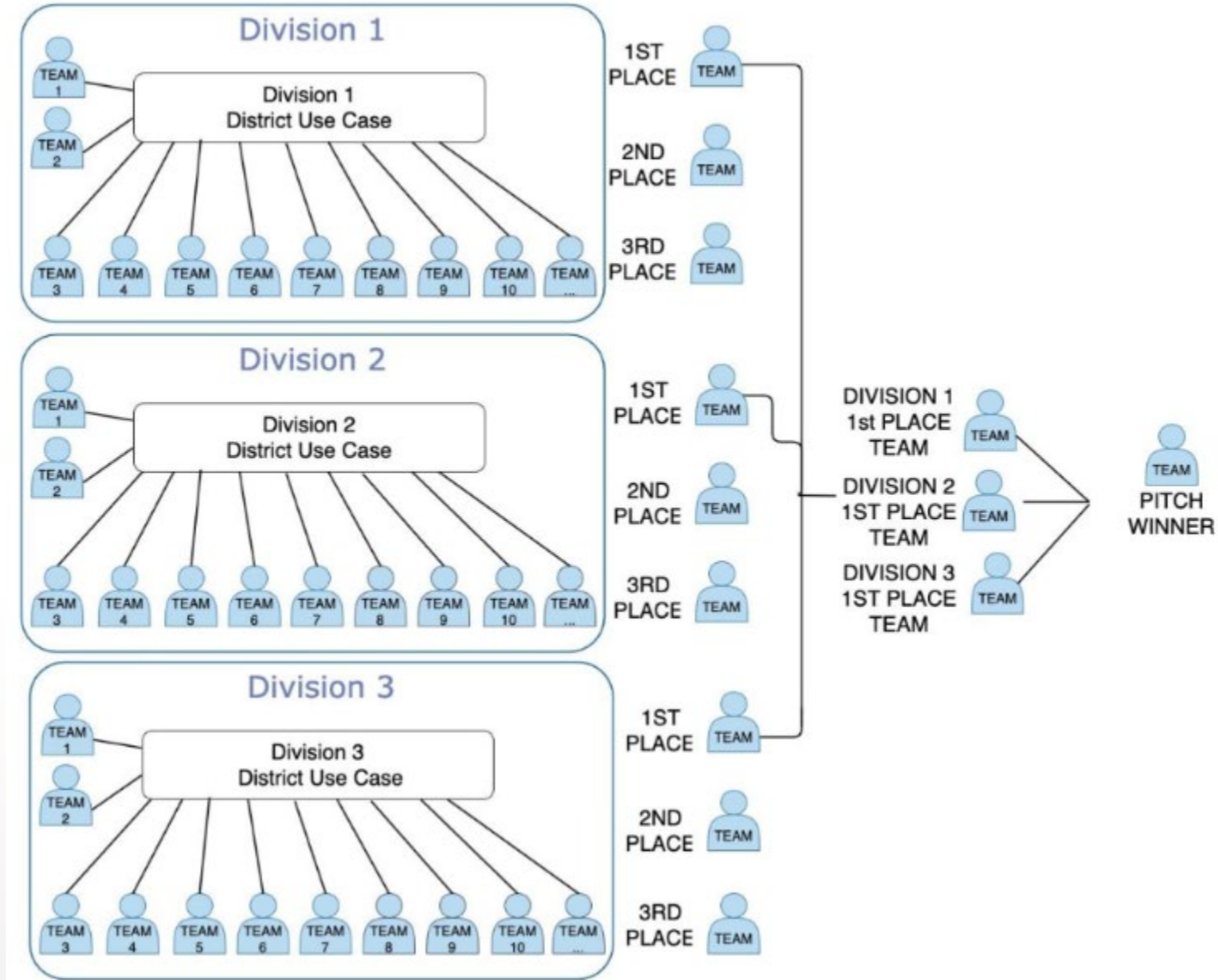


# Divisions and District Use Cases

Assigned, real-world use cases with data, district master plans, and interest in your solutions.

# Divisions

- 3 divisions
- Teams assigned to divisions by the competition organizers
- Winners of each division selected by industry judges
- Proposal pitch winner determined at final event.

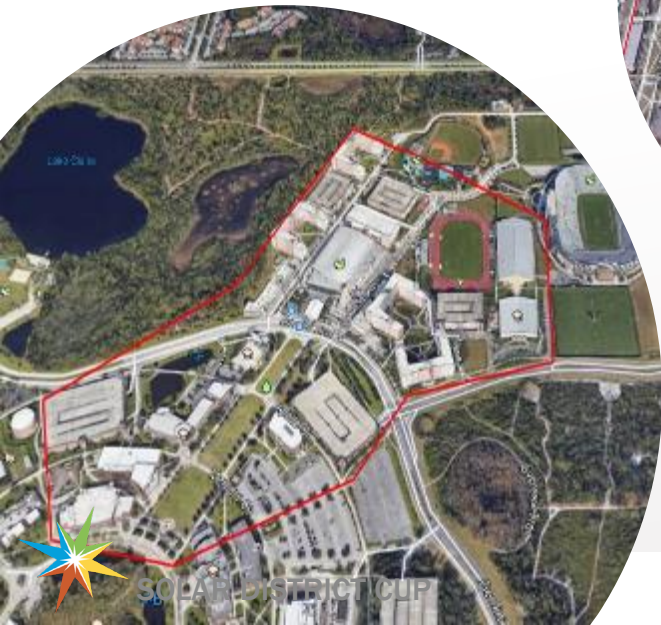







# Expected 2021-2022 Division District Use Case Types

- National laboratory research campus
- University campus with critical hospital infrastructure
- Museum and park district campus.



# Use Case Profile

- Available in a secure online data room at when divisions assigned and teams announced
- Serves as the “challenge document,” outlining each district use case and the parameters for student team projects
- Profile and data room contain several datasets to complete the challenge, including:
  - Annual interval energy usage for multiple buildings (.xlsx)
  - District Google Earth map with identifiers (.kmz)
  - Distribution system and substation information.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
**SOLAR DISTRICT CUP**  
COLLEGIATE DESIGN COMPETITION

### District Use Case: Ball State University

This document contains a description, data, and reference links for the Solar District Cup 2020 district use case of Ball State University. Data not available in this document can be found in the data packet on the following website:

Website: <https://pfs.nrel.gov>  
Username: ballstate-uc  
Password: VHOpmKb

#### 1. CAMPUS DESCRIPTION AND SUSTAINABILITY GOALS:

Ball State University (BSU) is a public research university with its main campus in Muncie, Indiana. The university was founded in 1918 with a bequest from the Ball brothers (of the Ball Corporation, famously the manufacturers of canning jars) and today hosts more than 21,800 students. The main BSU campus occupies more than 900 acres of land near the center of the city of Muncie.





Figure 1: View of BSU campus looking northwest

BSU was a 2006 founding signatory to the American College and University President's Climate Commitment, and in 2015 it signed the Climate Leadership Commitments, with a current goal of achieving climate neutrality by 2030. The university's statement on sustainability includes a commitment "...to protect and enhance the environment through our learning, research, service and administrative operations. [To] foster a community that sustains ecological systems and educates for environmental awareness, local action, and global thinking. [And] to incorporate environmental principles and environmentally responsible practices as fundamental and integrated components of all BSU operations and programs."



SOLAR DISTRICT CUP

Version 1.0 2019-09-09

1



# Training Provided

Customized training, exclusive access, templates, and tools necessary for every team to succeed in the competition.



# Customized Training on HeatSpring



## SOLAR DISTRICT CUP 8-MODULE ONLINE COURSE

### ASSIGNMENT 1 / 12

Lesson 1: Solar District Cup Deep Dive - Joe Simon (NREL) (40:58) (40:58 minutes)



#### Module 1 - Solar District Cup Specific Training (Required)

- ✓ Lesson 1: Solar District Cup Deep Dive - Joe Simon (NREL) (40:58)  
Video (40:58 minutes)
- ✓ Lesson 1: Solar District Cup Deep Dive - Joe Simon (NREL) (PDF)  
Download (.pdf)
- ✓ Lesson 2: Conceptual System Design Training - Dr. Andy Walker (NREL) (54:19)  
Video (54:19 minutes)
- ✓ Lesson 2: Conceptual System Design Training - Dr. Andy Walker (NREL) (PDF)  
Download (.pdf)
- ✓ Lesson 3: Distribution System Impact Analysis Training - Dr. Asad Latif (NREL) (59:10)  
Video (59:10 minutes)



ENROLL AND START TODAY  
NEXT SESSION: OCT 12 - NOV 22, 2020

\* Enroll now to access all course materials  
\* Instructor present during session dates  
\* Complete the course anytime

Price **\$1,995**

- Solar District Cup Specific Training Webinars
  - Introduction to Conceptual System Design
  - Distribution System Impact Analysis
  - How To Create a Financial Model
  - Development Planning Tips & Tricks
  - Pre/Post Knowledge Checks
  - And more!
- Free Access to “HeatSpring Solar Executive MBA” content
- Live “Office Hours” with industry experts
- Class of 2021 competition team submissions and presentations.





# Additional Resources and Tools

- Free access to industry-leading tools:
  - Aurora Solar for conceptual solar system design
  - Solar Executive MBA Financial Model
  - Energy Toolbase modeling solar + storage customer savings analysis
  - NREL's SAM and REopt Lite
- Free access to Solar Power International and regional Solar Power Events conferences.

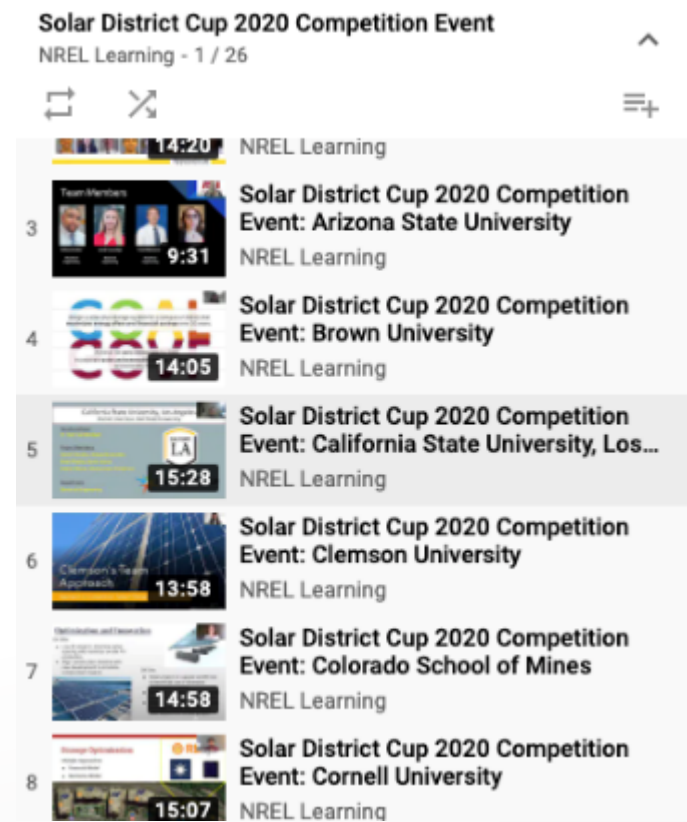


**NORTH AMERICA SMART ENERGY WEEK**

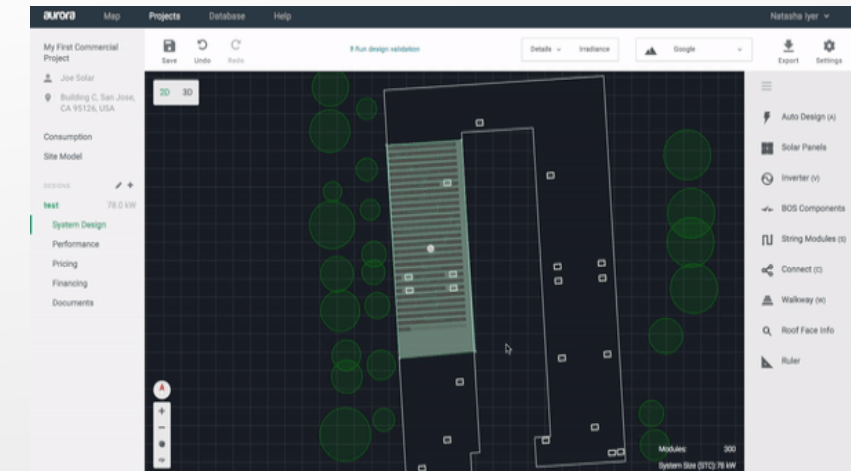
POWERED BY **SEIA** Solar Energy Industries Association® and **Smart Electric Power Alliance**

**September 20-23, 2021**  
New Orleans, LA | In-person & Digital

Solar District Cup 2020 Competition Event  
NREL Learning - 1 / 26



Video Number	Video Title	Duration	Source
3	Solar District Cup 2020 Competition Event: Arizona State University	14:20	NREL Learning
4	Solar District Cup 2020 Competition Event: Brown University	9:31	NREL Learning
5	Solar District Cup 2020 Competition Event: California State University, Los...	14:05	NREL Learning
6	Solar District Cup 2020 Competition Event: Clemson University	15:28	NREL Learning
7	Solar District Cup 2020 Competition Event: Colorado School of Mines	13:58	NREL Learning
8	Solar District Cup 2020 Competition Event: Cornell University	14:58	NREL Learning



The screenshot shows the Aurora Solar software interface. On the left, there is a sidebar with a project list and a 'My First Commercial Project' section. The main area displays a 3D design visualization of a solar system installed on a building roof. The interface includes various toolbars and a right-hand panel with options like 'Auto Design (A)', 'Solar Panels', 'Inverter (V)', 'BOS Components', 'String Modules (S)', 'Connect (C)', 'Walkway (W)', 'Roof Face Info', and 'Ruler'. The bottom status bar indicates 'Modules: 350' and 'System Size (STC): 76 kW'.



# Timeline of Events

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Designed to fit within the academic calendar

Participate as part of a course, senior design or capstone projects,  
or an extracurricular activity.

# Solar District Cup Timeline



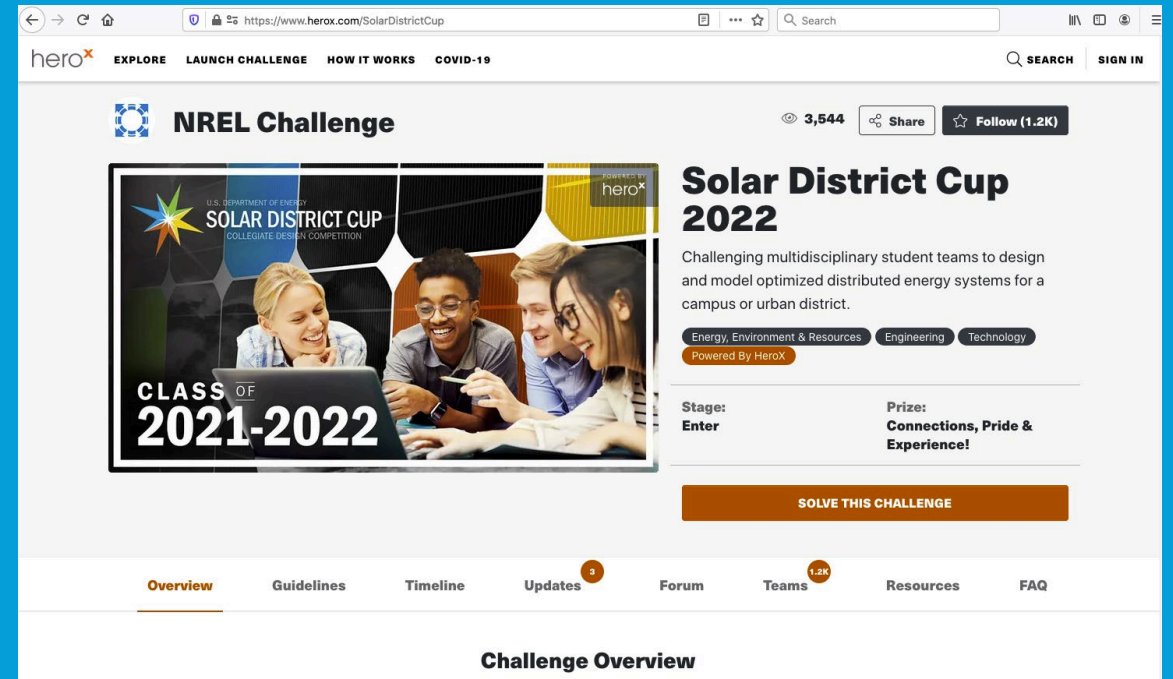
# When to Engage: Summary Timeline 2021-2022

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- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| • August 18    | Informational Webinar                            |
| • August 31    | Rules Published                                  |
| • September 16 | Registration Deadline                            |
| • September 23 | Participating team announced, divisions assigned |
| • September 30 | Warm-Up Workshop (virtual)                       |
| • November 18  | Progress Deliverable Package Due                 |
| • December 16  | Finalist Teams Announced                         |
| • April 14     | Final Deliverable Package Due                    |
| • April 24-25  | Final Competition Event (virtual)                |
| • TBD (May)    | Pitch Championship Presentations to Industry     |



# Intrigued?



Go to [www.herox.com/solardistrictcup](https://www.herox.com/solardistrictcup) and click “Follow” so we keep you up to date!

# More Than Intrigued? Register a Team!

1. Go to the Challenge page at [www.herox.com/solardistrictcup](http://www.herox.com/solardistrictcup)
2. Choose “Solve this Challenge.” This indicates your interest in competing; it is not a commitment (yet)
  - a. Sign-in or create a HeroX account if you don’t already have one (and remember your password)
  - b. Agree to the Terms of Use
  - c. Confirm your email address
  - d. Accept the Challenge-Specific Agreement
  - e. Indicate “Would you like to compete as a team?”
    - i. Yes, I want to create my own team (with email addresses of invited team members)
    - ii. Yes, I want to join a team
    - iii. No, I want to compete individually (can create or join other teams later)
  - f. Form a team with one Team Captain.

 **SIGN IN**

 **NREL Challenge**

 **5,002** **Share** **Follow (683)**



**Solar District Cup 2022**

Challenging multidisciplinary student teams to design and model optimized distributed energy systems for a campus or urban district.

**SOLVE THIS CHALLENGE**



# How to Register a Team

3. By the registration deadline, one person from each team must click “Begin Entry” and then submit a Register entry on HeroX to complete registration. This step is when you identify your collegiate institution and expected team. There is no cost to submit a Register entry.
4. Registration entries received by the deadline are deemed participating teams. All teams who successfully complete a Register entry and meet eligibility are accepted.
5. Divisions are assigned by the competition organizers following receipt of a complete Register entry and by the date on which participating teams are announced.
6. Multiple teams from a single school may submit a Register entry, but only one team may compete per division. Three divisions are expected.
7. Only one person per team may submit a Register entry. Other members join that registered team via HeroX. Team members may be added or removed from a team at any time. Once you have registered a team, you can invite additional members using HeroX.

**NREL Challenge**

 **5,002**

**Share**

**Following (683)**



**Solar District Cup 2022**

Challenging multidisciplinary student teams to design and model optimized distributed energy systems for a campus or urban district.

**Register**

**BEGIN ENTRY**

# How to Register a Team: Prompts in HeroX

heroX

This is only a draft. You can start now and complete your submission later!

Create Submission

Save & Preview

Title \*

Give your submission a catchy title that describes the idea and gets people interested.

Characters left: 50

Short description

Provide a brief description of your idea. Be clear and concise.

Characters left: 140

Image

Upload image

Tip: An image boosts your message by illustrating your solution. For best results, ensure your image contains the following items: an actor(ess) (person), artifact (tool they're holding), action (what they're doing), and atmosphere (setting where they are). Your image is at least 650 pixels wide by 366 pixels tall for clarity.

SOLAR DISTRICT CUP

heroX

## Team Registration

Hello competitor! At this time you can submit this form to Register your team to participate.

In the "Title" section above, give your team a name. The "Short description" and "Image" sections above are optional.

Name of Collegiate Institution \*

The name of the institution(s) represented by the students on the team.

Characters left: 3000

Team Name

Complete a separate "Register" submission for each team that will participate from your collegiate institution.

Up to three teams from a single school may enter, but only one team may compete per division. The organizers will assign each team to a division following team registration.

For example, if an entire class integrates the Solar District Cup into their curriculum, the school could compete as one large team of students or as multiple teams of a few students each.

Characters left: 3000

heroX

Disciplines of Expected Students \*

☐ Electrical Engineering

☐ Mechanical Engineering

☐ Engineering: other

☐ Urban Planning

☐ Business

☐ Finance

☐ Marketing

☐ Sustainability

☐ Architecture

☐ Other

☐ Unknown at this time

Teams are encouraged to be multidisciplinary, although this is not required.

Please indicate the disciplines of expected student team members. If you don't know yet, leave this question blank.

Your Role on Team \*

Preferred Email for Official Communications from Organizers \*

Please provide the email address you'd prefer the organizers use for official email communications.

Characters left: 5000

Cancel

Save & Preview

heroX

Please note: This is a draft of your entry and is only visible to you. You may return to edit this draft at any time from the main challenge page. Once you have finished and are ready to submit your final entry, click the "submit final entry" button to submit it for judging.

Preview

Edit

Submit final entry

Joe Simon



# What's Next?

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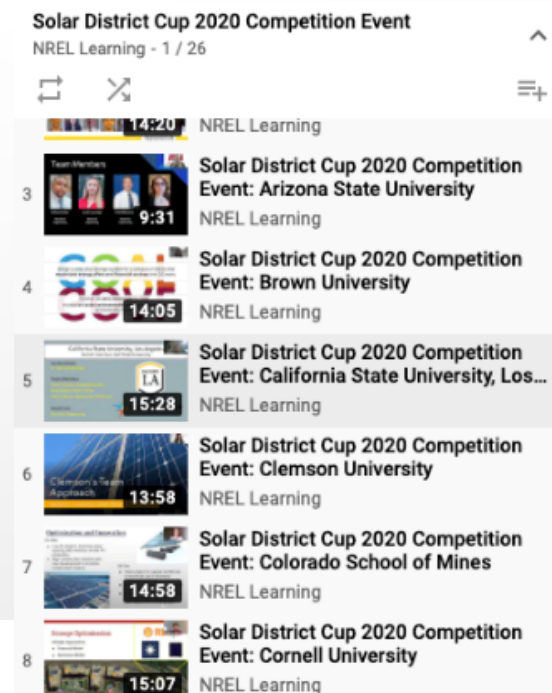
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# What To Do After Registration and Before Teams and Divisions Announced

- Read the Rules published on [HeroX Solar District Cup Resources](#)
- Watch recordings of the 15-minute project presentations of the Class of 2021 competing teams, available on NREL's Learning Channel in this [YouTube Playlist](#)
- Begin HeatSpring learning
  - Curriculum support
  - Available starting Aug. 31, 2021
- Build a team
  - Recruit multi-disciplinary team members
  - Identify faculty advisor
  - Find mentors.



# Warm-Up Workshop: September 30, 2021 (virtual)

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Warm up your team with this workshop, featuring:

- Deep dive into the Rules
- District use case review
- Introduction to the Class of 2021-2022 participating teams
- Top 10 tips to take home glory
- Learning from the pros: guest speakers

Expect 3-hour video conference (with break time)

More details to come!

*Also watch for announcement to attend the Solar Power International Virtual Tradeshow.*

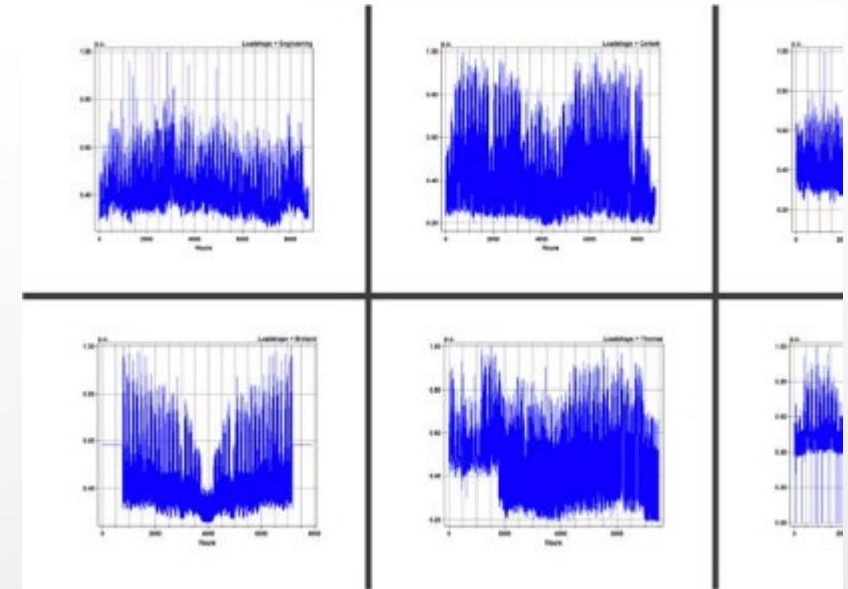


# What You'll Submit November

## Progress Deliverable Package: Solar Systems

- Executive project summary
- Conceptual system design
- Distribution system impact analysis
- Financial analysis
- Development plan.

**Due 5 p.m. ET on Thursday,  
November 18, 2021**

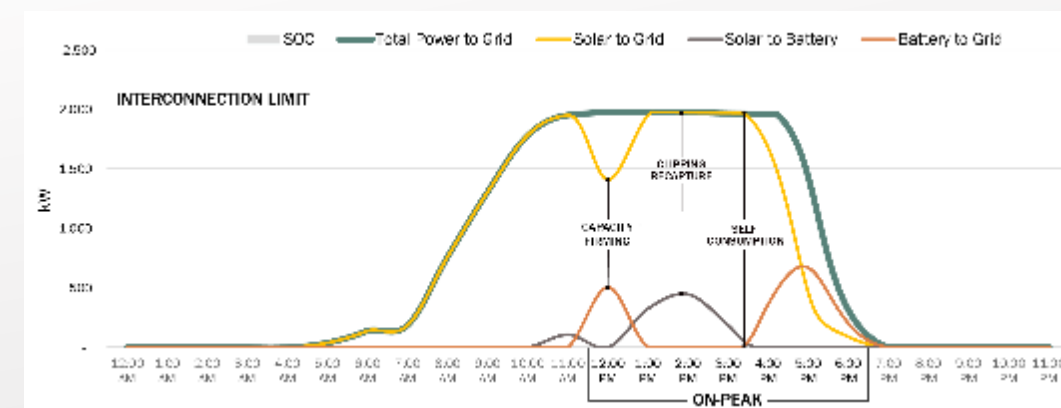
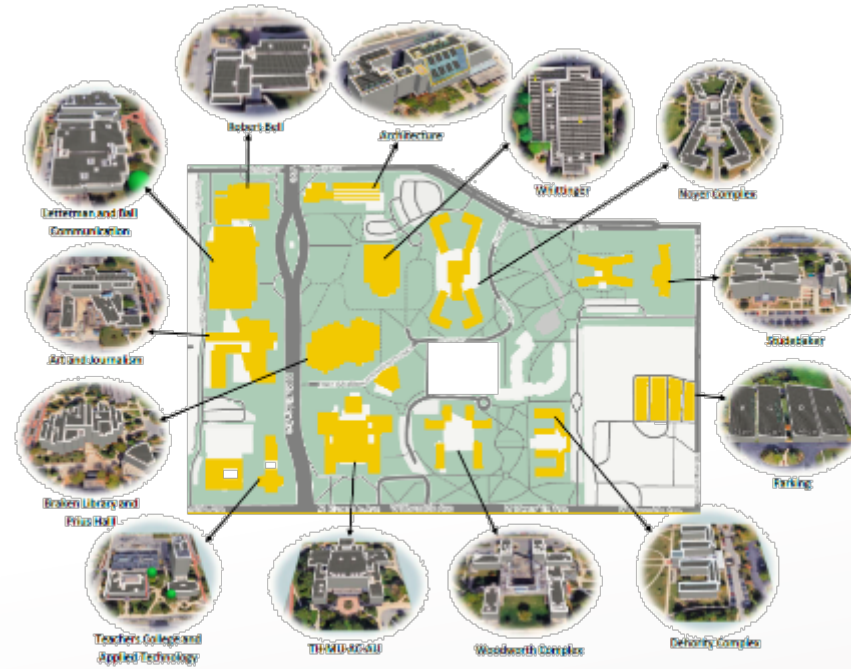


# What You'll Submit in April

## Final Deliverable Package: Solar-plus-battery energy storage systems

- Project proposal
- Conceptual system design
- Distribution system impact analysis
- Financial analysis
- Development plan.

## Project proposal–pitch presentations





# Final Competition: April 24-25, 2022

- Present to division judges on Sunday, April 24
- Winners announced on Monday, April 25.
- Project Pitch Champion Presentations Schedule – *To Be Determined*



# SOLAR DISTRICT CUP 2020 SCHEDULE

PDT	MDT	CDT	EDT	Sunday, April 26		
8:00 a.m.	9:00 a.m.	10:00 a.m.	11:00 a.m.	Teams Login and Check-In with Division Coordinator		
9:00 a.m.	10:00 a.m.	11:00 a.m.	12:00 p.m.	Welcome, Logistics Overview, and Judge Introductions for each division		
<div> <div>DIVISION</div> <div> <div>Crystal Parks</div> <div>New Mexico State University</div> <div>Ball State University</div> </div> </div>						
9:30 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	11:30 a.m.	12:30 p.m.	Illinois Institute of Technology	Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis	Western Washington University
10:00 a.m.	11:00 a.m.	12:00 p.m.	1:00 p.m.	Hanover College	Northern Arizona University	New Mexico State University
10:30 a.m.	11:30 a.m.	12:30 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	Appalachian State University	Clemson University	Arizona State University
11:00 a.m.	12:00 p.m.	1:00 p.m.	2:00 p.m.	BREAK (30 minutes)		
11:30 a.m.	12:30 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m.	The University of Virginia	University of Cincinnati	California State University, Los Angeles
12:00 p.m.	1:00 p.m.	2:00 p.m.	3:00 p.m.	Colorado School of Mines	University of Colorado Boulder	The Ohio State University
12:30 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	Dartmouth College	Marquette University	Georgia Institute of Technology
1:00 p.m.	2:00 p.m.	3:00 p.m.	4:00 p.m.	BREAK (30 minutes)		
1:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	4:30 p.m.	Cornell University	Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University	Florida International University
2:00 p.m.	3:00 p.m.	4:00 p.m.	5:00 p.m.	Alfred University	Brown University	Craigton University
2:30 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	4:30 p.m.	5:30 p.m.		West Virginia University	University at Buffalo, The State University of New York

Judge

J-Patrick Chavez

J-Tonyah Banigye

Judge

J-Michael Coddington

J-Christopher Lark

Judge

J-Evan Riley

Mackenzie

O-Mackenzie Mann

F3 - Pamela Lule

F3 - Matthew Allison

F3 - Benjamin Hennigan

F3 - Daniel Carrillo

"My favorite moment was being able to watch other teams present. Seeing what other teams came up with and the creativity that this project inspired was truly amazing." –Class of 2020 Student

# Why Compete? No Risk, High Reward!

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**NO COST**

to enter

**TRAVEL**

is not required

**TRAINING**

is provided

**CONNECTIONS**

to industry





# Next Steps: Recap

Go to:  
[www.herox.com/solardistrictcup](http://www.herox.com/solardistrictcup)  
and choose “Follow” now!



## RECRUIT

Team members,  
faculty advisor,  
and mentors



## REGISTER

Your team on  
HeroX by  
September 16



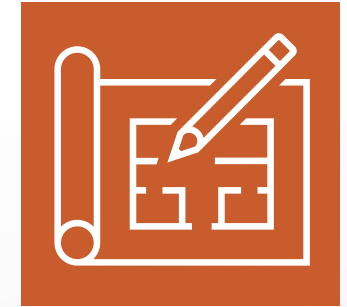
## READ

The Rules to  
plan your  
participation



## LEARN

Using the  
resources  
provided by the  
Organizers



## DESIGN

Your solutions!

*Share the recording of this webinar with prospective team members. Recording link posted on HeroX on Aug. 19.*



# Thank You to Our Partners!

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

**SOLAR DISTRICT CUP**

COLLEGIATE DESIGN COMPETITION

# Closing Q&A

*“I met with industry professionals and learned that this is exactly what they do for a career. I was excited to hear how relevant our work for this competition was and how it can translate to the real world.”*

–Class of 2021 Student

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**#SolarDistrictCup**

Learn more, sign up for our newsletter, and register a team at:

[\*\*www.herox.com/solardistrictcup\*\*](http://www.herox.com/solardistrictcup)

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