

Student Sustainability Committee (SSC) Status Report

Project Status Report

Project Name: Illinois Solar Decathlon 2009

Contact Information:

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Please describe current project status.

The Solar Decathlon team has finalized the home design and is currently working to document all the details and work out the technical solar design. There are currently two courses focusing on the solar decathlon, Engineering 491 and an Industrial Design seminar. We have continued to pursue funding, with current projections at \$498,000 plus product and service donation. The team has successfully submitted all required documentation for the Department of Energy and is preparing for the December 16th submittal. The home design will meet passive house standards, features structural Lamboo construction and will have 40 SunPower solar panels. The team has also successfully reclaimed wood from a barn in Rockford, IL to use for the siding and has salvaged wood from a historic silo in Champaign, IL. The project has involved over 100 student volunteers and 5 University classes. In addition, the home has been published in local papers and has been discussed on news shows. Once construction begins, the team will increase publicity and public presentations. Overall, we believe that the impact on the campus has been extensive. Students are continually learning about the possibilities and opportunities to design and develop sustainable practices in a practical way.

Please update your project's timeline – have there been any changes since the initial proposal? If so, why?

The project remains on schedule. Construction will begin in January and Architecture has created a class to install all the finishes and begin testing the house. The team is on schedule with regard to fundraising, currently at nearly 80% of or total goal with approximately one year to go. The team has also begun working on construction documents for submittal on December 16th and will work with Homeway homes to construct the shell of the house in January 2009.

Please attach an updated, detailed budget, including monies already spent and future spending, related to the funding provided by the Student Clean Energy Committee.

Spending on the project has been minimal to date. The Student Committee recently awarded 20,000 for general expenses and 10,000 towards public education and outreach. The team will use the \$20,000 towards construction expenses and potentially student transportation to Washington D.C. in October 2009. The \$10,000 will be used towards website design, educational posters and flyers for distribution to the public.

How are you publicizing your sustainability efforts?

Our website, www.solardecathlon.uiuc.edu is currently online and is updated nearly daily with posts from engineering students with regard to progress, products and design. The team efforts have also been published in multiple newspapers, filmed by the Big Ten network, and discussed on local news shows. The team is also in the process of developing publication in major architectural magazines. The Illinois design was also presented at the Passive House Conference in Duluth Minnesota. Over the course of the next few months, the team will be redesigning the website and working to increase overall publicity. In early February, the team will also have the house on display during construction. As construction progresses, the team will hold public tours and increase overall outreach.

Return this form to the Student Sustainability Committee to sustainability-committee@uiuc.edu