The President has set a goal of a net zero emissions economy by 2050. Buildings play a significant role in reaching this goal and building professionals must be prepared to design and construct high efficiency, low-carbon buildings powered by renewables. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is interested in recognizing higher education institutions that prepare students for 21st century building careers.

The Zero Energy Design Designation Program
Requirements:
Schools interested in being recognized by the DOE will need to demonstrate a commitment to preparing students for a zero carbon future by offering a building science education curriculum within their programs of study which showcases best practices in zero energy strategies and technologies. DOE offers a Building Science Education curriculum which can be adopted and implemented to meet the curricular requirements. Qualified programs could be specialty tracks, certificates or stand alone degrees.

To receive a designation the selected program of study will need to include the following:

- **Part I: Building Science Education Curriculum**
  Meet requirement by offering:
  - Option 1: Solar Decathlon Building Science Education
  - Option 2: School created Building Science Education

- **Part II: Zero Energy Design Practicum**
  Meet requirement by offering:
  - Option 1: Participation in Solar Decathlon Design and/or Build Challenge
  - Option 2: Participation in school course focused on zero energy building design meeting DOE Zero Energy Ready Home certification or more stringent. Residential or commercial projects may qualify.

Application Checklist below.
Designation Period
Initial recognition period is three years. DOE reserves the right to revoke recognition if it is determined that institution is not in compliance.

Renewing Designation
Institutions may renew recognition after three years by providing:
- Updated letter from the Dean or Department Chair / Head 1) confirming designation elements remain in place or 2) describing updates or improvements to the recognition elements
- Student metrics - # of students graduating with both designation elements during previous reporting period

How to apply:
The application deadline is July 1, 2022 at 11:59 PM PT.

Access the application at: https://www.energy.gov/eere/buildings/us-doe-zero-energy-design-designation-recognizes-leading-collegiate-programs-study

Additional questions?
Please contact ZEDD@nrel.gov

When to expect information about acceptance into the program?
The first designation cohort will be announced in August 2022.

Additional Resources:
- Building America Solution Center
- Building Science Education
- DOE Guidelines for Building Science Education
- Green Buildings Career Map
- Solar Decathlon Career Profiles
- Solar Decathlon Design Challenge Rules
# Application Information Checklist

## Basic School Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Program of Study (Major / Minor / Certificate)</th>
<th>Program of Study URL</th>
<th>Current Student Enrollment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Expected Number of Students Graduating over the course of the next 3 years**

**Individual Submitting Documentation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Contact E-mail</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Who the Letter of Recognition Should Be Sent To**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>E-Mail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Who else should be CC'd**

## Part I: Building Science Education

### Option 1: All students complete Solar Decathlon Building Science Education program.

- Participation in the Solar Decathlon is an annual activity in Program of Study
- Instructions: Skip to Part II

### Option 2: All students complete required coursework covering DOE Building Science Education learning objectives.

- Instructions: Identify required course(s) that addresses each DOE Building Science Education learning objective. For each, submit associated course name, number, syllabus and course schedule. Syllabi should include course requirements and learning objectives.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Information Required to Demonstrate Objective Will Be Met:</th>
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### Course Information Required to Demonstrate Objective Will Be Met:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Course Number</th>
<th>Course Syllabus</th>
<th>Course Schedule</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

## Part II: Zero Energy Design Practicum

### Option 1: All students participate in the Solar Decathlon Design or Build Challenge

- Participation in the Solar Decathlon is an annual activity in Program of Study
- Instructions: Identify required course(s) that address the Zero Energy Design Practicum. For each, submit associated course name, number, syllabus and course schedule. Syllabi should include course requirements and learning objectives.

### Option 2: Students participate in a school offered design practicum

- Instructions: Identify required course(s) that address the Zero Energy Design Practicum. For each, submit associated course name, number, syllabus and course schedule. Syllabi should include course requirements and learning objectives.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Information Required to Demonstrate Practicum Will Be Met:</th>
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## Verification Letter

A letter from the Dean or Department Head / Chair verifying both recognition elements are required of students to graduate in the designated program of study.