

U.S. Department of Energy Zero Energy Design Designation (ZEDD)

About

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) [Zero Energy Design Designation \(ZEDD\)](#) program supports the goal of a net-zero emissions economy by 2050 by preparing post-secondary students for 21st century building careers. The designation, offered to qualifying post-secondary programs of study for three years, requires graduating students to:

- Complete the building science curriculum that uses DOE's [Solar Decathlon Building Science Education](#) learning modules or otherwise meets ZEDD's learning objectives; and,
- Participate in a Zero Energy Design Practicum, either by completing the U.S. Department of Energy [Solar Decathlon Design Challenge](#) or by engaging in a zero-energy design project that would earn the [DOE Zero Energy Ready Home](#) certification or more stringent.

Since launching in 2022, the ZEDD program has recognized [39 programs of study from 26 institutions](#). Designees include U.S. and international universities, colleges, and community colleges. DOE supports designees with national and regional recognition, assistance with promotion in local markets, and other resources.

Requirements

Schools interested in ZEDD need to offer a building science curriculum within their programs of study which showcases best practices in zero energy design strategies and technologies. Examples of programs that have received the designation include architecture, architectural engineering, mechanical engineering, sustainable building design, zero energy design, and more. A wide range of programs are eligible to apply, including stand-alone degrees, specialty tracks, and certificates.

Key Dates for 2024

March 21, 2024:

A ZEDD webinar with information about the designation and the application process will be held at 2 p.m. ET. [Register here](#).

April 2024:

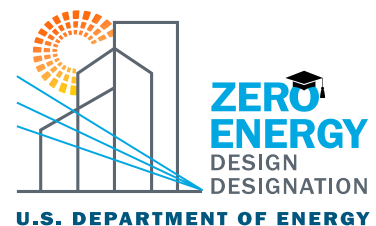
The 2024 ZEDD application opens.

June 2024:

The ZEDD application closes at 11:59 p.m. PT on June 28, 2024.

September 2024:

The 2024 ZEDD designees will be announced by DOE.



Header images, clockwise from left: University of Colorado Boulder/Solar Decathlon, NREL 83728, NREL 83699, NREL 83685

Contact:

For questions about the program or application process, email ZEDD@NREL.gov or visit the [ZEDD website](#).