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California Polytechnic State University

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Click [Here](#) for [Photos](#) of the Cal Poly Solar Decathlon Team in Washington D.C.

CONTACT: Ray Ladd

Contact: Ray Ladd

(805) 756-7432, rladd@calpoly.edu**Cal Poly Solar Decathlon Team In Second So Far in D.C. Competition;
Final Results to Be Announced Friday Morning**

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Cal Poly's [Solar Decathlon team](#) of architecture, engineering, construction management and communications students has entered the final day of the week-long competition in second place.

The international competition is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy; participating universities from across the United States, Canada and Europe designed and built energy-efficient, solar-powered houses to enter. The students had to transport all their materials to Washington, D.C., and build them on the Capitol Mall. The houses are completely powered by solar energy; in addition, the solar setup for each home must power an electric car.

This is the first year Cal Poly has entered the competition, and Cal Poly's is the only entry from the West Coast.

The competition scoring is similar to a track meet: different aspects of design and construction have been judged on each successive day of the competition, with teams awarded points in each category.

The Mustang team, under the direction of faculty advisors Sandra Stannard and Robert Pena, have consistently held second place throughout the week, with Virginia Tech, University of Colorado and Cornell jockeying for first, then falling below Cal Poly.

Final results will be announced Friday, Oct. 14, in Washington D.C. at 11 a.m. Pacific Time/2 p.m. Eastern time.

Click [Here](#) to read the Los Angeles Times Story on the [Solar Decathlon and the Cal Poly team](#)

Click [Here](#) to read the San Luis Obispo Tribune story on the [Solar Decathlon](#)

Photos of the Cal Poly Solar Decathlon Team in Washington D.C.

For more details Click [Here](#) to read the Solar Decathlon Web page [about Cal Poly's entry](#).



Cal Poly's Solar Decathlon team first built the university entry on campus, before transporting it in segments to

Washington, D.C. At left is the solar house under construction on campus in September. The entry was made possible by generous donations from industry partners, sponsors and alumni.



Once finished, Cal Poly's solar house and finishing materials were loaded on to a truck (right) and hauled from San Luis Obispo to Washington D.C. Along the way, the truck and its cargo were hit by a car -- causing some damage to the solar house that the team had to repair in Washington D.C.

The Cal Poly team assembled the house on its spot on the National Mall, below.







Michelle Hamilton, fifth year architecture student, does a late night paint touch up on a redwood screen around a portion of the solar house that is Cal Poly's entry in the Solar Decathlon competition now going on in Washington D.C., on the Capitol Mall. The screen, made from redwood harvested at Cal Poly's [Swanton Pacific Ranch](#) in Santa Cruz, California, has been certified as [sustainably harvested](#) by the Forest Stewardship Council. The screen will serve as a trellis and will extend into a sunshade of the same material on the south side of the home.

With the finishing touches in place, Cal Poly was ready for visits from judges and the public (below).



Though the weather was sunny during construction of the solar entries, the skies turned cloudy and rain came at the start of the competition.

Student teams from around the world pose for a photo of the completed Solar Decathlon houses on the mall (below) with The Smithsonian Institution in the background.



The opening day of the Solar Decathlon drew crowds, in addition to competition judges (right). The public also had the opportunity to go inside the solar houses -- including those pictured below in front of Cal Poly's solar house.

In one of many categories in the Solar Decathlon, teams were judged on how well they communicated about their entry and the features of their solar home. Cal Poly's entry included informational panels outside the home.



Overall, Cal Poly has remained in second place throughout the international competition, only a handful of points away from the top spot.

In individual categories, Cal Poly took second place in both the [Architecture Contest](#) and the [Dwelling Contest](#). Jurors on the [Dwelling panel](#) praised the house for its simplicity and elegant divisions of interior space.

Check back for the final results!

All photos courtesy Solar Decathlon, including photographer Stefano Paltera

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Cal Poly Public Affairs
California Polytechnic State University
San Luis Obispo, CA 93407
805.756.7266
polynews@calpoly.edu