



## Press Release

The Pennsylvania State University • EMS Energy Institute • C-211 CUL • University Park, PA 16802-2323 • (814) 865-4802 - phone • (814) 863-7432 – fax

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Barbara Robuck, Marketing and Communications  
Penn State University/EMS Energy Institute  
CUL-211, University Park, PA 16802  
Phone: 814-865-7380 E-mail: [bjr10@psu.edu](mailto:bjr10@psu.edu)  
Website: [www.wppsef.org](http://www.wppsef.org)



### **WEST PENN POWER SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FUND PROVIDES SUPPORT TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S SOLAR DECATHLON IN WASHINGTON D.C.**

UNIVERSITY PARK, PA – October 7, 2009 – For three weeks in October 2009, the U.S. Department of Energy will host the Solar Decathlon—a competition in which 20 teams of college and university students compete to design, build, and operate the most attractive, effective, and energy-efficient solar-powered house. The Solar Decathlon is also an event to which the public is invited to observe the powerful combination of solar energy, energy efficiency, and the best in home design.

The West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund (WPPSEF) is pleased to support Penn State's 2009 entry – *Natural Fusion*. The Penn State entry is Pennsylvania's sole entry in the 2009 competition and is competing as one of the 20 international universities. The Solar Decathlon brings attention to one of the biggest challenges we face—an ever-increasing need for energy. As an internationally recognized event, it offers powerful solutions—using energy more efficiently and using energy from renewable sources.

Previously, the WPPSEF has provided funding to support Pennsylvania entries in the 2007 competition - Carnegie Mellon and Penn State universities. The student participants—the "Decathletes"—are educated about the benefits of energy efficiency, renewable energy and green building technologies. As the next generation of engineers, builders, and communicators, the Decathletes will be able to use this knowledge in their studies and their future careers.

The Solar Decathlon consists of three major phases:

**Building:** This is where most of the work—and the learning—happens. In addition to designing houses that use innovative, high-tech elements in ingenious ways, students have to raise funds, communicate team activities, collect supplies, and work with contractors.

**Moving to the Solar Village:** When it's time for the Solar Decathlon, the teams transport their houses to the National Mall in Washington, D.C., and rebuild them on site.

**Competing:** During the competition itself, the teams receive points for their performance in 10 contests and open their homes to the public.

**See Penn State's *Natural Fusion* at the National Mall in Washington, D.C.  
The houses will be open for public tours from October 9-13 and again from October 15-18.  
Learn more at [www.solardecathlon.org](http://www.solardecathlon.org).**

Many clean energy initiatives are made possible by the West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund. This fund invests in the deployment of clean energy technologies throughout the West Penn Power service region in Pennsylvania, invests in the use of renewable and clean energy, energy efficiency and conservation and attracts sustainable energy businesses to the Commonwealth. Learn more about how this fund is helping to green Pennsylvania at [www.wppsef.org](http://www.wppsef.org).

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