

Solar Homestead: Judgement Day

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Today, the judging gets real at the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon on the Mall in Washington DC. The team from ASU and the other 18 challengers have their structures assembled and the judging teams will be going through the houses. (photos ASU Solar Homestead) A bus load of ASU administration and staff left Wednesday to take in the scene, including Chancellor Kenneth Peacock. At this point, the Solar Homestead from ASU is in 14th place, but that's less than 2 and a half points behind leader Maryland and ahead of teams from Florida, New York, New Jersey, and even Belgium. The winner will be announced in just over a week, and state politicians and dignitaries are hoping to be there for that. The event challenges collegiate teams to design, build, and operate solar-powered houses that are cost-effective, energy-efficient, and attractive. The winner of the competition is the team that best blends affordability, consumer appeal, and design excellence with optimal energy production and maximum efficiency. ASU is encouraging votes for their entry, which can be done on line at: http://www.solardecathlon.gov/poll/pca/pca_register.php