




MEMORANDUM

TO: Water and Light Advisory Board 

FROM: Tad Johnsen, Water and Light Director

DATE: June 6, 2013

SUBJECT: Solar Decathlon

Columbia Water and Light has been approached by the Missouri S&T Solar Decathlon Team to help sponsor their entry in the U.S. Department of Energy's 2013 Solar Decathlon. Missouri S&T is one of 20 colleges invited to participate. The competition will be held in Orange County, California in October, 2013. The Solar Decathlon team is working diligently to raise funds to compete. The team is requesting support from all Missouri utilities. To date, there are several utilities which have donated funds for Missouri's participation. Water and Light staff recommends contributing \$2,000 which will achieve a Silver sponsorship level. This level of sponsorship allows for the Water and Light logo to be displayed on the "Sponsor Board", the "Solar House Brochure", "S&T Solar Home Website," and on the "Construction Site Banner." The global competition encourages students to think beyond traditional home design, creating a solar-powered home which is cost effective, energy efficient and attractive. The winning design is one that blends affordability, consumer appeal and design excellence with optimal energy production and maximum efficiency. The information below is taken directly from the U.S. DOE website.

The Solar Decathlon:

- Educates students and the public about the money-saving opportunities and environmental benefits presented by clean-energy products and design solutions
- Demonstrates to the public the comfort and affordability of homes that combine energy-efficient construction and appliances with renewable energy systems available today
- Provides participating students with unique training that prepares them to enter our nation's clean-energy workforce.

Since 2002, the Solar Decathlon has:

- Involved 112 collegiate teams, which pursued a multidisciplinary approach to study the requirements for designing and building energy-efficient, solar-powered houses
- Established a worldwide reputation as a successful educational program and workforce development opportunity for thousands of students
- Affected the lives of nearly 17,000 collegiate participants
- Expanded to currently include 65 participating teams and nearly 10,000 students in three competitions around the world: Solar Decathlon Europe 2012, Solar Decathlon China 2013, and the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon 2013
- Educated the public about the benefits, affordability, and availability of clean energy solutions by generating widespread media coverage and harnessing digital tools to reach tens of millions of people.

Recommended Action: Approve the \$2,000 sponsorship request to assist the Missouri S&T Solar Decathlon Mission.

TAJ/cs