



43rd IEEE PHOTOVOLTAIC SPECIALISTS CONFERENCE High School Photovoltaic Design Competition Portland SOLAR DAY

Dear High School Science Educator,

I would like to invite you and your school to participate in the **High School Photovoltaic Design Competition** during Portland Solar Day on Sunday June 5th, 2016. This event is planned for the opening day of the 43rd IEEE Photovoltaic Specialists Conference (PVSC) being held in Portland, June 5-10, 2016. PVSC (www.ieee-pvsc.org) is the preeminent photovoltaic technical conference in the world. The purpose of Solar Day is to leverage the presence of the IEEE Photovoltaic Specialists Conference to raise public awareness of photovoltaics and its potential impact on the community.

The High School Photovoltaic Design Competition provides participating high school students and their teachers with direct interactions with world-renowned photovoltaic technologists and businesses. Solar Day expects to attract up to 500 people from the greater Portland-area community including PV installers, PV buyers, students, utilities, and the general public who are interested in including solar power in the daily lives. There is **no charge** for the general public to attend Solar Day events.

There are 2 ways to earn money for participating high schools.

1. **\$500 seed money:** Upon confirmation of participation, \$500 for the project costs will be sent to the school.
2. **Prize money:** A panel of experts will judge the projects and cash awards will be made to the top 3 finishers. \$1000 for first, \$750 for second, and \$300 for third place.

In addition to the prizes, booth space (at no charge) is made available to the high schools to exhibit their projects during the main PVSC conference. This is an opportunity to showcase the student's projects to a world-class audience of PV experts.

The Competition:

The students are asked to work on their projects under the supervision of a teacher. The design projects must demonstrate the use of photovoltaics in a practical application, using only photovoltaics as the power source for the project. Examples of past projects include photovoltaics-powered cell-phone charging stations, robotic vehicles, and portable water purification.

Each project, along with a poster explaining the project, will be displayed in an 8 ft. x 6 ft. exhibit area at Solar Day, and the project's students + teacher team will make a 5 minute oral presentation about the project. A table will be provided. Electricity is available upon request. The projects are judged on originality, quality, and how the results are communicated. *The deadline for entry is March 31, 2016.*

Who may Participate?

High school students are eligible to participate, provided they will still be high school students in May of 2016.

How to Enter the Competition:

Complete the attached entry form and email to Daniel Friedman, Organizer IEEE PVSC High School Design Competition, phone (303) 384-6472, e-mail: daniel.friedman@nrel.gov
Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

