



US Dept. of Energy Solar Decathlon Held On Site Where DTSC Is Involved In Cleanup

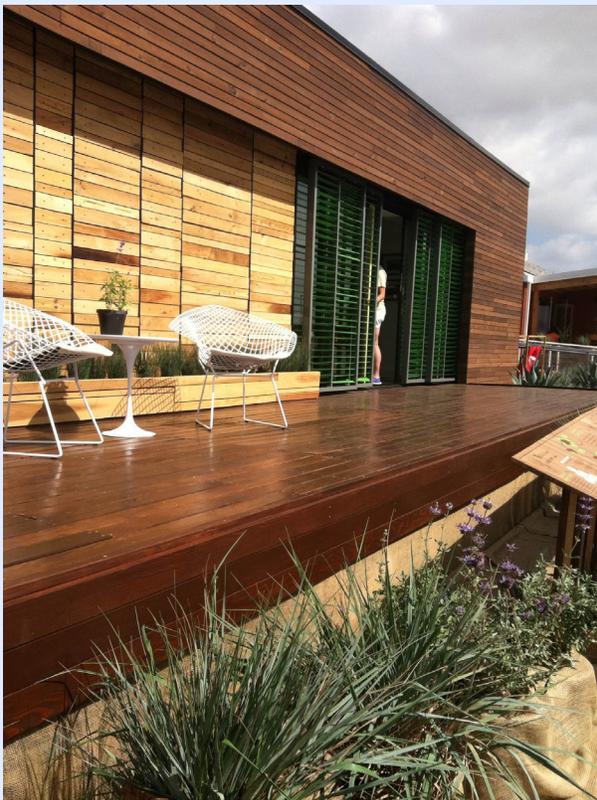
The 2013 U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon and Expo made its west coast debut in early October at Orange County Great Park in Irvine, a cleanup site that is being partially overseen by DTSC.

The 10-day international event has historically been held on the National Mall in Washington D.C..

The event challenges collegiate teams to design, build, and operate solar-powered houses that are cost-effective, energy-efficient, environmentally conscious and attractive. It was held for the first time in 2002 and has occurred biennially since 2005.

Open to the public at no charge, the event gave visitors a chance to tour the houses and gather ideas to use in their own homes. Following the competition, the house modules were disassembled.

“It is gratifying to see our collaborative work (with other agencies) result in a beautiful new facility that can be enjoyed by visitors to the Orange County Great Park,” said DTSC’s Eileen Mananian, project



A variety of homes were on display at the Solar Decathlon and Expo. The event demonstrated that environmentally-conscious housing can be affordable and attractive.





manager for the El Toro site. “The progress at this site adds momentum to our continued efforts to restore, cleanup, and redevelop this brownfield into a place where the community and the environment can thrive.”

The Orange County Great Park where this year’s decathlon was held is on the former Marine Corps Air Station El Toro in Irvine, where operation began in 1943 and was closed in July of 1999. The clean-up project is currently under U.S. EPA lead oversight, but is also overseen by DTSC and the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Activities at the former air station involved the operation and maintenance of military aircraft and ground support equipment. The 4,723-acre site was added to the National Priority List in 1990 due to a trichloroethene (TCE) plume in regional groundwater that extended three miles from the site. Currently the groundwater plume, containing volatile organic compounds (VOCs), is on the decline and is being contained. DTSC has been officially involved in the site since about 1990.

Mananian attended the decathlon and toured some of the homes.

“Each group had such a unique view of what sustainable meant to them, and the materials and design were so carefully thought out,” Mananian said. “It was a very interesting experience and I hope to be able to see this event in our own backyard in the near future again.”

About 64,000 visitors attended the decathlon and a total of about 800 students participated.

Twenty teams representing 30 participated. Participating colleges were: Arizona State University, University of New Mexico, Czech Technical University, University of Louisville, Ball State University, University of Kentucky, Middlebury College, Missouri University of Science and Technology, Norwich University, Santa Clara University, Southern California Institute of Architecture, California Institute of Technology, Stanford University, Stevens Institute of Technology, University of Calgary, Vienna University of Technology, Catholic University of America, George Washington University, American University, Queen’s University, Carleton University, Algonquin College, University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso Community College, Hampton University, Old Dominion University, University of Nevada Las Vegas, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, University of Southern California and West Virginia University.

“It is gratifying to see our collaborative work result in a beautiful new facility that can be enjoyed by visitors to the Orange County Great Park.”

- DTSC’s Eileen Mananian