



## How does EPA's P3 program help professors inspire their students to learn?

Research shows that quality, hands-on experience can enhance and add relevance to classroom learning. Indeed, EPA's P3 competition brings education alive for the students as they research and implement solutions to our most challenging problems to achieving sustainability.



Our nation's institutions of higher education – both large and small, 2-year and 4-year, state and private – with their committed and energized students can make unique contributions to the field of sustainable design. Faculty and administrators can use EPA's P3 competitions as a tool for laying the foundation for the next generation's environmental achievements.

peopleprosperityplanet

## What is the National Sustainable Design Expo?

Held in the shadow of the U.S. Capitol and the Washington Monument, the Expo is a truly inspiring exhibition of innovative technology for a sustainable future. Picture a high-rise farm, a 3-in-1 solar cooker that heats and generates power, or simple water treatment filters for villages in Africa. P3 student projects exhibit alongside EPA programs, other government agencies, non-profit organizations and businesses to showcase their achievements.

Thousands of enthusiastic visitors of all ages attend this 2-day "sustainability festival" to explore and share ideas with the students and professionals in the field.

## What happens after the Expo?

EPA's P3 experience is a launch pad for the real-world application of P3 team projects. Winners and competitors alike have turned their projects into local solutions for global challenges. These are just a few of the many P3 projects that are making a difference today:

- A company created by a former team from Oberlin College has installed its energy-saving technology in numerous schools and other organizations.
- A team from the University of Virginia designed and built the Learning Barge, the world's first floating wetlands classroom powered by renewable sources. The Elizabeth River Project now manages the barge for teaching school children and the public about the importance of environmental stewardship.
- A P3 Award team from the University of California-Davis has launched a company that converts the carbon found in wastewater into high-performance biodegradable plastic, turning a waste into a desired product.

P3 team members build on their experiences and the relationships begun through the competition by joining the P3 Network, a virtual alumni association.

US EPA's

# P3

COMPETITION

a student design  
competition for sustainability



# Join EPA today in the quest for a sustainable future!



## Be the change!

In today's world, trends in water and energy use, population growth, and resource consumption are increasing. The urgency to create a sustainable future for the planet requires that we take action today towards achieving a healthier environment for all people without sacrificing the needs of future generations.

This is a quest, and one that college and university students can join through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) People, Prosperity and the Planet—or "P3"—competition.

## What is EPA's P3 Competition?

Teams of graduate and undergraduate students, focusing on the challenges facing the developed and developing worlds, design tangible, cutting-edge solutions to real-world problems. They create; they innovate; they strive to make a difference. They compete

for the chance to win grant money to further develop their sustainable solutions, turn them into a business or implement them in communities.

## How does the competition work?

The competition has two phases. For the first phase, teams submit a proposal with their idea for a grant of \$15,000 awarded in the fall. The winning teams develop their designs through the school year.

Then, the teams bring their design projects to the National Sustainable Design Expo, held every spring on the National Mall in Washington D.C. They present their designs and compete for a P3 Award and a second grant of up to \$75,000 to implement their designs.

EPA's P3 competition is open to students in all areas of study—not just science and engineering majors. In fact, teams made

up of students from different disciplines are encouraged.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), whose mission is "advancing science, serving society," manages the judging and recommends the most innovative designs for winning EPA's P3 Award.

EPA announces the winners of the P3 Award and Phase II grant opportunity at the P3 Award Ceremony, the final event of the Expo.

