



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

Research shows that quality, hands-on experience can enhance and strengthen classroom learning. EPA's P3 competition brings education alive for students as they research and implement solutions for our biggest challenges to achieving sustainability.

From coast to coast, our nation's institutions of higher education can make unique contributions to the field of sustainable design with their committed and energized students.

Faculty and administrators can use EPA's P3 competition as a tool to lay the foundation for the next generation's environmental achievements.



peopleprosperityplanet

### What is the National Sustainable Design Expo?

The Expo is truly an inspiring exhibition of innovative technology for a sustainable future. Picture a high-rise farm, a three-in-one solar cooker that heats and generates power, or simple water treatment filters for rural villages in developing nations. P3 students exhibit their projects alongside EPA programs, other government agencies, non-profit organizations and businesses to showcase their achievements.

Thousands of enthusiastic visitors of all ages attend this sustainability expo to explore and share ideas with the students and professionals in the field.

### What happens after the Competition?

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 P3 team from Harvard University launched One Earth Designs, a startup that sells solar-powered grills that can also function as space heaters and electric generators.
- Sunn Lighting, a company that sells energy efficient indoor LED light fixtures, was founded by members of a P3 award team out of Cornell University.
- A P3 team from the University of Tennessee redesigned depression-era housing to green building standards, while still meeting strict historical preservation codes.
- A P3 team out of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University developed a solar powered water purification system in the form of a backpack. The team launched AquaSolve Ventures to produce the backpacks, which can each purify up to 4300 gallons of water per day.

U.S. EPA's

# P3

COMPETITION

a student design  
competition for sustainability



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



## Be the change!

Today we are confronted by dangerous trends of rapidly increasing water and energy use, population growth and resource consumption. It is urgent that we take action to create a sustainable future for the planet and work toward achieving a healthier environment for all people without sacrificing the needs of future generations.

This is a quest of tremendous importance — 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 focus on challenges facing the developed and developing worlds, and design tangible, cutting-edge solutions to real-world problems. These students create, innovate and strive to make a

difference. They compete for the chance to win additional grant money to further develop their sustainable solutions, launch a business, or implement their designs in the field.

## How does the P3 competition work?

The competition has two phases. Phase I teams submit a proposal of their idea for a grant of \$15,000, which is awarded in the fall. The winning teams go on to develop their designs throughout the school year.

The teams then bring their design projects to the National Sustainable Design Expo, held every spring in the Washington, D.C. area. At the Expo, students showcase their projects alongside exhibits from EPA programs, other government agencies, non-profit organizations and businesses.

A select group of P3 Phase I student teams are then nominated to win Phase II awards

of up to \$75,000. These grants give students the chance to expand and improve their ideas and see all of their hard work come to fruition.

EPA's P3 competition is open to students in all areas of study. Teams made up of students from different disciplines are encouraged to participate. P3 gives students from all backgrounds the opportunity to make a real, tangible difference in the world around them and help pave the way for a better tomorrow.



[www.epa.gov/p3](http://www.epa.gov/p3)