

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 to life for the students as they research and implement solutions for our biggest environmental challenges.

From coast to coast, our nation's institutions of higher education can make unique contributions 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.



2017 P3 student teams attending their booths and talking with guests at the P3 Expo.

What is the National Student Design Expo?

The Expo is an inspiring exhibition of innovative technology for a sustainable future. P3 student teams present their projects alongside EPA programs, other government agencies, non-profit organizations and businesses to showcase their achievements.

The Expo provides P3 award recipients with the opportunity to make connections with corporate, government and investment professionals from a range of disciplines. Students will be exposed to other P3 award projects and exhibits with topics ranging from biotech to agriculture.

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 buildings standards, while still meeting strict historical preservation codes.

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P3
**a student design
competition**

**researching solutions for
environmental protection
and public health**

People

Prosperity

Planet

Be a game changer!

Through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) People, Prosperity and the Planet – or “P3” – competition, you can help address current environmental issues and join EPA in its mission to protect human health and the environment. The P3 program encourages teams of undergraduate and graduate students to develop innovative solutions to environmental problems in the broad research topic areas of air quality, water, healthy communities, and chemical safety.

These projects work toward achieving a healthier environment for all people without sacrificing the needs of future generations.

What is EPA's P3 Competition?

Teams of graduate and undergraduate students focus on pressing environmental challenges, 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 or implement their designs in the field.

How does the competition work?

The competition has two phases. Potential Phase I teams submit a proposal of their idea for a chance at a grant of up to \$25,000, 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 Student Design Expo (NSDE), held every spring. At the Expo, students showcase their projects alongside exhibits from EPA programs, other government agencies, non-profit organizations, and businesses.

P3 Phase I student teams are then eligible to apply for Phase II awards of up to \$100,000. 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 and interdisciplinary teams are encouraged to participate. P3 gives students from all backgrounds the opportunity to make a tangible difference in the world around them and help pave the way for a better tomorrow.



2017 P3 student teams gather for a group photograph at the 2017 P3 Expo.