



Dear Superintendents & Teachers,

Telamon Corporation and Johnson Melloh Solutions, two Indianapolis-based companies focused on financing, designing, constructing, and operating renewable energy facilities, and the Indianapolis International Airport are excited to announce the “2013 Energy Independence Challenge” sponsored by General Energy Solutions Inc. (GES)! This energy challenge coincides with the largest airport-based solar farm planned in North America, which is set to begin construction on March 2013 at Indianapolis International Airport.

As part of the competition, entrant teams of 2-4 students from grades 9-12 will be asked to submit a plan or proposal for how their school can be more efficient in its use of energy — the core to becoming more energy independent. Younger students can take part if accompanied by students from grades 9-12. Overseen by a school faculty member, staff advisor or sponsor, each team will be required to submit a detailed essay that explains their proposed change and recommended plan of action. Please see the enclosed brochure, application, and rubric for more information.

An Energy Independence Management Team will serve as judges for the competition. The school of the winning team will be awarded \$15,000 in order to implement the proposed plan. The team will also be recognized at the Commissioning Event for the Indianapolis Airport Authority 14 megawatt solar power installation, tentatively scheduled for mid-fall 2013. The winning submission will be featured at the Indianapolis Airport in conjunction with the solar display. The team members of the four first place grade level winners will also be awarded with an Off-Grid Solar Backpack by Voltaic.

Please feel free to forward this information to additional teachers within your school corporation and filter questions to Eric Tate or Travis Murphy (contact information below).

We look forward to receiving your students’ proposals for this fun, educational project!

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indsolarfarm.com

2013 ENERGY INDEPENDENCE CHALLENGE



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Telamon Corporation and **Johnson Melloh Solutions**
along with the **Indianapolis International Airport** present the...

2013 Energy Independence Challenge

The "2013 Energy Independence Challenge" is designed to spark interest in the advancement of innovation in energy conservation, with the goal of encouraging students to collaborate and use their imaginations to generate change and improve the quality of their respective schools. Through collaboration with teacher and faculty advisors, teams of students will first be tasked with identifying a problem or need for improvement in their learning environment; and second, to come up with a solution to that problem or plan for improvement.

Simple, right? Here's a little more information.

Teams are challenged to submit a plan or proposal for how their school can be more efficient in its use of energy, which is the core to becoming more energy independent. Energy is underlying in everything. Young people are encouraged to think beyond what is traditionally seen as energy conservation practices and look to the next layer of where energy plays a role in the daily activities of their school. This may include recycling or reuse, as energy is consumed in the production and transportation of products. It may involve the transport of children to school or how the school is run or even the incorporation of renewable energy. The competition's founders and sponsors intentionally wanted to keep this challenge broad, knowing firsthand that there are an infinite number of ways we can create a more energy conscious environment for our educational system. Cognitive change (i.e. a campaign to educate the student body about something like efficient living practices or potential energy careers) would count, too. Anything that will provide a benefit to the students, and/or school, and/or greater community that can be performed and/or implemented is fair game.

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2013 Energy Independence Challenge

Here's a list of sample questions (in no particular order) we've designed to help inspire some creativity:

1. Is our school operating efficiently?
2. Do we waste water and electricity?
3. Can we reduce our waste either through recycling or reuse?
4. Do we have the technologies in place to lower our energy consumption?
5. Is there any equipment in the classroom or facilities department that we should replace?
6. Is there a change we can implement that will save the school money?
7. Is our school operating at its full potential?
8. Can I do some in depth research on a specific topic, technology, or government incentive that will equip our Principal and staff with the tools they need to make progressive program changes?
9. Is there land that we could convert into a community garden?
10. Is there a message each one of us should receive and be sharing with our family and friends?
11. How can we educate and engage thousands of students and use that force to generate change beyond our school and at the community or state levels?
12. Can we engage the younger students?
13. Do the students at our school have a voice and say in how the school operates?

ELIGIBILITY RULES:

- Entrant teams can be composed of 2-4 students from grades 9, 10, 11, and 12. Younger students can take part if accompanied by students from grades 9-12.
- Entrant teams must have 1 school faculty or staff advisor/sponsor above the age of 18 to oversee the development and submission of their project.
- There is no limitation to the number of teams a school faculty/staff advisor/sponsor can sponsor.
- All team members must be from the same central Indiana-based school corporation. Proof of enrollment for each team member will be required for the winning teams.
- Teams can be comprised of students from different grade levels, but the judging will be based on the highest grade level student on the team.
- The Energy Independence Management Team reserves the right to disqualify a team at any point in the registration, submission, or judging process if it is found that they do not meet one or more of these eligibility rules.
- Students may only participate on one team.
- Each school faculty or staff sponsor must acknowledge they have read and understand the terms and conditions set forth in the competition rules in order for the team to be eligible to win.

JUDGING RULES:

Winners will be chosen at the sole discretion of the Judging Panel. This panel of judges will critique all eligible entries and select a winner based on the following guidelines:

- **CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION** — How original or unique is the idea? Are there creative elements of methods proposed to tackle the challenge or raise awareness of the challenge?
- **FEASIBILITY** — How practical would it be for the school to implement the plan or proposal submitted? Students should consider the fact that schools are operating on limited funds and very little room to implement major construction projects. Identifying ways to overcome typical hurdles to implementing or adopting an energy conservation campaign will be considered.
- **COMPLETENESS AND PRESENTATION** — How complete is the idea? Are all the assumptions well documented? Are sources cited? How articulate is the presentation? Are there images, videos, and/or other means used to deliver the proposed effort?

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

Teams must register their team by sending a scanned copy of the 2013 Energy Independence Challenge Application (page 4) to solarcompetition@indsolarfarm.com by 11:59 pm on March 31, 2013. However, the sooner you get your team together the more time you will have to organize your ideas.

- Final entries must be received by 11:59 pm on May 31, 2013. Winners will be notified by formal letter dated no later than June 14, 2013.
- Teams may not make any changes to their entry once submitted, so please ensure you're submitting your best and final proposal.
- Submissions will only be considered if they've been received via email by the final entry submission deadline.
- Any supporting files, artwork, or mixed media are allowed but must be submitted via email along with the team's proposal.
- Submissions must be entirely the work of the student team members. School faculty and staff sponsors may guide the team but may not do any writing of the submissions and may not have excessive influence on the concept design. Determination of excessive influence on the submission is up to the sole discretion of the Judging Panel.
- Entries must be in the form of an essay and teams are encouraged to use charts, tables, graphs, images, videos, artwork, etc. to better communicate and support their ideas.
- Entries are limited to 3,000 words, excluding tables, charts, references, and supplemental materials.
- Entries must be in an MS word compatible format or PDF format. Any supporting materials must be in MS Word, MS Excel, MS Power Point, PDF, JPG, GIF, or TIFF.

PRIZES:

Grand Prize Winner

The best team from all 1st Place Grade-Level winners.

- \$15,000 for the school with the winning team to be used to implement the winning proposal
- Each student member of the team will receive an Off-Grid Solar Backpack by Voltaic
- Grand Prize award certificate
- Grand Prize award trophy to be presented at the Commissioning Event for the Indianapolis Airport Authority 14 megawatt solar power installation, tentatively scheduled for mid-fall of 2013. The team will be asked to present their concept to the audience at the Commissioning Event.
- Winning submission will be featured at the Indianapolis Airport in conjunction with the solar display.
- A 2013 Energy Conservation Challenge t-shirt

1st Place Grade Level Winners

Each grade level (9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th) will have a first place winner (does not include the grand prize winning team).

- Each student member of the team will receive an Off-Grid Solar Backpack by Voltaic
- 1st place award certificate
- A 2013 Energy Conservation Challenge t-shirt

****Prizes may be altered as sponsorships dictate*

Rubric - Energy Independence Challenge

Team Member Names: _____

	Beginning 1	Developing 2	Accomplished 3	Exemplary 4	Score
Feasibility	Ideas are too difficult to be implemented in real life. No thought was given to potential challenges to overcome.	Ideas are practical; however, some challenges are still apparent.	Ideas are practical for the team to implement at their school - obvious that thought was given to potential challenges.	Ideas are practical for the team to implement at their school and solutions to potential challenges are considered.	
Innovation	Team successfully develops an appropriate idea but with minimal creativity.	Team uses some creative and original concepts – in experimental stage.	Team develops a unique, creative idea, but methods have been used before.	Team methods are original, creative, and meet new needs.	
Presentation	Ideas are incomplete, sources are absent, and supplemental materials are hard to follow.	Ideas could be clearer, some sources are cited, and supplemental materials are documented.	Ideas are complete, sources are cited, and supplemental materials are documented correctly.	Ideas are complete and articulate, sources are cited, and supplemental materials are documented in a clear, concise manner.	
Clarity	Very frequent grammatical and/or spelling errors – difficult to read.	Noticeable amount of grammatical and/or spelling errors – still difficult to read.	Very few spelling and/or grammatical errors – still reads well.	Free of spelling and/or grammatical errors – very easy to read.	

TOTAL SCORE = ___/16

COMMENTS:

2013 Energy Independence Challenge

2013 Energy Independence Challenge Application

(Please print clearly in blue or black ink.)

NAME OF SCHOOL

TEAM MEMBER NAMES & GRADE LEVEL (2-4 STUDENTS)

NAME & TITLE OF FACULTY ADVISOR

E-MAIL OF FACULTY ADVISOR

PHONE NUMBER OF FACULTY ADVISOR

