

## STATE OF DELAWARE DIVISION OF ENERGY & CLIMATE

100 W. WATER STREET SUITE 5A DOVER, DELAWARE 19904

**Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control**  Phone: (302) 735-3480 www.dnrec.delaware.gov/energy

September 26, 2016

## Dear Educator:

You and your students are invited and encouraged to participate in the Annual Junior Solar Sprint State Competition, sponsored in partnership by the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, Division of Energy & Climate and the Delaware Technology Student Association.

Students 5th- 8th grade are offered the opportunity to build and race their own solar-powered model cars in a statewide challenge of creativity, engineering, and speed. The 2017 contest will take place on Thursday, April 27, 2017 at the Delaware State Fairgrounds in Harrington, Delaware, as part of the National Junior Solar Sprint Competition sponsored by the US Army Educational Outreach Program.

Junior Solar Sprint (JSS) presents a hands-on, multidisciplinary exercise in renewable energy education that encourages teamwork and fosters student interest in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) fields. Students can flex their creative ingenuity and apply real-world problem-solving in a fun and educational atmosphere.

The winning team will be eligible to compete in the 2017 National JSS Competition, and awards will also be presented for design and engineering.

The Division of Energy & Climate will provide each participating school with two starter Junior Solar Sprint Kits, each consisting of a solar panel, an electric motor, and guidelines.

Interested teachers may submit the attached registration form to Caren.Fitzgerald@state.de.us by December 16, 2016.

Please note: This year, all schools will be required to follow Technology Student Association Guidelines, which differ from the requirements of DNREC's past Junior Solar Sprint events. This includes a design portfolio which helps students document their project and learn further about engineering throughout the project. Students will also create a display to accompany their model vehicle, putting its best wheel forward for the People's Choice award.

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Students are also encouraged to submit entries for the JSS t-shirt contest, using the form attached to this message. Additional rules and resources are also attached.

For questions or additional information, visit <u>www.detsa.org</u>, or contact the Division of Energy & Climate at 302-735-3480.

We hope you will join us for this exciting and educational event!

Sincerely,

Caren Fitzgerald

Community Relations Officer Division of Energy and Climate

Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control

State of Delaware