



2026 WERC Environmental Design Contest Dates and Deadlines

(Subject to change)

Date	Action Item	Details
This Fall, 2025	Reserve your spot	Email us to reserve a spot for your team and let us know which task you are planning to work on.
Weekly	Check FAQs for updates:	Task-specific FAQs: 2026 Tasks/Task FAQs General FAQs: 2026 General FAQs
Nov 1 2025 – Dec 31, 2025	Early Bird Registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registration at: WERC Team Site \$100 discount/team
Upon Registration	Team Photos	Upload Traditional & Fun team photos to Team Site after registering. Use: social media and contest slideshows.
Fall 2025	Research, design, order materials, outline report.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prior to the contest, follow your institution's safety protocols for laboratory work. Begin to look for auditors
Dec 1, 2025 – Jan 30, 2026	30% Project Review Due	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit any time within this time frame. Teams starting their project in Spring 2026 may request an extension to submit the Project Review.
Dec 15, 2025 – Feb 20, 2026	Complete On-Demand Course: <i>Preparing the ESP</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required of all team members. Team Leader: Email us for the course link(s) and share with your team.
Feb 17, 2026	Final date to register a team.	Late-coming teams may be considered on a case-by-case basis.
Feb 27, 2026	NCEES Licensure Presentation (Optional)	NCEES staff Lehmon Dekle and Kris Goodenow have kindly offered to host a webinar to help you get started preparing for the FE Exam. Registered teams will be emailed a link.
March 9-13, 2026	Submit ESP	Required of all teams. Email ESP to Safety Officer Juanita Miller (miligh@nmsu.edu) (See ESP course). Include requests for chemicals, materials, etc.
March 12, 2026	Request Audits no later than this date	Send draft report to three separate auditors (economics, legal, and health & safety). Correct report as needed.
March 30, 2026	Submit Equipment Transportation Form (Optional)	Submit form 10 working days before the contest if shipping items to Las Cruces.
April 2, 2026	Submit Tech Report	Submit through Team site
April 6, 2026	Submit Flash Pitch slides	Submit through Team site
April 12-15, 2026	Contest in Las Cruces, NM	NM Farm & Ranch Museum 4100 Dripping Springs Rd. Bring: Oral presentation, poster, bench-scale apparatus.
April 12, 2026	Noon – 7:40 pm	Check in, Welcome, Flash Pitch Round I, Team Meet & Greet, Banquet, Safety Briefing. Bench area open till 9 pm.
April 13, 2026	8 am – 4 pm	Oral presentations, Lunch, Poster Session. Teams may stay until 9 pm to run/test bench-scale demonstrations.
April 14, 2026	8 am – 5 pm	Bench-scale demonstrations, Lunch, Bench-scale Decommissioning at 2pm, Flash Pitch Final Round, Game Night
April 15, 2026	5:30 pm – 8 pm	Morning: Free time for teams (while judges deliberate) Evening: Awards banquet