

The Solar Race Track

The West Virginia Division of Air Quality promotes clean air through education about energy efficiency and alternative energy. In our outreach efforts, we believe in hands on learning and want students to think about ideas and have fun while they learn. So in an effort to show that solar energy could be used for other things they can relate to, we created the Solar Race Track. The solar panel charges the battery system and allows use of the solar race track on sunny days, overcast days, and indoors. It emphasizes the concepts of solar power, energy storage, and conversion to household power so it can be applied to things they use. We used a 1/32 scale track because we wanted large enough cars that



were easily visible to the students in a crowd or a classroom. We also wanted a classic feel so the track would appeal to adults alike. The track is permanently mounted on a custom table to make moving and storage easier. After 3 years of use by a few thousand children and adults, it never fails to attract a crowd whenever we take it to events.

