

## WINNER PROFILE



➔ **Meet: Courtney Gras**  
Chief Operating Officer, Design Flux Technologies LLC, Akron, Ohio

➔ **The Challenge: National Clean Energy Business Plan**

In this competition, the U.S. Department of Energy challenges university teams across the country to create new businesses to commercialize promising energy technologies developed at U.S. schools and the National Laboratories.

➔ **The Prize:**  
\$10,000 (for winning the regional competition in Ohio)

💡 **The Solution:**  
Design Flux Technologies, a spin-out company from the University of Akron, designed a system with software control algorithms for a smarter, smaller, and safer power management and storage.

☎ **For More About the Winner:**

Courtney Gras  
Phone: 216-543-6066  
Email: [cgras@designfluxtech.com](mailto:cgras@designfluxtech.com)

## SUCCESS: IN HER OWN WORDS

### How has participating in this challenge helped you advance your solution?

The prize money has helped us kick-start our first large-scale technology demonstration and complete international patent filings. These two steps in our critical path will not only propel us towards our next round of funding, but will also enable key partnerships which will lead us to market-entry.

### What is the impact of your solution for government, your community, and society?

Our technology is an enabling solution — this implies that our product will help ease the adoption of energy storage systems in a variety of applications.

In our local community, we see impact through a technology demonstration project whereby our technology is enabling the installation of a solar-powered LED system in a local business incubator. We are lining up other such applications, which can have a national impact on the adoption of batteries for energy storage in alternative energy applications.

In addition to technology impact, we have been able to hire students from the University of Akron, and plan to continue to hire local resources as we scale the company.

