



2023 Connecticut Envirothon Oral Scenario

Adapting to Climate Change

Climate Change is the driving issue on global and local levels. We must adapt to new norms presented by climate change and limit the potential for additional impacts by mitigating carbon emissions. Addressing this issue is a huge undertaking and often referred to as a wicked problem. One that has many complexities and challenges to it when simultaneously addressing planning strategies and social implications. This is what this year's challenge presents. A challenge for students to define the problem and how to address it on a global level, identify Connecticut impact and address it through actions that adapt or mitigate the problem to meet local and social needs.

Scenario:

Towns and groups throughout Connecticut are involved in identifying strategies and actions to reduce the impacts of climate change and applying actions that build resiliency. Steps must be taken to adapt to current impacts and plan to reduce future developments. In planning for climate change, we must address on-going issues in underserved communities, as they are the most vulnerable to the increasing issues presented by climate change. Providing support for social and economic disparities is a priority that must be combined with climate action steps to make improvements for both the environment and all the people that live in them.

Community planners and municipal authorities are addressing climate change issues. Reducing carbon emissions, capturing, and sequestering carbon, reducing impacts of climate, and adding resilient infrastructure are some of the ways to create livable and sustainable communities. Actions taken can be large or small in scale for funding support. Identifying projects that provide for public support and assist with climate impact and resiliency are important. These can be large or small. But actions must be taken. The timing and selection of projects is important to help leverage public support for further steps and potentially gain support for higher valued grants and future projects.

Remember, Climate Change is a wicked problem with many combinations of solutions. It is a result of other combined problems and addressing it does not have a stopping point.

Task:

Your team represents a group of community stakeholders tasked with presenting a funding request to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, DEEP, from the Climate Resilience Fund. The Fund specifically supports climate resilience planning for Connecticut at regional, municipal, and neighborhood-level scales, and supports resilience project planning and development. This historic state-level investment into climate resilience planning and project development was established by Executive Order 21-3 (EO21-3) in December 2021. ([Find Out More- What is the order and the Climate Resilience Fund?](#))

Your team is to explain the validity of a project that your team wants to see funded in Connecticut. Project grant requests are varied in size, scale, and costs. This means the project you are seeking support on can be large with a statewide scale or small community focus- as long as you provide evidence of its need and benefits. All requests must address the following requirements:

- At least 40% of funding resources are targeted to where vulnerable populations reside and that those plans address the needs of those populations.
- Funding should be available for the design of nature-based solutions, including green infrastructure; flood prevention, climate resilience and erosion control systems; gray infrastructure; and non-structural project solutions.



- Projects supported under this program should be integrated with other plans that ensure their eligibility for federal funding through existing and new resilience programs, in consultation with resilience partners and/or programs.

Your presentation is an oral summary in the form of a PowerPoint stating that funds be provided for a specific project that shows mitigation and/or adaptation to climate change impacts seen in Connecticut. To get started at local impacts review- [Connecticut: Our Changing Climate](#).

You are to identify:

- What stakeholder group do you represent in this request? (Think general and do not mention your real towns)
i.e. environmental club, agriculture coop, outdoor recreation association, town planning committee...
- How does your proposal fit into global Climate Change goals?
- How does your proposal address climate impact as seen in Connecticut?
- What climate issue are you addressing and why is that issue a concern?
- Is your project one that supports Connecticut adaption or mitigation of climate impacts. *See below
- Is this request for a Planning Track 1 or a Project Development Track 2?
- Where will this be implemented? Identify a town or region in Connecticut.
- Who will benefit from this action? Vulnerable people and equity must be included.
- How will this be expanded using future grants from existing Federal Funds and/or replicated by other communities using existing funding sources?

*Even though this request would be seeking dollars, your team will identify the amount of funding you will pursue through this grant but need not develop an actual budget. A general amount and reason for this amount should be included in your presentation. Details about funds use is not necessary, but if supporting job growth, subsidizing mini grants, or other general actions please explain the use of funds in percent values.