

Connecticut Envirothon 2023- 2024 Advisor's Guide



Current Issue theme:

Renewable Energy for a Sustainable Future

Revised 10/4/22

Table of Contents

About the Competition

Introduction & Goals	.....	3
Outreach Letter from our Co-Chairs	.....	4
How Does the Competition Work	.....	5
The 2023-2024 Program Calendar of Events	.....	6
Current Issue Presentation	.....	7
Awards & Recognition	.....	8
For Advisors	.....	9

Additional Information

Envirothon Policies	.....	10
CT Envirothon Resources	.....	12
Envirothon Coordination & Contacts	.....	12



Introduction and Goals

Welcome to Connecticut Envirothon 2024! By participating in the Connecticut Envirothon Program, you have become part of our state's environmental education history. This advisor's guide contains information necessary for successful participation in this program.

The Envirothon is the ultimate natural resource education experience. Over several months of previous classroom study, participants prepare themselves for competition in Soil, Aquatics, Forestry, Wildlife, and this year's current issue theme – **Renewable Energy and a Sustainable Future**.

Designed to foster cooperation and teamwork, five-member teams are tested on their basic knowledge in these topic areas and their ability to apply that knowledge to solve real-life problems. Problem-solving and teamwork will enhance the participant's ability to take leadership roles after high school or college, no matter their chosen field or career.

The Envirothon concept began in Pennsylvania in 1979 as an outgrowth of a vocational agricultural land judging contest. Conservation Districts felt a need for a statewide environmental program highlighting different disciplines within the natural resource field. By the mid-eighties, New York, Ohio, Massachusetts, and Maine had their own state Envirothon programs, and interest was spreading to other states. In 1988, the first National Envirothon was held in Pennsylvania, with five states participating. By 2000, over 40 states and several Canadian provinces participated in the National Envirothon.

In 1991, Connecticut sent a team by special invitation to the national competition in Maine. The next year, Connecticut held its first statewide competition, with 15 schools participating. Forty-six schools from all corners of the state participated in the Connecticut program in 2000, with the number of schools expected to grow each year. Envirothon attracts public and private urban and rural high schools.

The Envirothon aims to promote natural resource education so that succeeding generations will be environmentally literate, with the skills and knowledge to make informed decisions regarding the environment.

All questions regarding the Connecticut Envirothon may be directed to the Envirothon Program Coordinator, ctenvirothon@gmail.com (860) 875-3881.

More information regarding the NCF Envirothon Program may be found at www.envirothon.org.



Outreach Letter from our Co-Chairs

Dear Educator,

It's time to begin another year with the Connecticut Envirothon Program! The Connecticut Envirothon Steering Committee is gearing up to provide another quality hands-on learning program for 2023-24.

Connecticut Envirothon is part of an extensive network of educators and natural resource professionals throughout the United States, Canada, Singapore, and China that focuses on preparing high school students to be responsible stewards of and decision-makers for our natural resources. Through online content, uploaded educational webinars, and in-person hands-on workshops, Connecticut Envirothon has successfully trained students on four core components - forestry, aquatics, soils, and wildlife - as well as a rotating current issue, which this year is "Renewable Energy for a Sustainable Future." Connecticut Envirothon is STEM-compliant, and we're sure that you'll find the curriculum materials valuable in the classroom and in preparing your team for the competition.

Each May, participation in Envirothon culminates with a Field Day Competition where student teams rotate through five practical testing stations. While the student teams compete, teachers attend an educational program focused on next year's issue. The winning team is sent to represent Connecticut at the International NCF-Envirothon competition. This year's competition is in Geneva, New York.

Envirothon provides an excellent opportunity for students to interact with professionals in the environmental field during training workshops and the competition in May. It also offers excellent networking opportunities for science educators from across the state. Encourage your students to learn about science outside of the classroom!

We will have an advisor orientation on Tuesday, October 3rd, from 5pm-7pm at the CT DEEP Sessions Woods Conservation Education Center at 341 Milford Street Burlington, CT – please see the enclosed invitation. The orientation will offer an opportunity to learn more about the program and meet the study topic leaders and advisors from other schools. Please get in touch with us to learn more about this incredible opportunity or to register a team for participation during the 2023-2024 academic year. You can also visit our website at www.ctenvirothon.org.

Please see the enclosed registration form, calendar of events, and brochure for additional information. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Sincerely,

Karen Nelson and Paul Benjunas

Connecticut Envirothon Co-Chairs 2023-2024



How Does the Competition Work?

The competition is based on instructional stations and oral presentations, all of which address a current issue developed by the NCF Envirothon committee.

Students competing as a five-member team rotate through four teaching/testing stations where they receive instruction from natural resource professionals. For example, a forester may conduct the forestry station, and a soil scientist can be expected to coordinate the activities at the soil station. The students receive instruction and may conduct hands-on experiments at each teaching/testing station.

Each team will be given a written test after the teaching portion at each of the five teaching/testing stations. The test is to be taken as a team, with all team members participating in answering the questions. Each team will also complete an oral presentation of their PowerPoint/google slides based on a hypothetical problem scenario (reflecting the theme) that students must solve as a team. Scores from the station tests and current issue presentations are combined to determine team placement.

Scoring Criteria:

4 Teaching/Testing Stations (100 points per station)	400 points
Current Issue Presentation	100 points
Current Issue Test questions	50 points

Maximum Total Score

550 Points

The champion team will represent Connecticut in the NCF Envirothon competition (www.envirothon.org).



2024 Connecticut Envirothon

Calendar of Events

Current Topic – Webinar: An Electric City Grid in Transition

When: Thursday, January 11th Time: 3pm-4pm

Aquatics/Current Topic - Renewable Energy for a Sustainable Future

When: Saturday, January 13th,

Where: CT River Academy

9 Riverside Drive, East Hartford, CT

Looking at the Scenario Webinar

When: Thursday, March 7th, 2024 at 4pm

To Register: <https://ctdeep.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlkce-hqz0qEtaEFMpESyIlK8QZ1qRIFxbe#/registration>

Wildlife/Soil Workshop

When: Sat. March 16, 2024 from 8am-2:30pm

Where: Sessions Woods Conservation Education Center

341 Milford Street, Burlington, CT

Talking Points Webinar

When: Thursday, April 5th at 4pm

To Register: <https://ctdeep.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlocOmvpzMpHdRg-BMJk7RGg7rowUjLS8K#/registration>

Field Day Competition

When: Thursday, May 23rd, 2024

Where: CAES' Lockwood Research Farm

890 Evergreen Avenue, Hamden, CT

National Competition

When: July 28-August 3, 2024

Where: Hobart and William Smith Colleges
Geneva, NY



Current Issue Presentation

Connecticut Envirothon is challenging teams to create a PowerPoint or Google Slide presentation based on the current issue scenario to present in front of a panel of judges. Each team member can use one standard-size note card during the presentation, and the oral presentation will have a time limit.

This year's international current issue theme is "Renewable Energy for a Sustainable Future." More information on the presentation scenario relating to the theme will be released in early 2024. Like last year, the presentations will be due via email PRIOR to the competition date.

One of the most important presentation rules: Do not include your team/school name on your presentation slides and do not announce what school your team is representing.

Rubric For Current Issue Presentation

This will be released in early 2024 when the scenario document is posted.



Awards and Recognition

The first-place team will be able to represent Connecticut at the 2024 National Conservation Foundation Envirothon competition. This event, featuring teams from throughout the United States, China, and Canada, will be held in Geneva, New York over several days beginning July 28th. Connecticut's Champion Team must register **five members** for that event.

In the Connecticut Competition, the first-place, second-place, and third-place winning teams will be awarded placement plaques and medals. The first-place team will also have their name added to our champion plaque that is added each year.

Teams receiving the highest test score at each station will also be recognized with station plaques.

A press release will also feature the schools that participated and scored highest.



For Advisors

The advisor is the backbone of the Envirothon team. This individual organizes the team, motivates the members, and provides materials pertinent to the Envirothon program.

The advisor guides the team's preparation for the competition throughout the year. The major components of the advisor's job are teaching team skills and providing learning opportunities in each Envirothon category. The advisor has a tremendous responsibility and is congratulated for making such an essential contribution to the growth of the team member's knowledge and experience.

Before the Competition (Advisors)

Maintain close contact with our Program Coordinator. Ensure the following checklist is completed. *(Note: All fees must be paid before the competition.)*:

1. Ensure team members are trained in the five focus areas – Soils, Aquatics, Forestry, Wildlife, and the Current Issue - Adapting to a Changing Climate.
2. Locate resource materials and ensure team members have prepared PowerPoint and oral presentations for the current issue scenario.
3. Team members and advisors **must** be familiar with all the rules of the Connecticut Envirothon.



Policies for CT Envirothon

The mission of the Envirothon is to promote environmental awareness, knowledge, and active personal stewardship among high school students through education and team competition. The CT Envirothon Steering Committee works to improve the program continually and to increase student participation.

To ensure that the program effectively supports that mission and to convey its approach to the program, the Connecticut Envirothon Steering Committee has recorded policies and procedures which will be posted on the Connecticut Envirothon website (www.ctenvirothon.org) for reference by all teams, advisors, volunteers, sponsors, and committee members. At the field day event, teams found violating these policies by the Proctor Committee of the CTESC may be penalized or disqualified.

Section One: PARTICIPATION IN THE CONNECTICUT ENVIROTHON PROGRAM

1. Participation in CT Envirothon is open to Grades 9 through 12 students or the equivalent home-school ranking.
2. Any organization may register one team of at least five students from the same school.
3. A team registration fee determined by the Steering Committee is required.
4. Teams are led by one or more advisors who may be teachers, parents or community members.
5. Depending on the year's registration numbers, the CT Envirothon may allow a school or organization to field a second team. Each team must register separately and is considered as a separate team.
6. Schools having a separate curriculum in Vocational Agriculture or Vocational Technology may send a team representing that program.
7. Teams may bring additional students to the Training Workshops held during the school year depending on space available as determined by the station leader.
8. Transportation is the responsibility of each participating team.

Section Two: PARTICIPATION IN THE CT ENVIROTHON FIELD DAY EVENT

Teams and Alternates

1. A team consists of five competing members and up to two alternate members.
2. If a school fields two teams, two members of the second team may be designated alternates for the first team.
3. Two members of the first team may also be designated alternates for the second team.
4. In the case of a last-minute emergency absence from a registered five-member team with no designated alternates, that team may compete with at least four team members. If less than four team members are available, they will be assigned to a "Wild Card Team."
5. Alternates will be assigned to a Wild Card Team with alternates from other schools. Wild Card Teams may compete but are not eligible to place or win.



Competition

1. At the competition, all students will wear the official CT Envirothon T-shirt.
2. Name tags or other items with their school name will not be permitted during the competition.
3. Teams must be accompanied to the event by an adult team advisor.
4. Advisors may not travel with their teams during the competition. Separate activities, usually workshops, will be provided for the advisors.
5. Team placement will be determined by the highest cumulative total points scored.
6. The decisions of the Judges are FINAL in all events.
7. The Connecticut Envirothon Steering Committee and cooperating agencies will conduct the competition.

Code of Conduct

1. Students may not use any notes, study guides or electronic devices including cell phones, during the field testing component of the event.
2. Students may not use any electronic devices during the oral presentation component of the event.
3. All tobacco products, drugs, and alcohol are prohibited during the entire competition and all Envirothon program activities, such as workshops.
4. Rules applicable to the local venue will also be followed.
5. Advisors ensure that teams display proper conduct during the competition and at the host facility.

The Policies and Procedures of the Connecticut Envirothon are subject to change, and we expect a revision in the coming years. Please send suggestions to ctenvirothon@gmail.com for consideration by the Connecticut Envirothon Steering Committee.



CT Envirothon Resource - Website

Study materials are available by station on our website under the “Station Training” tab (<http://ctenvirothon.org/study-guides/>).

Connecticut Envirothon also has a YouTube channel where all recorded webinar workshops are posted. There are ‘playlists’ created for each station (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiJB5g6YGbmKe7c8WKdqUdq/featured>).

ADVISORS: Please take the time to review all resources and study materials located on the Connecticut Envirothon website: <http://ctenvirothon.org/> and the NCF Envirothon Website: www.envirothon.org. These materials, references, and all guidelines may make the difference in placing higher in either Envirothon program.

Envirothon Coordination and Contacts:

A full list of Connecticut Envirothon Steering Committee Members can be found at <http://ctenvirothon.org/steering-committee-2/>

Steering Committee Contacts:

Co-Chairs:	Karen Nelson	kgnelson@snet.net
	Paul Benjunas	paul.benjunas@ct.gov
Vice Chair:	Sandy Weiss	sweiss@conservect.org
	Chris Sullivan	csullivan@conservect.org
Program Coordinator:	Ginny Patsun	ctenvirothon@gmail.com
Soils Station:	Morgan McKee	morgan.mckee@usda.gov
Forestry Station:	Frank Cervo	ctenvirothonforestry@gmail.com
Wildlife Station:	Peter Picone	peter.picone@ct.gov
Aquatics Station:	Kelsey Sudol	kelseys@nwcd.org
Current Issue:	Sue Quincy	susan.quincy@ct.gov

