

Community Research & Community Action Awards

Information for Teams

Why Community Awards? Your team works hard to prepare for your Envirothon Current Issue presentation. You deserve recognition for this work! And if your Current Issue research results in a service or action project that benefits your community, this also should be recognized.

The Mass Envirothon Community Awards provide important recognition for your team, plus visibility for your school and your community. Teams who work to qualify for the awards tell us that they have a better Envirothon experience overall. Everybody wins!

These awards are optional and noncompetitive. They can be earned by any team that meets the award requirements. You and your coach are responsible for certifying the quality and completeness of your work.

Your team can earn one or both of these awards:

The Massachusetts Envirothon Community Research Award is presented to teams who have done thorough and wide-ranging community investigation in preparation for their Current Issue presentations. To meet the standard for the award, you must show that you have been resourceful in using a range of research strategies -- exploring community places, talking to a variety of people, using maps, researching at the library and town offices, making scientific observations, and using the web.

The Massachusetts Envirothon Community Action Award is presented to teams who take what they learn in their Current Issue research and use that knowledge to benefit their community. All kinds of action projects are possible: community education, advocating for change, collecting data, or hands-on conservation projects in the field. You might plug into an existing community effort, or develop a project of your own. Projects do not have to be completed by the day of the Envirothon, but you should be able to show progress toward your goals. **To be eligible for this award**, you must first meet all the requirements for the Community Research Award. This is because teams who have done thorough research on the issue are more likely to identify an important need and to develop a project that is meaningful to them and beneficial to the community.

On the day of the Envirothon competition: After your formal (scored) Current Issue presentation, if you are qualifying for a community award, your team will meet with one or two Envirothon volunteers who will interview you about your research and action experiences. This is relaxed, fun opportunity to show and tell about the good work that Envirothon teams do!

To receive a Community Award your team must:

- Complete the Community Award **Signatures** sheet
- Complete the Community Award **Certification** sheet **for each award**
- Scan the completed form and email it to wsnyder@umext.umass.edu by the Friday before the Envirothon competition (May 10, 2019). Trouble scanning? Fax the form with a **cover sheet addressed to Will Snyder** at **413/545-6555**.
- Bring yourselves, and examples of your research/action, to a Community Award interview that will take place during a free period in your competition schedule at the Envirothon competition in May.

This is a big deal!

- Teams who earn Community Awards receive recognition and a certificate at the May competition.
- A letter of congratulations is sent to each team's principal, with copies to their coaches, superintendent, community partners, state legislators, local news media contacts, and the Secretary of Energy & Environmental Affairs.
- Several outstanding Community Award experiences are featured on the Mass Envirothon website.

Questions? Contact Will Snyder, UMass Extension, 413/545-3876 or wsnyder@umext.umass.edu

Massachusetts Envirothon 2019 Community Awards Signatures Sheet

To submit: Please fax (413/545-6555) or scan/email (wsnyder@umext.umass.edu) completed form by May 10, 2019.

School/Organization _____

By our signatures below, we certify that (check one)

___ our team has completed the research on the Community Research Award checklist, or

___ our team has completed the research on the Community Research Award checklist, and is committed to the action described on the Community Action Award checklist

Further, we certify that we all participated in this as a team effort, and all requirements for the award(s) have been met.

Research award	Action award	Team Members and Other Researchers (print names and use a separate sheet of paper to add more names/signatures.)	Grade	Town of Residence	Signature
		Coach:			
		Coach:			

Please provide the following contact information

Principal _____ **Email** _____ **Phone** _____

Address _____ **Town** _____ **Zip** _____

Superintendent _____ **Email** _____ **Phone** _____

Coach #1 _____ **Email** _____ **Phone** _____

Coach #2 _____ **Email** _____ **Phone** _____

Please list all **state legislators** who represent members of your team at the Massachusetts State Legislature in Boston

Representative(s) _____

Senator(s) _____

Please provide contact info for a **local news source** with a good record for reporting on youth/community matters:

Email _____ **Name** _____

Massachusetts Envirothon 2019
Community RESEARCH Award
Checklist

To submit: Please fax (413/545-6555) or scan/email (wsnyder@umext.umass.edu) completed form by May 10, 2019.

School/Organization _____

To qualify for this award, please complete this checklist and

- Use the spaces below to record the research that your team has done in preparation for your Current Issue presentation. **The items below are the minimum required for the Community Research award.**
- **Submit this checklist with a completed signature sheet by Friday, May 10, 2019.**
- Come to the Envirothon ready for a conversation about your research: people you met, places you visited, new perspectives on food and agriculture. Be ready to explain how the things you list below contributed to your understanding.
- Bring your Envirothon map and a folder with any pictures, news clippings, emails, additional information, etc. that will help you tell the story of your research trek.
- **If your team departs from this checklist in your research, be ready to explain why you have still earned the award, and what you learned.**
- **Questions? Contact Will Snyder, wsnyder@umext.umass.edu or 413/545-3876.**

1. PEOPLE: We interviewed (at least) **FIVE people** concerned with abundant, affordable, healthy food in our community. Write name and organizational affiliation. Be ready to recount what you learned from each:

Someone involved in farming/food production _____

Someone involved in ensuring food access for all _____

Someone involved in food waste reduction _____

Someone involved in natural resource conservation relating to food _____

Another person involved in the food system _____

Another person involved in the food system _____

2. PLACES: We visited the following **TWO different kinds of places** that are important for abundant, affordable, healthy food in our community. Be ready to show where they are on your map, and to explain why they are significant.

1. Farming/food production:

2. Food distribution:

3. COLLECTIVE ACTION. We became familiar with these **TWO projects, activities, or organizational efforts** with a presence in our community that aim for abundant, affordable, and/or healthy food. Be ready to tell the story of what you learned and explain whether they are achieving their goals:

1.

2.

(over)

4. TECHNOLOGY. Describe a tool that you encountered that you believe holds promise for your local food system's contribution to abundant, affordable, healthy food in 2050. Be ready to explain.

5. SUSTAINABLE PRACTICE. Describe a method, system, or ongoing action that you encountered in your community that you believe holds promise for your local food system's contribution to abundant, affordable, healthy food in 2050. Be ready to explain.

6. ENVIROTHON MAP. How did you use the map of your community provided by Mass Envirothon?

7. MEDIA REPORTS. Please bring paper versions of these pieces, and be ready to explain their importance:

We found this **NEWS STORY** to be relevant to our community research and findings:

Headline _____

News Source or URL _____

Date _____

We found this **OPINION PIECE** related to our local food system issues to be particularly clear and convincing

Headline _____

News Source or URL _____

Date _____

8. AN UNEXPECTED FIND! We found the following person or place or publication or other resource to be significant in our community research. (Name the resource so someone else could find it)

9. SUMMARY. Below is a summary of the main point(s) of our Mass Envirothon 2019 Current Issue presentation in **2 - 3 sentences**:

BONUS #1: ___ We found this **media image or message**, which illustrates an essential **problem OR solution** in the question of abundant, affordable, and/or healthy food for 2050. Be ready to show and explain.

BONUS #2: ___ We engaged in our own **scientific data collection and analysis** related to abundant, affordable, healthy food. On a separate sheet of paper, please describe your research and any findings.

Massachusetts Envirothon 2019
Community ACTION Award
Checklist

To submit: Please fax (413/545-6555) or scan/email (wsnyder@umext.umass.edu) completed form by May 10, 2018.

School/Organization _____

Community Research

___ We have completed the requirements for the Mass Envirothon Community Research Award and submitted the Community Research Award checklist.

Community Connections

___ We attach a letter from a community contact based outside our school attesting to the value of our action project to our community. **Please bring a copy of this letter to the Envirothon competition on May 17.**

Letter writer's name _____

Position/Organization _____

Email address _____

___ We attach a copy of a 1-2 page news release or news article that describes our action project. **Please bring a copy of this news release to the Envirothon competition on May 17.**

Project Title and ~25 word description:

Project Dates. We have (check one and fill in date)

___ Planned and committed to our project. We expect to start on (date) _____

___ Started work on our project on (date) _____

___ Completed our project on (date) _____