

# Community Research & Community Action Awards

**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. **To be eligible for the Action Award**, your team must first meet all the requirements for the Community Research Award. This demonstrates that you know what you are talking about!

- **Special Challenge: For 2020, your team can earn the Action Award by creating and posting a 2-4 minute digital/social media presentation on:**

***What our community needs to know to assure a sustainable safe water supply***

**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 **Research Award Checklist** and one of the **Action Award Certification** sheets
- Scan the completed form and email it to **wsnyder@umext.umass.edu** by the Thursday before the Envirothon competition (May 7, 2020). 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](mailto:wsnyder@umext.umass.edu)