

# MASSACHUSETTS ENVIROTHON

319 Littleton Road

Suite 205

Westford, MA 01886

## 2008-2009 FACT SHEET

- \* The Massachusetts Envirothon is a natural resource program for high school students. Its purpose is to:
  - \* Cultivate a desire to learn more about our natural environment through competitive events
  - \* Develop a greater appreciation of our dependence on the natural environment
  - \* Provide students with experiences in environmental-oriented activities and problem solving
  - \* Provide a sense of personal stewardship of natural resources.
- \* Over one third of the high schools in Massachusetts have participated in the Massachusetts Envirothon during the past five years.
- \* The Massachusetts Envirothon is designed to stimulate an awareness of the interdependence of various natural resources within the environment. Participants develop a greater knowledge of:
  - \* The effect individual actions have on environmental problems, either positive or negative
  - \* Current environmental issues
  - \* Resource materials
  - \* Agencies and organizations available to assist students in environmentally related matters
  - \* Career opportunities in the environmental field.
- \* Teams comprised of five students represent their respective school or organization in a statewide environmental competition testing their knowledge of the ecology and the natural environment including: water, soils, wildlife and forests and a current environmental issue. The topic areas are combined at test site eco-stations, where students have the opportunity to look at the environment as a whole.
- \* This year the Current Issue Topic is **Renewable Energy: Getting it Right, Ecologically and Economically**. Some past current issue topics have been: outdoor recreation and the environment; energy conservation and renewable energy in Massachusetts communities; acting locally for climate protection; protecting cultural landscapes; natural resources in the urban environment; strengthening local food systems; biodiversity; stormwater management; wetlands management; open space management; watershed management; pest management; acid rain; community waste disposal systems, and ground water. Each team's presentation is based upon a site in their own community. During the year, each team researches the current issue as it relates to their own community. They then select a project on which to work and prepare a presentation on their chosen current issue project. At the Massachusetts Envirothon event, the students present their project to a team of five judges representing environmental agencies from throughout the state.
- \* A CD of the **Envirothon Manual** is sent to all teachers/coaches who register for the Massachusetts Envirothon. The Manual contains all the information teams will need to know on the water, soils, wildlife, forestry, and ecology topic areas. In addition it contains resources and references for the current issue topic. There is a team registration fee of \$125 to participate in the Massachusetts Envirothon. **The deadline for registration in the 2009 Massachusetts Envirothon is January 31, 2009.**



\* At registrations teams are offered the opportunity to choose **one of two field competition days** in which their team will participate. The top four teams from these preliminary field competition days will be invited to compete in the **Massachusetts Envirothon final presentation competition** to be held on a Saturday about a week after the preliminaries.

\* The dates and location for the 2009 Massachusetts Envirothon Field Competition days have not yet been set. The location varies from year to year. In the past thirteen years the event has been held at Buck Hill Conservation Land in Spencer; Great Brook Farm in Carlisle; The Quabbin Reservoir in Belchertown; Borderland State Park in Easton; Mt. Wachusett Community College in Gardner; Hampshire College in Amherst; Gore Place in Waltham; Massachusetts Electric Service Headquarters in Northborough; Heifer Project International in Rutland; Cochituate State Park in Natick; Essex County Agricultural High School in Danvers, the Blackstone River & Canal State Park in Uxbridge and Hopkinton State park. The location has not yet been set for the final competition and Awards Ceremony.

\* An **orientation workshop for coaches and educators** wanting to know more about the program will be held on **Wednesday, October 8th from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.** at the **Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation's John Augustus Hall**, at the Wachusett Reservoir in **West Boylston**. A **workshop for coaches and teams** (up to 3 student team members) will be held on **Wednesday, November 19th from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.** at the **University of Massachusetts in Amherst**. This program will offer multiple concurrent sessions on all topic areas. Some workshops are designed just for coaches and others for both coaches and team members. **Two additional workshops for teams** will be held on a week day in the last week of January and on a Saturday in March. The dates and locations for these workshops have not yet been set. They will feature sample questions and detailed information on the current issue topic, as well as the other test areas and the eco-station format.

\* The Massachusetts Envirothon's noncompetitive Community Awards – for Community Action and Community Research – recognize teams who achieve high standards in their investigations related to the Envirothon Current Issue, and who take what they have learned and apply it in service to their communities. Teams are encouraged to participate and offer a roundtable discussion of their community project during lunch on the day of the Massachusetts Envirothon Field Competition.

\* A **\$1,000 scholarship** to the University of Massachusetts' College of Natural Resources and the Environment is awarded each year to an eligible applicant who has participated in the Massachusetts Envirothon program.

\* Prizes are awarded for the first, second, and third place winning teams and the top scoring team in presentation and at each eco-station. The team that wins the Massachusetts Envirothon is entitled to compete in the **Canon (North American) Envirothon**, to be held at **University of North Carolina in Asheville** from **August 2 through 8, 2009**.

\* The Massachusetts Envirothon is planned and sponsored each year by the Mass. Envirothon Committee, a subcommittee of the Massachusetts State Commission for Soil, Water and Related Resources. In 2008-2009 members of the Committee come from Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources; Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation; Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection; Mass Wildlife; Executive Office of Environmental Affairs; Massachusetts Conservation Districts; Massachusetts Association of Conservation Districts; Massachusetts Technology Collaborative; USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and National Grid.

For more information, contact:

**Debi Hogan, Massachusetts Envirothon Coordinator**  
**210 Pleasant Street Seekonk, MA 02771-5315**  
**Phone: (508) 336-4426 Fax: (508) 336-0682**  
**e-mail: [debi.hogan@earthlink.net](mailto:debi.hogan@earthlink.net)**  
**Web site: [www.maenvirothon.org](http://www.maenvirothon.org)**