

# Massachusetts Envirothon 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 Community Awards provide important visibility for your team, your school, and your community. Past evaluations tell us that teams who work to qualify for the awards have a better Envirothon experience overall. Everybody wins!

These awards are **optional and noncompetitive**. They can be earned by any team that meets the requirements for the awards. You and your coach are responsible for certifying the quality and completeness of your work. Teams are recognized at the Mass Envirothon event in the spring.

**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, and using the web. If you do a thorough job preparing for your Current Issue presentation, you will find that you have fulfilled the requirements for the Community Research Award!

**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. 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. 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.

**Roundtables.** You are encouraged to lead a roundtable conversation at lunchtime at the Envirothon! Roundtables are fun, freewheeling small group discussions around a topic of your choice. It is an ideal time to display and discuss interesting things you found in your Current Issue research and/or the things you did in your community action project.

For more information about the Mass Envirothon Community Awards, see the Massachusetts Envirothon website at <http://www.maenvirothon.org/community.htm>. See the "To Do" List for Mass Envirothon Community Awards, the Community Research Award certification sheet and checklist, and the Community Action Award certification sheet. If you have questions, contact:

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