



Oct. 19, 2020

Hello Virginia Dominion Energy Envirothon Coach,

I recognize that these are unique times we are living in and wanted to reach out about the 2020-2021 Virginia Dominion Energy Envirothon.

On Sept 29th, 2020, the VASWCD Educational Foundation Board decided that the 2020-2021 Virginia Dominion Energy Envirothon program will occur virtually.

This means that local, area and state competitions and trainings will occur virtually for the 2020-2021 Envirothon Program. While this is not ideally how the Envirothon program should occur, this decision was made to keep students, coaches, staff, judges and partners safe while at the same time still being able to continue the mission of the Envirothon program which is for students to test and further their knowledge on aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife and the current issue-Water Resources Management: Local Control and Local Solutions.

Regarding your local program and area training/ competitions please continue to work with your local Soil & Water Conservation District Contact

The top three teams from each area competition will go on to compete at the virtual envirothon state competition. The virtual envirothon state competition will be held on Sunday May 16th, where teams will compete virtually to test their knowledge in aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife, and water resources management: local control and local solutions. Teams will submit their recorded oral presentations on May 16th as well. During the week of May 17-21st, Judges will be judging the oral presentation presentations. On Wednesday May 26th, overall winners will be announced during an Envirothon zoom event.

Leading up to the state competition training resources will be shared on the Virginia Dominion Energy Envirothon website- <https://vaswcd.org/additional-study-resources>

For consistency ClassMarker will be the testing platform used for all tests this year. Teams will have a chance to take a practice test in ClassMarker to understand how this testing platform works. Here is a link for a practice wildlife test <https://www.classmarker.com/online-test/start/?quiz=kkf5eb43de2490f5> Please take this practice test to learn how the ClassMarker platform works.

Here is the timeline for this year's program

- December 2020- Virginia Dominion Energy Envirothon Launch Zoom Event, during which the 2020-2021 Oral Presentation Problem will be unveiled.
- Oct-Dec setting up the Envirothon Program
- Jan-March- local and area trainings

- March- local competitions
 - April- area competitions
 - Sunday May 16th- State Envirothon Competition. Teams will take the station tests virtually and will submit their Oral Presentation Presentations this day as well. (Details on what exactly this will look like are still being worked and will be announced during the December Envirothon Launch zoom event.
 - Monday- May 17th- 21st Oral Presentations will be scored by Oral Presentation Judges on their time but must submit score sheets to me by Close of Business Friday May 21
 - May 24th – the top two oral presentations will be scored again by Oral Presentation Judges to determine 1st Place Oral Presentation. Again, this is occurring not in live time. Judges have by the end of Close of Business to submit their score sheets of the top two presentations to me.
 - May 25th- Bonnie/VASWCD will tally up all the scores
 - May 26th- Envirothon Zoom Ceremony – where the winners will be announced
- For the State Envirothon Competition there will be no Q &A period for the oral presentations.

The 1st Place team overall will represent Virginia at the 2021 NCF-Envirothon in Nebraska in July.

This past spring the VASWCD Educational Foundation offered the natural resources testing week where students and adults were able to test their knowledge in Aquatics, Forestry, Soils, Wildlife and the current issue- Water Resource Management: Local Control and Local Solutions. Seeing how popular this event was it will be held again in June 2021. High School Students and Adults throughout Virginia will be able to test their natural resource knowledge via online testing.

I realize that this year's Envirothon program is going to look and feel differently than in years past. Hearing from some of you and some Envirothon Students during the Virtual Envirothon Town Hall; I along with Soil & Water Conservation District Staff are working to create an Envirothon program that encompasses collaboration as well as giving students the opportunity to learn & test their knowledge of aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife, and water resource management.

Thank you for all you do to support the Virginia Dominion Energy Envirothon program.

Keep well,

Bonnie Mahl

Virginia Dominion Energy Envirothon Coordinator