

History

The Envirothon is a good example of an ongoing partnership with conservation district associations and cooperating state, provincial, and federal natural resource agencies. The program boasts a successful history of providing hands-on environmental and natural resource management education to high school students and empowering young people with the competencies and motivation vital to achieving and maintaining a natural balance between the quality of life and the quality of the environment.

In 1979, the Pennsylvania Soil and Water Conservation Districts created an "Environmental Olympics" as a way to encourage high school students to become interested in natural resource conservation and environmental issues and careers. The Environmental Olympics, later shortened to Enviro-Olympics, quickly gained popularity as a hands-on outdoor competition designed to challenge and test students knowledge of soils/land use, aquatic ecology, forestry, wildlife and current environmental issues.

The program grew rapidly and involved 40 conservation district teams at the 1987 Pennsylvania State Enviro-Olympics, providing greater visibility and stimulating interest from neighboring states.

In 1988, the program became known as the Envirothon. Teams from Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Massachusetts competed in the first "National Envirothon." The Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts hosted the event. Subsequently, Massachusetts, Ohio, and Maine hosted the annual "National Envirothon," and in 1992, the first Canadian team (from Nova Scotia) participated in the competition, hosted by Maryland's Envirothon Committee.

Historically, Envirothon funding came from local conservation districts, state conservation committees, state, federal and provincial conservation organizations, and provincial forestry associations. In 1997, Canon U.S.A., Inc. began supporting the Envirothon program and, in 1999, became the title sponsor until 2013. The program currently operates under the name NCF-Envirothon.

National Conservation Foundation (NCF)- Envirothon is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization established to coordinate the delivery of an environmental education program for high school students throughout North America and China (2016). The program was incorporated in Ohio in 1992 for the purpose of introducing an education-based environmental competition.

Each year the Envirothon touches and positively influences the lives of more than 50,000 young people across the country. More and more inquiries are made of the host state each year. Inquiries have come from around the world including states, provinces, Mexican states, and countries such as Turkey, Japan, and Australia. The Envirothon is truly becoming International in scope. Thanks to dedicated volunteers, staff of cooperating agencies, teachers and advisors, enthusiastic students, and valuable support and sponsorship from organizations like Canon U.S.A., Smithfield Foods, Monsanto Chemical Company, the American Clean Water Foundation, the U.S. Forest Service, the National Association of Conservation Districts, the Soil and Water Conservation Society, and many others, the Envirothon has proven to be an exciting and useful tool for incorporating natural resource education into high school classrooms.

The NCF- Envirothon is a program of the National Conservation Foundation (Washington, D.C.) and is referred to as the NCF-Envirothon. Sponsorship for the program is from; local conservation districts, in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, Forestry Associations, and the National Association of Conservation Districts.

History of National Envirothon/Canon Envirothon/NCF-Envirothon Host States/Provinces and Topics

1	1988 - Pennsylvania	Farmland Preservation
2	1989 - Massachusetts	Solid Waste
3	1990 - Ohio	Quality Water for Life
4	1991 - Land Use	Land Use
5	1992 - Maryland	Wetlands
6	1993 - New York	Reclaimed Land
7	1994 - North Carolina	Acid Rain
8	1995 - Idaho	Ground Water (30 Teams) Connecticut - 1 st Place
9	1996 - Nebraska	Greenways
10	1997 - Pennsylvania	Pest Management
11	1998 - Michigan	Non-Point Source Pollution-Urban Waste (Watershed)
12	1999 - California	Wildfire Management
13	2000 - Nova Scotia	Wetland Management
14	2001 - Mississippi	Urban Non-Point Source Pollution- Household/Home
15	2002 - Massachusetts	Introduced Species and Their Effect on Biodiversity
16	2003 - Maryland	Agricultural Land Conservation & Preservation
17	2004 - West Virginia	Natural Resource Management Urban Environment
18	2005 - Missouri	Managing Cultural Landscapes
19	2006 - Manitoba	Water Stewardship in a Changing Climate
20	2007 - New York	Alternative Renewable Energy (NY TAPestry)
21	2008 - Arizona	Recreational Impacts on Natural Resources
22	2009 - North Carolina	Biodiversity in A Changing World
23	2010 - California	Protection of Groundwater - Urban Agricultural...
24	2011 - New Brunswick	Salt and Freshwater Estuaries
25	2012 - Pennsylvania	Non- Point Source Pollution-Low Impact
26	2013 - Montana	Sustainable Rangeland Management: Achieving a balance...
27	2015 - Missouri	Urban/Community Forests
28	2016 - Ontario	Invasive Species ... A Challenge to the Environment ...
29	2017 - Maryland	Agricultural Soil and Water Conservation Stewardship
30	2018 - Idaho	Western Range Land Management-Balancing Diverse
31	2019 -North Carolina	Agriculture & the Environment ... Knowledge & Technology to Feed the World