



COLES COUNTY
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
6021 Development Drive, Suite 2 • Charleston, IL 61920 • Phone (217) 345-3901 Ext. 3

January 11, 2024

Dear Teachers, Organization Sponsors, and FFA Advisors,

Your students are invited to participate in the 2024 Envirothon Competition

The 2024 Land Use Council 7 Envirothon Competition is being held at Lake Land College in Mattoon, Illinois on Thursday, March 7, 2024. High school teams from Champaign, Clark, Coles, Douglas, Edgar, and Vermilion counties are invited to participate in this annual event. In the past several years, over 200 students have participated in this awesome learning experience.

The Envirothon can be a great learning opportunity for your students. Any students contemplating careers in science, conservation, agriculture, education, biology, forestry, or natural resources will benefit tremendously from this competition. Another great incentive is that all expenses for the 2024 Envirothon (excluding transportation costs) will be covered by the Coles County SWCD and local sponsors. These expenses include lunch, awards, T-shirts, etc. It is free for your school to participate! Schools will only be responsible for transportation to and from the event on the day of the competition.

The competition includes five areas of study: Aquatics, Wildlife, Forestry, Soils, and this year's current events category which is **"Renewable Energy for a Sustainable Future."** Teams will be tested in each of these areas with both written and practical (identification) examinations. Our regional council will post study materials online at <https://www.ccsxcd.com/envirothon>, for your students to prepare for the competition. All test questions will come from the study materials provided.

An oral presentation is part of the Illinois Envirothon competition. The local Envirothon Committee feels the oral presentation portion of the competition is very valuable in preparing teams for the State Envirothon Competition, should they qualify. **As in prior years, only one school from each county will get to participate in the oral presentation portion of the competition.** The presenting school will be selected at random, notified in advance of the competition, and will be provided the scenario on which to build the presentation (based on the current events category). Visual aids for the presentation are also welcomed. I will be in touch regarding this topic in February.

Each school is allowed to have up to four teams representing the school and/or FFA chapters. There is the opportunity for FFA chapters to compete against other chapters in this competition. If FFA Chapters are interested in competing, please register as a FFA Chapter.

The overall winning team(s) from this Land Use Council 7 event will be eligible to compete at the Illinois Envirothon competition that is scheduled to be held in May 8 – 9, 2024, at Allerton Park in Monticello, Illinois. The winning team from the state level competition will advance to

compete in the National Competition, to be held July 28 – August 3, 2024, at Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, New York. In addition, prizes will be awarded to the category winners in all five topics.

A registration form is attached for your convenience. If you have any questions or would like additional information, feel free to contact us by phone at (217) 345-3901 ext. 3 Monday through Friday from 8:00 am – 4:30 pm or by email at info@colescountyswcd.org.

If you are interested in participating, please return your registration forms by February 2nd so t-shirts may be ordered. If you feel that another teacher in your school would also like to be a sponsor, please be sure to make them aware of this opportunity.

We look forward to your school's participation in the 2024 Envirothon!

Sincerely,

Bryson Gibson
Administrative & Education Coordinator
Coles County SWCD

Lauren Oertling
Resource Conservationist
Coles County SWCD

This event is sponsored by Land Use Council 7 encompassing the Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Champaign, Clark, Coles, Douglas, Edgar, and Vermilion Counties.

***The Illinois State Envirothon is on Twitter at @IllinoisEnviro
Instagram @IllinoisEnvirothon
Facebook – Illinois State Envirothon***

Check out www.illinoisenvirothon.org

The Coles County Soil and Water Conservation District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age or handicap in admission to or treatment or employment in program or activities in compliance with the Illinois Human Rights Act, the Illinois Constitution, Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended, and the U.S. Constitution.