

## **2017 State Problem**

This year's state Envirothon oral presentation is based on the current issue, **Agricultural Soil and Water Conservation Stewardship** and the creation of a strategic plan to present to a partner(s) for use of a property(s) for an ongoing project with an agricultural focus. You may utilize the area in one of the following ways, but it must have an agricultural focus: demonstration plot, research plot, CSA (community supported agriculture), community garden (in a "food desert" area), outdoor lab for/at school, or agricultural tourism,

Your strategic plan will also need to include how to reach out and educate the public (field day/tour, local meeting presentation, a workshop setting, etc.). Indiana Envirothon will be partnering with the Environmental Education Association of Indiana (EEAI) who will be evaluating the educational component of your plan.

Your proposed strategic plan will be based in your community. Identify the site/location where the plan will be implemented. It could be a willing landowner to donate the use of the property, a municipal owned property, a school owned property, or other public/private organization's property that would be available for use.

Identify the type of habitat currently present: inventory/make-up of the trees and shrubs present, type of wildlife (including aquatic organisms) that utilizes the area, water sources available, and the soil type(s). Take into consideration the use of and the impacts on all natural resources including soil, water, trees, and plant/wildlife in their present state and what your plan will bring to the area. Your agricultural focus on this property should include:

- Soil Health and Land Use (prior use, current use, and project use)
- Water Management
- Sustainability of the natural resources
- Best Management Practices
- Management of Trees and Wildlife
- If you include some type of livestock (large or small)
  - Management plan of livestock and impacts
- If you include some type of cropping/plant based agriculture
  - Management plan of crops/garden/habitats maintenance/rotation.

Your strategic plan must be practical and must include an actual location in your community, have a planned follow up on some regular time basis (quarterly, seasonally, annually, etc.), knowing that the strategic plan must be revisited to update progress. Maps and/or photos of the landscape is highly encouraged to be included with your project as well as speaking with a natural resources professional(s).

Some suggestions for contacting natural resource professionals:

- US Dept of Agriculture (USDA)/Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) - *every county has one*
- Purdue Cooperative Extension Office - *every county has one*
- Dept. of Natural Resources
- Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA)
- Parks Department
- City/County Planner/Commission
- Local College Agriculture Professor
- A Landowner that you know.

**Your team is to focus on the strategic plan to be presented – team should not give a long “lesson” on history of conservation stewardship, you are presenting to professionals in the natural resource field familiar with conservation. You should have a strong understanding of the components of the property you have selected as the judges may ask you questions concerning specific natural resources present/available (soil/land use, aquatic ecology, forestry, wildlife, and conservation stewardship).**

**Your Strategic Plan should include** these 10+ key items

1. History of location
2. Vision of the plan on the location
3. Prioritization of plan
4. Goals and Objectives of the plan
5. Monitoring of plan
6. Activities of the plan (who, what, where, when, why)
7. Education/Outreach/Awareness
8. Time line to revisit the Strategic Plan
9. Things to consider
  - i. Practicality
  - ii. Expenses/Funding
  - iii. Social/Cultural impacts
10. Resource page
  - i. Listing of natural resources professionals contacted and comments (highly recommended)
  - ii. Additional resources used in plan preparation
  - iii. Listing of the team members

## Resources to consider –

- Your local Natural Resource Professionals
  - USDA/NRCS/SWCD
  - County Extension Office
  - Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
  - State/National Forests
  - Indiana State Department of Agriculture
  - Parks Department
  - City/County Planner/Commission
  - Local College Agriculture Professor
  - A Landowner that you know
  - City or County GIS/Planning and Zoning/Engineering Departments
- Web Soil Survey link
  - <https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/HomePage.htm>
- Conservation Choices – Best Management Practices for Farmers – Maryland
  - [http://mda.maryland.gov/resource\\_conservation/counties/ConservationChoices\\_2012\\_FINAL%20\(1\).pdf](http://mda.maryland.gov/resource_conservation/counties/ConservationChoices_2012_FINAL%20(1).pdf)
- Ideas for organizing committees, promotion, and fundraising –
  - <http://tinyurl.com/OutdoorClassroomGuidelines>
- Learning objectives of the 2017 Envirothon Current Issue found in 2017 booklet p9
  - <http://tinyurl.com/CurrentIssueEnvirothon>

## 2017 Indiana Envirothon State Contest Presentation Guidelines

Submit three copies of Strategic Plan (including support materials) on 8.5 x 11 white paper in black ink typed in an easily read font style and size. Be sure to include maps, bibliography, cover page, and team member page. *(One copy of the strategic plan will be kept by the Indiana Envirothon and the other copies may be picked up at the registration table after the contest concludes)*

Make sure the presentation includes how the Strategic Plan will affect soils and land use, wildlife, forestry, aquatic ecology, and address the 2017 current issue Agricultural Soil and Water Conservation Stewardship.

All materials related to the presentation (note cards, poster, reports, etc.) need to be turned in when you register. They will be returned prior to your presentation.

If you will be using a power point presentation of some type with your oral presentation, it must be submitted via e-mail to Jeri Ziliak as a PDF file only. E-mail your PDF presentation to both [jeri.ziliak@in.nacdnet.net](mailto:jeri.ziliak@in.nacdnet.net) and [rjziliak@gmail.com](mailto:rjziliak@gmail.com) by **Monday, April 24, 2017 at 12PM (Noon)**.

**All PowerPoint presentations MUST be submitted in PDF format ONLY – no other presentations, pre-recorded verbal or internet accessed presentations are permitted. PDF presentations will be pre-loaded onto a computer prior to the contest by the Indiana Envirothon representative. Please be sure your presentation is in a PDF format before sending it in. Posters, flipcharts, etc. are encouraged. No additional equipment or tripods will be provided.**

It is highly encouraged to have a back-up plan for your presentation in the event that weather, technical, or other issues beyond the control of Indiana Envirothon should occur during the state contest.

Your presentation must be no longer than 12 minutes long. There will be a 2 point penalty for going over 12 minutes and the team will be stopped at that point.

A score sheet has been included for your reference. The score sheet was updated in 2016 but is still similar to the North American Envirothon competition.