

## Current Issue Presentation - SCORE Sheet

The Current Issue Presentation score – 100 points – is 25% of the team's total Envirothon score. Points awarded by scoring judges on the panel are averaged to determine the team's score. Teams have seen this score sheet and know what judges will be looking for. Teams have the freedom to plan their own presentation as best fits what they want to say, and to choose whether, how, and in what order they will address these questions. Comments and suggestions for teams are welcome.

**What is the potential for producing local food, fiber, and/or wood products – given the soil, water, and people resources in this community?**

**What can be done to maximize this potential while remediating, protecting, and enhancing local soil and water resources for the long run?**

*Sections 1, 2, and 3 should be scored using the following ranges of point values as a guide:*

- 0 = team no-show*
- 1 - 4 = no formal presentation, team engages in some informed discussion of the topic with judges*
- 5 - 8 = presentation incomplete, demonstrates very little investigation, may include misconceptions and gaps in knowledge*
- 9 - 13 = presentation complete, demonstrates some effort, but shows incomplete investigation and/or recommendations.*
- 14 - 17 = presentation demonstrates evidence of field observation and interviews, adequate knowledge base, some reflection. Lacks some elements of research and/or recommendations that would show a full grasp of the issues.*
- 18 - 20 = presentation demonstrates insightful understanding of concepts, in-depth knowledge, uses a balance of research from field observations, interviews, and secondary sources. Recommendations clearly presented and well-supported.*

### 1. An overview of soil & water resources, both town-wide and at specific sites

- The team introduces their local landscape, describing the variety of soil and water resources, and how the land has been used through history.
- The team is clear about how they know what they know – to whom they talked, where they visited, what they saw and read, etc.
- The team introduces at least **two specific sites** they investigated and the tests and/or studies they performed, and what relevance these have for the question of agricultural potential.
- The team describes the ecosystem services provided by gardens, farms, working forests, water bodies.
- The team describes current conditions: soil health, water quality, agricultural production, including whether and how these have been affected by drought and flooding.

**Comments:**

**SCORE** (20 points possible): \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. An overview of relevant policies and practices for soil health and water conservation

- The team introduces the people they met who are involved in soil/water stewardship – their roles and the knowledge, skills, and values they bring
- The team identifies local, state, and federal policies, regulations, and incentive programs that encourage growers to be good stewards of soil and water resources
- The team describes best practices that are currently in use, where and why they are being used, and expected outcomes.

**Comments:**

**SCORE** (20 points possible): \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Recommendations for producing food, fiber, and wood while conserving soil and water

- The team recommends specific policies and practices that will support both agricultural production and soil and water conservation for the long run. They note specific effects on the pieces of land they investigated as well as the town as a whole.
- The team notes any trade-offs and synergies between conservation practices and farm and forest productivity.
- The team describes how recommended actions might affect the rate of climate change and our adaptation to it.
- The team outlines the effects their recommended policies and practices will have in the short (5 year) and longer (50 year) term.
- The team reflects on obstacles to adoption of these policies and practices.

**Comments:**

**SCORE** (20 points possible): \_\_\_\_\_

#### 4. Quality of Presentation (20 points possible)

*Section 4 should be scored using the following rubric as a guide*

0	=	No Presentation
1-4	=	Very Ineffective
5-8	=	Poor
9-13	=	Somewhat Effective
14-17	=	Effective
18-20	=	Extremely Effective

Some marks of an effective Envirothon presentation include:

- Overall organization is thoughtful and clear
- The team uses maps and other visual aids and samples well
- All five team members share responsibility for presentation
- The team uses time effectively (close to full 15 minutes allotted, but not over time; apportioned well)
- The team handles questions from the judges well

**SCORE** (20 points possible) \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments:**

#### 5. Overall Quality (20 points possible)

*These points are awarded based on the judge's overall appraisal of the team's work including*

- Thoroughness in research
- Engaging stories of soil, water, and people in their community
- Initiative, effort, and willingness to take risks
- Critical thinking and creativity
- Quality of reflection and judgment
- Honesty and integrity

**SCORE** (20 points possible) \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments:**

**TOTAL SCORE**

(sum of front and back of this sheet, 100 points possible)

**Judge's initials** \_\_\_\_\_

