

2021 Mass Envirothon Community Award Summary – Research and Action on [*Water Management and Climate Change*](#)

The goal of the Mass Envirothon [Community Awards](#) is to recognize Envirothon teams who have gained significant community research and action experience - including environmental knowledge, community connections, teamwork skills, and stewardship values - through their work on the [Current Issue](#). They show that they are capable of college level work and that they can make a real contribution to their communities. Their coaches deserve special commendation for the time and care they put into working with the teams.

The Mass Envirothon Community Research Award recognizes teams who have done thorough and wide-ranging community investigations in preparation for their Current Issue presentation. Qualifying for this award in 2021 required teams to become acquainted with several examples of “gray” and “green” water infrastructure at work in their community. They also investigated local organizations involved in water resource protection, and interviewed engineers, activists, local officials, and natural resource managers to learn about their current work and identify key issues. In addition, the teams used maps and researched local newspapers and the internet.

The Mass Envirothon Community Action Award recognizes teams who take what they learn from this Current Issue research and apply it in service to their community.

Team	Research – What they did:	Action Project
The Groton School	The Groton team engaged in a variety of research experiences. While they were not able to visit sites beyond their campus, the team found ways to interview a number of environmental advocates and professionals, and demonstrated skill at learning about local sites using photographs and mapping tools online to better understand their watershed’s assets and vulnerabilities in the face of climate change.	
Lexington High School	The Lexington team engaged in a variety of research experiences, including interviewing professionals (the town engineer, water supply and wastewater treatment managers, and a community farm board member), studied water conservation and stormwater management practices at Estabrook Elementary School, and used mapping tools to learn more about droughts and floods that Lexington may expect in years to come.	The team worked with the East Lexington Habitat Enrichment Project to restore the ecological health of Mill Brook. They cleared the area of excess brush and litter, and set a carboard base and mulched the area to deprive invasive Japanese Knotweed and Garlic Mustard of sunlight, to allow more native species to flourish.
Quabbin Regional School (Barre)	The Quabbin team engaged in a variety of research experiences, including interviewing professionals (natural resource managers, scientists, farmers, and an environmental analyst), researching gray and green infrastructure online and in person, and using mapping tools online to better understand their watershed’s assets and vulnerabilities in the face of climate change.	