



MASSACHUSETTS ENVIROTHON

June 18, 2024

John Staley, Principal
Doherty Memorial High School
299 Highland Street
Worcester MA 01602

Dear Principal Staley,

Congratulations to the Doherty Memorial High School Envirothon Team for their hard work and success at the 2024 Massachusetts Envirothon! In addition to participating in the competition, the team was one of 3 teams across the state completing requirements for the Mass Envirothon [Community Engagement Award](#) for their work on the 2024 [Current Issue Clean Energy for a Sustainable Future](#).

2024 participating team members – all from Worcester – included:

Felix Agyemang
Sage Comeux
Sherise Darko
Irsa Golemi
Nazrin Ismail

Dea Kamberi
Jailene Matias
Frejsis Telhaj
Susay Toe
Victoria Wakadilo

Elena Melka
Stephanie Muriuki
Yuetong Zhao
Serxho Kreka

The team was coached by Doherty teachers Stacey Hill and Jess Racine.

The Mass Envirothon Community Engagement Award recognizes teams who engage in thorough and wide-ranging community investigations in preparation for their Current Issue presentation AND THEN take this new knowledge and put it to work in an action project in their community. Participating teams' work exemplifies the integration of science and civic knowledge and skills, and community connections, that are critical for addressing environmental issues in a democratic society. Teams engage in the kind of student-led civic activity envisioned in the Massachusetts 2018 [Act to Promote and Enhance Civic Engagement](#).

Qualifying for this award in 2024 required teams to become familiar with the transition to sustainable energy sources as it is occurring in their communities. They conducted in-person interviews, visited project sites, made recommendations on web resources, and researched pending state legislation relevant to clean energy. Documentation of teams' work – and reflection on what they found – was collected using the [Research and Action Checklist](#). In addition to documenting their efforts, Envirothon Community Award teams participate in a zoom interview that offers the chance for a wider public to learn about the teams' work and perspectives.

What they did: In their research these 14 Doherty students explored Worcester's large solar farm built on an old landfill (it's not only an energy source, it's wildlife habitat!). They visited the Worcester Sustainability Hub at Clark University. And they got familiar with the energy features of the new, green Doherty high school building that they will move into this coming school year. They interviewed their

state representative who is sponsoring a bill to require electric school buses (for the sake of children's health as well as sustainable energy). They also interviewed an architect who specializes in green building, and an intern at the Worcester Historical Society. For their action project, they hosted a well-attended public forum for candidates for Worcester City Council. The team developed the questions, and took the lead in posing them at the forum. Eleven candidates participated.

Envirothon teams gain strong environmental knowledge and community connections through their research and action experiences. They develop teamwork, stewardship values, and skills for civic engagement. 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 team.

Documentation of the Doherty team's work can be found at the [2024 Community Engagement Awards](#) webpage.

Thank you for your support of the Doherty team and their coaches! More about the Envirothon can be found at <https://www.massenvirothon.org>.

Sincerely,



Will Snyder
Massachusetts Envirothon Steering Committee
wsnyder@umass.edu

cc: Rachel Monarrez, Superintendent
Stacey Hill, Envirothon Coach
Jess Racine, Envirothon Coach
Guillermo Creamer, Community Liaison, Miyawaki Forest & Cool Pocket Forest Project
Representative Mary S. Keefe
Representative David LeBoeuf
Representative James J. O'Day
Representative Daniel Donahue
Senator Robyn K. Kennedy
Senator Michael Moore
Senator Peter Durant
Toni Caushi, Worcester Telegram & Gazette
Rebecca Tepper, Massachusetts Secretary of Energy & Environmental Affairs
Stephanie Cooper, Undersecretary for Environment, Massachusetts EEA