2026 Massachusetts Envirothon

Current Issue Judging Rubric - Living Sponge Communities

Judge's Name: _____   Block: _____   School Team: _____

Category	Max Points	Low Range (0-7 points)	Medium Range (8-12 points)	High Range (13-20 points)	Judge's Score
Investigate and Map Stormwater Pathways	20	Limited or inaccurate understanding of stormwater pathways. Maps are incomplete or missing key features like runoff sources, infiltration areas, or drainage systems.	General understanding of stormwater flow. Major pathways identified but connections or details are missing or simplified.	Clear, accurate mapping and explanation of stormwater pathways. Demonstrates strong understanding of runoff, infiltration, drainage infrastructure, and watershed dynamics.	
Community Connections - Understanding Stormwater Management and Water Resource Protection	20	Minimal understanding of stormwater management or water resource protection. Few or no management practices explained.	Basic understanding of stormwater management strategies (e.g., detention basins, rain gardens). Some connection to water resource protection. References one community contact.	Demonstrates strong understanding of stormwater management and protection strategies. Explains approaches such as green infrastructure, sponge communities, and watershed-level planning with clear examples. References two plus community contacts and what was learned.	
Comparing Community Types - Understanding Stormwater Challenges Across Urban, Suburban & Rural Landscapes	20	Limited recognition of landscape differences. Discussion is vague or incomplete.	Identifies some differences in stormwater challenges across landscape types but explanation lacks depth or clarity.	Clearly explains how stormwater challenges differ across urban, suburban, and rural areas. Discusses impervious surfaces, land use patterns, agricultural runoff, and/or infrastructure implications with detailed examples.	
Proposed Solution - Building a Resilient Water Future	20	Solution is vague, unrealistic, or unsupported. Implementation steps unclear or missing.	Solution addresses the issue but lacks detail or full feasibility discussion. Environmental or community benefits partially explained.	Solution is realistic, well developed, and clearly explained. Demonstrates practical understanding of green infrastructure or sponge community solutions. Includes implementation steps and environmental/community benefits. Based on creative and critical thinking.	

Category	Max Points	Low Range (0-3 points)	Medium Range (4-7 points)	High Range (8-10 points)	Judge's Score
Poster Board Design	10	Board is difficult to read, poorly organized, or missing key visuals.	Board communicates main ideas, but organization, clarity, or visuals could be improved. Communication is mostly clear.	Board is well-organized, visually engaging, and easy to follow.	
Presentation (Delivery)	10	Team reads heavily from notes, uneven participation, poor pacing or unclear speaking.	Some reading from notes, uneven participation, minor pacing issues. Communication mostly clear.	Confident, professional, and impactful delivery. Balanced participation, good pacing, clear spacing, and strong engagement with judges.	
Notes:				Total Score:	