



Massachusetts Envirothon
Spring 2026 Coach & Team Workshop
University of Massachusetts Amherst Campus Center
Thursday, March 12, 2025
8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

8:00 AM **Arrival & Check-in / Refreshments**

8:30 AM **Opening Session**

9:15 AM **Passing Period**

9:30 AM **Concurrent Sessions Block 1**

10:30 AM **Passing Period**

10:45 AM **Concurrent Sessions Block 2**

11:45 AM **Lunch Period***

1:00 PM **Concurrent Sessions Block 3**

2:00 PM **Dismissal**

Thank you to our partners!

Massachusetts Envirothon wishes to thank the University of Massachusetts for hosting us, with special thanks to the UMass School of Earth & Sustainability and the Department of Environmental Conservation.

***Lunch Options at the UMass Campus Center**

If you did not bring your lunch, you can purchase food on campus at any of the following options:

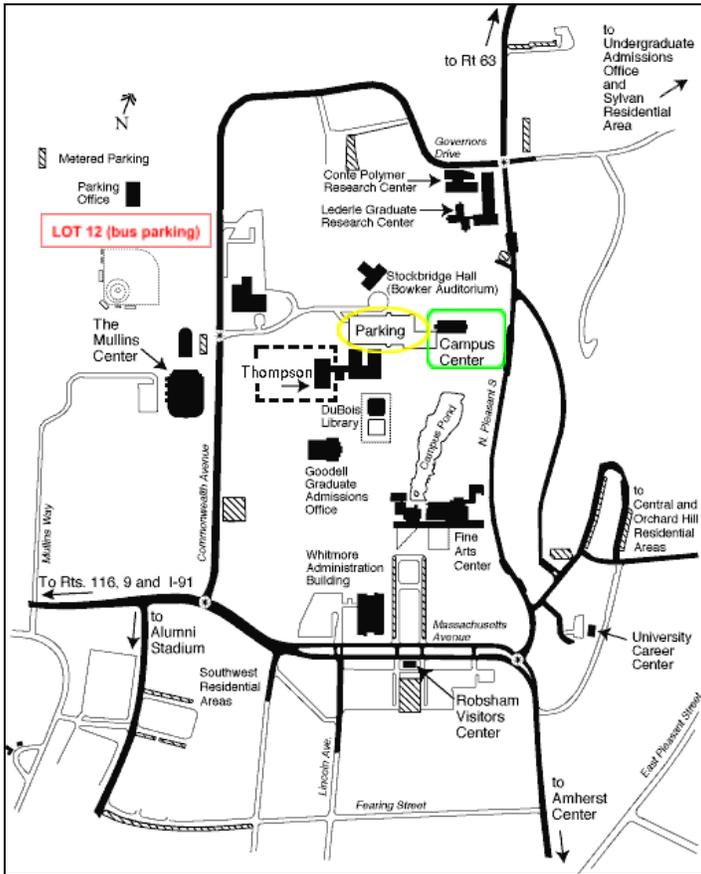
- The Blue Wall (a variety of options)
- The Peoples Organic (coffee and pastries)
- Harvest Market (grab and go items)
- Worcester Dining Commons (all-you-can-eat cafeteria)

Those who brought lunch, feel free to use a table in Room 163c
 See map on pg. 2 for more details.

Concurrent Session Blocks (descriptions on pgs. 3 & 4)

Room	SESSION BLOCK 1		SESSION BLOCK 2		SESSION BLOCK 3	
	#	Title	#	Title	#	Title
CC Auditorium	1	What is Climate Literacy?	10	Storm-Proofing: Offshore Wind Turbines in the Age of Hurricanes	13	Natural Resources Conservation Peer Mentor Panel
CC 162	2	DIY Up-cycled T-shirt Bags <i>(25 student cap)</i>	11	Freshwater Wetlands and Stormwater	14	Limits on Adaptation to Sea Level Rise
CC 163c	3	Mystery Mammal Challenge (Wildlife EcoStation)	3	Mystery Mammal Challenge (Wildlife EcoStation)	3	Mystery Mammal Challenge (Wildlife EcoStation)
CC 165	4	The Governor's Dilemma	4	The Governor's Dilemma	1	What is Climate Literacy?
CC 168	5	The Plume Problem (Water Ecostation)	5	The Plume Problem (Water Ecostation)	5	The Plume Problem (Water Ecostation)
CC 174	6	Soil EcoStation	6	Soil EcoStation		
<i>Meet at Registration</i>	7	Tree ID (Forest Ecostation)	12	Tree Measurement (Forest Ecostation)		
<i>Meet at Registration</i>	9	UMass Sustainability Tour	8	The Seed/Herb Library: A Study in Reciprocity <i>(15 student cap)</i>	9	UMass Sustainability Tour

Campus Map & Instructions



Parking

- Buses: Please park in , along the treeline
- Personal Vehicles: Please park in the Main Parking Garage / Campus Center Garage.

You will need to download the [ParkMobile app](#), and use this Code “**26EN**” for Free Parking.

When you leave the Main Parking Garage, head to the “Campus Center” building.

Once you enter the building, proceed DOWN the Escalators to the 1st Floor (basement).

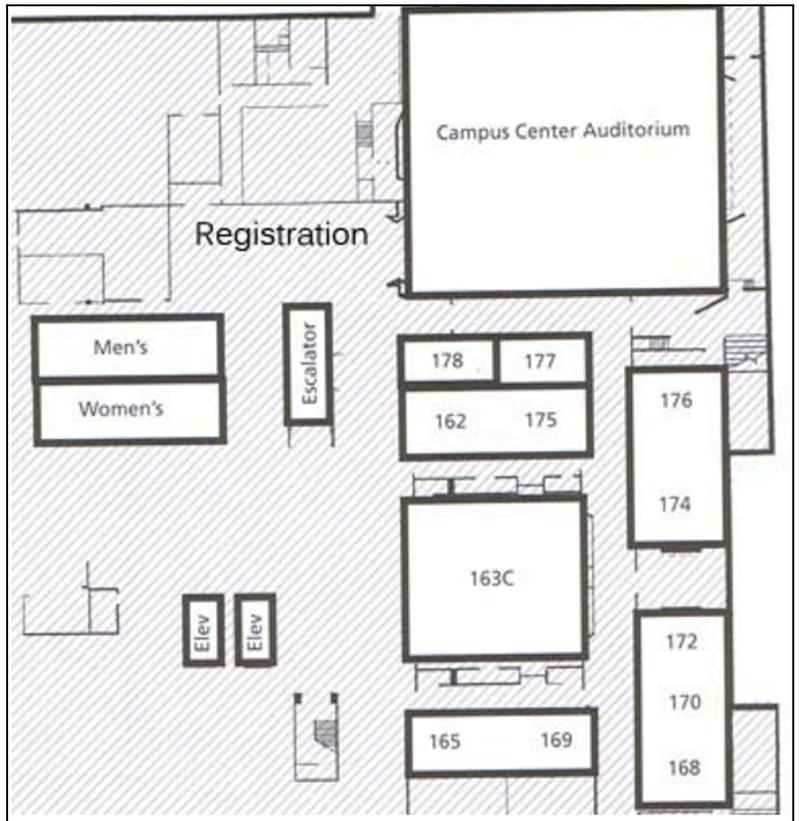
This is where all Envirthon sessions will be held.

Lunch Options Near the UMass Campus Center

If you did not bring your lunch, you can purchase food on campus at any of the following options:

- The Blue Wall (inside the Campus Center; a variety of options, (~\$10-15))
- The Peoples Organic (coffee and pastries)
- Harvest Market (grab and go items)
- Worcester Dining Commons (\$17.50; all-you-can-eat cafeteria, nearby to Campus Center)

Those who brought lunch, feel free to use a table in Room 163c.





SESSION DETAILS

#	Session Title	Session Description	Session Block(s)
1	What is Climate Literacy?	<p>Within this workshop, we will co-create a definition of what it means to be climate literate. We will be focusing our discussion on these 2 key questions; what is climate literacy? And what is climate justice?</p> <p><i>Roisin Kirby, UMass Amherst School of Earth & Sustainability</i></p>	1 & 3
2	DIY Up-cycled T-shirt Bags	<p>In this hands-on session, you will transform a t-shirt into a fun and functional tote-bag. No skills necessary! All materials provided and every participant will leave with their own t-shirt bag! Come learn about circularity, reuse, and the New2U Thrift Store.</p> <p><i>Laurie Simmons, UMass Amherst Facilities Management Sustainability New2U Thrift Store</i></p>	1
3	Mystery Mammal Challenge (Wildlife EcoStation)	<p>The ability to use field guides and other applicable resources is essential for the Envirothon. In this hands-on workshop, students will work in small groups as they rotate through a series of stations to answer questions based on wildlife artifacts. You will hone your identification skills during this workshop and become more familiar with the use of field guides and other applicable resource materials.</p> <p><i>Emily Stolarski, Meghan Crawford, & Hannah Crawford, Division of Fisheries & Wildlife (MassWildlife)</i></p>	1, 2, 3
4	The Governor's Dilemma	<p>In this interactive simulation, students take on the role of newly appointed advisors to Governor Maura Healey, charged with helping her navigate major environmental policy decisions facing Massachusetts. Working in teams, students research a current environmental policy debate, analyze its pros and cons, and develop policy recommendations and rebuttals to common concerns, all to help the Governor define and defend her positions to the public and the press. Students will explore complex, real-world Massachusetts policy debates that touch on green infrastructure, the environment, social justice, and the economy.</p> <p><i>Faith Nussbaum, UMass Amherst School of Public Policy</i></p>	1, 2
5	The Plume Problem (Water EcoStation Workshop)	<p>In this hands-on workshop, analyze data to track a mysterious plume of contaminants spreading through the local aquifer, threatening a local community's drinking water. Map contamination levels and pinpoint the source. Analyze data, understand the relationship between land use and water quality, and design solutions for community water safety.</p> <p><i>Kathryn Parent, David Getman, Joshua Sjogren, DCR Division of Water Supply Protection</i></p>	1, 2, 3
6	Soils Overview & Concepts Application (EcoStation Workshop)	<p>This workshop offers an understanding of soil formation and behavior. After the introductory presentation, small groups will rotate through 4 stations, and complete exercises by interpreting what they see and feel. You will identify and describe soil characteristics such as parent material, texture, color, drainage class, and horizonation. You will get your hands dirty!</p> <p><i>Maggie Payne, David Zimmermann, Joxelle Velazquez, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service</i></p>	1, 2
7	Tree Identification Workshop (Forest EcoStation)	<p>Learn how to identify a variety of native Massachusetts trees by learning the basics of tree ID techniques. Felicia will introduce you to some simple strategies such as the acronym called MADCAPHORSE and other techniques. You will learn how to use the tree's bark, overall shape, branching pattern, buds, leaves, acorn, nuts and even the smell of the tree as identifiers. You will be sure to recognize these trees when you apply these methods throughout the year and see them again on the day of the Massachusetts Envirothon.</p> <p>NOTE: This session is conducted outdoors; please dress appropriately.</p> <p><i>Felicia Hubacz, Mass. Department of Conservation and Recreation</i></p>	1

- CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE -

#	Session Title	Session Description	
8	The Seed/Herb Library: A Study in Reciprocity	Step into the warm and welcoming space that houses The Mass Aggie Seed Library and The Herb Library. Learn how the campus and local communities are a reciprocal part of this resource through volunteering and donating seeds and plant materials. We will dip into the book collection to complete an exercise that underscores how plants can enhance our lives and communities and how to work with them respectfully with future generations in mind. <i>Madeleine Charney, UMass Amherst Seed and Herb Library</i>	2
9	UMass Sustainability Tour	A walking tour of the many sustainability features of the UMass campus. NOTE: This is mostly outside, so dress appropriately! <i>Britt Crow-Miller, UMass Amherst Department of Environmental Conservation</i>	1, 3
10	Storm-Proofing: Offshore Wind Turbines in the Age of Hurricanes	Offshore wind farms are huge mega-structures that can power hundreds of thousands of homes. However, their location in the middle of the ocean exposes them to some of nature's most intense weather conditions. Thanks to climate change, hurricanes are increasing in both strength and frequency. What happens to a wind turbine during a hurricane, and what can engineers do to "Storm-Proof" these massive machines? How can we reshape public perception around risk, reliability, danger, and the potential benefits of ocean energy? In this workshop, we'll learn about the size and scale of offshore wind farms, learn about some common impacts, and work in teams to communicate effectively with residents of coastal communities about perceptions of risk and danger. <i>Max Dilthey, UMass Amherst Department of Environmental Conservation</i>	2
11	Freshwater Wetlands and Stormwater	Freshwater wetlands act as natural sponges and filters, crucial for managing stormwater by reducing flood peaks, curbing erosion, and removing suspended solids and pollutants like nutrients, heavy metals, and hydrocarbons from urban runoff. Wetland soils (along with their microbial communities) play crucial roles in reducing/removing common stormwater pollutants. Wetlands also stabilize hydrology by storing runoff and releasing it slowly. Although natural wetlands carry out these functions quite well, heavy stormwater/pollution loads may be better treated using constructed wetlands. This workshop will cover overall wetland functions and dive deeper into the biogeochemistry of wetland soils and how these unique systems purify stormwater. <i>Deborah Henson, UMass Amherst Department of Environmental Conservation</i>	2
12	Tree Measurement (Forest EcoStation Workshop)	Go outside on the University of Massachusetts campus and try out your hand at measuring trees. The instructor will review procedures for using a variety of tree measuring tools. You will learn how to measure height, diameter and determine board foot volume. These techniques will be tested on the day of the Massachusetts Envirothon. NOTE: This session is conducted outdoors; please dress appropriately for the weather. <i>Felicia Hubacz, Mass. Department of Conservation and Recreation</i>	2
13	Natural Resources Conservation Peer Mentor Panel	Are you thinking of going to college in an environmental major? Hear from several current Natural Resources Conservation undergraduate students about their experiences, thoughts, and advice! Ask any questions and get candid answers. This panel will consist of NRC Peer Mentors in both the Forest Ecology and Conservation and the Wildlife Ecology and Conservation concentrations. <i>Lena Fletcher, UMass Amherst Department of Environmental Conservation</i>	3
14	Limits on Adaptation to Sea Level Rise	This hour will review what is happening to glaciers and ice sheets today and how events in the past 3 million years inform the future rates of sea level rise. We will do two hands-on activities related to sea level rise that show how local coastal systems will not be impacted the same. <i>Julie Brigham-Grette, UMass Amherst Department of Earth, Geographic and Climate Sciences</i>	3

