



# UPDATES

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## 2007 Pennsylvania Envirothon

The 2007 Pennsylvania State Envirothon will be hosted by The Pennsylvania State University located in Centre County on Monday and Tuesday, May 21 and 22.

Monday's Oral Component competition and evening activities will take place in the School of Forest Resources and nearby classroom buildings.

On Tuesday, teams will travel to the Ag Progress Days site, located in Rock Springs, for the station testing. This is about a 20-minute drive from the University.

Students, advisors, and volunteers will be housed in

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

NEW Current Issue Resources	2
Envirothon Resources on the web	3
Article of Interest - U.S. Population	3
Dates to Note and Points of Interest	4

the East Halls dormitories, and meals will be served in the Johnston Commons.

For more information on the Penn State University visit [www.psu.edu](http://www.psu.edu). For more information on the 2007 Pennsylvania Envirothon visit [www.envirothonpa.org](http://www.envirothonpa.org).

## 2007 Pennsylvania Envirothon Oral Component

The Pennsylvania Envirothon Oral Component/Current Issue Committee has been busy working on writing a scenario and developing the county and state tests for the 2007 event. During these work sessions, some new ideas and suggestions have developed, and we'd like to incorporate them into this year's event.

**Scenario:** The oral component scenario will be posted on the Pennsylvania Envirothon's website on **Monday, May 14<sup>th</sup>**, one week prior to the event. This will provide those winning teams an opportunity to better prepare for the oral presentation. Teams will be able to utilize existing resources, research new information, and obtain input and guidance from advisors to enhance their presentation. In addition, posting it on the web will also allow those non-participating teams a chance to see how the scenario is written, what is expected, and provide an opportunity to 'participate' on their own, in preparation for future State Envirothons or for their own personal growth.

The posting of the scenario one week early is the only major change in the Oral Component this year. The Oral Component remains 'mandatory' (i.e. all teams must participate/present an oral presentation). Teams will continue to have one hour prior to their presentation to prepare their visual aides and/or

props. The scoring will remain separate from the testing part of the event; however, the scores of the Oral Component will be used as the tie breaker for those teams that tie in the overall test scores.

Additional 'rules' and guidelines as to what can/cannot be brought into the 'prep room' and the rotation schedule will be supplied to all teams closer to the event.

**Tests:** The Oral Component/Current Issue Committee has reviewed the evaluations and will be implementing some of those suggestions. Expect to see test questions from EVERY resource and more challenging multiple choice and matching questions with very few short answer questions at the county level. There will be a greater number of short answer questions at the state level.

Please be sure to mark **May 14<sup>th</sup>** on your calendar to remind yourself to check the Pennsylvania Envirothon website to obtain a copy of the scenario. The web address is <http://www.envirothonpa.org>. This reminder will be in the packet of information every winning team receives from its county Envirothon Coordinator.

Good luck to all teams! Hope to see you at the State event!!

## \*\*\*NEW Current Issue Resources\*\*\*

### Attention Envirothon Advisors

The Pennsylvania Envirothon Oral Component/Current Issue Committee, after doing additional research, has found some resources that we feel will provide valuable information to students as they prepare for the 2007 Current Issue: Alternative/Renewable Energy.

These additional resources are not lengthy, but they do include pertinent information, both historical and current.

These new resources are available on the Pennsylvania Envirothon website at [www.envirothonpa.org](http://www.envirothonpa.org). Go to Resources (located on the left sidebar) and then click on Current Issue: Alternative/Renewable Energy (listed in the categories at the top center of the page).



The new resources are numbered 24 - 27. Their titles include:

24. US Energy System fact sheets
25. Energy Consumption
26. U.S. Primary Energy Consumption Chart
27. The 1973 Oil Crisis.

**PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE provide this information to your Envirothon teams!**

## Envirothon Resources Now Available on Web site

For ease of studying, researching, and preparing for the Pennsylvania Envirothon and county Envirothon events, the learning objectives and most of the resources for the five testing stations are now available on the Pennsylvania Envirothon web site.

They can be found under Resources (left side bar), by clicking on: Aquatic, Current Issue, Forestry, Soil/Land Use, and Wildlife.

You may also find information on the following:

- Current Envirothon
- Oral Component
- Station Testing
- Sponsors & Partners
- Canon Envirothon
- Press Releases
- History
- Resources
- Contacts

In addition, a new Alumni Page will soon be added to the site. Envirothon Alumni, let us know where you are, how the Envirothon has helped you in pursuing your goals, and if you would like to help with Envirothon events in the future.

Visit the Pennsylvania Envirothon web site at:

[www.envirothonpa.org](http://www.envirothonpa.org)



## *Thank You*

*"Each day presents us with new opportunities and infinite possibilities. Your dedication and generosity makes the difference."*

*A million thanks go to all of our:*

*Partners, Conservation Districts, Financial Contributors, Sponsors, Participants, Advisors, and Volunteers  
for making the 2006 Pennsylvania Envirothon program such a huge success.*

## U.S. population consuming its way to 300 million & beyond

Something to think about in relation to "Alternative/Renewable Energy"

The U.S. population hit 300 million October 17, 2006, and it is causing a stir among environmentalists.

People in the United States are consuming more than ever - more food, more energy, more natural resources. Open spaces are shrinking and traffic in many areas is dreadful.

But some experts argue that population growth only partly explains growing U.S. consumption. Just as important, they say, is where people live, what they drive and how far they travel to work.

"The pattern of population growth is really the most crucial thing," said Michael Replogle, transportation director for Environmental Defense, a New York-based advocacy group.

"If the population grows in thriving, existing communities, restoring the historic density of older communities, we can easily sustain that growth and create a more efficient economy without sacrificing the environment," Replogle said.

That has not been the U.S. way. Instead, the country has fed its appetite for big houses, big yards, cul-de-sacs and strip malls. In a word: sprawl.

"Because the United States has become a suburban nation, sprawl has become the most predominant form of land use," said Vicky Markham, director of the Center for Environment and Population, an advocacy group. "Sprawl is, by definition, more spread out. That of course requires more vehicles and more vehicle miles traveled."

The United States still has a lot of wide open spaces, with about 84 people per square mile, compared with about 300 people per square mile in the European Union and almost 900 people per square mile in Japan.

But a little more than half of the U.S. population is clustered in counties along the coasts, including those along the Gulf of Mexico and Great Lakes. Also, much of the population is moving away from large cities to the suburbs and beyond.

The fastest growing county is Flagler County, FL, north of Daytona Beach; the fastest growing city is Elk Grove, CA, a suburb of Sacramento. The fastest growing metropolitan area is Riverside, CA, about 50 miles east of Los Angeles.

"In New York City, people tend to think of that as an

urban jungle, but the environmental impact per capita is quite low," said Carlos Restrepo, research scientist at New York University. "It tends to be less than it is for someone who lives in the suburbs with a big house where they need more than one car."

The Census Bureau projection of 300 million was based on estimates for births, deaths and net immigration that add up to one new American every 11 seconds.

The estimated 11 million to 12 million illegal immigrants in the United States are included in official population estimates, although many demographers believe they are undercounted.

The population reached its last milestone, 200 million, in 1967. That translates into a 50 percent increase in 39 years.

During the same period, the number of households nearly doubled, the number of motor vehicles more than doubled, and the miles driven in those vehicles nearly tripled.

The average household size has shrunk from 3.3 people to 2.6 people, and the share of households with only one person has jumped from less than 16 percent to about 27 percent.

"The natural resource base that is required to support each person keeps rising," Replogle said. "We're heating and cooling more space, and the housing units are more spread out than ever before."

The United States is the third largest country in the world, behind China and India. The United States is the fastest growing of the industrialized nations, adding about 2.8 million people a year, or just less than 1 percent. India is growing faster but the United Nations considers it to be a less developed country.

About 40 percent of U.S. population growth comes from immigration, both legal and illegal, according to the Census Bureau. The rest comes from births outnumbering deaths.

"It's not the population, it's the consumption that can do us in," said William Frey, a demographer at the Brookings Institution, a Washington think tank.

"These are the luxuries we have been able to support until now. But we're not going to be able to do it forever."

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*We're on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

[www.envirothonpa.org](http://www.envirothonpa.org)

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*Take the Natural Challenge!*

## 2007 Calendar



April 6 – Registration Fee of \$50 due to the Pennsylvania Envirothon

April/May – County Envirothon events

May 11 – Lodging/Meal registration and fee of \$275 due to the Pennsylvania Envirothon

**NEW!** May 14 – Oral Component Scenario available on the Pennsylvania Envirothon website <http://www.envirothonpa.org>

May 21 & 22 – 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Pennsylvania State Envirothon, Penn State University and Rock Springs/Ag Progress Days site

July 29 – August 3 – 20<sup>th</sup> Canon Envirothon, Hobart & William Smith Colleges, Geneva, New York

### Points of Interest

Penn State's 2007 Conservation Leadership Schools – Session I: June 24–30, 2007 or Session II: July 8–14, 2007.  
For registration information visit [www.conferences.cas.psu.edu](http://www.conferences.cas.psu.edu) or call 814-865-8301.

2008 Current Issue topic – Recreational Impacts on the Natural Environment. The 2008 Canon Envirothon will be hosted in Arizona, July 28 – August 3.