

# 2020 SPECIAL TOPIC: WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT: LOCAL CONTROL & LOCAL SOLUTIONS

Nebraska is fortunate to sit atop the Ogallala aquifer, one of the largest unconfined aquifers in the world. This natural resource provides drinking water for most of the state and has enabled Nebraska to lead the country as the No. 1 irrigated state, helping to sustain agriculture as the state's leading industry.

Managing and protecting this resource is the responsibility of Nebraska's unique Natural Resources Districts (NRDs). While NRDs have maintained groundwater levels near pre-development levels, competing uses and variable supplies have placed additional management requirements on locally-elected policymakers.

Students will learn the concepts of how water is

managed in Nebraska, and how the Natural Resources District system works to address integrated water management challenges. Key topics will include:

- Understanding the ability of Natural Resources Districts to implement local policy and local management to protect water users;
- Understanding administrative structures and processes for managing water uses and supplies;
- Understanding ground and surface water hydrology and connectivity;
- Understanding the economic, social and environmental impacts of projects and policy decisions.

Find study resources for the 2020 special topic at [www.envirothon.org](http://www.envirothon.org).

## 2020 NCF-ENVIROTHON | LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

Nebraska will be hosting the 2020 NCF-Envirothon in Lincoln July 26-31, 2020. We expect more than 500 people from 46 states, Canadian provinces and China to visit Nebraska for the annual competition.

If you are interested in volunteering to help with the NCF-Envirothon, please contact:

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts, 402. 471.7670 or email [nard@nrdnet.org](mailto:nard@nrdnet.org)