

2021 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 2021 special topic at www.envirothon.org.

2021 NCF-Envirothon | Lincoln, Nebraska

Due to the 2020 cancellation, Nebraska now will be hosting the 2021 NCF-Envirothon in Lincoln July 25-31, 2021. Although the competition may look slightly different with increased health and safety measures, we look forward to welcoming guests from around the country to compete. If you are interested in volunteering to help with the NCF-Envirothon, please contact the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts at nard@nrdnet.org