

Thinking Globally, Acting Locally: Sustainable Development in Your Community

Texas Science Olympiad 2009

DESCRIPTION

“Sustainable Development” and “sustainability” are linked concepts which have garnered great attention during the past decade. Recently, these terms have been used by business and industry to attract customers and to establish feelings of “good-will” towards their company.

Students are asked to investigate their local communities and determine what sustainable development projects are underway in their community. They will be asked to make a poster or a 5-10 minute DVD regarding the impact this development project has had on society and the local economy. Entries are to be submitted at least seven days before the (Regional, State, National) Science Olympiad competition. At the competition there will be a five minute oral questioning period about the students work. General preparatory questions may be sent to students ahead of time.

EVENT PARAMETERS

Participants are expected to provide a poster for presentation (within the INTEL guidelines), or a DVD with a 1-page explanation. Written explanation should contain name of school, team members, title and abstract of project.

TEAM OF 3 STUDENTS

APPROXIMATE TIME: 10 minutes

THE COMPETITION

Each team shall prepare either a poster presentation or DVD regarding an event within their community that has had some environmental impact on that community. DVD's should be 5-10 minutes in length. DVD's longer than 10 minutes will be disqualified. Poster should meet INTEL guidelines.

The DVD or a poster presentation should explain how your “community” is being shaped via the “sustainable development” intentions of “local” businesses. Presentations/DVDs will be judged by a panel of experts. Presentations will be ranked based on information content, creativity/originality, and appropriate development of the topic and how it relates to your “community”.

EXAMPLES (these are not recommendations as much as guidance!)

1. Certain businesses expect employees to drive long distances frequently, for which the employees are reimbursed per mile driven. When employees ride together, this business reimburses more per mile driven. Explain how society and the environment benefit, and how this relates to sustainability.
2. Economical use of windpower demands wide swaths of land devoid of any wind-obstructions for useful electricity generation. There are many areas in Texas which would be appropriate. Explain how this could be (or is) used in a sustainable manner, and what affect it has on your “community”.

SPONSOR

At Texas A&M University there is now a course designed to educate and introduce liberal arts students to the energy industry as a whole. Topics covered include fuel sources (i.e., fossil, nuclear, alternatives and renewables), energy production, and energy consumption, all while considering the sustainability and sustainable development.

For further questions and/or guidance, please see our web-site: energy101.tamu.edu.