



# Community Grants Program

New York State Pollution Prevention Institute (NYSP2I) provides financial and technical support for projects that raise awareness and understanding of pollution prevention practices and lead to implementation at the local level

## 2013 Erie County Envirothon

### Organization & Contact Information

Erie County Soil & Water Conservation District  
50 Commerce Way  
East Aurora, New York 14052  
<http://www.ecswcd.org/>



### Project Description

The Erie County Soil & Water Conservation District (ECSCWD) was established to protect and promote the health, safety, and general welfare of present and future generations of Erie County residents through the conservation of soil, water, air, plant, and animal resources by delivery of sound science-based, locally directed technical and educational assistance.

ECSCWD coordinates the Erie County Envirothon, a free annual outdoor environmental education program that is open to all Erie County high school students. The Envirothon is presented in two parts: *Workshop Day* and *Competition Day*. During *Workshop Day*, the students learn firsthand about environmental topics from local professionals. On *Competition Day*, teams of students compete in environmental topics such as: forestry, soils, aquatics, wildlife, and a current critical issue. The goal of the event is to develop environmental awareness in the youth of today, with the hope they will implement these concepts in the future.

### Project Results

Nearly 120 partners, volunteers and students participated in the 2013 Erie County Envirothon. The following goals were achieved:

- 60 students were educated on the importance of reducing the use of toxic chemicals, the efficient use of raw materials, energy and water on farming lands through a presentation on the current critical issue topic, "Sustainable Rangeland Management".
- Workshops were presented to students in the categories of: wildlife, forestry, aquatics and soils.
- NYSP2I Marketing materials were highlighted during *Competition Day* for students to gather and disseminate information.
- Integrated P2 Information at the following meetings and venues:
  - NYSP2I Website linked to District Website, with over 10,000 direct hits
  - Lake Erie Watershed Protection Alliance (LEWPA) meeting
  - Erie County Water Quality Meeting
  - Erie County Soil & Water Conservation District Tree and Shrub Program/Earth Day Event



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