

2011 Envirothon Team Presentation Problem

Barnegat Bay is the state's largest enclosed estuary. It provides more than \$3.3 billion to the region's economy, with tourism being a major draw. The watershed area, that includes Ocean and parts of Monmouth County, hosts more than 1.4 million people every summer including an estimated 500,000 visitors.

Nutrient run-off is considered the central threat to Barnegat Bay. Some 1.4 million pounds of nitrogen, enough to fill 70,000 twenty pound bags of fertilizer reportedly flow into the bay every year. Scientists predict that in the absence of preventive action, Barnegat Bay's ecosystems would collapse within a generation.

On January 5, 2011 Governor Christie signed A. No. 2290 an Act establishing standards for certain fertilizer applications, provides for certification of professional fertilizer applicators, and regulates sale and labeling of certain fertilizers.

http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2010/Bills/A2500/2290_12.HTM Although the seeds for this legislation grew out of the problems that arose in the Barnegat Bay, this Act applies to the entire State of New Jersey.

This act requires that professional fertilizer applicators must obtain a certification or training under the supervision of a certified professional applicator who has completed training established by the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station at Rutgers and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. Homeowners, on the other –hand, are not required to be certified prior to applying fertilizer on their own lawns. Therefore a public education program is the other part of an implementation strategy.

Your team has been hired to create a catchy public service announcement with the goal of educating homeowners on the specifics of this new legislation.

Your public service announcement should include the following:

- Overview of the effects of too much fertilizer on Barnegat Bay & Estuaries in general
- The importance of a soil test and where to get one
- Nitrogen amounts how much and what kind to use
- When and when not to use phosphorus
- Appropriate time of the year and weather conditions to apply fertilizer