

Envirothon 2026: Non-Point Source Pollution – It Begins at Home

NPS “At Home” Checklist

Simple Steps for Students, Families, and Community Members

- Reduce fertilizer and pesticide use:
 - Test your soil before applying fertilizer.
 - Follow label instructions—never overapply.
 - Avoid applying chemicals before rain.
- Manage pet waste:
 - Always pick up after pets—in the yard and on walks.
 - Dispose of pet waste in the trash.
- Maintain your wastewater system:
 - If you have an on-site sewage facility (OSSF) have your system inspected and pumped regularly.
 - Keep accurate records of maintenance and repairs.
 - Never pour fats, oils, grease, wipes, paint, or chemicals down drains.
- Prevent household chemical leaks/spills:
 - Store chemicals in sealed containers, away from rain.
 - Never pour hazardous substances on the ground, into drains, or storm sewers.
 - Participate in local hazardous waste collection days.
- Yard waste:
 - Compost or mulch clippings and leaves.
 - Never dump grass, leaves, or brush into ditches, storm drains, or waterways.
- Smart watering:
 - Water lawns early or late to reduce runoff/evaporation.
 - Use drought-tolerant, native plants.
 - Redirect downspouts to vegetated areas or rain gardens, not driveways.
 - Install rain barrels to retain stormwater for everyday watering.
- Limit impervious surfaces:
 - Use gravel, interlocking pavers, or permeable stones for patios and walkways.
- Car care:
 - Fix oil and fluid leaks promptly.
 - Wash your car at a commercial car wash or on the lawn—not in the driveway.
- Community action:
 - Report spills, overflows, or other hazards to the proper authority.
 - Participate in or help organize stream cleanups, storm drain marking, or education events.
 - Share what you learn with friends and neighbors.