

Hampton

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2023

The Hampton Soil and Water Conservation District was thrilled to sponsor two SC Envirothon teams from Wade Hampton High School. This was the first year that a Hampton County school participated in SC Envirothon. Team members were chosen from an Environmental Studies Honors Class.

SC Envirothon is a high school environmental competition in which students are tested on aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife, and current environmental issues. Each team has five competitors and one alternate. This competition provides students with an excellent opportunity to learn outside of the classroom and many students leave inspired to learn more about the environment and are motivated to pursue careers in environmental studies.

One team member expressed their gratitude to the Hampton Soil and Water Conservation District staff member, stating that his favorite testing stations were soils and aquatics, and that he hoped to compete again in 2024!



Other Notable Accomplishment



The district, in collaboration with the Hampton Friends of the Arts, hosted an Earth Day Recycled Art Contest. Several free recycled art workshops were held and over 30 creative pieces of artwork created by students from local schools, home schooled students, and workshop attendees were submitted for judging. Participants were encouraged to create artwork using materials left over from previous projects. Entries were made of reclaimed cardboard, plastic bottles, aluminum cans, broken pottery pieces, and artificial flowers.

Conservation by the Numbers

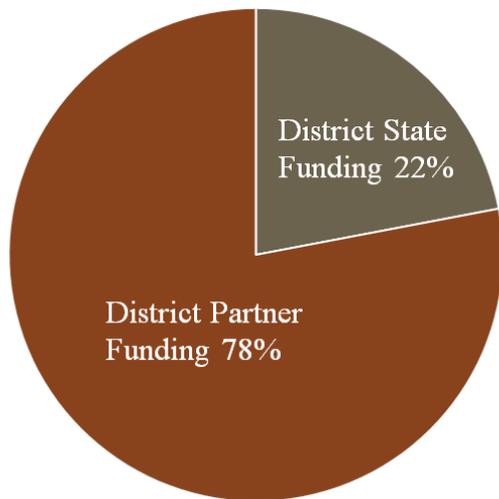
- 3,157 students and citizens were reached through classroom presentations, contests, community events, and workshops
- With the approval of 17 new contracts in 2023, Hampton County now has 64 active EQIP and CSP contracts
- Over \$1.2 million in conservation practices installed throughout the county

2024 District Plans

- Continue to assist with SC Envirothon
- Provide conservation education programming for summer reading program participants at local libraries
- Submit posters from the District Conservation Poster Contest to the SCACD State Poster Contest

South Carolina Soil and Water Conservation Districts - 2023 Impact

State FY24 Conservation District Funding



For every \$1 of state appropriated funds to Conservation Districts, \$3.40 on average is leveraged to implement conservation programs in South Carolina.

Conservation Districts assist with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Farm Bill Programs which brought more than **\$55 million** to South Carolina's private lands for conservation implementation in federal FY23.

More than 190,000 students were reached by conservation district youth oriented programs such as school gardening, seed libraries, SC Envirothon, Arbor Day and Earth Day events, stormwater education, scholarships, and conservation related contests, etc.

More than 2 million adults were educated on conservation topics including Farm Bill Programs, pollinator promotion, stormwater mitigation, invasive species control, prescribed fire, water quality and conservation, habitat restoration, land easements, etc.

More than 10,000 acres statewide were impacted by conservation rental equipment available through conservation districts (no-till drills, prescribed fire equipment, hog traps, etc.).

SC Envirothon State Champions from Spartanburg Day School represented South Carolina at the 2023 international NCF-Envirothon Competition competing against teams from the US, Canada, Singapore and China.

Programs involving land easements, habitat restoration, invasive species removal, water conservation, watershed improvement, litter removal, and conservation education are just a handful of the vast conservation topics implemented statewide by Conservation Districts.