



## Maryland Outdoor Learning Partnership (OLP) Environmental and Climate Literacy Working Group Meeting Agenda

Date and Time: Thursday, April 17, 2025, 10:00-12:00 PM

### Attendees

Dana McCauley (Working Group Co-Chair), Karen Mullin (Working Group Co-Chair), Coreen Weilminster, Andrew Walker, Chiara D'Amore, Chelsea McClure, Anna Davis, Meg Boyd, Jemima Clark, Sarah Haines, Payton Hesse, Lee Derby

### Meeting Began at 10:05

### Welcome and Agenda Review

- Three needs identified from survey responses:
  - o Leadership and definition around climate literacy (related resources: [Climate Literacy Guide](#), [two-pager summary](#), and [transformative skill guide](#)),
  - o Reinforcing Maryland environmental literacy (including its purpose and equitable access, strengthening engagement, access to professional learning opportunities, asset mapping and determining landscape of existing resources, tools, expertise and resources), and
  - o Strengthening networks (peer to peer, school to school, teacher to teacher, superintendent to superintendent, mentorship, strengthening existing networks)

### Small Group Discussion: Tools and Processes

- Strategy for Accessing Community Networks ("Strategy" name in progress)



- How do we get information and resources we have into the hands of teachers and principals (connecting to state wide or county meetings, use of webpage, email communication, exploring alternative channels for reaching audiences); exploring where do our work and resources fit into the Blueprint?
- New Policy or State Based Tool ("Tool" name in progress)
  - What would we like to see from our leadership in the state?
    - Overall "moon-shot" vision, what that includes, and what is needed to accomplish this vision.
    - Interdisciplinary Professional Learning for pre-service and in-service teachers.
    - Establishing a shared definition that emphasizes joint ownership.
    - Incorporating lessons learned from fellow states and their policies, implementation, and funding; examples could include: WA, NJ, NC, VA, and NY drafted legislation.
    - Outlining what can we accomplish in the short-term.
    - Initial elements we value or find meaningful include: 1) utilizing IHEs as hubs for learning, 2) student action, and 3) prioritizing outdoor learning (note that PGCPs has required outdoor learning space for all new and renovated buildings).
    - Remembering our sphere of agency and influence in OLP: What shall we recommend and to whom shall we recommend it?
  - Potential Actions:
    - Inventory of existing resources and assets (building of webpage for ECL WG to communicate these; assets can include Broadneck HS, PGCPs Climate Action Plan, Environmental Education endorsement).



- Analysis of other states' work in this area.
- Needs Assessment (note and use existing data: [DNR recent market analysis](#), consideration of scale and capacity, [guidance on needs assessments from MSDE for Community Schools](#) includes many useful resources).
- Draft Policy Recommendations in coordination with other WGs (examples could include: climate action plans, updated state environmental and climate literacy plan which is inclusive of funding, preparing workforce, mitigating learning loss, teacher certification in environmental literacy and/or outdoor learning).

### Create Timeline and Assign Tasks

- Action Item: Sub Groups of ECL, please get together, connect, and share their thoughts back to Dana and Karen by May 1<sup>st</sup> and Dana and Karen will process and communicate back with ECL and OLP
  - Needs Assessment (what are questions we want answered, by whom, what data already exists)-Jemima, Chelsea McClure, Payton Hesse
  - Communication Networks (how can we intersect with these areas)- Lee Derby, Dana McCauley, Payton Hesse, Coreen Weilminster (email conversation to take place)
  - Maryland Higher Education (how are we interacting with teacher training and who can we interact with)-Chelsea McClure, Karen Mullin, Sarah Haines
- Future meetings:
  - Coreen willing to present 15 minutes on the DNR needs assessment.
  - Depending on need, ECL may have another short meeting prior to May 15.



Meeting Closed at 11:49