



Maryland Outdoor Learning Partnership (OLP)

Full Partnership Meeting Agenda

Date and Time: Thursday, March 5, 2026, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Meetings of the Maryland Outdoor Learning Partnership are open to the public in accordance with the Maryland Open Meetings Act. Public participation is welcomed, and attendees are invited to share comments or ask questions during the meeting.

Meeting Link:

<https://meet.google.com/ude-azjm-bbs>

Welcome

- Welcome Michael Page new Director of Science and Environmental Literacy at MSDE
- Ann Strozyk shared an exciting bright spot: Howard County will now offer stipends for teachers with environmental leadership.

AI Rules and Regulation

Ray Bell, AI Product Director- DoIT

- In 2025, the College and Green Careers (CGC) working group explored the idea of developing a local AI search and modeling program pilot to help OLP synthesize and analyze large volumes of information related to environmental literacy programming specific for Maryland with a strong focus on career connections and climate resilience lessons.
- To better understand the rules and regulations around the development of AI tools, Ray Bell from MD Department of Information Technology (DoIT) was invited to speak to OLP.
- Ray Bell gave a brief overview of Maryland's AI guidance for state employees.
 - Gemini and Google Workspace are the preferred platform for state employees.
 - [SB 818 — Information Technology – Artificial Intelligence](#) – Policies and Procedures (Artificial Intelligence Governance Act of 2024) Directs Maryland's Department of Information Technology (DoIT) to adopt AI policies and procedures for development/procurement/deployment

- The [State's Department of Information Technology \(DoIT\)](#) publishes policies, governance cards, and other guidance for state employees to use AI in ways that benefit their work and outcomes for Marylanders.
- There is an AI Community of Practice group for State Employees. Slides are available to the public on GitHub.
- Meeting participants asked various questions about AI in general. There was particular interest in learning which AI tools have the smallest environmental impact.
- The presentation from Ray kicked off a discussion about how AI relates to OLP's work.
 - Some members expressed the importance to embracing AI in OLP's collective work, others expressed environmental concerns about using AI.
 - Amy Sawyer, Co-Chair of the College and Green Careers working group, invited everyone to join the working group's subcommittee on AI to discuss this further and encouraged OLP to think about how to address the growing interest in AI into CTE offerings for students and encourage facilities that incorporate best practices to minimize carbon impact.
- Members shared a variety of resources related to AI.
 - A resource was shared about a new exhibit at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum where visitors can interact with Frederick Douglass. <https://cbmm.org/resources/behind-the-scenes-of-bear-me-into-freedom/>
 - Governor Moore's Executive Order "Catalyzing the Responsible and Productive Use of Artificial Intelligence in Maryland State Government" was shared as background. https://governor.maryland.gov/Lists/ExecutiveOrders/Attachments/31/EO%2001.01.2024.02%20Catalyzing%20the%20Responsible%20and%20Productive%20Use%20of%20Artificial%20Intelligence%20in%20Maryland%20State%20Government_Accessible.pdf
 - Adam Frederick shared guidelines from the University System of Maryland for both students and faculty. <https://ai.umd.edu/resources-guidelines/guidelines-for-use>
 - Baltimore City Public Schools has an AI Guidance document available on their website: <https://www.baltimorecityschools.org/page/ai-guidance/>
 - A news piece about AI in education: <https://www.npr.org/2026/01/14/nx-s1-5674741/ai-schools-education>
 - Maryland State Board of Education Meeting agenda 02.24.26 - link - <https://marylandpublicschools.org/stateboard/pages/meeting-agendas/2026/0224/2026-02-24.aspx> - scroll down the agenda to 3:45 p.m. – click on Artificial Intelligence Guidance
- During that discussion a few potential actions arose:
 - Identify the issues and actions of AI and Outdoor learning: Such as security, data center impacts, intellectual investigations, CTE possibilities. To answer questions like: How can the OLP whole partnership support our scholars in the vast landscape of AI. How do we help them understand what is involved in a data center? What is the difference between a deep fake and supporting research for a project/ report?

How do we incorporate AI with our own work so that AI is not solely responsible for the final product?

- Collect the position statement from other environmental partners.
- Remaining questions:
 - Are there any branches or ongoing discussions about supporting local models (within containerized sandboxes, of course) as a development option?
 - Is there an existing landscape assessment about AI in K-12 schools to identify the opportunities or stumbling blocks?
- If there are any questions that you'd like Olivia and Stephanie to pass on to Ray please send them via email.

Member Updates

MAEOE

- Annual Conference was a success! Laura Collard thanked all the volunteers, presenters, and attendees.
- MAEOE hosting a Legislative Reception March 18 5:00-7:30pm. Reach out to Laura if you know of any students who would be interested in talking to decision makers.
- Save the Date: Youth Summit May 28th Sandy Point State Park
- Call for volunteers to review Green School applications.

MELAN

- Lower Shore MELAN completed a 2-day climate communication training this week with 26 attendees.

Alice Ferguson Foundation

- Women in Nature Camp May 15-17. Join for an adult camp experience with crafts, hikes, yoga, good food, and a campfire. Reserve your spot here:
<https://www.fergusonfoundation.org/women-in-nature-camp/>

HEEL

- Environmental Literacy Faculty Professional Learning April 24th and 25th
- Please share the Spring 2026 PD Flyer with any interested higher education faculty:
https://livendm-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/cmccclure_ndm_edu/IQDxBZ7gNPsbQYUEmvzVX3S2AQryezfZOI3-JSm9zjQEzbs?e=GBBwHP

Baltimore City Public Schools

- Baltimore City Public Schools Secondary Success & Innovation team is running a career fair NEXT WEEK! Wed Mar 11 for middle schoolers. Thu Mar 13 for high schoolers. Sign up to table if you are interested.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfQs2N51AUQ_1eQEikbYj6RSaUXFYWVIWvoHbVfIBUIFQzpMg/viewform

Association for Nature Based Education

- [Nature-Based Teacher Certification](#) These 36 clock-hour courses are offered as Level 1 (intro), Level 2 (intermediate), and Level 3 (capstone) experiences to deepen your practice as a nature-based educator or childcare provider.
- [Schoolyard Outdoor Learning Experiences SOLE](#) provides STEM-based, child-directed, outdoor learning experiences the school weekly during the school year for pre-K through grade 3 students and their teachers in Title 1 public schools.
- Spirit of Spring Outdoor Teacher Retreat <https://www.anbe.org/spirit-of-spring>

[MCCC ECO Working Group](#)

- Annual [Climate Teach-In](#) during the month of April.
- The Maryland Climate Teach-In is a celebration of statewide climate change literacy and learning throughout all of April. This month-long event encourages and supports climate education activities of all kinds – empowering educators, students, and community members to learn, discuss, and take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change.
- Register your own event and share widely with your networks.

Straughn Environmental

- TUGIS Conference is the statewide GIS conference occurring August 5-6. Call for presentation's is open till April 20th. If you are using GIS technology with students, and want to share your work, we would love to see your proposals.

<https://tugisconference.com/get-involved/>

Mid-Atlantic Climate Change Education Conference

- Save the Date: Virtual Conference June 30th, 2026

OLP Community Directory

Larissa Pasco, MEA

- Larissa shared an internal OLP Community Directory of members for us to get to know each other better and collaborate more effectively.

- Action: members should update the slide with their name according to the directions on Slide 7.

Cross Working Group Discussions

The College and Green Careers Working Group met with the Access to Nature Working Group.

College and Green Careers

- CTE environmental sustainability, management and technology- advocate for that to move along
 - Resource: developed by Advance CTE and is a resource for advancing green careers: <https://careertech.org/resource/seeing-green-cte-as-a-catalyst-for-the-green-workforce/>
 - Is there consideration for including nature-based/experiential educator opportunities into that pathway? Many of these careers don't require a college degree (Yes, that is part of the comprehensive picture- natural sciences as part of the many strands in the pathway)
- Update the Conservation Careers guide- looking for resources to get more information
- AI- met with Rick to discuss how to use the AI tool to gather the data for the access to nature

Access to Nature:

- Data Action on landscape analysis on outdoor experiences across the state to identify gaps and maybe some examples nationwide to elevate the implementation in MD
- Also looking to have this be a tool that can live on without having to manually update.
- Meeting with people from WA and OR on how they achieved the landscape and how to make it happen
 - Feedback
 - Connect Rick with Craig Strang of the CAELI
 - Assess MD Green School Data
 - Develop a data dictionary to develop what data belongs and what doesn't in the data set

The School Sustainability Working Group met with the Environmental and Climate Literacy Working Group.

- School Sustainability
 - The School Sustainability Working Group requested that members of the Environmental and Climate Literacy Working Group review the draft proposal for the proclamation of a sustainable school's week.
 - Kelley Holocker hosts a bi-monthly LEA Sustainability Liaisons Collaboration meetings of facilities staff and E-Lit contacts. If any LEA representatives are interested in participating, they should email Kelly at kholocker@bcps.org
- Environmental and Climate Literate Student

- School Sustainability Working Group interested in providing feedback on draft definition.
- MAEF developed a course of study with UMD College Park to prepare teachers to teach environmental and agricultural literacy. Susanne Richards recommends that the HEEL group get in touch with Missy Welsh.

Meeting closed at 12:02