



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

Date and Time: Thurs, Sep 4, 2025, 10:00 – 11:00

Attendees:

Andrew Walker, Bart Merrick, Chelsea McClure, Jacquelyn Southerland, Joshua, Karen Mullin, Lee Derby, Mark Scallion, Coreen Weilminster

10:00 – 10:05 Welcome

Karen Mullin & Dana McCauley

10:05 – 11:00 Review Draft Recommendations

1. [Update Maryland's Environmental Literacy Plan and incorporate climate change education.](#)

Feedback:

- Jessica Sickler's data to use for rationale as well as the 2023 MD DNR Climate Education Market Analysis and Needs assessment
- Within the overall update was there a list of district level support- the intention was to give LEAs the opportunity to share their plans
- There would be a question of where this fits
 - Would there be a work group? What's included? What's the vision for a multiyear development of this and how does this fit with other frameworks/standards?
- E. Lit standards are up for review in 2027
- How is the current plan being used and how do the districts see the value of this plan?
- Be clear that this will take a long time
- VA just went through this process, and we could lean on how they did it?
- Create a timeline and how exists with things that are already happening
- How do we get the most bang for the buck? If it's not sanctioned through MSDE then the value declines
- It is worth putting in there that consistent updates are useful. But I agree with providing specific recommendations because updating it would have to involve many different groups/endorsements. I also like the idea of listening groups and including the districts.
- Establishing an updated plan through integration with county-based planning and through MSDE
 - Integrating climate is more important than a plan?
- Do we recommend that everyone review the E. Lit plan to include climate literacy https://drive.google.com/file/d/1onXGJLT14-fAAJMATR7dmpbg9ojvE66F/view?usp=drive_link
- Could point to the climate literacy principles and concepts

2. [Promote local Safe and Healthy School Networks to foster robust community environmental literacy through the Community Schools Program.](#)

Feedback:

- This action articulates OLP's work for next year to eventually make a recommendation for funding
- Is this an action or recommendation? Perhaps a recommendation because it requires input from community schools.
- Action: Convene this meeting. Recommendation: coming up with agreed upon alignments.

3. [Incorporate environmental and climate literacy into pre-service teacher training.](#)

Feedback:

- Add text that says building on the success of HEEL
- Consider adding language that encourages all school systems list environmental education as a professional development opportunity for in-service teachers.

Action Items

Next steps:

- Take feedback and incorporate it so that the version that is shared on Sept 11th is clear and close to final

Public Comment

None

Meeting Closed at 11:08am