



Climate Education Taskforce Strategies and Recommendations for the Maine Climate Literacy Plan

Executive Summary:

The Maine Climate Literacy Plan is an Addendum to the Maine Environmental Literacy plan that lays out recommendations to advance climate literacy in the State of Maine. This plan includes strategies, recommendations and action steps to synchronize, expand, and monitor efforts over time.

In 2024, The Maine Department of Education convened a taskforce of educators, youth, environmental organizations, school leadership, and other key parties from throughout the state to design an Addendum to the Maine Environmental Literacy Plan. The taskforce was convened in partnership with the Maine Environmental Education Association and was funded in part by the Maine Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future.

This Plan provides actionable and timely recommendations and action steps for the Department and other responsible parties to advance climate education and Green School support for students, educators, schools, and school administrative units (SAUs) throughout the state of Maine.

Strategy - Overall categories for recommendations	Recommendation - Suggested directions to responsible parties with a timeline, purpose, and direction. It is the responsibility of the party to move forward with the recommendation based on capacity and mission alignment.
Increase Capacity Building for Advancing Climate Literacy in Maine Schools	With support from the Maine State Legislature, School Administrative Units, Community Based Organizations, private funders, and others, the Department of Education will increase access to funding for professional learning opportunities for educators by permanently funding the existing Pilot Program for Climate Education Professional Development by the Winter of 2026. This continued development will foster new structures for equitable funding, and expanded pathways, starting in Spring 2025, for Inservice Educators to learn about climate literacy for professional learning and recertification.
	Community Based organizations in Maine, in collaboration with Maine SAUs and the Maine Department of Education, will expand access to free, online, standards-aligned, scientifically accurate climate curriculum resources for educators and curated examples of locally relevant, age appropriate, place, project, and play based, standards-aligned climate education curriculum across all content areas starting in Spring 2025.

	<p>The Maine Department of Education will collaborate with Higher Education to support that preservice teacher training in Maine includes climate education within the next four years.</p>
	<p>Starting in 2025, the Maine Department of Education will work with the support of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Maine Climate Council, to produce a “Maine Climate Change for Schools Annual Report” which will synthesize Maine climate data for a school-, educator-, and student-accessible document.</p>
<p>Develop a holistic Maine Green Schools Program</p>	<p>The Maine Department of Education will conduct a survey of school sustainability policies in Maine and develop templates and funding for Maine Schools to create specific policies and plans to support climate education and green infrastructure starting in Winter 2025.</p>
	<p>The Maine Department of Education in collaboration with community-based organizations will create and facilitate a statewide Green Schools Network within the next four years.</p>
	<p>The Department of Education will re-launch and maintain the US Department of Education Green Ribbons Award Program in Fall 2024. In addition, the Maine Department of Education will launch a tiered state specific recognition. This recognition program will collect and communicate success stories across the state.</p>