



County Office of Education Environmental Literacy Community of Practice

2024-25 Virtual Meetings



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Agenda

- Welcome and Land Acknowledgement
- Youth Voices
- Tools to Support Youth Programs
- Community Based Youth Programs
- Breakout Rooms
- Closing



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Welcome



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Land Acknowledgement



OP-ED

“The land acknowledgment was never meant to end there: it is an introduction. Anyone can acknowledge whose land you are on and weave in what that means to the specific event or programming you are conducting. This acknowledgment calls on all of us to end Indigenous erasure and engage with Native people in meaningful ways.”



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Connecting

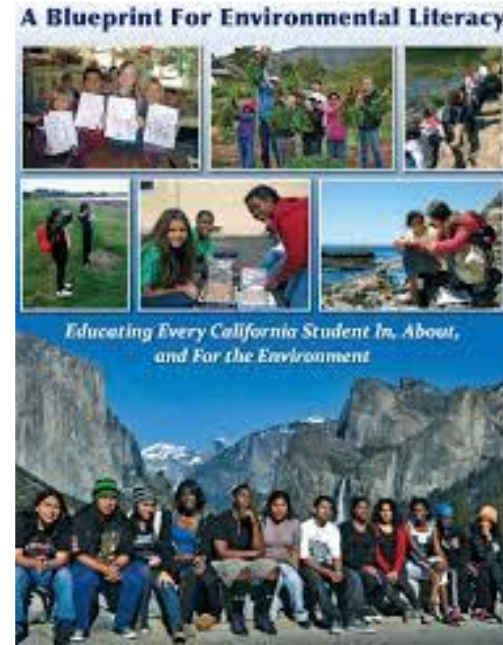
Search “Emoji Kitchen” in your web browser, click **get cooking!**

Choose the two emojis you want to mix to represent how you feel today!

Share your new emoji in the chat!

What is CAELI?

The [California Environmental Literacy Initiative \(CAELI\)](#), led by Ten Strands, works statewide to change the education system so that it supports environmental literacy with a focus on equity, inclusion, and cultural relevance for all students.



This collective impact network works with guidance from a leadership council composed of action oriented innovation hubs.



CAELI COE Innovation Hub

Members in the CAELI [County Office of Education \(COE\) Innovation Hub](#) have a role that provides some type of backbone support for environmental literacy, sustainability, and climate resilient efforts within their county region's K12 schools.



2024-25 Map of COE Engagement with CAELI
Peach: COEs that engaged in the COP or other CAELI Programs
Orange: CAELI COE Innovation Hub



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COP Objectives

By sharing our resources and innovative practices, this COP intends to build the capacity of COEs to serve as regional backbone support for the following outcomes in each county:

- Supporting access to regular and ongoing environmental and outdoor learning experiences for students, by working with school districts, teachers, and community-based partners. This work centers on supporting those from the most vulnerable and marginalized communities.
- Supporting development of district-wide plans that include experiences for students at all grade levels, with an emphasis on low income students and students of color.
- Applying frameworks that integrate environmental literacy and sustainability into the curriculum, campus, community, and culture.
- Infusing sustainability principles and practices into COE core operations.



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Youth Voices



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Sylvi

Sylvi Kayser is an 11th grade student at Aptos High. She has been on the leadership team for Youth for Environmental Action for three years, which is a leadership alliance in Santa Cruz.



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Survey Results (23–24)

Student Response



- ❖ 95% (1,067 respondents) were students
- ❖ 40% feel the school is doing enough
- ❖ 60% do not or are unsure
- ❖ 39% report some aspect of their health (mental/emotional, physical) being impacted

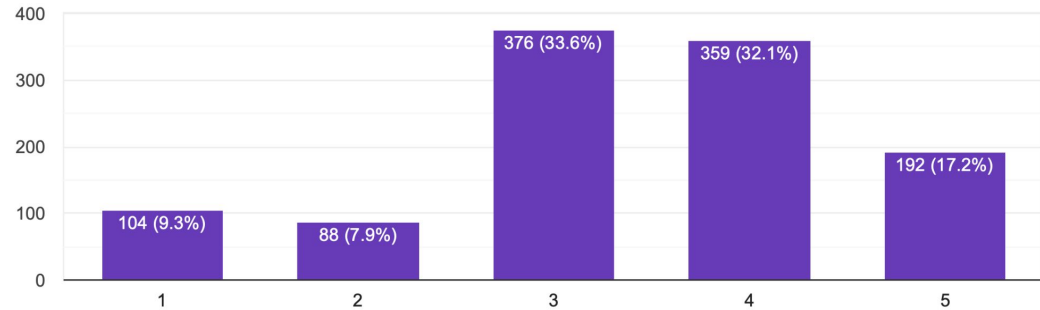


Concern levels

- ❖ 91% of all responses indicate concern (from slightly to extremely concerned)
- ❖ Only 9% of responses indicate no concern
- ❖ 83% report feeling over moderate concern

How concerned are you about the environment and climate change? | ¿Qué tan preocupado está por el medio ambiente y el cambio climático?

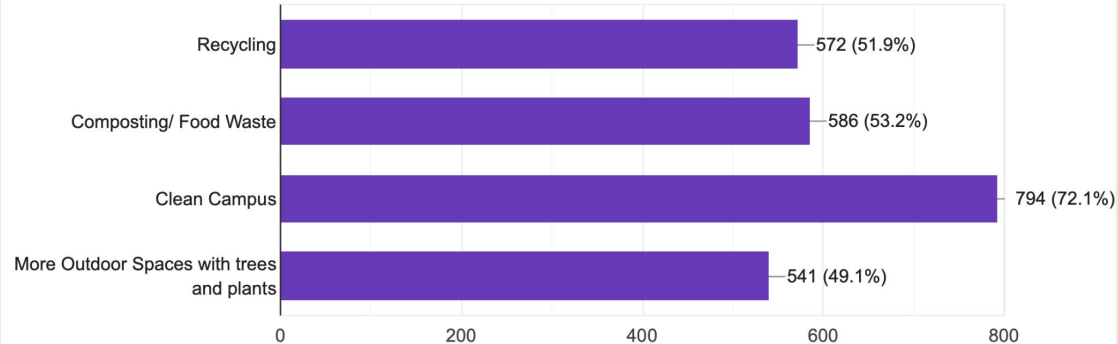
1,119 responses



What students want to be improved:

- ❖ Clean campus was an overwhelming majority (72%)
- ❖ Demonstrates clear interest in improving campuses
- ❖ Current lack of these desired practices

What would you like to see improve in terms of waste management and sustainability on your campus? (MARK ALL THAT APPLY) | ¿Qué le gu... campus? (MARQUE TODO LO QUE CORRESPONDA)
1,102 responses



How we use this data:

- ❖ Most pressing issues that were reported become the focus of our yearly project
- ❖ 2024-2025 goal: The Trash Pact
- ❖ Waste audits conducted at Aptos, San Lorenzo Valley, and Soquel to measure current waste streams
- ❖ Huge lack of correct management + access; need for improved systems

Colin Chu

Colin is a student at the Nueva School in Hillsborough. He is a former Youth Climate Ambassador, and was this year's recipient of the [Sustainable San Mateo County Youth Award](#).

colchu@nuevaschool.org



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Tools to Support Youth Programs



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Tool Overview

- [Green Team Guide](#)
- [EcoClub Handbook](#)
- [Youth Media Challenge](#)
- [Climate Action: Youth Voices Panel](#)
- [Resources from SMCOE to Support Youth Engagement](#)
- [CA Youth Climate Policy Leadership Program](#)





Community-Based Youth Programs



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Watsonville Wetlands Watch



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Wetland Stewards



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Climate Corps Leadership Institute



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Wetland Wonders



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Project Tierra



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Ten Strands CA Youth Climate Policy Program



CYCP is a knowledge to action program that supports youth to lead an advocacy campaign to pass policy actions (or builds on existing policies) in their school or district. Students receive mentoring from adult coaches and support in developing a personal leadership plan and advocacy campaign. The program is a partnership between Ten Strands, UndauntedK12, and the Sierra Club.

Key dates:

- Applications due May 27.
- Applicants will hear back in mid - June.
- Program runs July 2025 - January 2026.



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THE ECOLOGIK INSTITUTE

The mission of the EcoLogik Institute is to empower young women to be champions for nature, innovators in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, warriors for environmental stewardship, leaders in their communities, and changemakers who create a positive impact on the world around them.

- **3 Pillars:**

- **Summer Experience** - free 2-week STEM summer day camp for underrepresented girls, ages 10 - 16. This unique program fuses ecology and technology to connect youth to the natural resources and science of America's National Parks.
- **In the Community** - free workshops, afterschool programming, and STEAM Fairs in the larger San Diego community
- **Leadership Academy** - creates a continuum of support for the young women who have participated in the summer experience or apprenticeship program by offering ongoing learning and internship opportunities, career development, female mentorship, and a community of alumnae.

www.ecologikinstitute.org



Breakout Rooms



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Breakout Room

1. Explore Tools
2. Watsonville Wetlands Watch
3. Ten Strands: CA Youth Climate Policy Program
4. EcoLogik

Explore the tools with a group, or learn more about specific CBP Youth programs!



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Closing



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County Office of Education Environmental Literacy Community of Practice

All meetings are 9am-10:30am

(draft topics)

- September 4 - Welcome to a New Academic Year
- October 23 - Conference Sharing and Climate Education
- December 11 - Early Learning
- February 12 - Community Based Partners
- April 30 - Success Stories and Preparing for 2026-2027

[Please register here for all 2025-2026 meetings!](#)



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Thank You COE Innovation Hub

[Amity Sandage](#), Environmental Literacy Coordinator,
Santa Cruz County Office of Education

[Julie Hilborn](#), Environmental Literacy Coordinator,
San Mateo County Office of Education

[Anthony Quan](#), STEM Science Coordinator, Los
Angeles County Office of Education

[Maia Steward](#), Continuous Improvement Specialist,
Mendocino County Office of Education

[Summer Belloni](#), Environmental Literacy Program
Manager, Solano County Office of Education

[Jose Marquez](#), STEM Coordinator, Stanislaus County
Office of Education

[Monica Dennis](#), Program Manager for STEAM &
Expanded Learning, Alameda County Office of
Education

[Tamara Basepayne](#), Coordinator Outdoor
Education and Environmental Literacy, Durham
Ferry STEM Programs, San Joaquin County Office of
Education

[Jennifer Mutch](#), Environmental Literacy Coordinator,
Santa Clara County Office of Education

[Katie Beck](#), STEM Coordinator, Orange County
Department of Education

[Olivia Kernen](#), Coordinator, Humboldt County Office
of Education

[Crystal Starr Howe](#), Environmental Literacy
Coordinator, San Diego County Office of Education



Gots & Needs

Please take a moment to fill out your:

Gots → Something that inspired you or you will carry forward from today.

Needs → Topics you are hoping to discuss or learn with the CoP next year.





Get Involved

[STAY IN TOUCH](#)[MEMBERSHIP LEVELS](#)[JOIN CAELI](#)[ENGAGE WITH US](#)[IN THEIR WORDS](#)

Sign up for the newsletter at

ca-eli.org