



CAELI 2025-26 Webinar Series

Youth Leading Climate Action

10/23/2025



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ENVIRONMENTAL
LITERACY
INITIATIVE



Nate Ivy

Instructional Coach

Fremont Unified School District

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IA
ENTAL

Agenda

4:00-4:10 Welcome and Introduction to CAELI

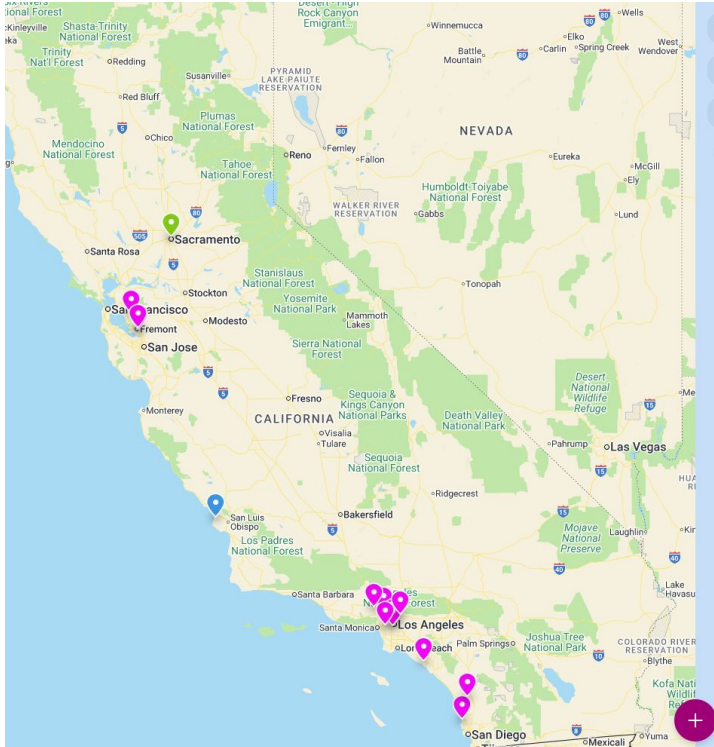
4:10-5:00 Student Panel

5:00-5:25 Breakout Room Discussion



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Welcome! Please put yourself on the map!



Click the + sign to
add your name,
location and links.

 Polina Goncharova
a day ago

Polina Goncharova



Ten Strands
tenstrands.org Education, Environment, and Community

Ten Strands: Environmental Literacy for All California Students

Polina Goncharova, Partnerships Programs
Specialist <https://tenstrands.org/>



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California Environmental Literacy Initiative (CAELI) History and Overview

The California Environmental Literacy Initiative (CAELI), led by Ten Strands, was established in 2016 to support implementation of the California Blueprint for Environmental Literacy. The initiative works statewide with guidance from CAELI members to create systems change to support and elevate the importance of environmental literacy in California's TK-12 schools.

A Blueprint For Environmental Literacy



Educating Every California Student In, About, and For the Environment



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supported by
Ten Strands

California Environmental Literacy Initiative (CAELI) Purpose and Vision

CAELI Core Purpose: CAELI strives to change the education system to ensure that students at all grade levels, with special emphasis on students of color and low-income students, routinely have outdoor and classroom-based environmental experiences that transform learning and improve physical, emotional, and psychological health and well-being.



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California Environmental Literacy Initiative (CAELI) Structure

The California Environmental Literacy Initiative (CAELI) is currently organized as a collective active network, with members organized into project initiative teams that strengthen the statewide ecosystem and support efforts to increase awareness, capacity, and agency for environmental literacy.

CAELI Meeting Cadence

- Co-Chairs: Weekly
- Executive Committee: Monthly
- Project Teams: *Usually monthly or as needed*
- CAELI Members: Quarterly



CAELI 2025-26 Governance Structure

CAELI CORE Leadership Team: Oversees and supports CAELI

- CAELI Project Director and Ten Strands Support Staff
- CAELI Co-Chairs

CAELI Project Initiative Leaders manage a CAELI Project Initiative and serve on the CAEL Executive Committee

CAELI Project Initiatives: *Communities of Practice, Webinars, Regional Meet-Ups, Podcasts, Toolkits, Fellowships, etc.*

CAELI Project Activators contribute to one or more CAELI Project Initiatives

CAELI Participants attend CAELI Events and Quarterlies

CAELI Guests contribute as one time experts



Ten Strands Backbone Support



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CAELI 2025-26 Theory of Action Logic Model

INPUTS

CAELI Guiding Principles: Equity, Justice, and Accessibility; Scalability; Shared Leadership and Collaboration; Wide Range of Environment- Based Learning Experiences; Connection and Care

CAELI Members

CAELI Core Leadership Team
CAELI Project Leaders
CAELI Activators
CAELI Participants
CAELI Guests

CAELI Domains of Focus

Policy and Advocacy
Community Partners
Sustainability and Resilience
Teaching and Learning
Sustained Funding

Collective Action Projects and Programs

Capacity Building Activities: Meetings, Webinars, Communities of Practice, Resources, Tools, and other capacity building efforts.

Networking and Information Sharing: CAELI Newsletter, Quarterlies, Meetups, Webinars, Communities of Practice, and other information sharing and networking efforts.

OUTPUTS

Near-Term Outcomes

Strengthened Ecosystem: CBPs and educators are connected and collaborating statewide.

Increased Awareness: A broader, more diverse, group of educators and leaders are aware of the environmental literacy movement.

Increased Capacity: Building capacity of educators and community based partners (CBPs) to provide equitable, environmental and climate literacy and action opportunities for TK-12 students.

Increased Agency: School Communities are empowered to take collective action.

Long-Term Outcome

Environmental Literacy for ALL:
“An environmentally literate person has the capacity to act individually and with others to support ecologically sound, economically prosperous, and equitable communities for present and future generations. Through lived experiences and education programs that include classroom-based lessons, experiential education, and outdoor learning, students will become environmentally literate, developing the knowledge, skills, and understanding of environmental principles to analyze environmental issues and make informed decisions.”

CA Blueprint for Environmental Literacy (2015)

CAELI 2025-26 Collective Action Projects

CAELI Webinars and Themes:

District Integration of Environmental Literacy and Action, Community Based Partner (CBP), Green Career Education

Community Based Partner (CBP) Community of Practice (COP)

CAELI Green Ribbon Initiative and Statewide Network

CAELI Equity Integration

CAELI Regional and Statewide Meetups

CAELI Environmental Teacher Superhero Stories

CAELI Partner Portal

CAELI County Office of Education (COE) Projects:
COE Community of Practice, COE Affinity Group Meet-Ups, and CAELI COE Fellowship Alumni Tracking

District Environmental Leaders Community of Practice (COP)

District Environmental Leaders Community of Practice (COP)



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CAELI Resource Examples

www.ca-eli.org/resources/



Community-Based Partner Network Toolkit

California Environmental Literacy Initiative's County Office of Education Innovation Hub



Call to Action: Educating for a Green Economy

ATTENTION EDUCATORS: Explore the CAELI Partner Portal!

The CAELI Partner Portal promotes environmental literacy by building educator awareness of community-based partners (CBPs) and their products and services, and it fosters educator-CBP relationships for increased student enrichment and engagement.

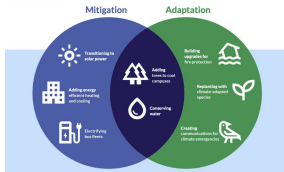
The California Environmental Literacy Initiative (CAELI), led by Ten Strands, is a collective action network that seeks to ensure access to high-quality environment-based learning for all California's TK-12 students.



AB 285 Climate Science Education:

CAELI County Office of Education Innovation Hub Overview and Recommendations for Educational Leaders
Purpose and Overview: The CAELI County Office of Education Innovation Hub developed this introductory tool to support county office of education, districts, and schools to understand the requirements of AB 285 and help taking next steps for implementing grade-appropriate climate change curriculum.

1. What Are the Four Components of Understanding Climate Change That Are Referenced in AB 285?
In order to be climate literate, AB 285 calls out four components that students need to understand about climate change: the long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns;
Causes of Climate Change: Science of the human-induced causes including burning fossil fuels, cutting down forests, and farming livestock.
Effects: Some of the effects of climate change include increased temperatures, sea level rise, and increased weather events.
Mitigation: Preventing or reducing the emission of greenhouse gases and other strategies to make the impacts of climate change less severe.
Adaptation: The measures and adjustments made to reduce the expected actual consequences of climate change.

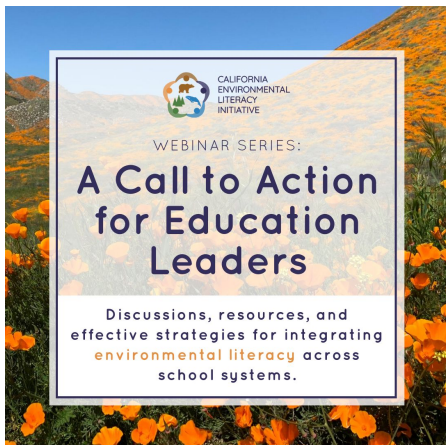


State Seal of Civic Engagement Environmental Literacy Implementation Guide

CREATED BY THE
California Environmental Literacy Initiative's
County Office of Education Innovation Hub



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A Teacher Call to Action for Environmental Literacy

California Environmental Literacy Initiative's
County Office of Education Innovation Hub



CAELI Membership and Participation Tiers

CAELI 2025-26 Membership and Participation Last Updated June 2025

Purpose and Overview: This document provides an overview of the different opportunities for participation in the California Environmental Literacy Initiative (CAELI) network. All members are welcomed and encouraged to attend CAELI Quarterly meetings and CAELI Events.



Member Tier	Membership Overview
CAELI Participant 5 - 20 hours annually	CAELI Participants are people who participate in CAELI programs and networks, and are invited to CAELI Quarterly meetings. Examples of what a participant might attend includes the following: communities of practice, webinars, fellowships, networks, in-person meet-ups, etc.
CAELI Project Activator 20 - 40 hours annually	CAELI Project Activators contribute to one or more CAELI collective action projects - see 2025-26 projects here . Activators also participate in CAELI programs and networks, and should attend CAELI Quarterly meetings.
CAELI Project Initiative Leader 40 - 60 hours annually	CAELI Project Initiative Leaders commit to leading (or co-leading) a CAELI Collective Action Project during the CAELI season. Leadership responsibilities include project management (drafting and submitting a project proposal , planning and facilitating working group meetings, overseeing project budget, revising and providing final review, etc.). CAELI Project Initiative Leaders are also expected to attend a virtual CAELI Leadership Retreat in July (7/22/25), an in-person retreat in November (11/12/25), and to attend monthly CAELI Leadership meetings in between each Quarterly. CAELI Leaders can bill up to \$1,000 for this additional leadership time beyond their project leadership.
CAELI Core Leadership Team 60 - 100 hours annually for Co-Chairs	The CAELI Core Leadership Team is the highest level of engagement for a CAELI member and requires sustained and dedicated leadership to the collective action network. Contributors to this team include: • CAELI Project Director (<i>currently Ten Strands</i>): Oversees CAELI • CAELI Support Staff (<i>currently Ten Strands</i>): Provides backbone support to CAELI core operations and project teams. • CAELI Co-Chairs (<i>stipended position</i>): Work with the CAELI project director and CAELI support staff to provide governance oversight, set strategic direction, support CAELI project teams, and support planning and facilitation of CAELI virtual and in-person gatherings.
CAELI Guests 2-4 hours for guest speaking	CAELI Guests are invited to participate in or present at a CAELI event. Guests might include practitioner advisors (administrators, teachers, staff, students, partners, etc.) who support a webinar or community of practice.

CAELI is a shared leadership model with different levels of engagement.

Interested in Joining?
[Membership Interest Form](#)



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Ten Strands Backbone Support



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Climate Action



Youth in Action

ENCOUNTERS

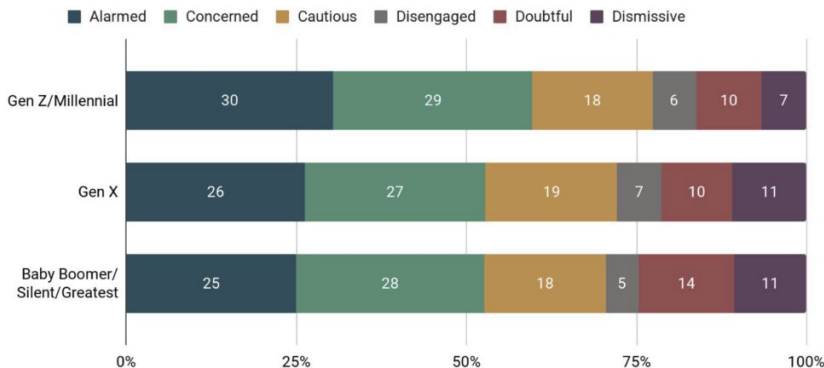
Youth are leading the way on climate action

Start thinking like young people to secure our future.

Ruxandra Guidi April 1, 2024

Print Email Save Article More

Gen Z and Millennials are more likely to be Alarmed or Concerned about global warming and are less likely to be Doubtful or Dismissive than are older generations



Global Warming's Six Americas
 April 2020, December 2020, March 2021, September 2021, April 2022, December 2022. Base: 6,211 U.S. adults
 (Gen Z/Millennial n = 1,707; Gen X n = 1,567; Baby Boomer/Silent/Greatest n = 2,937)
 Source: Yale Program on Climate Change Communication;
 George Mason University Center for Climate Change Communication

EdSource

MATH AND SCIENCE

Teachers and students push for climate change education in California

EDUCATION

Students lead LVJUSD toward climate literacy

District to create climate education task force next school year

Berkeleyside

DONATE

SCHOOLS

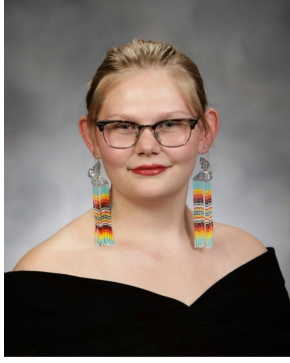
Unlikely team drives Berkeley's first-of-its-kind climate literacy resolution

A teenager, a retired teacher, a Berkeley parent, and a School Board member banded together to make BUSD one of the first school districts in the country to commit to climate education.

Panelists



Sarah Adkar
Fremont



Daisy Elwood
Livermore



Sid Shah
Pleasanton



Emily Yang
San Francisco



**Kieran
Beckham**
Yorba Linda



Jerry Yang
Los Angeles

Sarah Adkar

Senior at Washington High School
Intended Major: Environmental Biology and
Public Health

Youth Director and Founder of Tri-City
Team at Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action



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Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action (SVYCA)

- **Mission:** We equip 250+ Californian youth in with the tools to navigate combat climate change immediately through interdisciplinary education and policy initiatives.
- **IMPACT Summit:** 500+ attendees & 35 elected officials for a day of climate strategizing!
- **12 Bills Signed into Law** in 2023, supported successful efforts to **defend California's climate budget** in 2024
- **15 Action Teams** across **50 cities**

svyouthclimateaction.org



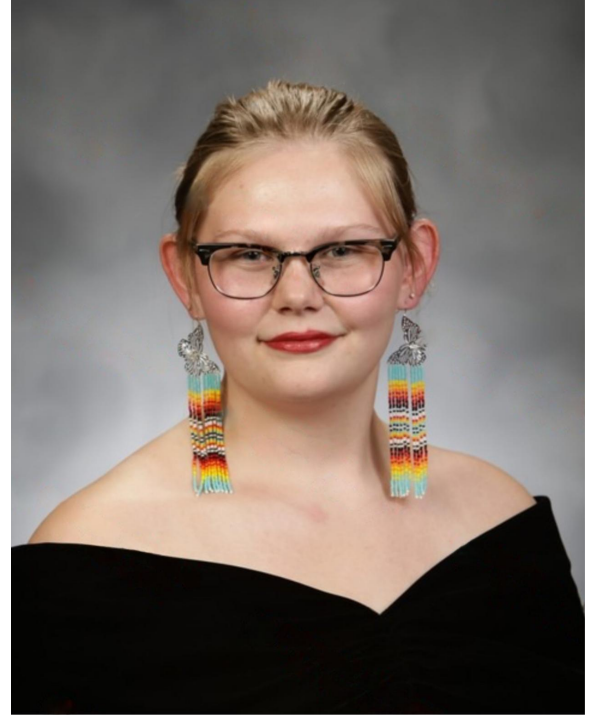
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Daisy Elwood

📖 Senior at Livermore High School
Future/intended major - Civil engineering

🔬 Leading senior intern at Quest Science Center/
TVYCAP

👉 Fun fact: I am a CODA (Child of Deaf Adult)
so I speak both English and ASL



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Quest Science Center

- Our vision is to connect everyone to the value of science and technology
- We have a high school internship focused on climate action called the Tri-Valley Youth Climate Action Program (TVYCAP)
- Planetary Health Homepage - <https://quest-science.org/planetary-health/>



Sid Shah

🎓 Senior at Amador Valley High School in Pleasanton
Intending to major in Engineering

🍀 Lead Intern at Quest Science Center / TVYCAP

🏀 Fun fact: I've played basketball for 10 years

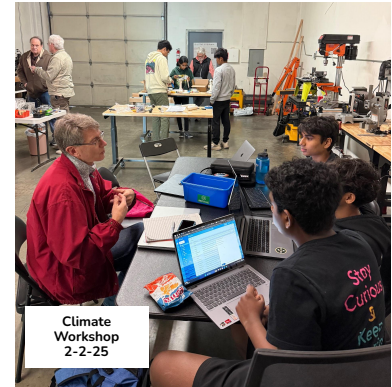
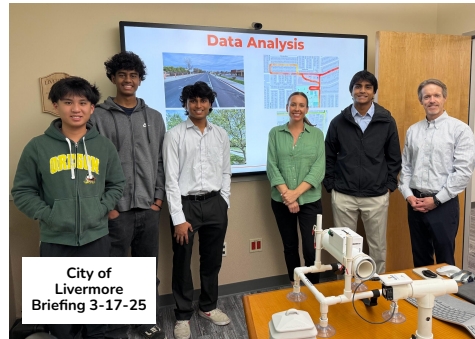


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Tri-Valley Youth Climate Action Program (TVYCAP)

Fostering **future climate leaders** for a changing world!

1. Deepen youth awareness and understanding of climate change
2. Take meaningful, relevant action
3. Foster an engaged and vibrant community



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Emily Yang

📖 Senior at Balboa High School in San Francisco, intending to major in environmental policy or political science

🌍 Co-Chair of BAYCS, CYCP Student Leader '24

🦋 Fun fact: My favorite music artists are Laufey and IU.



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BAYCS

- Entirely youth-led climate justice and education 501c(3) nonprofit organization est. in 2020
- **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:** Annual summit for 200+ people, monthly workshops, and publish monthly newsletter with youth-written articles
- **IMPACT:** Engaged 9,000+ youth, 240+ high schools, and 14 countries
- Led by youth, for youth
- More info: baycs.org



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Jerry Yang

- CYCP Member 2024
- Work extensively with the City of Los Angeles to address youth concerns and programming
- Created Joint Powers Agreement between LAUSD and City of LA to increase Community School Parks and green space
- Currently serve on LAUSD Board of Education (500k+ Students)



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CYCP
California Youth Climate Policy
Leadership Program



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Kieran Beckham

- I worked in the founding cohort of CYCP. It was my introduction to advocacy with the capstone project.
- Since then, I have led my school to earn the Green Ribbon Schools Award Silver Medal.
- My projects include climate education, outdoor classrooms, school gardens, and farm to table lunches.
- Green Ribbons Social Media Campaign with Ten Strands and Mr. Garcia



Ten Strands (CYCP, CAELI)



- Ten Strands is a nonprofit organization that works to integrate environmental literacy and climate education into California's K-12 public school system.
- Its mission is to ensure all students understand how environmental and social systems interact, empowering them to become climate leaders in their communities.
- Ten Strands runs programs like California Youth Climate Policy Leadership Program (CYCP) and CAELI to bring systemic change.

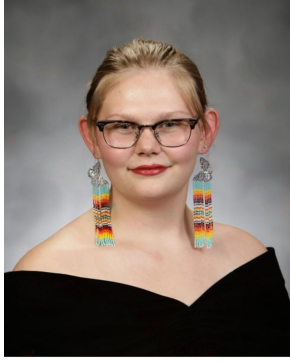


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Los Angeles

CYCP



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Breakout rooms

Join a breakout room to ask a question or to share how you are engaged in youth participating in climate action:

- Quest Science
- SVYCA
- BAYCS
- CYCP



CAELI 2025-26 Webinar Series

- **October 30: Agriculture in the Classroom: Green Careers**

Visit <https://ca-eli.org/webinar/> to register for upcoming webinars and to watch prior sessions.



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2025-26 CAELI Webinar Feedback Form

<https://forms.gle/LoBJc643rp9YxoSD7>



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