



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: May 21, 2025
To: Local Educational Agency Leads
Route To: Assistant Superintendents, Principals, Teachers, Curriculum Supervisors
From: Jorden Schiff, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner
Division of Teaching and Learning Services

Continuation of Climate Change Learning Collaboratives Initiative

In 2024, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) established regional [Climate Change Learning Collaboratives](#) (CCLCs) at four New Jersey institutions of higher education. The NJDOE is pleased to announce the continuation of the CCLCs initiative for a second year.

The CCLCs provide local education agencies (LEAs) with **free professional development, technical assistance, experiential learning opportunities, and networking opportunities** to aid in their implementation of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards supporting climate change education across all nine content areas. LEAs are encouraged to seek guidance and support for their climate change education initiatives from their regional CCLC and to visit their CCLC's website for information on upcoming events (**see table on next page for each CCLC's information**).

Services Provided by the Climate Change Learning Collaboratives

Each CCLC will provide LEAs with the following services, **free of charge**, from June 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026:

- **Professional development** (stipends offered to educators) and **technical assistance** covering:
 - Climate change subject knowledge and climate justice issues.
 - Identifying, developing, and implementing interdisciplinary, project-based unit plans.
 - Creating and identifying locally focused experiential learning opportunities for students.
 - Relevant technology, teaching tools, self-assessment tools, and evaluation strategies.
 - Identifying and applying for external grants and certifications.
 - Establishing green teams and developing sustainability plans.
 - Green and blue career awareness and related workforce development opportunities.
- **Experiential learning opportunities** for educators (stipends offered) and students that extend climate change education beyond the classroom, providing opportunities to interact with local ecosystems.
- **Networking and collaborative opportunities**, including:
 - Dedicated time at events for innovating with fellow educators at neighboring LEAs.
 - An email listserv or cloud-based collaboration site for virtual networking and resource sharing.
 - A CCLC culminating conference showcasing the climate change education initiatives of LEAs.

Contact Information

For questions, please contact the Climate Change Education Unit at ClimateEducation@doe.nj.gov.

c: Members, State Board of Education
NJDOE Staff
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Garden State Coalition of Schools
NJ LEE Group

New Jersey Department of Education Climate Change Learning Collaboratives (CCLCs)

Each CCLC is comprised of an interdisciplinary project team from the institutions of higher education and their community-based nonprofit organization partners.

Institution of Higher Education	Region	Counties Serving	Community-Based Nonprofit Organization Partner(s)	Email Address and Website
Ramapo College of New Jersey	Northern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bergen • Essex • Hudson • Morris • Passaic • Sussex • Warren 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Green • Great Swamp Watershed Association • Meadowlands Environment Center • The New Jersey School of Conservation 	Email: ClimateCollaborative@ramapo.edu Website: https://climatecollaborative.ramapo.edu/
Rutgers University - New Brunswick	Central	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hunterdon • Middlesex • Somerset 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership • New Jersey Audubon • Raritan Headwaters Association 	Email: ClimateChangeEducation@docs.rutgers.edu Website: https://cmsce.rutgers.edu/climate-change
Monmouth University	Central	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mercer • Monmouth • Union 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monmouth Conservation Foundation • New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium 	Email: MUClimateEducation@monmouth.edu Website: https://www.monmouth.edu/school-of-education/monmouth-university-climate-education-collaborative/
Stockton University	Southern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atlantic • Burlington • Camden • Cape May • Cumberland • Gloucester • Ocean • Salem 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Center for Aquatic Sciences • New Jersey Audubon • Save Barnegat Bay • Sustainable Jersey • The Wetlands Institute 	Email: ClimateLearning@stockton.edu Website: https://www.stockton.edu/ettc/climate.html