

# Climate Literacy Network

## Working Towards a Sustainable Future

### The Climate Literacy Network

The Climate Literacy Network (CLN) is a diverse group of approximately 230 stakeholders interested in the implementation and adoption of the principles of climate literacy throughout society. Organized and maintained by TERC, this nationally-representative group meets virtually once per week to share information on climate science and climate literacy. The CLN's activities include a sharp focus on educational contexts (formal and informal), as well as current research and experience related to measuring literacy, identifying effective practices and engaging different communities. Members of the CLN represent a wide variety of backgrounds, including the sciences, social sciences, education, arts, media, policy, and more.

### Current Activities

Weekly discussions around the complex issues involved in making Climate Literacy real for all citizens are facilitated through a weekly teleconference and an online community. This community has put forward policy documents, educational guidelines, and programs that have won grants from NASA and the National Science Foundation.

The keystone accomplishment of the CLN has been its contribution to the development of the ***Climate Literacy: Essential Principles of Climate Science*** document. This document summarizes the most important principles and concepts of teaching climate science and is focused on providing a framework to science teachers, individuals, and communities interested in learning the basics of climate science. It has now received approval from the U.S. Global Change Research Program/Climate Change Science Program, which includes 13 federal agencies and 24 other science and education partners.

Members of the CLN worked together to develop the ***Climate and Energy Literacy Initiative*** document, which was successfully submitted to President Obama's *Seat at the Table* website. Members of the CLN have also been involved with the America's Climate Choices panels of the National Research Council, as well as the creation of the ***Education for a Green Economy*** document, also submitted to the America's Climate Choice panels. Both of these documents petition for programs to make all government and school buildings green and to incorporate green education into the culture and curriculum of the occupants of those buildings. CLN is also represented on the **NRC Climate Education Roundtable**, and has provided input on the NRC Draft Science Education Framework.

CLN members have together received millions of dollars in federal grants from NASA and the National Science Foundation. Of particular note is the Climate Literacy and Energy Awareness Network (CLEAN) Pathway project (<http://cleanet.org>), which is now live with reviewed educational activities for grades 6-16 that address the Climate Literacy Essential Principles.

### Achievements of CLN and its members since January 2008 include:

1. Development and deployment of ***Essential Principles of Climate Science***
2. Acceptance of ***Essential Principles*** by 13 Federal agencies and 24 educational institutions
3. Establishment of CLN community through listserv, weekly telecon engagements and community website at <http://cleanet.org/cln>
4. Won grant awards from the National Science Foundation and NASA, including CLEAN Pathway Project
5. Held a virtual video panel at the international COP15 conference in Copenhagen, Denmark
6. Participation in the National Research Council Climate Change Education Roundtable
7. Had a policy document accepted by the America's Climate Choice panels
8. Developed a model for a regional educational network designed to actively increase climate literacy
9. Continues to provide informal coordination of climate literacy efforts across the nation

More information about ***Climate Literacy: Essential Principles***, other climate change education projects, and the CLN community can be found at <http://cleanet.org/cln>.

## Partners

Partners in collaboration with the CLN on the *Climate Literacy: Essential Principles of Climate Science* include:

- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- U.S. Department of Commerce
- U.S. Department of Defense
- U.S. Department of Energy
- U.S. Department of Health & Human Resources
- U.S. Department of the Interior
- U.S. Department of State
- United States Agency – International Development
- U.S. Department of Transportation
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- NASA
- National Science Foundation
- Smithsonian Institution

*Climate Literacy: Essential Principles of Climate Science* is also supported by these partners:

- American Association for the Advancement of Science Project 2061
- American Meteorological Society
- Association of Science-Technology Centers
- Bowman Global Change
- Centers for Disease Control & Prevention
- Challenger Center for Space Science Education
- Climate Literacy Network
- College of Exploration
- Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences
- Federation of Earth Science Information Partners
- Lawrence Hall of Science, University of California, Berkeley
- National Environmental Education Foundation
- National Geographic Education Programs
- National Institute of Standards & Technology
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- National Science Teachers Association
- North American Association For Environmental Education
- Sally Ride Science™
- TERC Inc.
- The GLOBE Program
- The National Center for Atmospheric Research
- University Corporation for Atmospheric Research
- U.S. Geological Survey
- U.S. Forest Service

*The CLN was formed in January 2008 out of a pressing need to infuse climate literacy into schools and other educational contexts in order to prepare society and the future workforce to address the environmental issues and challenges of the future. Supported by TERC, the CLN is leading to both national and regional efforts to expand its Earth and space science.*

*The Climate Literacy and Energy Awareness Network-New England (CLEAN-NE) is a climate education program that aims to give students and citizens across New England a meaningful experience with climate literacy. TERC is recruiting a regional network of climate and education leaders to create and develop a menu of regionally relevant, science-focused programs that afford students the educational foundation and learning tools necessary to become climate advocates and leaders in their communities.*

**Want to get involved?  
Contact TERC: [CLEAN-NE@terc.edu](mailto:CLEAN-NE@terc.edu)**



**Visit our website!  
<http://cleanet.org/cln>**

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