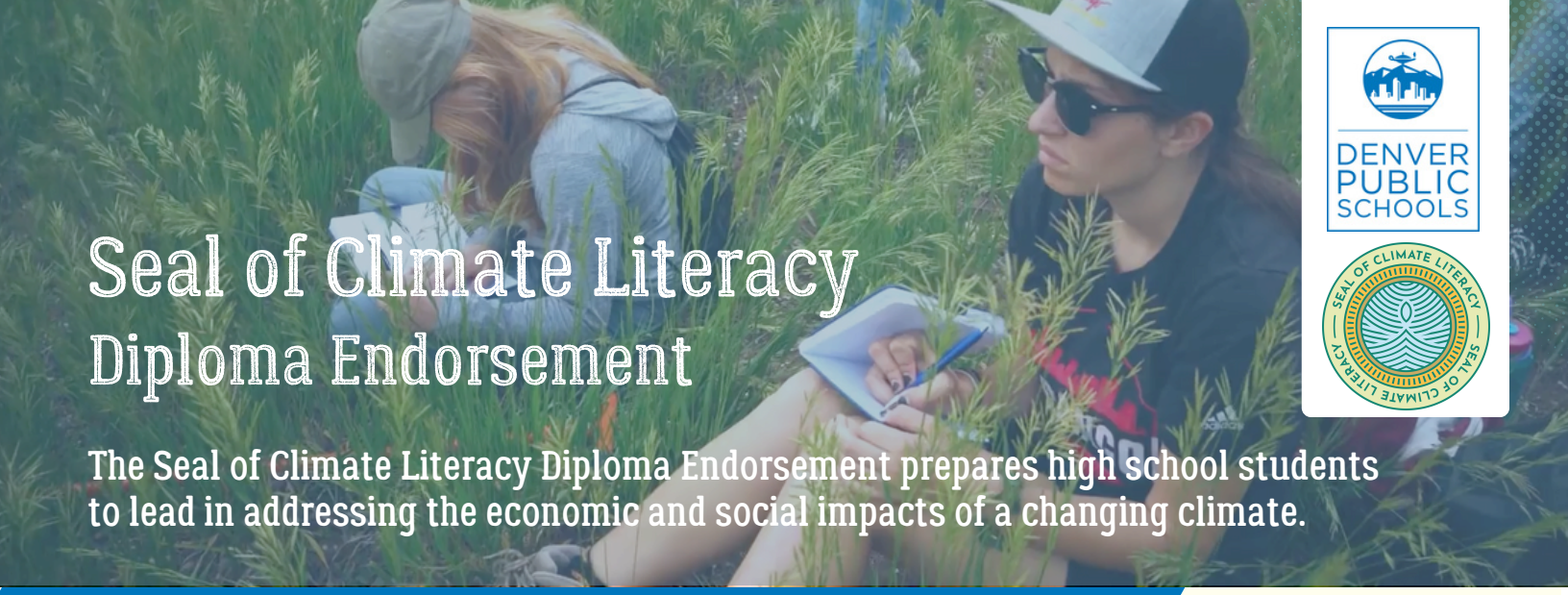


Seal of Climate Literacy Diploma Endorsement

The Seal of Climate Literacy Diploma Endorsement prepares high school students to lead in addressing the economic and social impacts of a changing climate.

New in 2024, Colorado's Senate Bill 24-014 has established the Seal of Climate Literacy diploma endorsement.

Why a Seal of Climate Literacy?

Students, educators, and schools across Colorado recognize the urgent need to address significant environmental changes. Colorado's industries require a workforce ready to tackle new challenges in energy, agriculture, forestry, outdoor recreation, and more. The Seal of Climate Literacy diploma endorsement equips students with crucial climate knowledge and skills, going beyond traditional classroom learning.

The Seal of Climate Literacy isn't just a diploma endorsement; it's a pathway for students to become leaders in the face of climate change. It's about equipping students with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to tackle real-world challenges and create a more sustainable future.

The Seal equips students with the essential skills and knowledge needed to thrive in the green workforce of tomorrow, employing transferable skills cultivated through climate literacy such as critical thinking, problem-solving, and systems thinking, which are invaluable in any career path.

DPS Students for Climate Action
receiving the President's Youth Environmental Award in Washington DC, 2023

DPS & the Seal of Climate Literacy

DPS Sustainability will be working with high schools to launch the Seal of Climate Literacy during the 2024-25 school year. The seal fits with DPS' commitment to becoming a nationally recognized leader in sustainability, climate action, and environmental justice. The seal is one way that we can meet our goal of all students and staff being engaged in sustainability by 2050.

DPS is currently working to build a system in IC to track student progress toward meeting all the criteria of the seal:
1) Students meet all graduation requirements
2) Students complete at least 20 credits of approved courses
3) Students complete an experiential learning project addressing climate change in their local community

Requirements for the Seal

The Seal isn't a one-size-fits-all program; it's designed to be flexible and responsive to the specific climate challenges and opportunities that each community faces. There is a wide range of ways green skills can be developed in alignment with student interests.

Students must complete at least 20 credits of approved coursework that cover climate literacy topics. One of the approved courses must be a science course, the other may be science, humanities, civics, or any other course that incorporates climate literacy principles.

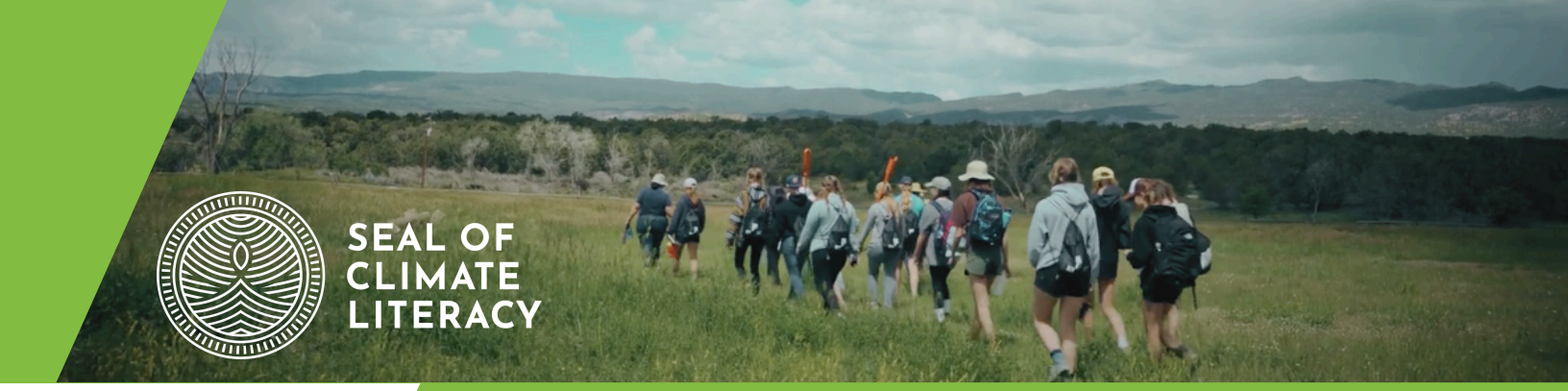
Students must also complete a Project Based Learning experience that demonstrates their understanding of climate change and their ability to apply that knowledge in a real-world context. Experiential learning can take many forms, allowing students to explore their interests and passions. Projects must be approved by the school and aligned with the Seal's learning objectives.

What is the benefit to students?

The Seal was developed as a way for students to signal their understanding of climate change and demonstrate how they play a role in addressing climate issues in their communities and beyond. It helps channel students' passions and interests around the climate crisis into relevant learning opportunities culminating in an experiential learning project.

Critical thinking	Students develop the problem-solving skills needed to address complex environmental issues.
Leadership	The Seal fosters leadership and empowers students to advocate for a sustainable future.
College and career ready	The Seal enhances resumes and college applications, signaling a student's commitment to making a difference.

To learn more contact:
dept_sustainability@dpsk12.net



SEAL OF CLIMATE LITERACY

Why experiential learning?

The Seal of Climate Literacy encourages students and learners to take action at the local level. Studies show that the most impactful way to engage youth around climate issues is through hands-on learning in their own communities.

An experiential learning project could be participation in the DPS Renewable Energy Academy, an internship with a local nonprofit focused on climate change, or an analysis of the effects of carbon reduction from trees in a city park. A project could also be a digital film, a social media campaign, the creation of a school Green Team, or however a student feels able to make an impact and difference. Projects are individually tailored, and can be incredibly diverse!

This document outlines project criteria to guide and evaluate the alignment of student projects to the goals of climate literacy.

Schools may approve nonprofits, local businesses, school clubs, and other community and education partners to work with students' on their experiential learning projects. Community partners offering to support students' projects will be continuously added to **this list**.

Projects may include:

STUDENT CLUB LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY

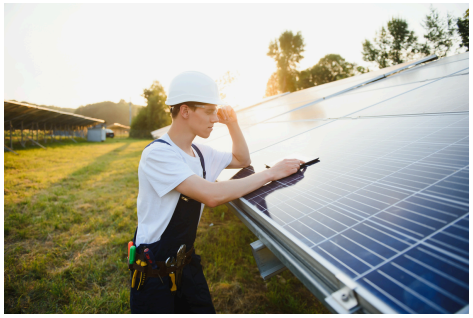
Community connections: Students can establish climate-focused clubs that educate their peers and community about the systemic and individual environmental systems, promoting sustainable practices and advocacy, i.e. through Climate Champions and Eco School certification.

RESEARCH-BASED SOLUTIONS

Sustainable practices: Students can research and implement sustainable practices that benefit local economy and livelihood. This may also be an internship or summer program such as DPS' Renewable Energy Academy.

ARTISTIC CLIMATE EXPRESSIONS

Abstract thinking: Students can utilize their personal experience, expressions, and artistic nature to visualize or communicate the impact they have on climate change in their community through art or writing. Students share their work to their peers as a mode of activism.



EXAMPLE OF A Student Journey

Jaime takes **science** freshman year as a part of district graduation requirements.

Jaime completes a **CTE or CE course related to environmental science.**

Jaime completes an **internship** with a local solar installation company.

Jaime's school confers the Seal of Climate Literacy to show proficiency of green skills.

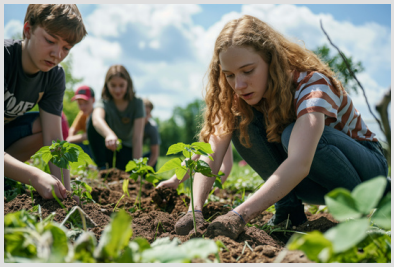
To learn more contact:
dept_sustainability@dpsk12.net

Sample DPS Courses

If your school offers these courses, you may have students eligible to receive the Seal of Climate Literacy this year! At least one full year of a qualifying science course is required, the other coursework may be in another content as long as it includes **climate literacy principles** (Spanish). Contact the DPS Sustainability Team to seek approval for a course not listed below. **A minimum of 20 credits of approved coursework is required for eligibility.**

Biology
Biology Honors
AP Biology
Chemistry
Chemistry Honors
Environmental Science
AP Environmental Science
IB Envrnmntl Sys/Soc 1
IB Envrnmntl Sys/Soc 2
AP Human Geography
Introduction to Ethnic Studies
Intro to Ethnic Studies Honors
US History
Honors US History
Civics
Civics Honors
CE- GEY 1111 Physical Geology
CE- GEO 1005 World Geography
CE- WQM 1000
DE- HORT 100
CE- ENV 1010 Natural Disasters
CE- ENV 1111 Environmental Science with Lab
CE- BIO 130 Enviro Biology
CE- BIO 135 Environmental Biology Lab
DE- BIO 121
DE- BIO 121 L

SHARE THIS FLIER WITH YOUR STUDENTS!



lyra
Charting a new course
for innovation in education.

Read more about Denver Public School's Climate Action Plan here.

SealofClimateLiteracy.org

To learn more contact:
dept_sustainability@dpsk12.net