

# 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.

In 2024 Colorado's [Senate Bill 24-014](#) 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.



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

## DPS & the Seal of Climate Literacy

DPS Sustainability launched 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.

## Requirements for the Seal

To qualify, students must:

- 1) **Meet all graduation requirements**
- 2) **Pass at least 20 credits of approved coursework**
- 3) **Complete an experiential learning project**

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 pre-approved and aligned with the Seal's learning objectives.

**Note :** Projects may be completed in grades 6-12, while all approved course work is in grades 9-12.

## Student Application



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## 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 summer Renewable Energy Academy or EV Academy
- An internship with a local nonprofit focused on environmental issues
- A field project such as the 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, participation in 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. Projects can be completed in grades 6-12. Projects must be presented and approved.

Students may work with nonprofits, local businesses, and other community partners on their experiential learning projects. **Community partners offering to support students' projects will be continuously added to [this list](#).**



### Student Journey



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## DPS Approved Courses

At least 20 credits of approved courses is required for eligibility, including at least one full year of a qualifying science course; the other coursework may be in another content.

View the [DSST approved course list](#).

Biology & Bio Honors  
Chemistry & Chem Honors  
Physics & Physics Honors  
Earth Science & E.S. Honors  
CTE Plant Science Pathway (**Bruce Randolph**)  
CTE Environmental Science Pathway (**Northeast Early College**)  
Civics & Civics Honors  
Wilderness Literature  
AP Environmental Science  
AP Human Geography  
IB Environmental Systems and Society  
Integrated Math 1 Semester 1 (**all schools except Northfield**)  
CU Succeed/Ext Stud ENVS 1045 & 1044

GEY 1135 Environmental Geology with Lab: GT-SC1  
CE- GEY 1111 Physical Geology  
GEO 1012 Physical Geography - Weather, Climate and Ecosystems w/Lab: GT-SC1  
CE- GEO 1005 World Geography  
CE- Water Quality Management 1000  
DE- Horticulture 100  
CE- ENV 1010 Natural Disasters  
CE- ENV 1111 Environmental Science with Lab (CCD)  
CE- BIO 130 Enviro Biology  
CE- BIO 135 Environmental Biology Lab (WCU)  
DE- BIO 121 (CSU Global)  
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[DPS Climate Action Plan](#)



[SealofClimateLiteracy.org](http://SealofClimateLiteracy.org)



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