

# ECO- SUSTAINABILITY OFFICE

## Climate Literacy Task Force Report

Greening Schools and Climate  
Resilience Committee Meeting

Christos Chrysiliou, FAIA, LEED AP  
Chief Eco-Sustainability Officer

August 27, 2025



Sotomayor Magnet CTE Agriscience Program – Saplings growing in the greenhouse



# AGENDA

- Welcome & Introductions
- Climate Literacy Task Force (CLTF)
  - Task Force Timeline
  - CLTF Report Methodology
  - CLTF Report Recommendations



Planet Media Summit 2025 – students viewing 9<sup>th</sup> Street Elementary School's Climate Action Club beautification project





# WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS



**Christos Chrysiliou**

Chief Eco-Sustainability Officer,  
Climate Literacy Task Force Member



**Jerry Song**

STEAM Coordinator,  
LAUSD Division of Instruction



**Nicolas Gardner  
Serna**

Political and Community  
Organizer, UTLA



"Create & Cultivate" Eco-Sustainability Office Interactive Tabling Exhibit activities at LAUSD Arts Fest 2025



# Climate Literacy Task Force

## CLTF Goal

To convene and organize all other related working groups called for by previous initiatives and resolutions focused on school greening, gardening, outdoor education, and clean energy...**to deliver recommendations that increase climate literacy and climate justice throughout the District.**

*(Res-016-21/22 and LAUSD-UTLA Agreement, April 2023)*

## Climate Literacy Task Force

### LAUSD Division of Instruction

**Susan Canjura**  
Linked Learning Director,  
LAUSD

**Gerry Salazar**  
Outdoor & Environmental  
Education Coordinator, LAUSD

**Jerry Song**  
STEAM Coordinator,  
LAUSD

**Aaron Ferrel**  
Social Emotional Learning Advisor,  
LAUSD



### LAUSD Facilities Services Division

**Alix Walsh O'Brien**  
Deputy Chief Facilities  
Executive, LAUSD

### LAUSD Eco-Sustainability Office

**Christos Chrysiliou**  
Chief Eco-Sustainability Officer,  
LAUSD

**Sylvia Palomera**  
Sr. Sustainability Specialist,  
LAUSD

### United Teachers Los Angeles

**Julie Van Winkle**  
Vice President,  
UTLA AFT

**Lauren Ahkiam**  
LAANE Director, Water Justice  
LA Campaign

**Michelle Cohen**  
Adult Education Counselor,  
LAUSD

**Reies Flores**  
CTE Teacher, Sotomayor  
High School

### LAUSD Transportation Division

**Daniel Kang**  
Director of Transportation,  
LAUSD



# TASK FORCE TIMELINE



CLTF Tour at Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator (LACI), Meeting 2



CLTF Tour at Sotomayor Magnet – CTE Agriscience Program, Meeting 3

- **Meeting 1** – December 13, 2023 via Zoom
  - Introductions, review of Climate Literacy Resolution & LAUSD-UTLA MOU
  - Next steps for review of tasks & roles determined
- **Meeting 2** – February 27, 2024 @ Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator (LACI)
  - Tour of LACI with presentations from partners
- **Meeting 3** – April 16, 2024 @ Sotomayor Magnet
  - Tour of the Agriscience Program & updates on Task Force member findings
- **Public Meeting** – June 12, 2024 via Zoom
  - Preliminary recommendations shared & comments received
- **Meeting 4** – September 25, 2024 via Zoom
  - Draft report outline shared & task force members begin drafting respective sections
- **September 2025** – Final Recommendations Report to be published on the CLTF website at [lausd.org/cltf](https://lausd.org/cltf)





# CLTF REPORT – METHODOLOGY

## CLTF Focus Areas



Curriculum



Workforce  
Development



Outdoor Education



Infrastructure

On-site

Off-site

Solar

Water Quality

Transportation

Stormwater

**Each CLTF member was assigned a focus area to identify:**

- **Existing programs and resources** at LAUSD for students across all school sites including existing partnerships
- **Gaps to be filled in existing programs and resources** at LAUSD
- **Resources needed to fill gaps** in existing programs to provide comprehensive climate literacy curriculum as specified in the Board Resolution and LAUSD-UTLA MOU:
  - a. Program materials, equipment, etc. including external resources available
  - b. Staffing, professional development and staff support in each Local District, Community of Schools, and every school
  - c. Funding
- **Key recommendations** to implement meaningful and effective climate literacy curricula and programs that can be maintained sustainably by the District over time

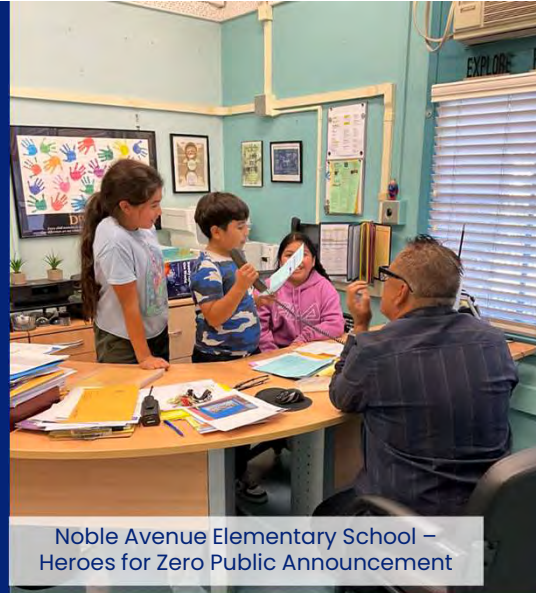


# CLTF REPORT Recommendations



## Curriculum

Presented by Jerry Song  
CLTF Member and STEAM Coordinator,  
LAUSD Division of Instruction



Noble Avenue Elementary School –  
Heroes for Zero Public Announcement



Elizabeth Learning Center High School  
students teaching younger students  
recycled art for ELC Beautification Day 2025



Planet Media Summit 2025 – Virgil  
Middle School student artwork display



Planet Media Summit 2025 – Virgil Middle School  
student exhibit of 3D printed reusable utensils



Planet Media Summit 2025 – Virgil  
Middle School student artwork display





Arminta ES composting cafeteria food scraps & collecting data



ITI LEVEL UP LA: Students design a more sustainable LA in Minecraft Education



"Create & Cultivate" Eco-Sustainability Office Interactive Tabling Exhibit poster at LAUSD Arts Fest 2025



Curriculum

# CLTF REPORT Recommendations

- **Ongoing Support for Climate Literacy:** Continue to support the District's Climate Literacy programs, including the Climate Literacy Champions differential for every school, the Climate Literacy Leadership Team, and climate literacy professional development for all LAUSD educators
- **Enhanced Collaboration for Climate Literacy Education:** Strengthen collaboration between the Division of Instruction and the Eco-Sustainability Office on climate literacy education efforts
- **Shared Staffing for Eco-Sustainability Initiatives:** Share staffing resources between the Division of Instruction and the Eco-Sustainability Office, such as a sustainability specialist, for specific tasks like grant applications, graphic design, and social media





Climate Literacy Champions at Tree People Headquarters



Climate Literacy Champion Leadership Team, Jerry Song DOI, and Sylvia Palomera ESO



Portola MS students collecting and sorting weeds for data collection



Students at Sotomayor using indigenous adobe building practices to construct a wall for geese, incorporating art into the design



Superintendent Carvalho, Climate Literacy Leadership Team teacher, and a student from North Hollywood HS speaking at the Planet Media event at USC



Curriculum

# CLTF REPORT Recommendations

- **Promotional Campaigns: Wellness and the Outdoors:** Launch campaigns promoting social-emotional wellness and the outdoors, as well as social-emotional wellness and climate change
- **Partnerships for Educator Engagement in SEL Events:** Develop partnerships for the Eco-Sustainability Office to engage educators at high-profile SEL events, including SEL Day and SEL Symposium
- **Cross-Departmental Procurement Strategy for Climate Literacy Services:** Implement a cross-departmental procurement strategy for climate literacy services, fostering collaboration between the Division of Instruction, the Eco-Sustainability Office, and other relevant parties



# CLTF REPORT Recommendations



## Workforce Development

Presented by Nicolas Gardner Serna  
Political and Community Organizer, UTLA



Planet Media Summit 2025 – student presenting from 9<sup>th</sup> Street Elementary School's Climate Action Club beautification project



Sotomayor Arts and Sciences Magnet High School – CTE Agriscience Program tour – farm-to-table exhibit



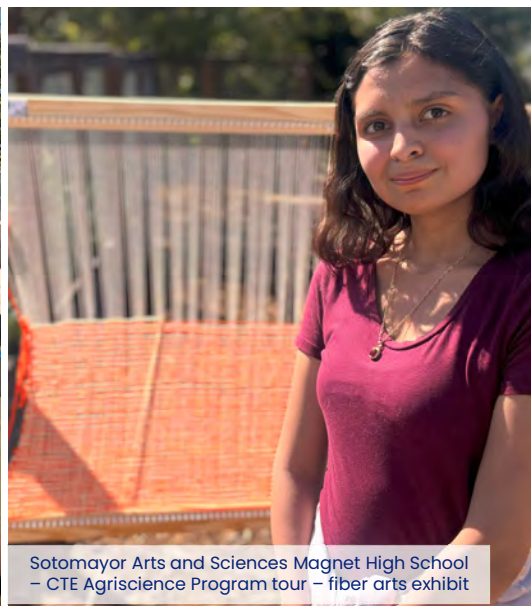


# CLTF REPORT Recommendations



- **Expand Partnerships with Unions and Industry Leaders:** Collaborate with unions and industry to build green career pathways linking education to jobs
- **Develop a pipeline:** Create a seamless K-12 to employment pathway in key green sectors (renewable energy, sustainable transport, etc.)
- **Empower educators and infrastructure:** Invest in teacher training and resources, including hands-on learning spaces like gardens and labs
- **Leverage existing funds:** Maximize use of grants (e.g., Golden State Pathways, Strong Workforce) for green CTE programs
- **Hands-On Learning Through District Infrastructure Projects:** Include CTE students in LAUSD's infrastructure projects, such as installing solar panels, rain gardens, or other sustainable infrastructure, allowing them to apply their knowledge in real-world settings





# CLTF REPORT Recommendations



## • Expand Non-Construction Green Career Pathways:

- While green building trades are essential, LAUSD will also promote green career options beyond construction, such as:
  - Sotomayor High School's Agriscience CTE Program
  - West Los Angeles College's Climate Change and Environmental Studies Program
  - Lincoln High School's Green Career Pathways

## • Expand MC3 Offerings in Secondary Schools:

- Increase Multi-Craft Core Curriculum (MC3) programs to introduce high school students to various green career pathways early, giving them the skills they need to succeed in a green economy

## • Partner with Unionized Transportation Industries:

- Work with transportation sectors, such as electric vehicle (EV) development, to create green transportation career pathways, preparing students for the future of urban mobility





# CLTF REPORT Recommendations



## Outdoor Education

On-site

Off-site



Northridge Middle School tree planting



Gage Middle School learning garden outdoor classroom



Logan Elementary School outdoor classroom





Sotomayor Arts and Sciences Magnet High School – CTE Agriscience Program tour



Sotomayor Magnet CTE Agriscience Program – Three the Beautiful Brown Cow



Sotomayor Magnet CTE Agriscience Program – Sheep

# CLTF REPORT

## Recommendations



Outdoor Education

### On-site Outdoor Education

- **Outdoor Learning Integration:** Integrate the climate literacy curriculum with existing outdoor learning opportunities i.e. SEEDS, EEC Outdoor Classrooms, Outdoor Learning Environments
- **Curriculum Enrichment:** Integrate curriculum focused on indigenous roots, food waste reduction, hunger awareness, and the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals into relevant classes
- **Community Partnerships:** Partner with organizations like UC Cooperative Master Gardeners and utilize parents' expertise in school gardens, potentially offering stipends
- **Partnership Framework:** Create a guiding document for establishing partnerships between schools and external organizations
- **Support for Regenerative Farming:** Establish a veterinary program to support the regenerative farming curriculum
- **Dedicated Outdoor Space Coordination:** Establish a District-wide Garden/Outdoor Space Coordinator position (potentially regional positions) to oversee and support school gardens and outdoor spaces



# CLTF REPORT Recommendations



Outdoor Education

- **Sustainable Water Management:** Prioritize the use of water catchment systems as educational tools for school gardens
- **Sustainable Program Funding:** Secure funding for educational programs that integrate with existing outdoor learning infrastructure programs

## Off-site Outdoor Education

- **Integrated Climate Literacy:** Weave the Climate Literacy Curriculum into outdoor learning opportunities, expanding hands-on experiences for students
- **Expanded Day of Discovery:** Broaden the Day of Discovery Program to incorporate vital topics such as clean energy, wastewater treatment, and other climate mitigation efforts
- **Equitable Program Connections:** Foster equitable connections between existing programs and address indigenous and racial equity issues
- **Streamlined School-Organization Partnerships:** Develop a School-Organization Partnership Guide, a guiding document to streamline the process of establishing partnerships between schools and external organizations



Sotomayor Magnet CTE Agriscience Program – Pot Belly Pig



Sotomayor Magnet CTE Agriscience Program – Silkie Chickens



Sotomayor Magnet CTE Agriscience Program – Sheep



Sotomayor Arts and Sciences Magnet High School – CTE Agriscience Program tour



# CLTF REPORT Recommendations



## Infrastructure

Solar

Water Quality

Transportation

Stormwater



San Julian Bus Yard EVC



Canoga Park High School Solar Photovoltaic Panels



LAUSD Pico Procurement Services Center Solar Photovoltaic Panels





Infrastructure

# CLTF REPORT Recommendations

## Solar Energy Generation

- **New Funding For Renewable Energy:** Explore how recent bonds can boost solar programs and connect to energy efficiency, building decarbonization, and EV charging goals
- **Maximizing Renewables:** Partner to assess total solar potential on LAUSD sites and plan how to meet the 2030 clean energy target
- **Funding Opportunities:** Keep looking at ways to finance solar projects, including bonds and government incentives
- **Improve Efficiency:** Identify changes needed in policies and procedures to better implement energy efficiency programs
- **Union Strong:** Continue using union labor for all solar and related energy projects
- **Stay Informed:** Keep sharing project and program updates with the public



El Dorado Elementary School  
Solar Photovoltaic Panels



Bellingham Elementary School  
Solar Photovoltaic Panels



Maywood Academy High School Solar Photovoltaic Carports





Cesar Chavez Learning Academies – TPA HEROES for Zero Project: A bottle-filling station



DROPS field trip to Ballona Wetlands



East Valley High School Recycled Water Irrigation installation – purple pipes & signage



Infrastructure

# CLTF REPORT Recommendations

## Water Quality

- **Lower School Lead in Water:** Aim for super low lead in water (under 1 ppb) in school water, using new funding to speed up current programs (getting elementary schools below 5 ppb quickly)
- **Expand to High Schools:** Create and fund a program to get low lead in water (below 5 ppb) in middle and high school water fountains and bottle fillers, prioritizing filters
- **Filters:** Install certified filters in bottle filling stations for near-zero lead in water and better taste/smell
- **Check Other Faucets:** Investigate and fix lead in water issues in classroom and kitchen faucets
- **Annual Testing & Transparency:** Test water yearly and make results public
- **Partner with Health Experts:** Work with health professionals to check lead levels in water and community water risks

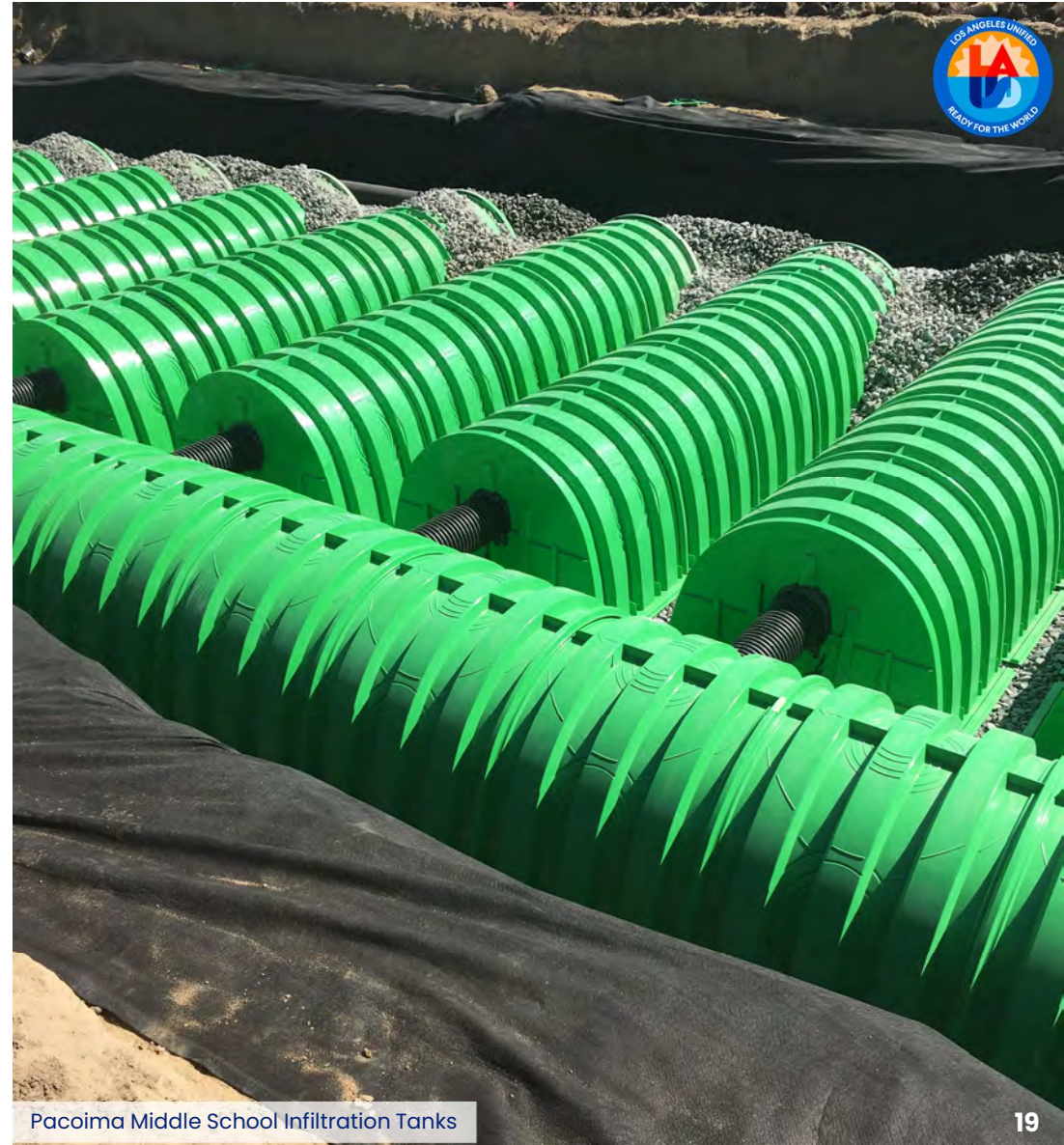




# CLTF REPORT Recommendations

## Stormwater Management

- **Water Capture:** Set school-wide goals for capturing rainwater and coordinating with LAUSD's 30% greening goal
- **Maintenance Plan:** Plan for resources, training, and procedures needed to sustain the greening improvements long term
- **New Funds for Greening:** Explore funding opportunities including County's Safe Clean Water Program and other local and state funds for building and maintaining greening and stormwater projects
- **Partnering for Success:** We should work with other government agencies (like the County, Metro, and City departments) who can help with design, construction, and even manage rainwater near our schools



Pacoima Middle School Infiltration Tanks



Chatsworth High School Infiltration Tanks



Infrastructure

# CLTF REPORT Recommendations

## Stormwater Management

- **Handle Rainwater Issues:** Find ways to avoid problems with rainwater leaving our sites
- **Schoolyards as Community Parks:** Consider opening schoolyards as community parks helps us get more money for green projects that benefit everyone
- **Teamwork Makes the Dream Work:** We'll keep partnering with schools and the community to develop and fund these projects
- **Guides for Green Building:** We're creating easy-to-use guides for building and maintaining rainwater and native plant projects
- **Green Projects:** We're looking at our own rules and processes to make it easier and quicker to build these projects, learning from past successes. We'll also talk to others for ideas
- **Keep You Updated:** We'll continue sharing project news and funding opportunities with the public





Infrastructure

# CLTF REPORT Recommendations

## Transportation

- **Identify grant funding opportunities and Investment Tax Credit** to support EV bus fleet and charging;
- **Partner Up:** Coordinate EV investments with LADWP, Metro, LADOT, etc., especially for LA Olympic clean energy transportation goals
- **Community Support:** Collaborate with local groups to explore funding opportunities
- **Good Jobs & Value:** Utilize union labor for EV charging projects and prioritize best-value EV bus purchases with US jobs in mind
- **Charging Everywhere:** Plan to build EV passenger charging at schools and other public sites



Planet Media Summit 2025 – 9<sup>th</sup> Street Elementary School Delegation







# The Work Continues!



Climate Literacy Champions at TreePeople Headquarters



Curriculum



Workforce Development



Outdoor Education



Infrastructure



2025 CTE Summer Interns – ESO interns learning from a local partner how fallen trees are harvested for lumber in LA County



Gage Middle School learning garden outdoor classroom



HEROES for Zero Contest Student Team



Clean Energy Bus & Bellingham ES Solar Panels





# Thank You



Christos Chrysiliou, FAIA, LEED AP  
Chief Eco-Sustainability Officer

