



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: August 30, 2023
To: Local Educational Agency Leads
Route To: Assistant Superintendents, Principals, Curriculum Supervisors, Teachers
From: Jordan Schiff, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner
Division of Teaching and Learning Services

Climate Week 2023

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) invites New Jersey Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) to participate in Climate Week 2023 from September 17-24, 2023.

Background

[Climate Week](#) is the largest annual climate event of its kind, bringing together hundreds of events and activities across New York City in partnership with the United Nations. Each year, business leaders, political change makers, and civil society representatives of all ages and backgrounds, from all over the world, gather to drive the transition, speed up progress, and champion change that is already happening in the transition to a net zero carbon emissions future. This year's theme is, "We Can. We Will." New Jersey continues to be a proud participant in Climate Week.

New Jersey has a [multi-faceted plan](#) to address and mitigate the impacts of climate change, which includes the implementation of educational initiatives. Through continued support and advocacy for climate change initiatives by Governor Murphy and First Lady Tammy Murphy, New Jersey became the first state in the nation to incorporate climate change education in seven out of nine content areas in the K-12 New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS) in [June 2020](#).

Engagement Opportunities

LEAs can participate in Climate Week by:

- Sharing any climate awareness activities, events, or lessons highlighting the [2020 Climate Change Education Standards](#) on social media utilizing the hashtags #climateawareNJ, #innovationEDNJ, #ClimateWeekNJ, and #ClimateWeekNYC.
- Registering for and attending webinars hosted by the Office of Innovation:
 - The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) Bureau of Mobile Sources will present information on clean transportation for schools, including the NJDEP anti-idling program, school bus electrification, electric vehicles, grant programs, and general air quality on **Tuesday, September 19, 2023, from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.** [Register here to attend.](#)
 - Staff from Rosa International Middle School in Cherry Hill, NJ will present information regarding their interdisciplinary climate change curricular unit, including an overview of the unit and details on its implementation, how the unit aligns to the 2020 NJSLS for Climate Change Education, student and staff perspectives on the unit, and advice on how other educators may develop a similar unit for their districts on **Friday, September 22, 2023, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.** [Register here to attend.](#)

Resources

- The New Jersey Department of Education's [Climate Change Education Resources webpage](#).
- The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's [Climate Change webpage](#).

Contact Information

For questions regarding Climate Week and Climate Awareness Education, please contact innovation@doe.nj.gov.

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