

# Modeling Climate Lessons: Teacher Resource Webinar

Resources to get started or expand your Climate Teach-In

March 3, 2026

6-7 pm ET



**MARYLAND  
CLIMATE  
TEACH-IN**

# Tonight's webinar

**6:00-6:10**

**Welcome and Introduction to the Webinar**

**6:50-7:00 Q&A, Closing**

**Presenters:**

**6:10-6:20 Baltimore Polytechnic HS**

**6:20-6:30 Youth Climate Institute**

**6:30-6:40 ecoAmerica**

**6:40-6:50 Chesapeake Bay Trust**



# MARYLAND COMMISSION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

***Purpose:*** Advise the Governor and General Assembly on ways to mitigate the causes of, prepare for, and adapt to the consequences of climate change.



**Serena McIlwain**  
*Chair*



**Kim Coble**  
*Co-Chair*

The Commission is an independent, statutory body and all meetings are open to the public.

# Education, Communication, and Outreach Working Group



***Mission:*** ECO members work to educate Marylanders on climate change and to inform them about what the Commission is doing to address climate change's impacts on our state.

- Public relations (media, webinars, web)
- How to discuss climate change
- Climate education and literacy



ECO member representatives are appointed from government, academia, NGOs, and the private sector.



**MARYLAND  
CLIMATE  
TEACH-IN**



# What is the Maryland Climate Teach-In?

Maryland's Climate Teach-In encourages educators to adopt flexible and innovative approaches to engage around climate change. From 15-minute discussions to interactive modules and public events, the goal is to encourage Marylanders of all ages to explore climate solutions.

## WHO PARTICIPATES?

All kinds of educators, including:

- Classroom teachers (all ages & subjects)
- Environmental & outdoor educators
- After-school and youth program leaders
- Nature centers, nonprofits, and community groups
- Companies, organizations, and government agencies

## WHAT COUNTS AS A TEACH-IN?

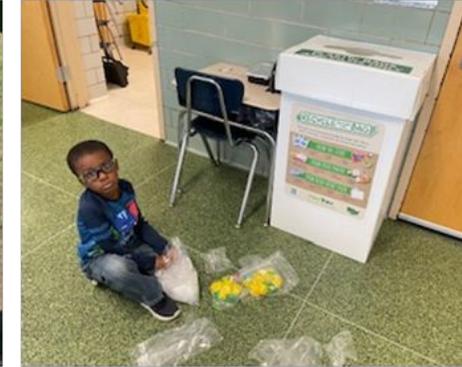
It can be simple and aligned to what you already do:

- Exploring local weather, ecosystems, or environmental change
- Reading and writing about community impacts and solutions
- Using data, art, history, or civic engagement to understand climate
- Taking student-led action projects outdoors or in the community
- Big or small — it all matters.

## WHEN IS IT?

Teach-Ins can be held at anytime during the month of April

# Case Study: Hebbville Elementary



## HIGHLIGHTS

- Involved all 500 Students Pre-K – 5
- Combination of classroom-based lessons and outdoor experiential learning

# Case Study: Mount View Middle School



## HIGHLIGHTS

- Involved 900 students engaged
- Hands-on activities focused on self-directed action

# Case Study: Baltimore Polytechnic Institute



# How does the Teach-In Work?

1. [Register](#) for the Maryland Climate Teach-In by April 30.
2. Carry out a climate education activity or discussion during April.
3. Follow up with our post-event survey to share more about your activity.
4. Receive a certificate of participation and qualify for exciting prizes!





# Join the 2026 Maryland Climate Teach-In



# For More Information



Amy Lambert  
alambert@eaest.com



Jabari Walker  
jswalker@bowiestate.edu

[https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/air/ClimateChange/MCCC/  
Pages/ClimateTeachIn.aspx](https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/air/ClimateChange/MCCC/Pages/ClimateTeachIn.aspx)

# Vicki Mathew

*Climate education becomes powerful when it's rooted in students' own communities -they begin to see themselves as scientists, problem-solvers, and environmental stewards.*



BALTIMORE  
POLYTECHNIC  
INSTITUTE

*vsmathew@bcps.k12.md.us*





# Go outside! Play! Observe!



# Forest Bathe! Nature Journal!



# Use Local Data!



# Water Quality Testing & Macroinvertebrate Collection!



# Trail Cams-Check out the wildlife in your area!



# Air Quality Engineering Design Challenge!



# Hands on! Make Seed Bombs!



# Grow Something!!



# Junk Journaling! Recycled Art!



# Invasive Species Cleanup



# Borrow this Approach



## The “One Data Point” Climate Warm Up

### DESCRIPTION:

A 5-minute opener using **one image, number, or graph.**

#### Grades 4-5:

What do you see? / What surprises you?

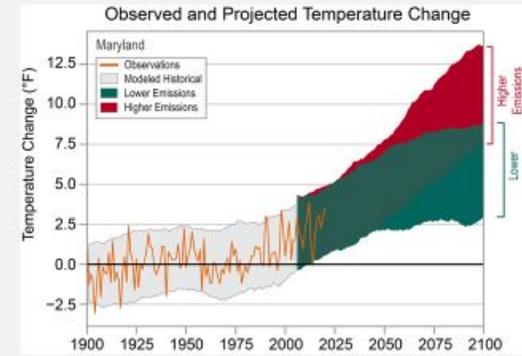
#### Middle School:

What do you notice and wonder?

#### High School:

What trend do you see? What questions does this raise?

**7 of the 10**  
warmest years have  
occurred since 2000



**Why this works across ages:**

Observation comes before explanation

No prior climate knowledge required

Easy entry point into evidence-based thinking

**Target subjects:**

Math, science, English, social studies

# Borrow this Approach

## Climate + Careers Snapshot

### DESCRIPTION:

A quick connection between climate change and real jobs.

#### Grades 4-5:

How might this job change if it gets hotter or wetter?

#### Middle School:

What new skills might this job need?

#### High School:

How does climate shape this career path?



**Why this works across ages:**

Makes climate relevant to students' futures

Strong engagement across grade levels

Especially effective for CTE and informal educators

**Target subjects:**

CTE, science, social studies, career counseling, informal education

# Borrow this Approach

## Local Climate Lens

### Pre-K-2:

How could this change outside?

### Grades 4-5:

How might weather or seasons affect this?

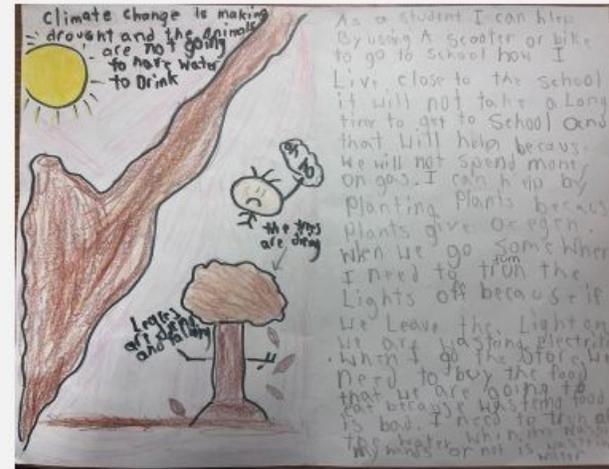
### Middle School:

How could climate change impact people or nature here?

### High School:

What systems or communities are affected?

**CORE QUESTION:**  
“How might climate change affect this [school/town/stream ...] — now or in the future?”



**Why this works across ages:**

Same question, different depth

Builds a habit of thinking

Avoids needing a full “climate lesson”

**Target subjects:**

Science, English, social studies, art



# Borrow this Approach

## “Design a Fix” Micro-Challenge

### Pre-K-3:

Draw or point

### Grades 4-5:

Sketch and label

### Middle School:

Explain how it helps

### High School:

Consider tradeoffs or feasibility

### PROMPT:

How could we make this space cooler, safer, or more sustainable?”



### Why this works across ages:

Solution oriented

Reduces climate anxiety

Encourages creativity and systems thinking

Ideas count – no building required

### Target subjects:

Science, engineering, art, math

# Youth Climate Institute

Building the next generation of climate leaders



[Ann.Strozyk@youthclimateleader.org](mailto:Ann.Strozyk@youthclimateleader.org)





# Elementary School (K-5th Grade)

Focus: Curiosity, connection to nature, simple actions

Easy Activities	
<b>Read-Aloud and Talk</b>	Read a picture book about nature, weather, or caring for the Earth, followed by a short discussion
<b>Weather Watch</b>	Track daily weather for a week and talk about patterns
<b>Eco Helpers Chart</b>	Create a class chart of ways students help the Earth at school or home
<b>Trash Sort Game</b>	Practice sorting items into recycle, compost, or trash
<b>Nature Observation Walk</b>	Go outside and have students draw something they notice

# Student Reflection Prompts



**"One way I can help  
the Earth is..."**



**"My thing in nature  
is..."**

# Middle School (6th - 8th Grade)

Focus: Awareness, systems thinking, personal responsibility

<b>Easy Activities</b>	
<b>Climate Myth or Fact</b>	Students vote and discuss short climate statements
<b>Local Impact Spotlight</b>	Explore how climate affects your state or community (flooding, heat, storms)
<b>Carbon Footprint Snapshot</b>	Students identify 3 daily actions that impact the climate
<b>Mini-Debate</b>	Small groups discuss solutions like plastic bans or renewable energy
<b>Design a Solution</b>	Students sketch a school or community climate improvement

# Student Reflection Prompts



**"One climate issue that affects my community is..."**



**"One change I could realistically make is..."**

# High School (9th - 12th Grade)

Focus: Civic engagement, critical thinking, leadership

Easy Activities	
<b>Policy in Action</b>	Examine a local or state climate policy (e.g., recycling laws, clean energy goals)
<b>Advocacy Skills</b>	Draft a short email, call script, or social post to an elected official
<b>Data Dive</b>	Analyze climate data or graphs and discuss implications
<b>Youth Leadership Panel</b>	Invite student leaders or activists to share their experiences
<b>Action Planning</b>	Students identify one school or community action they could realistically advance

# Student Reflection Prompts



**"How can youth influence climate policy?"**



**"What role do I want to play in climate solutions?"**

**Green Challenge Week**

**Compost Demonstration**

**Student Climate Pledge Wall**

**Food Waste Challenge**

**School-Wide Ideas**

(Any Grade Level)

**Fact of the Day**

**Virtual Guest Speaker**



# ecoAmerica

Mission: Move society towards climate solutions.

Brett Matulis  
[brett@ecoamerica.org](mailto:brett@ecoamerica.org)

ecoAmerica  
*start with people*



# Two resources

## CLIMATE AMBASSADOR TRAINING: BUILDING STRONGER CLASSROOMS, SCHOOLS, AND COMMUNITIES

*Featuring Prince George's  
County Public Schools*



## SKIT KIT



***"Climate at the Dinner Table"***

# Resource 1: Climate Ambassador Training

Help students speak confidently and take action on climate change



## Content Overview

1. Climate Basics
2. Climate Impacts & Injustices
3. Climate Solutions
4. Effective Climate Communication
5. Making a Difference as an Ambassador

# Resource 1: Climate Ambassador Training

## Intended Learning Outcomes

Participants who complete the Climate Ambassador Training will:

- Be able to identify the main impacts and key drivers of climate change
- Understand the inequities of climate change and climate justice
- Understand how people in America are thinking about climate change
- Be aware of the broad array of climate solutions
- Have a clear understanding of the role they can play in climate solutions
- Be equipped to speak effectively on climate
- Develop their own personally effective climate message
- Gain confidence to engage their friends, family, neighbors, and wider community on climate change
- Understand how to advocate for climate policies at the local, state, and national level

# Resource 1: Climate Ambassador Training

**Lesson Plan (DAY 1)**  
**PGCPs Student Climate Ambassador Training**

**Overview:** This lesson plan is designed to help teachers launch their students into the PGCPs Student Climate Ambassador Training.

**Date:** April 1 (8-day classrooms)  
April 2 (A-day classrooms)

**Class time required:** 10 minutes

**Objectives:**  
Students will...

- Get started on Climate Education Week
- Complete digital enrollment on the learning platform
- Receive the first homework assignment

**Classroom Activities:**

**1. Announce (3 minutes)**

- Make an announcement that your class will be participating in Climate Education Week (April 1-11) through the PGCPs Student Climate Ambassador Training.
- Play the welcome video: <https://vimeo.com/1067018843/2103aa67e7>

**MAKING SENSE OF K-12 SCIENCE**

**PGCPs**

QR code: [QR code]

mail addresses because school email Management System.

that they have received an email with the "Climate Ambassador Training". Anyone to sydney@ecoamerica.org

before the next class period. Optionally, riculum, you may also elect to give odules.

es on the online learning platform:

where you have capat students class time

Students should comp

- Module 5.1 (8
- Module 5.1b (for
- Module 5.2 (5 minutes)

Upon completion of these modules students w on April 24th (above).

Upon completion of these modules students will be prepared for Day 2 classroom activities.

**Sign up via the link in the chat!**

- You will receive a classroom facilitation guide + video modules
- Four classroom activities + four homework assignments
- Daily activities (10-15 minutes) to help keep your students on track
- There's also an independent track for self-directed students

Classroom Facilitation Guides

# Online Hub for Learning, Action, & Community

B U I H1 H2 H3 [List Icon] [Link Icon] [Smiley Icon] [Camera Icon] [Video Icon] [Share Icon] Cancel Post

Highlighted Posts 8



Sydney Otis Climate for Health -...

21 hr ago

## Take Local Climate Action: Bike to Work Week! 🚲 ❤️

In 2025, Bike to Work Week will be celebrated May 12-18, with Bike to Work Day on Friday, May 16, 2025. It's a great opportunity for you to lead by example and invite your community to join you in taking climate action.

Did you know 40% of all trips in the



Lesa R. Walker Climate for Health -...

6 May 2025

## Free webinar (May 13th) on "Your Child's Health & Climate Change" with Dr. Debra Hendrickson, pediatrician and author of THE AIR THEY BREATHE!

Learn more (and get link to register) here :

<https://parentsclimatecommunity.org/event/webinar-your-childs-health-climate-change/>

# Resource 2: Skit Kit



# Resource 2: Skit Kit

## Steps to Do This Skit

- 1 Read Through the Toolkit**  
Begin by reading the toolkit in its entirety to familiarize yourself with its contents, objectives, and resources.
- 2 Determine Scale**  
Decide if you are going to do a simple skit with few props or whether you want to build out a more involved production. Secure the venue and skit date.
- 3 Assemble Your Team**  
Gather a group of interested participants. This should include your actors, and, depending on scale could also include a director, stage crew, and other volunteers (outreach, costumes, etc).
- 4 Assign Roles and/or Hold Auditions**  
Assign roles to your team members or hold auditions to find the right actors for each character. Consider inviting your local community theater actors to take part.
- 5 Review and Customize the Script**  
Read through the script and discuss it as a group. Use it "as is", or customize it to fit your community's context, incorporating local stories, examples, or cultural references that will resonate with your audience.
- 6 Make it Immersive**  
Consider hosting a post-performance discussion or Q&A session to engage the audience, encouraging them to share their thoughts and ideas on the themes presented in the skit.

CHRISTMAS DINNER AT AN AMERICAN HOME

Lights emerge on a beautifully appointed all-American Thanksgiving table. There's a turkey centerpiece, a large turkey, bowls of stuffing, and other festive items.

Two children, Jess and Charlie, are playing around the table. Jess is the one child who is deaf.

Other family members are Tara, father of Jess and Lisa, Joe's wife.

JESS  
You said -- I mean about -- to wash your --

BESS (Impoverished)  
You better be --

The children nod that they understand.

LISA  
Everybody is saying we're going to have a really good Thanksgiving. We need to eat --

Joe and Tara nod that they understand.

LISA  
Come on guys --

JOE  
I'm not hearing you. You're deaf. Get the show started, the show is there. (He points to the turkey.)

JOE  
It always gets good here in November.

You wouldn't know this but the history was recent -- in 1985, got down to two degrees. And then the weather Thanksgiving was way back in the 1980s. Go figure -- coldest Turkey Day was recent and warmest was way back in the 1980s -- hundreds -- go figure on that climate change idea. I've got to tell you, it's kind of all that climate change -- the idea that the weather is changing is just so dumb.

Joe and Tara are visibly upset by Joe's comment.

TARA  
I really didn't want us to get into this --

LISA  
I agree with Tara -- let's not go there.

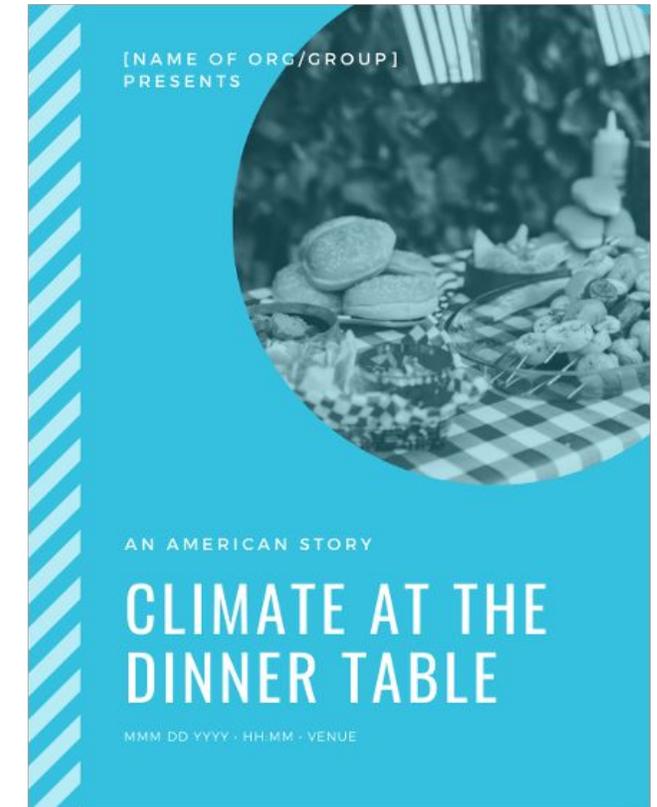
JOE  
Sure. That's fine.

NETSY  
(Sadly.) No, I think it's worth talking about. Despite what Jess said when he ditched the Paris accord, there's a clear scientific consensus -- it's not just climate scientists say that climate change is happening and that it's us, humans, that're causing it.

JOE  
Last I looked, Jess, you're no scientist. But when it comes to science, I know science. I get my degree in engineering. At work, I use math and science every damn day. So let me tell you, there's no consensus among scientists.

BESS AND GUY (Impoverished)  
Oh my god, it's soooooo cold here.

JOE



# Resource 2: Skit Kit

**Running time:** 10-12 minutes

**Production time:** anywhere from 2 hours to several weeks

**Fully customizable:**

- Change character names and setting
- Depict different family structures
- Feature different traditions to reflect cultural practices and lived experiences of your audience

**Simple or elaborate:**

Mime the props or build a set depending on the level of production you're aiming for



Chesapeake  
Conservation &  
Climate Corps



Chesapeake  
Bay Trust



# Chesapeake Bay Trust Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps Program

Emily Stransky -  
Program Manager

[Estransky@cbtrust.org](mailto:Estransky@cbtrust.org)

<https://cbtrust.org/chesapeake-climate-corps/>





**Chesapeake  
Conservation &  
Climate Corps**



**Chesapeake  
Bay Trust**



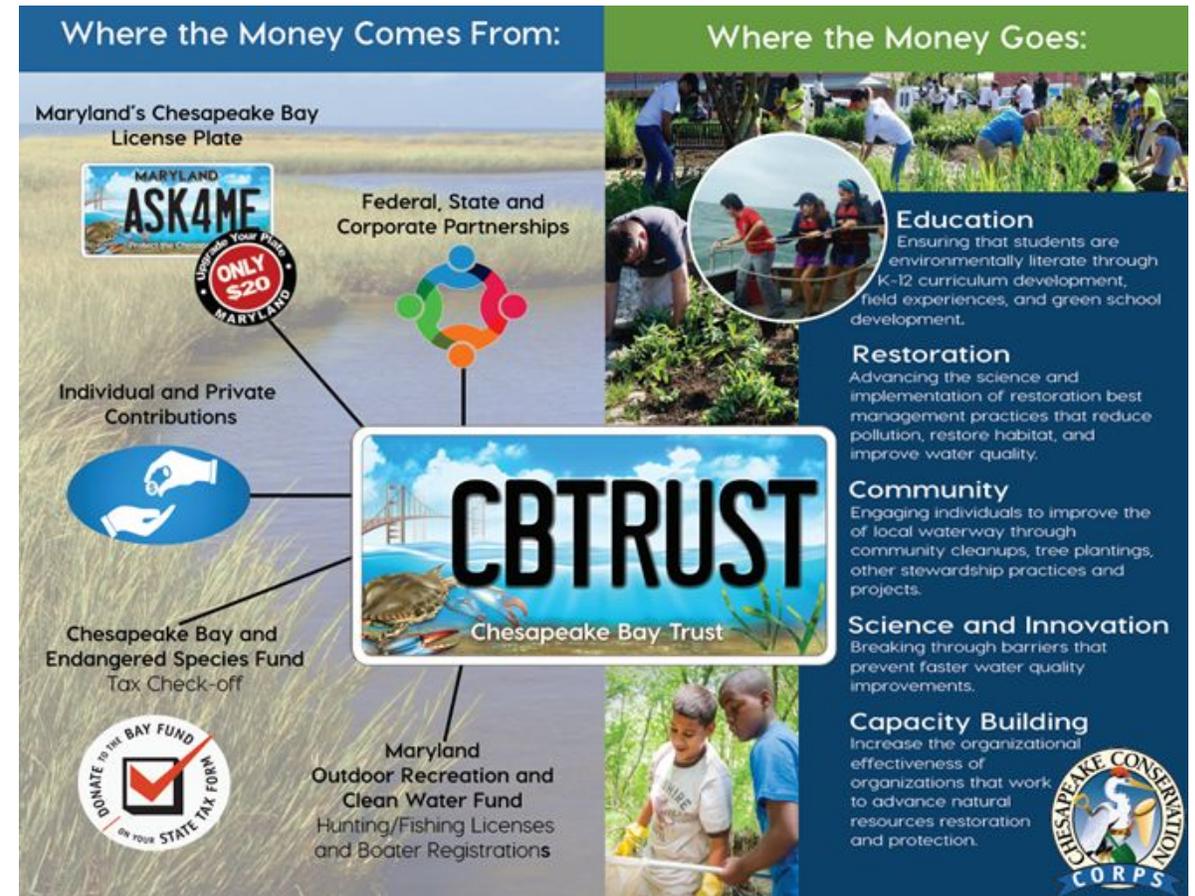
## About the Trust

The Trust is a nonprofit grantmaking organization, first created in 1985 by the Maryland General Assembly, dedicated to improving the watersheds of the Chesapeake Bay.

The Trust's goal is to increase stewardship through grant programs, special initiatives, and partnerships that support...

- 1) K-12 Environmental Education,
- 2) On-the-ground watershed restoration,
- 3) Community engagement, and
- 4) the underlying science of these three realms.

The Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps is one of these special initiatives.





**Chesapeake  
Conservation &  
Climate Corps**



**Chesapeake  
Bay Trust**



## **What is the Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps?**

- A Green Jobs Workforce Development Program providing a stipend-supported year of service from August to August for young adults placed at non-profits and government agencies (Host Organizations)
- First established as the Chesapeake Conservation Corps by the Maryland Legislature in 2010, expanded through the Maryland's 2022 Climate Solutions Now Act, and then further expanded through a partnership with State of Maryland's Department of Service and Civic Innovation.
- Program Year 17:
  - August 18, 2026 - August 17, 2027
  - ~80 Corps Members at Host Organizations supporting environmental projects across the state of MD



**Chesapeake  
Conservation &  
Climate Corps**



**Chesapeake  
Bay Trust**



## **What is the Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps?**

### **Corps Members must be:**

- 18–25 years old at the start of the program,
- a citizen of the United States, a lawful permanent resident, or have documentation confirming permission to work in the United States during the year-long term of service, and
- available to serve full-time (approximately 40 hours per week) for the entire duration of the 12-month service term.

### **Corps Members receive:**

- an annual stipend of \$33,280,
- health insurance, if needed,
- a completion award of \$6,000 (MD residents only),
- real world experience, mentorship from Host Organization, ~15 trainings on professional development topics, networking opportunities, and more.



**Chesapeake  
Conservation &  
Climate Corps**



**Chesapeake  
Bay Trust**



**Member application deadline:  
March 6th, 2026 at 4pm**

### **How to apply**

Visit Corps website

(<https://cbtrust.org/chesapeake-climate-corps/apply/members/>) to access:

- Application package
- Online application form
- List of potential Host Organizations for 2026-2027 Year
- Virtual Information Session recording and slide deck

### **Interested in becoming a Host Organization for the 2027-2028 Program Year?**

The Host application will open in September 2026. Host organizations must be a non-profit or government agency. Visit to view this year's application package and host eligibility information to get an idea of criteria!

<https://cbtrust.org/chesapeake-climate-corps/apply/hosts/>

**Reach out to the Trust's Corps team with any questions - [corps@cbtrust.org](mailto:corps@cbtrust.org)**

# Clean Air Partners

We educate the public in the greater metropolitan Baltimore-Washington region about health risks associated with poor air quality, the impacts on our environment, and simple actions we can take to protect our air.

We provide **free** air quality and climate science activities, called *On the Air*.

Contact me:

[espikes@cleanairpartners.net](mailto:espikes@cleanairpartners.net)

<https://www.ontheair.cleanairpartners.net/>



# Nature Ice Breakers

Have You Ever...

Which landscape best represents you?



# Questions & Answers



READY TO  
REGISTER??

