# **Environmental Youth Leaders Network (EYLN)**



## PURPOSE AND OVERVIEW

The San Mateo County Office of Education's (SMCOE) Environmental Literacy Initiative supports a number of stakeholders in attaining the following vision and mission:

- Vision: School communities and leaders, who advocate for and prioritize whole-school sustainability integration and environmental literacy, for all students.
- Mission: Through projects, programs, and events that support all stakeholders, SMCOE equips school communities with the knowledge, skills, and experiences to act individually and collectively to bring forward an environmentally sustainable, socially just, and economically thriving existence.

Youth (students) are a key stakeholder and are the main beneficiaries of the support pathways in place for teachers and district/site level administrators. And, SMCOE recognizes that it is important to connect directly with youth to build their capacity for leadership, and strengthen the voice of youth in the greater sustainability movement in San Mateo County (SMC). **Therefore, SMCOE launched the Environmental Youth Leaders Network (EYLN) in Spring 2018**!

EYLN brings together youth (7th-12th grade) leaders across San Mateo County (both public and private schools) who are eager to make an environmental sustainability impact in their community. EYLN educates and empowers students to take action now and be a part of creating this future, while providing opportunities to collaborate, problem solve, and network with like minded students across the county. It also encourage partnerships that will result in larger impacts on their communities.



# STRUCTURE AND SCHEDULE

The network will convene three times a year for youth summits that will feature feature inspirational speakers, panels on career and college pathways, best practice share-outs, time for networking and strategic planning, and time to connect with community partners. See below for upcoming dates for the 2018-19 school year:

- Saturday November 3 Fall Summit: Canada College 9:30 3:00
- Saturday March 9 Winter Summit: Location TBD 9:30 3:00
- Saturday May 18 Spring Summit: College of San Mateo 9:30 3:00

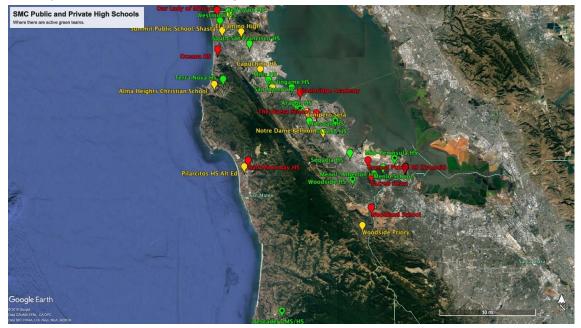


# SMC EYLN SUPPORTS ALL STAKEHOLDERS

STUDENT	For students that believe in creating a more sustainable future, the Environmental Youth Leadership Network (EYLN) provides opportunities to collaborate, problem solve, and network with like minded students across the county. This network serves as a space and medium for sharing resources and collaborating, discovering effective structures and strategies, as well as being a supportive context for youth to remain in communication throughout the year. This network was not only developed for students, but it is co-facilitated by students and supports local leadership efforts (i.e. Green or Environmental Clubs) to build momentum for youth voice to lead the environmental sustainability movement across San Mateo County. Furthermore, this network provides students with invaluable resume building skills and exposure to a multitude of careers.
TEACHER (Club Advisor)	The EYLN and summit events also provide support to the adult advisors who serve as club moderators. The network surfaces best practices for effective structure, strategies, and tools, that will prepare students to be successful when launching environmental sustainability campaigns and efforts. SMCOE's Environmental Literacy Team also has a wealth of resources for teachers, administrators, and staff and is available for consultation and to provide assistance when needed.
	SMCOE recognizes that youth leaders will bring forward change requests that impact facilities and operations, curriculum, and the overall institutional culture. Therefore, SMCOE's Environmental Literacy Team has developed resources and is available to provide in-person coaching that will support site and district administrators to respond and take action in partnership with youth leaders.

#### LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

In February of 2018, SMCOE's Environmental Literacy Team conducted an analysis of secondary schools to map out active green teams/clubs, and Environmental Science classes



Eighteen (18) of the 29 public high schools (including alternative/continuation schools and nine (9) of the 14 private high schools were identified as having an active green team/club, or Environmental Science class. Green above means they have participated in SMCOE youth programs, yellow have not yet participated, and red means they do not have a club or class based on communication.