



CLIMATE
for HEALTH™

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONVENING *Summary*

July 2015



US Climate &
Health Alliance



Health Care
Without Harm

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Table of Contents

Acknowledgments	3
Letter from the Conveners	4
Introduction	5
Key Convening Findings	6
Day 1: <i>Engaging the Health Sector for Climate Solutions</i>	8
Session I: Why the Health Sector Must Engage & Why Now?	8
Session II: Health Sector Opportunities for Engagement	9
Session III: Breakout Sessions on Key Health Leadership Topics	12
Day 2: <i>Advocating for Action & Solutions on Climate Health</i>	15
Session I: Scan of the Policy Landscape	15
Session 2: Breakout Sessions	18

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Health Care Without Harm's mission is to transform the health sector worldwide, without compromising patient safety or care, so that it becomes ecologically sustainable and a leading advocate for environmental health and justice. To learn more about Health Care Without Harm's work on climate and health, go to: <https://noharm-uscanada.org/issues/us-canada/climate-and-health>



The **US Climate and Health Alliance** is a national network of health and public health practitioners dedicated to addressing the threats of climate change to health. The Alliance works to activate and amplify the voices of public health and health care workers and professionals on the critical importance of climate change as a human and health crisis. To learn more about or to join the Alliance, go to: <http://climatehealthconnect.org/climate-and-health-alliance/join-the-alliance/>



ecoAmerica grows the base of popular support for climate solutions in America with research-driven marketing, partnerships, and national programs that connect with Americans' core values to shift personal and civic choices and behaviors. MomentUs is ecoAmerica's newest initiative. www.ecoAmerica.org www.MomentUs.org



Climate for Health is a national initiative led by a diverse network of health leaders from across the health sector representing key health care, public health, clinical and medical institutions and associations. Committed to advancing climate solutions to protect the health and well-being of Americans, our leaders offer support, inspiration, and resources to new leaders ready to make their own commitment and build support for climate solutions. To learn more about or to join Climate for Health, go to: climateforhealth.org

Greetings,

Health leaders and organizations nationwide share a positive vision for healthy people, healthy communities, and a healthy planet. Increasingly, health leaders are realizing that this vision can only be attained if we act quickly to address climate change, the greatest health challenge of the 21st century.

Health care providers and public health professionals are already seeing the impacts of climate change on their patients and in their communities. We know that climate change exacerbates many of our most pressing health challenges, and disproportionately impacts the most vulnerable and disadvantaged in our communities. We know that climate change also threatens critical systems upon which human life depends — our air, our water, food, shelter, and security. We need to address climate change before we exceed our human capacity to adapt and thrive.

The good news is that we can do something about climate change. We can slow and stop climate change, while helping to protect and enhance human health.

We can affect immediate action on climate solutions to reduce the risks and costs of climate changes. A robust response to climate change provides the opportunity to improve the health of our nation and reduce the health inequalities in our communities. We need to ensure that the public and policy makers understand the many connections between climate change and health and that the solutions are attainable, viable, accessible.

As the nation's most trusted leaders, health professionals and organizations have a professional responsibility to share knowledge on the wide-reaching and serious impacts of climate change on our health, and of the many health benefits we can reap from quick and strong climate action. With a responsibility to lead by example, health leaders, and their associations, organizations, and institutions, can demonstrate viable paths to a clean and health energy future. More health leaders are needed to bring their unique and critical expertise and voice to partner with local governments, community based organizations, leaders from other sectors, and businesses, to address climate change together.

We hope the Convening and this report will help provide a springboard for continuing to work together to attract and support more of our nation's health professionals to lead on climate.

Yours in health,



Gary Cohen
Health Care
Without Harm



Linda Rudolph
U.S. Climate and
Health Alliance



Bob Perkowitz
ecoAmerica/
Climate for Health

Introduction

In April 2015, Climate for Health, Health Care Without Harm, and the U.S. Climate and Health Alliance brought together over 70 leaders from across the country to Washington DC for the first Climate for Health National Leadership Convening. Over 2 days, health representatives from medical, public health and health care organizations, engaged in conversations and strategic planning to discuss a health sector response to climate change with the goal of expanding, accelerating and elevating health leadership on this critical issue.

These leaders were brought together because climate change is a critical health issue and more health leaders are needed out front and engaging the public on the importance of health. Evidence shows climate change is endangering the health and well-being of our communities and families now. Health professionals understand these health impacts, are essential to amplifying the significance of the issue, and can offer solutions and hope. Further, among the general public, health professionals are one of the most highly respected and trusted sources of information. Health leaders can also educate their peers and constituents, increasing the number and volume of health voices speaking out on this issue and talking about both the impacts and solutions - to their patients, communities and decision makers.

With the release of new data that supports the impacts of climate change on health, and high level leaders demonstrating their commitment to climate change, the climate and health connection is gaining traction and growing momentum. Indicators such as President Obama's action on climate change, the Papal encyclical on the environment, and the White House Summit on Climate and Health, all underscore that now is the time act. Health leadership is essential to influencing a national tipping point toward support for climate solutions that will enhance the health of all Americans now and in the future.

The national health leadership convening provided a critical opportunity for health leaders to engage in dynamic and meaningful discussions with each other in order to develop strategies to generate collective action. The Convening concluded with recommended actions for expanding, engaging, equipping and activating the health sector to better leverage its exceptional capacity for leadership on climate solutions. This report summarizes the Convening and includes the top findings that emerged for health sector action on climate change.



Key Convening Findings: A Call for National Action

On April 1-2, 2015, over 70 national health leaders gathered to hear from experts across the sector, engage in dynamic discussion, and develop general consensus on how to strengthen health leadership and collaboration on climate change and move the sector forward to advance climate solutions. The following Convening findings will help inform and guide the ongoing development of a sector-wide leadership strategy and response to climate change:

- 1. High-level National Leadership:** Health leaders need to elevate their leadership to impress upon government agencies and high level representatives such as the Surgeon General, Health and Human Services, policy-makers, and the American public, the urgency of climate change as a public health priority.
- 2. Communications and Messaging:** New and deeper work is needed to create and disseminate effective, motivating messages around climate and health to encourage, empower and equip health leaders to speak out on this issue and to engage others to support or participate in solutions.
- 3. Health Professional Education and Engagement:** There are currently very few health messengers on climate change. Health professional education and engagement is needed to enhance and expand professional knowledge about the health impacts and co-benefits of climate solutions across the health sector, and to prepare them to activate on the issue.
- 4. Leveraging Upcoming Key Events:** Health organizations can collaborate and build on upcoming opportunities to highlight climate change as a health issue (and can partner with other sectors in this effort). Opportunities include: the forthcoming Lancet report on Climate Change and Health, COP21Paris, the Papal Encyclical on Ecology, the Moral March, and President Obama's commitment to combat climate change - including the recently announced White House Climate and Health Summit slated for June 23, 2015.
- 5. Building Partnerships for Local Engagement:** Health organizations should collaborate within and beyond the sector to work at the local level with local health and community leaders to build climate resilient communities and more explicitly address climate change.
- 6. Strengthen Infrastructure for Health Sector Collaboration:** New sources of funding and support need to be secured for more efficient and impactful health sector collaboration. A case for funding health and climate work must be made, and efforts to attract new funding must be amplified. This funding can support resources and activities such as: sector-wide and peer-to-peer exchanges, a dedicated website/resources center encompassing multiple health disciplines/fields, new/improved multi-media tools and materials, a mapping of existing efforts, development of a menu of existing options for health professionals for engaging on climate and health, and initiatives to build collective action for public and political will on solutions.

- 7. Advocacy and Making the Health Voice Stronger at All Levels of Government:** More advocates must be engaged, empowered, and activated to inform the public and policymakers about the urgency of climate action and the health and equity benefits of climate solutions to increase support for climate action.
- 8. Health Care Should Lead by Example in Addressing its Own Climate Footprint:** Hospitals and clinics should reduce its reliance on fossil fuels to power its facilities and model the transition to low carbon healthcare. As they do so, they should help reframe climate solutions as being good for community health as well as the health of the planet.

Please Note: A follow up meeting of health leaders was held on May 20, 2015 with the goal of building upon the ideas generated and discussed at the Convening. A summary report of that meeting will be shared under separate cover.



Day 1: Engaging the Health Sector for Climate Solutions

SESSION I: WHY THE HEALTH SECTOR MUST ENGAGE AND WHY NOW?

This session provided national perspective on the case for expanding and mobilizing Health leadership on climate.

1. Why should Health leaders engage on climate?
2. And, why now?

SPEAKERS



Gary Cohen, *Founder and President, Healthcare Without Harm*

Cohen opened the session with a provocative question: What is the role of health care in a world where: children are being born with toxic chemicals in their body; food is contributing to chronic disease; and diseases from fossil fuels and climate change are outstripping malaria, tuberculosis and Aids? The mission of the health sector is to protect the health of our communities, which includes protecting the environment. The health sector can play three critical roles in combating climate change: 1) ensure communities are climate resilient and the infrastructure is in place to protect them; 2) lead by example in moving away from fossil fuels and promoting toxic free economies; 3) positioning trusted health messengers to communicate that climate change is a public health emergency.



Linda Rudolph, *Co-Convenor U.S. Climate and Health Alliance, Director, Center for Climate Change and Health*

Dr. Rudolph stressed that although climate change is happening now and is endangering the health and wellbeing of communities, climate solutions offer opportunities for great health improvements. But the public does not hear or understand the significance of the issue. The health community has the power, credibility and mission to protect people from harm and injustice. The health sector needs to come together to develop a roadmap for health protective climate solutions and actions, and to be a leading voice on climate change. The U.S. Climate and Health Alliance offers a place for health professionals to support one another to act on climate change.



Bob Perkowitz, *President and Founder, ecoAmerica*

Reinforced that climate change is happening now, is adversely impacting the health of communities across the country, and added that feasible solutions are at hand. We need to move climate change from a special interest issue of environmentalism to a mainstream issue. There is a need to build leadership among the health sector and empower them to speak out and engage others to help the public understand that climate is a health issue. The Climate for Health initiative is intended to help the health sector to do just that.

SESSION II: HEALTH SECTOR OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENGAGEMENT

What are the most effective ways to engage on climate change? This session included a series of panels featuring national experts sharing high level ideas spanning engagement opportunities within the following key areas: professional education, communications and messaging, policy and advocacy, preparing resilient health systems and health care reform, and through community-based initiatives. Speakers also highlighted existing initiatives already underway by health organizations that offer opportunities for engagement and education.

SPEAKERS

Moderator: **Dr. Catherine Thomasson**, *Executive Director, Physicians for Social Responsibility*

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Dr. Mona Sarfaty, *Director, Program on Climate and Health, Center for Climate Change Communication, George Mason University*

Sarfaty reported that a recent survey of three medical associations, the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology, the American Thoracic Society, and the National Medical Association, whose members include allergists, pulmonologists, and African American physicians, respectively, revealed that there is both great promise and challenge around engaging our nation's physicians to lead on climate and health. Across the three groups, approximately fifty percent surveyed indicated that climate change is damaging and affecting the health of their own patients, most commonly due to pulmonary conditions, allergies, and injuries; 75% supported providing continuing and undergraduate medical education about the effects of climate change; and felt that physicians should play a leadership role in environmental sustainability.

Georges Benjamin, *M.D., Executive Director, American Public Health Association*

Benjamin stressed the need to educate practitioners about climate change, and the importance of building awareness among policy makers and the general public. APHA has been working on this issue for several years, has a number of educational resources on the topic to share, and is continuing to work on efforts to help support health professionals across the sector to learn about and become more involved in the climate and public health intersection.

Dr. Aparna Bole, *Sustainability Manager, University Hospitals; fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP); member of the AAP's Council on Environmental Health*

Several health organizations - the American Thoracic Society, American Lung Association and others - have been advocating at the national level on this issue for years. The work of these groups needs to continue and be amplified. More educational materials such as those developed by George Mason University for the health sector are needed.

COMMUNICATION, MESSAGING, MEDIA

Ed Maibach, *Director, Center for Climate Communications, George Mason University*

Maibach explained that people who hold five key beliefs are more likely to engage with climate change: it's real; it's us (human-caused); experts agree (there is a scientific consensus about human-caused climate change; it's bad (for people); it's solvable (there's hope). Most Americans know nothing about the connection between climate change and health - not *who* is currently being

harmed or *how* people's health is being harmed – yet when presented with this information, they find it to be of value. Moreover, Americans across the political spectrum think that fossil fuels are unhealthful fuels, and they are interested in seeing America transition to clean renewable fuels. America's health professionals can play an important role by conveying two key messages: (1) Climate change is happening here, now, and our health is being harmed – especially the health of our children, our parents, people who have chronic diseases, and poor people; and (2) Cleaning up our fuels – moving away from dirty fossil fuels and moving toward clean renewable fuels – is the most important action we can take to limit climate change, and doing so will have immediate benefits for our health.

Meighen Speiser, Chief Engagement Officer, *ecoAmerica*

Americans do not understand climate change but they do understand we can solve big problems, said Speiser. To transform society and truly engage Americans on this issue, the message needs to go beyond health. It needs to be personal, inspiring and urgent. As with faith leaders, the public trusts health leaders and looks to them for cues on attitudes and behaviors. Many in the health sector are ready or already engaged – it is necessary to empower these leaders to speak out and lead by example. They need to know that we can do something about climate change, and they need permission to lead on solutions.

Diana Van Vleet, Manager of Policy Communications, *Climate Nexus*

Van Vleet spoke about getting the message out and taking advantage of upcoming mainstream news opportunities such as the release of the Lancet Commission Report on climate change and Pope Francis's Encyclical, which will also focus on climate change. She suggested the release of joint statements and media notes from diverse health experts.

HEALTH SYSTEM ROLE AND RESPONSE

Dara Lieberman, Senior Government Relations Manager, *Trust for America's Health*

An opportunity for engagement, and for educating health leaders and their patients, may be through the Affordable Care Act. ACA requires not-for-profit hospitals to engage in community health needs assessments and implementation plans – in order to maintain their tax exempt status – and health leaders are often leading these efforts to assess and address community health needs. There are examples around the country where a health issue identified through the community health needs assessment, such as the prevalence of asthma attacks during summer months, can help illuminate the link between health and climate among health leaders, and spur action by a not-for-profit hospital.

Seema Wadhwa, Assistant Vice President Sustainability and Wellness, *Inova Health System*

Hospitals can have a significant negative impact on the environment through operations and waste products. At the same time, hospitals are also in a unique position based on their core mission to lead by example, and reduce waste and operate in a more sustainable way. As an example, Inova is trying to reduce its own energy burden and is working with the George Mason Center for Climate Communications to assess their own employees understanding of climate and health via administering a survey this spring to their staff, including physicians.

OPPORTUNITY FOR HEALTH SECTOR ENGAGEMENT AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

Garrett Fitzgerald, *Strategic Partnerships Advisor, Urban Sustainability Directors' Network*

Through experience in working with the USDN network, Fitzgerald stressed the importance of peer to peer exchange - especially with issues as tough and complicated as climate change. USDN has up to 300 local governments with climate action plans to reduce emissions through 2050 - lending itself as a prime target and network to reach local officials and the communities they serve with the health and climate message.

David Dyjack, *Associate Executive Director, National Association of City and County Health Officials (incoming Executive Director, National Environmental Health Association)*

Dyjack opened with an irony: There is considerable conversation about the implications of ACA on public health but there is virtually no discussion about the implications of climate change on public health. A recent survey found that 50% of health directors believe climate change is affecting their constituents but only 5% had active programs to address the issue. The nation's 2800 local health departments are ideally suited to be test-beds of innovation. As such, local health officials are ideal partners to support messaging and communications efforts, implement model programs and amplify efforts of the clinical professions.

Martha Arguello, *Executive Director, Physicians for Social Responsibility - Los Angeles*

Principles of social justice and reducing health disparities must drive the work to address climate change, stated Arguello. Successes in California, on climate change will depend on ensuring that we win direct emissions reductions of all global warming gases. We are having some success in focusing attention on ensuring the health, equity and economic development are central to our implementation of the Global Warming Solutions Act. As ambassadors for health we need to deliver the messages that climate change policies have the potential to transform our communities and without a strong social justice frame we run the risk of having unintended negative consequences.



SESSION III: BREAKOUT SESSIONS ON KEY HEALTH LEADERSHIP TOPICS

Leaders participated in interactive discussions through concurrent breakout sessions to dive deeper into key strategies for maximizing health sector leadership and engagement. Topical experts facilitated these working sessions to support participants to identify opportunities and resources for taking action and moving forward climate and health solutions.

HEALTH PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT

1. What role does professional education have in building awareness and understanding of health impacts and solutions on climate change?
2. How can we bridge from professional education to broadening engagement by health professionals on climate solutions?

Many health professionals are very concerned about climate change impacts on health, but need more education about the health impacts and co-benefits of climate solutions, and more information about how they can engage in efforts to reduce climate change and build more climate resilient communities. Suggested strategies to enhance education and engagement include:

- Develop standardized core content that can be incorporated into a broad range of **continuing education curricula** and an array of materials and tools.
- **Provide access to this content in many venues**, on an easily accessible curated resource website, and in health sciences curricula.
- **Provide for peer-to-peer exchange** and on-going connection on climate change and health among engaged organizations and individuals.
- **Broaden and expand the circle of health leaders and institutions engaged on the issue:** strategically reach out to and engage the major 'mainstream,' large, health/medical organizations; coordinate delegation of prominent health leaders to engage other leaders and their organizations; identify incentives to engage on the issue for those who have competing mandates; hold future health/climate convenings.

COMMUNICATIONS, MESSAGING, MEDIA

1. How can we maximize our communication opportunities to elevate the Health voice on climate change?
2. What is our message, how do we deliver it, and who are the best messengers?
3. What role can Health leaders play in the media to help shift awareness, understanding, and action on climate?

Climate change is complex, can be daunting for the average person, and provides communication challenges for many health professionals. Strategies to improve and support climate and health communications and messaging include:

- Develop a **compelling messaging platform** to reach the public and influence policy makers that includes a simple, clear, strong, and empowering “meta-message.” “Meta-message” should incorporate equity and justice, provide hope, include solutions, suggest a meaningful way forward, and form the building block for more specific, tailored messages for different disciplines within the sector. Storytelling to illustrate impacts and solutions is key.
- Train and coordinate a **cadre of climate and health champions** who are able and available to serve as skilled spokespeople who can be mobilized to participate in and attend important hearings and briefings, and communicate with the broader public in a variety of venues and formats.
- **Provide the tools and materials that the champions need to be effective**, such as sample presentations, videos, infographics, op-eds, and stories, and real-time technical assistance and support.
- Identify and enlist “**mega-messengers**” with star power.
- Develop a **joint health and medical leaders and organizations statement**.

HEALTH SYSTEMS ROLE AND RESPONSE

1. How can the health system most effectively respond to and play a leadership role in addressing climate change?
2. How can hospitals partner with CDC and others to understand and communicate the health impacts of climate change?
3. How can new requirements regarding community health needs assessments and community benefit increase awareness of the health implications of climate change and target investments by hospitals and health systems in sustainability and resilience?
4. How can preparedness for climate change be integrated into new systems of care financing and delivery that are being developed in the context of a reforming health care system?

Hospitals and health care systems are vital anchor institutions and deeply embedded in their communities, as well as large employers; their staff are seen as community leaders. Health sector response strategies include:

- Ensure that **hospitals and health facilities are prepared** for climate change.
- **Lead by example**, such as healthier hospitals initiatives on clean energy and sustainable food procurement, and waste and chemical reduction.
- **Deepen partnerships and collaboration** among health care and public health.
- Use Community Health Needs Assessments, Community Benefit, and the Climate Resilience toolkit to **engage community**.
- **Educate the health care workforce**, and engage leaders as messengers.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR HEALTH SECTOR ENGAGEMENT AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

1. How are local and regional governments and community based organizations addressing climate change through planning for greenhouse gas emissions reduction, adaptation, and community resilience to the impacts of climate change?
2. How can the health sector support and lead these efforts? How can we help to engage communities, using a health frame?
3. How can we ensure that climate action also promotes health and equity?

Climate change effects on health are happening at the local level and the climate/health nexus is largely a local issue. Local community and health leaders are essential to elevating the issue and identifying community-based solutions. Health professionals and health and medical organizations already work with local governments and community groups in a variety of ways. These partnerships can be expanded to more explicitly address climate change. Strategies include:

- Value the assets, knowledge, and work of **residents in impacted communities**, and **recognize the equity impacts** of climate solutions.
- Engage and empower **youth**.
- Work with local government to **integrate health and equity in climate planning**.
- Integrate climate change in **community-oriented health programs** and link climate and health services.



Day 2: Advocating for Action and Solutions on Climate Health

In day 2, leaders heard from national experts about the climate and health policy landscape at the local, state, federal, and global level. They then explored opportunities to leverage health voices and advocate on specific issue areas that include a strong intersection with climate and health including: the co-benefits of active transportation, sustainable food systems, clean and more efficient energy, and divestment in fossil fuel, and honed in on the need for funding to support health organizations and leaders in this important work.

SESSION I: SCAN OF THE POLICY LANDSCAPE

Leaders shared opportunities for policy and advocacy engagement at the local, state, federal and international levels.

LOCAL AND REGIONAL POLICY

Speakers: **Denise Fairchild**, *President and CEO, Emerald Cities Collaborative*

Mark Mitchell, *co-chair Commission on Environmental Health Task Force, National Medical Association*

Local and Regional level policy are crucial facets of the broader narrative on combating climate change. Community voices are often mitigated by big businesses asserting that they do not understand the complexities of the science. Health leaders and expertise can help educate, motivate and mobilize community members to be more confident in voicing their concerns about the health impacts of fossil fuel companies who harm their health by harming their environment. This is often done by reviewing and confirming the legitimacy of community concerns.

Local and Regional priorities identified included support and advocacy for:

- Integrating health/equity in local climate plans
- Addressing localized fossil fuels impacts (fracking, oil/coal transport)
- Supporting distributed energy generation and net metering
- Linking impacts of extractive economy on health and equality/equity
- Partner with social, and economic, and environmental justice organizations

STATE POLICY

Speaker: **Sara Pollock Hoverter**, *Senior Fellow and adjunct professor, Harrison Institute for Public Law, Georgetown University Law Center*

State level policy is very important with significant attention and efforts now being focused there. It is important for the health sector to advocate – individually and collectively – for clean air as well as other regulations that will help to combat climate change. In particular, transportation, sustainable food systems, and alternative energy are areas where the health voice and advocates are important – policies in these areas are beneficial both to health and to combating climate change.



State Policy priorities identified included support and advocacy to:

- Energy
 - Clean Power plan strong state implementation
 - Energy efficiency, RPS standards, distributed energy
- Transportation
 - Include health/climate in state transportation revenue schemes
 - Promote use of federal dollars for healthy, climate friendly options
 - Active transport, LCFS, (clean vehicles)
 - Implement rules requiring states to consider climate in transportation planning (e.g. active transport, permeable/cool pavements)
- Food and agriculture
 - State funding for sustainable local food systems, ag land preservation, soil carbon programs
- Incorporate human health & equity in state climate adaptation plans
- Integrate health co-benefits and equity impacts in mitigation plans

NATIONAL/FEDERAL POLICY

Speakers: **Donald Hoppert**, Director Government Relations, American Public Health Association

Lyndsay Moseley, Assistant Vice-President and Director, Health Air Campaign, American Lung Assn.

Elizabeth Perera, Climate Policy Director, Sierra Club

The national policy landscape is tough – most national advocacy from the health sector has focused on clean air regulations – the Clean Power Plan and others. Despite fairly strong national leadership and significant advocacy efforts, there is low level of engagement by the broader health sector on these issues.

Federal policy priorities identified included support and advocacy for:

- Clean Air Act
- Clean Power Plan - make it strong and just (environmental and economic justice)
- Ozone Standard
- Cross-state air pollution rule
- Natural gas methane standard (summer)
- Coal ash rule

- Transportation
 - Funding for transit and active transportation
 - Performance measures including emissions and vehicle miles traveled
 - Flexibility in road design standards linked to complete streets standards
- Food and Agricultural Systems
 - USDA Dietary Guidelines on sustainability
 - Child Nutrition Reauthorization buy local provision
- Infrastructure funding
 - Make green infrastructure eligible for highway construction dollars
- Capps HR 1275 “Climate Change Health Protection and Promotion Act”

INTERNATIONAL POLICY

Speaker: **Josh Karliner**, Director of Global Projects, Healthcare Without Harm

Health groups can also help the cause and lead by example in divestment of fossil fuels. There are several organizations who are leading the way in investment/divestment – they can provide the models and framework for others to follow.

Divestment priorities identified included:

- Connect health with moral arguments e.g., for intergenerational justice
- Partner with students (especially health sciences students), unions, CBOs, faith communities
- Sign-on statement for health professionals supporting divestment



SESSION II: BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Leaders identified key advocacy opportunities across multiple areas, and discussed concrete ways in which the health voice could be strengthened through collaboration across organizations and through greater engagement of affiliates and members. Topic areas for discussion included:

- Advocacy for Climate Action with Health Co-Benefits: Active Transportation and Food Systems
- Clean Energy
- Divestment and Reinvestment
- Funding: Climate Change and Health Research, Public Health and Climate

ADVOCACY: MAKING THE HEALTH VOICE STRONGER ACROSS CLIMATE-RELATED ISSUE AREAS AND AT ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT

Informing the public and policymakers about the urgency of climate action and the health and equity benefits of climate solutions is very important, and can increase support for climate action.

Strategies include:

- Develop a health and climate “meta-message” that provides coherent voice
- Conduct a joint Health and Climate policy-maker education day
- Build on existing strong coalitions e.g. clean air and energy, sustainable food systems, active transportation, green and living wage jobs
- Identify key policy priorities and opportunities - federal, state, and local
- Work with Global Climate and Health Alliance & other international partners to raise the health voice in support of strong international agreement

CLEAN ENERGY

Health leaders and groups can influence and voice support for clean energy initiatives. Effective uses of clean energy combat climate change and given the economic opportunities, provide a solution that promotes innovation and expansion rather than contraction and sacrifice.

- Connect health with moral arguments, e.g., for intergenerational justice
- Partner with students (especially health sciences students), unions, CBOs, faith communities
- Sign-on statement for health professionals supporting divestment



FUNDING

One significant barrier of many health groups in their ability to engage is limited funding and in-house capacity. Funding is not making its way to the health sector for many reasons such as a lack of understanding among funders about climate and health, and about the health sector in general (who they are, what they do). There is a need to build stronger relationships between the health sector and potential funders sources – philanthropy and federal agencies. A briefing report on climate and health philanthropy, "Achieving a Climate for Health Philanthropy to Promote Health and Justice through the Challenges of Climate Change," is forthcoming from ecoAmerica in collaboration with the Health Environmental Funders Network.

Strengthen infrastructure for efficient, impactful health sector collaboration. Public health and health care organizations both need resources to develop and implement the strategies identified above. More structured collaboration and sharing is one approach to maximizing outcomes with limited resources.

- Secure funding and resources for infrastructure and staff for peer support, peer-to-peer exchange, resources website, and tools/materials. (e.g. USCHA)
- Campaign for executive order to require HHS to embed/reflect climate change in all relevant programs and funding streams
- Engage with health and environmental funders to address the climate change and health “philanthropy gap”.



Thank you to our Attendees:

1. Norman Anderson	CEO	American Psychological Association
2. Martha Arguello	Executive Director	Physicians for Social Responsibility- Los Angeles
3. Paz Artaza-Regan	Climate Organizer	Physicians for Social Responsibility
4. Elaine Auld	CEO	Society for Public Health Education
5. John Balbus	Senior Advisor for Public Health	National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, NIH
6. Kara Ball	Director, Higher Education	ecoAmerica
7. Dan Barry	Communities Director	ecoAmerica
8. Elizabeth Bast	MPH student	Johns Hopkins School of Public Health
9. Joy Blackwood	Program Director	Green Group c/o Environmental Defense Fund
10. Meryl Blomrosen	Sr. Vice President, Policy, Advocacy and Research	Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
11. Aparna Bole	PED; MD, Comm. Integration; Sustainability Manager	University Hospitals of Cleveland
12. Lisa Brown	Program Analyst	National Association of County and City Health Officials
13. Ryan Canavan	Sustainability Engagement Coordinator	Georgetown University School of Nursing
14. Gary Cohen	Co-founder, President, and ED	Health Care Without Harm
15. Debra Cohn	Senior Washington Counsel	American Medical Association
16. Kathleen Danskin	Management Analyst	GAP Solutions, supporting HHS/ASPR
17. Kathy Dervin	Sr. Climate and Health Specialist	PHI
18. Nicole Dreisbach	Program Director	Grantmakers In Health
19. David Dyjack	Incoming Executive Director	National Environmental Health Association
20. Angela Dyjack	Environmental Health Senior Manager	American Public Health Association
21. Gary Ewart	Senior Director, Government Relations	American Thoracic Society
22. Ted Eytan	Medical Director, Center for Total Health	Kaiser Permanente
23. Denise Fairchild	President and CEO	Emerald Cities
24. Garrett Fitzgerald	Strategic Partnerships Advisor	Urban Sustainability Directors Network
25. Karla Fortunato	Director	Health and Environmental Funders Network
26. Barbara Gottlieb	Director, Environment and Health	Physicians for Social Responsibility
27. Martin Hamlette	Executive Director	National Medical Association
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ecoAmerica grows the base of popular support for climate solutions in America with research-driven marketing, partnerships, and national programs that connect with Americans' core values to bring about and support change in personal and civic choices and behaviors.

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