

Climate change has created a public health emergency. To meet this challenge, major medical societies—in partnership with a range of other health professional societies and other leading health organizations—have come together to form the Medical Society Consortium on Climate & Health. Our shared conviction is that climate change is a health emergency that can and must be addressed through climate- and health-smart policies. Our shared goal is to create a future where all people have clean air, clean water and nutritious food, and where our climate has remained in the safe zone of less than 1.5°C of warming.

The Problem

Climate change is already harming Americans' health in many ways. We are experiencing more illness and deaths from heat waves, extreme weather events, water, food, and insect borne diseases, wildfires, and increased air pollution. Without immediate and concerted action, these harms will become much worse. While everyone's health is threatened, those who are most vulnerable include children and seniors, pregnant women, individuals with certain chronic illnesses, and people living in communities already disadvantaged by poverty, racial discrimination, and environmental injustice.

To address this problem our Consortium organizes, empowers, amplifies, and mobilizes the voices of doctors and other health professionals to advocate for equitable and effective health-focused climate solutions.



Organizing

- Since our launch in 2016, our membership has grown rapidly to 41 national medical societies representing over 700,000 physicians—more than 70% of U.S. doctors.
- We have 67 partner organizations representing millions of health professionals across the spectrum of health care and public health, including the American Lung Association, American Heart Association, and American Cancer Society—each with a strong grassroots membership.
- Since 2017, we have incubated or helped strengthen 20 state “clinicians for climate action” groups, doubling the size of our state network in the past two years. These state groups educate the public and policymakers in their state, and advocate for state and local policies that support healthy people and a sustainable future.



Empowering

- In partnership with other health organizations, we developed and released a [U.S. Policy Action Agenda on Climate, Health and Equity](#) to establish principles for equitable and effective health-focused climate solutions. Currently endorsed by more than 200 medical, nursing and public health professional societies and academic institutions, and 500 hospitals, the *Agenda* presents ten key broad policy priorities.
- We provide state groups and individual health advocates with training on organizing, digital advocacy, federal policy, and climate communication—using guides we developed on messaging, interacting with public officials, writing op-eds, and climate and health policies. Our newest report, [The Health Promise of Climate Solutions](#), outlines five sets of solutions that deliver immediate, localized, health and equity benefits.
- In 2021 we launched the Climate and Health Equity Fellowship program: a ten-month program to empower doctors of color to become leaders in climate and health equity education and policy advocacy.



Amplifying

- Our work and our experts have been featured in the news more than 900 times over the past three years. The release of our *Policy Action Agenda* alone—which featured our declaration that “climate change is a health emergency”—generated more than 450 stories.
- We have more than 1,500 health professionals—climate and health advocates—who are now available in communities across the country to speak with local media, engage with local policymakers, and make community presentations. In 2021 alone, our advocates were featured in the news nearly 200 times.
- In 2021, we launched a Climate & Health Rapid Response Media Team. This program is providing in-depth training to health professionals from around the country with the aim of making them regional “go to” sources for journalists reporting on climate and health impacts.



Mobilizing

- In 2021 alone, our advocates met with over 150 Congressional offices and other policymakers and sent nearly 6,000 emails to their members of Congress; we also doubled the number of individual advocates in our database from 2,500 to more than 5,000.
- Working in partnership with other climate and health organizations, we led four major letter sign-ons in 2021, including recommendations for the Biden-Harris Administration, recommendations for the Department of Health and Human Services, and recommendations for Congress. These letters garnered hundreds of organizational endorsements and were well received by the administration.
- Our advocates have testified on regulatory issues put forward by federal agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency and on state regulatory issues from public service commissions, state agencies, etc.

Our Members and Affiliates

MEMBERS: Academic Pediatric Association (APA), Academy of Integrative Health and Medicine (AIHM), American Academy of Allergy Asthma & Immunology (AAAAI), American Academy of Dermatology (AAD), American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO), American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (AAPM&R), American Association for Community Psychiatry (AAPC), American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP), American College of Emergency Physicians CA, American College of Emergency Physicians WI, American College of Lifestyle Medicine (ACLM), American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM), American College of Osteopathic Internists (ACOI), American College of Physicians (ACP), American College of Preventive Medicine (ACPM), American College of Radiology (ACR), American Geriatrics Society (AGS), American Medical Association (AMA), American Medical Women's Association (AMWA), American Podiatric Medical Association (APMA), American Psychiatric Association (APA), American Society of Cataract & Refractive Surgery (ASCRS), American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), American Telemedicine Association (ATA), Association of Academic Physiatrists (AAP), Endocrine Society (ES), Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA), Maine Medical Association (MMA), Medical Dermatology Society (MDS), Medical Society of Delaware (MSD), National Medical Association (NMA), National Hispanic Medical Association (NHMA), Nevada State Medical Association (NSMA), Society for Academic Emergency Medicine (SAEM), Society for Disaster Medicine and Public Health (SDMPH), Society for Pediatric Dermatology (SPD), Society of General Internal Medicine (SGIM), Society of Gynecologic Oncology (SGO), Society for Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility (SREI), Wilderness Medical Society (WMS).

AFFILIATES: We have 67 affiliate health organizations including the American Lung Association, The American Heart Association, and the American Cancer Society. You can find a full list [on our website](#).

Climate and Health State Network

Through our State Network we organize, train, and mobilize health professionals as climate and health advocates at the state and local levels. We provide State Network leaders with one-on-one coaching, training, tools for digital advocacy, and insight on strategic opportunities to engage at the federal level. In 2021 we provided funding for several state groups to engage with and support environmental justice and other frontline groups.

- Arizona Health Professionals for Climate Action
- Healthy Air and Water Colorado
- Georgia Clinicians for Climate Action
- Illinois Clinicians for Climate Action
- Health Professionals for Healthy Climate (Minnesota)
- NH Healthcare Workers for Climate Action
- North Carolina Clinicians for Climate Action
- Puerto Rico Clinicians for Climate Action
- Utah Physicians for Healthy Environment
- Vermont Climate and Health Alliance
- Climate Health Now (California)
- Florida Clinicians for Climate Action
- Idaho Clinicians for Climate Action
- Montana Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate
- Michigan Clinicians for Climate Action
- Clinicians for Climate Action New Jersey
- Ohio Clinicians for Climate Action
- South Carolina Clinicians for Climate Action
- Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action
- Wisconsin Health Professionals for Climate Action

There is no time to waste: We must act now to protect people's health and keep our climate in the safe zone.

We welcome collaboration, partnerships, and financial support from organizations and individuals who share our goals. For more information, contact us at info@medsocietiesforclimatehealth.org