CLIMATE AND HEALTH

GHG Emissions Impact our Health

Image from the 2018 Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change Brief for the United States of America
Climate change poses “unacceptably high and potentially catastrophic risk”\textsuperscript{1} to human health

- Heat waves and related mortalities
- Changing patterns of disease transmission
- Threats to food security
- Water contamination
- Rising seas and flooding, and resulting damage to health infrastructures

These challenges exacerbate health inequities that communities of color and low-income people already face

What Drives Health?²

- Health is more than Health Care
- Health inequities are neither natural nor inevitable
- Your zip-code may be more important than your genetic code for health
- The choices we make are shaped by the choices we have before us
- Structural racism acts as a force in the distribution of opportunities to health
- All policy is health policy

²Health Equity Report for the District of Columbia 2018
Human and Civil Rights Framework

**Human Rights**
- Right to Self Determination
- Right to Safe and Healthy Work Conditions
- Right to Highest Standard of Physical and Mental Health
- Right to Food
- Right to a Decent Living Condition
- Equal Rights Between Men and Women
- Right of Youth and Children to be Free From Exploitation

**Civil Rights**
- Ensuring peoples' physical integrity and safety.
- Protection from discrimination on grounds such as gender, religion, race, sexual orientation, national origin, age, immigrant status, etc.
- Equal access to health care, education, culture, etc.

Adapted from presentation by Jacqui Patterson Director, NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice Program on February 27, 2017
CLIMATE, HEALTH & EQUITY

An Equity Framework

Procedural  Distributive  Contextual
CDC’S CLIMATE AND HEALTH PROGRAM

Building Resilience Against Climate Effects

1. Anticipate Climate Impacts and Assess Vulnerabilities
2. Project the Disease Burden
3. Assess Public Health Interventions
4. Develop and Implement a Climate and Health Adaptation Plan
5. Evaluate Impact and Improve Quality of Activities
EXTREME HEAT

Cooling the Community

Increase the tree canopy to help keep buildings and the surrounding air cooler
Create cool paving and roofs by using reflective and porous materials to help lower the surrounding temperature.
EXTREME HEAT

Cooling the Community

Develop or expand the extreme heat alert system that ensures vulnerable populations can be reached.

Plan cooling centers ahead of time
ADAPTING TO THE NEW NORMAL

Minnesota

OUR SOLUTION

Extreme Heat Toolkit to guide local health officials in responding to heat events

UNIQUE OFFERING

Use GIS mapping to identify vulnerable communities and neighborhoods

LASTING IMPACT

Resources allocated to most vulnerable areas. Participating communities grew from two to six in just one year.
ADAPTING TO THE NEW NORMAL

San Francisco

OUR SOLUTION

The city’s first heat vulnerability index to pinpoint most susceptible neighborhoods

UNIQUE OFFERING

Index analyzed surface temperature data alongside 21 social and environmental vulnerabilities

LASTING IMPACT

Index now informs city planning decisions, education efforts, and designated cooling centers
“Do we settle for the world as it is, or do we work for the world as it should be?”

—President Barack Obama
Thank You

Surili Sutaria Patel
Center for Climate, Health and Equity
Center for Public Health Policy

apha.org/climate