



Join Health Professionals for Climate Health

The American Lung Association in Ohio **Health Professionals for Climate Health** campaign highlights the medical and health community's support for Ohio's leadership on clean air and climate policies. Together, we are working to create healing environments by tackling one of the most serious public health challenges of our day.

Why should you join this campaign?

- The World Health Organization has asserted that climate change is poised to be one of the biggest health threats of the 21st [century](#). Scientists say that warmer temperatures can enhance the conditions for lethal air pollutants, including ozone and particle pollution, and increase the risk of unhealthy air in Ohio and large parts of the U.S.
- The derivative health impacts of climate change include morbidity and mortality due to extreme weather, disruption of the food supply, increased respiratory and cardiovascular disease, spread of vector borne disease, scarcity of safe potable water, and direct heat [stress](#). In fact, climate change is already causing tens of thousands of deaths every year, and this number is projected to rise [exponentially](#).
- The 2014 ALA State of the Air reported that Cleveland, Akron, Canton, Cincinnati and Dayton still ranked in the worst 50 cities in the nation for long-term particle pollution.
- In surveys of the public, health professionals consistently rank as the most trusted messengers on the impacts of climate change. Therefore, health professionals have a powerful voice in getting the public to understand that climate change is real, important to them and something we must take action to prevent.

The **Health Professionals for Climate Health** campaign is working to move Ohio forward to cleaner, healthier air that will reduce costly health emergencies and improve public health.

How do I participate?

Contact Linda Diamond at linda.diamond@lung.org to submit a headshot or picture with a *brief* statement (1-3 sentences) on why climate health and clean air is important to you as a health professional.

On the back of this page are some examples from Doctors and Nurses for Climate Health. If you click on the link below, it will give you more examples of doctors and nurses from Ohio.

<http://www.lung.org/local-content/ohio/our-initiatives/current-initiatives/doctors-nurses-climate.html>

Linda Diamond

linda.diamond@lung.org

614-324-3001



Aparna Bole, MD
 UH Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital
 Cleveland, Ohio

As a pediatrician, I am dedicated to ensuring a healthy future for all children. Climate change poses serious health threats that disproportionately impact children: from extreme weather events, to increased air pollution, to changing patterns of infectious disease. It is our responsibility to act on behalf of current and future generations of children to reduce the impacts of climate change. Fortunately, actions such as reducing our reliance on fossil fuels, designing walkable cities, and investing in more sustainable food systems have multiple benefits for our economy and communities' health and well-being. I invite my fellow health professionals, and those who care as deeply as I do about children's health, to join me in supporting policies and practices that result in cleaner air, stewardship of natural resources, and vibrant communities.

David Stukus, MD
 Columbus, Ohio

Changes in our climate have had dramatic effects on outdoor allergens, which affect millions of people with asthma. Almost every year, we are experiencing longer and more intense pollen seasons, which can worsen breathing both rapidly and long term. This isn't something you just read about in the news or see on television, this is happening right now all around us.



Michael Bennett, CNP
 Chardon, Ohio

As a Nurse Practitioner I work with some of our most vulnerable elders with underlying lung conditions like COPD and asthma, so I witness the effects of climate change firsthand. That's part of why I installed solar photovoltaic panels on my home, drive a hybrid, and founded a non-profit dedicated to human and environmental health. I would invite all of my colleagues to do their part and help to build a more resilient health care system founded on the fact that human and environmental health are inextricably intertwined.

Peggy Ann Berry, PhD, MSN, RN, COHN-S, SPHR, PLNC
 Dayton, Ohio

The reality is that breathing is becoming more difficult for older adults and children with asthma. President Obama has made it clear, there is no Planet B we can go to. It is each person's responsibility to make the change towards a cleaner environment.



Rosemary Valedes Chaudry, PHCNS-BC, RN
 Marion, Ohio

Climate change has been called the most serious public health challenge of this century. Climate change is happening right now— we see the effects in and increasingly warmer climate and extreme heat, extreme flooding, increasing levels of pollutants in our air, widespread drought, and increasing wildfires. These catastrophic events effect everyone, but climate change is clearly an issue of health and equity because of the differential impact on vulnerable populations including children, older adults, and people living in poverty. There are things we can do right now to address climate change and protect our air, our environment, our communities, and our health. Nurses can make a major impact on decision-makers and the public if we work together to advocate for policies and practices that increase awareness and promote clean air, safe and sustainable energy, and healthy environments.



Claire Boettler, MPH, RN
 Cleveland, Ohio

Climate change is not something that may happen in the future – it is here and it is happening right now! Climate change deniers point to the last two winters of extreme cold temperatures in the Midwest and Northeast as evidence to support their viewpoint. However, increased frequency of extreme weather conditions is one of the results of climate change. This can be illustrated at the local level by the increased frequency of torrential downpour episodes in Northeast Ohio over the last several years resulting in increased episodes of flooding. As a public health nurse I am very concerned about the health effects of climate change, especially in my own backyard of Northeast Ohio. Childhood asthma and new onset of adult asthma continue to be major public health issues in Northeast Ohio, and the extreme weather conditions resulting from climate change accentuate the environmental conditions that contribute to asthma flare-ups (e.g. mold due to flooding, longer allergy season, etc.). Collectively we can slow the rate of climate change and mitigate further health consequences by supporting legislation, policies, and funding for renewable and clean energy sources and urging our federal and state representatives and senators to support and comply with the Clean Power Plan recently released by the federal EPA.

