

CLIMATE AND HEALTH EQUITY

Climate Change is Harming our Health Now

- Everyone is affected, but some people are more vulnerable.
- Systemic racism and poverty make people more vulnerable to climate health harms.



H

Heat Illness



E

Exacerbation of heart and lung conditions



A

Asthma



T

Traumatic injury



W

Water/Food-borne illness



A

Allergies



V

Vector/Insect-borne disease



E

Emotional stress

Climate is a Fundamental Determinant of Health Equity

As a result of previous and existing discriminatory policies, low-wealth communities (LWC) and people of color (POC) are more likely to be affected by:

- **Heat Illness:** Living in urban “heat islands”.
- **Exacerbation of heart and lung conditions:** More exposure to pollutants.
- **Asthma:** Higher existing asthma rates and more exposure to fossil fuel pollutants.
- **Traumatic injury:** More likely to live in substandard housing, experience traumatic injury from extreme weather events, and have less access to medical care.
- **Water/Food-borne illness:** More exposure to sewage backups and subsistence fishing.
- **Allergies:** Less access to medical care.
- **Vector/Insect-borne disease:** Greater exposure to insect-borne diseases and less access to medical care.
- **Emotional stress:** More likely to experience the physical harms and loss of people and property from extreme weather.

Climate Solutions Can Be Health and Equity Solutions

- Weatherization programs can reduce heat/cold exposure and revitalize communities by creating new green jobs.
- Increasing tree shade and community greening can decrease heat island effects.
- Community-aggregated renewable energy can reduce exposure to pollutants and empowers front-line communities.
- Urban and community agriculture can help communities achieve food sovereignty and improve access to affordable and nutritious food.
- Increased access to land and equitable support for BIPOC farmers for regenerative agriculture approaches will reduce emissions and improve access to nutritious foods.
- Improved public transportation systems can improve the health and well-being of LWC and POC.