

# Clinicians for Climate Action New Jersey

*Medical and Health Professionals Calling for Change*

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June 13, 2025

Dear Senate President Scutari & Speaker Coughlin:

The New Jersey Clinicians for Climate Action is an organization of health professionals who are speaking out about the accelerating costs of the health crisis arising from humanity's reliance on fossil fuels. We remain grateful and highly supportive of your continued dedication to addressing this public health emergency. We will continue to strongly urge that the Legislature and the Administration take immediate, dramatic, and durable action to protect New Jersey's children and communities from the devastating health impacts of a warming world. As such, CCANJ, along with more than 100 New Jersey health professionals, urges you to support the New Jersey "Climate Superfund" initiative.

The New Jersey health community is extremely concerned about the growing physical and psychological impacts of climate change on our patients and their families. In our work locally, and through our interactions with medical colleagues from the Carolinas to California, we face this emerging crisis every day. Over the last decade, here in New Jersey we have treated children suffering severe respiratory effects from wildfire smoke and rising air pollution, people hurt in unprecedented floods and storms, and elders having heart attacks brought on by heat waves - three among many more frightening, sometimes deadly, predicted health impacts. From the months of wildfire smoke in 2023 to Hurricane Sandy, it is abundantly clear that New Jersey will not escape the growing on-the-ground reality of climate science.

Those concerns are the leading edge of a more devastating health story. Public health professionals focus on the phrase "*social determinants of health*." These are defined as: "*the conditions in the places where people live, learn, work, and play that affect virtually all health and quality-of-life-outcomes*." The most obvious examples are the severe weather events that tear up roads and bridges, prevent the shipment and delivery of goods, overrun water treatment plants, destroy farmers' fields, and wipe out crops. The nexus of economic loss and damage to the social determinants of health is irrefutably growing. The full costs – including medical costs - imposed on New Jerseyans for all this (and more impacts we have not listed) are rising exponentially.

The physicians, nurses, veterinarians, and other health professionals within Clinicians for Climate Action New Jersey have front row seats to this slowly unfolding crisis. In these seats, it is obvious that the coming cost to New Jerseyans will be beyond staggering. At the same time, fossil fuel companies [continue to bring in record profits](#). The CEO of Chevron noted that, "In 2023, we returned more cash to shareholders and produced more oil and natural gas than any year in the company's history."

We believe it is eminently fair that fossil fuel companies share this financial burden. This is a reasonable commonsense step toward protecting our state's financial stability and the health of our communities. This is taxpayer relief. Our children must not be expected to bear the burden of these costs while the fossil fuel sector continues to defend its financial fortress, just as the tobacco companies did in that decades long public health fight.

Jennifer	Alvarez	BA, AAS
Jill	Aquino	RN, MS
Steven	Averbuch	MD
Dorrie-Susan	Barrington	BA, MD
Jennifer	Bernal	DNP
Elizabeth	Cerceo	MD
Mary Ann	Cernak	BS, MSW, PhD
Catherine	Chen	MD
Jeanne	Craft	MD
Theresa	Dinger	RN, MS
Shannon	Eccles	DO FAAP
Anita	Edward	NA
Nancy	Fiedler	PhD
Mark	Fisher	BS, MBS
Bettie	Frank-Shrensel	MD
Alice	Freund	MSPH, MAT
Stephen	Friedman	MD, MPH
Ma Bernardita	Gamallo	MD
Aviva	Gans	BA, MS
Adrian	Ghainda	BA
Michael	Gochfeld	MD, PhD
Miri	Goodman	BA
Patricia	Goyer	DNP, RN
Eva	Gubitz-Hess	BA
Tara	Heagele	PhD, RN, FAAN
Thomas	Hui	SB, MD, MBA
Sara	Humeny	MS, BSN
Sabiha	Hussain	MD
MJ	Hussain	MD
Hajrah	Hussain	MS
Aesha	Jobanputra	MD
Stacen	Keating	PhD, MS, BSN
Mary	Kientz	OTD
Deborah	Kim	MD
Howard	Kipen	MD, MPH
Anita	Kishen	MD
Julie	Kolehouse	MS
Mami	Kriegel	MD, MSED
Stephanie	Kubala	BA, MD
Tiffany	LaFauci	BA, RN, CSN
Susan	Lasker	MD
Robert	Laumbach	MD, MPH
Dawn	Lazarus	MD
Brian	Lestini	MD PhD
Linda	Li	MD, MS
Karen	Li	MD
Tatyana	Liptsyn	MD
Stephen	Marcella	MD, MPH
Susan	Mautone	MD
Molly	McGroary	BS
Kevin	McNally	MBA

Debrah	Meislich	MD
Marisa	Mendes	MD
Mary Ann	Michelis	BS MD
Prianca	Nadkarni	BS, MD
Rachelle	Namm-Gavrich	MD
Timothy	O'Donnell	DO
Morgan	Park	BSN, DNP
Andrew	Park	PharmD
Michael	Petrella	BS, MD
Stephanie	Pinney	BA, MSW
Christina	Piron	MD
Sreelekha	Prakash	MD, MPH
Ganesh	Premarajah	DO
Laurie	Pringle	BA
Dan	Quinlan	BS, MS, MBA
Jerry	Quinlan	BS
Jared	Radbel	MD
Starling	Rauchwerk	MSCCC
Inga	Robbins	MD
Natalie	Roche	MD
Paul	Roman	AA
Lawrence	Rosen	MD
Jacqueline	Saulnier	BS
Andrea	Savage	BA, MSW, PhD
Khalil	Savary	MD
Christine	Schell	BS, MPA
Stephan	Schwander	MD, PHD
Soko	Setoguchi	MD, DrPH
Jonathan	Shammash	MD
Anna	Shengelia	AP
Valerie	Sia	MD
Deborah	Steinbaum	MD MPH
Geraldine	Summa	MD
John	Sutter	MD, MS
Karen	Szczepanski	MS
Jennifer	Talley	DO
Carol	Tanzi	BSN
Felicia	Taylor	MBA, CAE
David	Temple	BA
Pauline	Thomas	MD
Marija	Tusheva	MD
Sharleen	van Vlijmen	BS
Shefali	Vyas	MD
Khadijah	Walker	MSN, RN
Cecelia	Walter	BSN, CSN-NJ
Sophia	Wang	BS, MS, MBA
George	Wang	MD, PhD
Barry	Wasserman	MD
Donald	Weinbaum	MBA
Alicia	White	MD
Mary	Wisniewski	MD