

New statewide climate health advocacy group launched by American Academy of Pediatrics New Jersey Chapter and partners

From environmental health to climate change, this group will serve as a hub of educational topics for providers and others interested in public health and well-being

Trenton, NJ (April 8, 2021) – A partnership of statewide health organizations today announced the launch of [New Jersey Clinicians for Climate Action](#), an advocacy group focused on increasing awareness among the healthcare community about how climate and the health of the environment impacts the well-being of New Jersey residents. The partnership is led by the New Jersey Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and joined by founding members New Jersey Public Health Association, New Jersey State Nurses Association, Central Jersey Family Health Consortium and Health Care Without Harm. The founding organizations represent thousands of members across the state.

The New Jersey Clinicians for Climate Action, an affiliate of the Medical Society Consortium for Climate and Health, was created to inform New Jersey healthcare professionals about the effects of climate change on human health and the health benefits of climate action. By offering credible, health-based perspectives on environmental policy, the coalition can help advance a transition to a healthy, equitable and sustainable future.

"I am excited to see the commitment of our partnering organizations and healthcare professionals who care about the sustainability of healthy communities," said Shannon Eccles, DO, FAAP, co-chair of the New Jersey Clinicians for Climate Action. "Together, we can help reduce the carbon footprint in New Jersey by advocating for climate-smart policies on local, state and federal levels."

The group seeks to motivate healthcare professionals to examine their own relationship to the environment and share their learnings in the patient care setting by communicating the health impacts of climate change with their patients and colleagues.

"The effects of climate change on the health of our communities are undeniable and will only grow over time," said Donald Weinbaum, president of the New Jersey Public Health Association. "We look forward to working with our clinician partners to increase awareness and advocate on this significant public health issue."

"NJSNA passed a resolution at our 2017 Annual Meeting that stated: 'Whereas the New Jersey State Nurses Association work collaboratively with other groups to protect and advocate for measures that insure the health of our planet and health and welfare of all.' As a result of this resolution NJSNA has joined with the NJ Chapter of the American Association of Pediatricians to collaboratively work on Climate Health Issues. NJSNA is proud to be a member of the New Jersey Clinicians for Climate Action," said Judith Schmidt, RN, MSN, ONC, CCRN, chief executive officer, New Jersey State Nurses Association.

"As we see every day in our work across the United States and the world, health professionals have an immensely powerful voice in the push to protect the health and

well-being of people and communities from the devastating impacts of climate change,” said Dan Quinlan, senior policy advisor for Healthcare Without Harm. “We are pleased to be part of this coalition, and we look forward to supporting this new team in their pivotal work in New Jersey.”

For more information and to learn more about becoming a member, please visit www.newjerseycca.org.

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