



# National Health + Climate Forum

## HIGHLIGHTS REPORT

The **National Health + Climate Forum** was held on March 30 at the American Climate Leadership Summit 2022, the only national convening exclusively dedicated to diversifying public engagement and political resolve for climate action. The National Health + Climate Forum brought a broad array of health leaders and practitioners together with other professionals and shared the latest information and opportunities for action on topics ranging from mental health to local health leadership, and climate change and disabilities. [Here's our session overview and replay guide.](#)

### Welcome + Opening Keynote



Robbianne Mackin, ecoAmerica

Leyla McCurdy, MPhil, Climate for Health Leadership Circle  
Executive Committee

Arthur C. Evans, Jr., PhD, American Psychological Association

### US Leadership on Climate + Health: The Office of Climate Change + Health Equity at HHS

*The Department of Health and Human Services announced the formation of the Office of Climate Change & Health Equity. Hear the goals and agenda for this office, including seasonal forecasts to protect our health. (28 min video)*

John Balbus, MD, MPH, Office of Climate Change + Health Equity, Office Asst. Secretary for Health, HHS

J. Nadine Gracia, MD, MSCE, Trust for America's Health

### Where we are on Climate, Health + Equity: Tools from The Lancet Countdown

*It has been 5 months since the 2021 Lancet Countdown U.S. Brief was released. Learn guidance for operationalizing the findings to build health equity in climate solutions, and what should be considered for the 2022 brief. (30 min video)*

Natasha DeJarnett, PhD, MPH, BCES, Division of Environmental Medicine, University of Louisville

Renee Salas, MD, MPH, MS, Lancet Countdown; Harvard Global Health Institute

### From Federal Framing to Local Action

*Community leadership, citizen science, and grassroots advocacy can address health inequities of climate change. Hear directly from Houston residents collaborating for action. (35 min video)*

Grace Tee Lewis, PhD, Environmental Defense Fund

Denae King, PhD, Bullard Center for Environmental + Climate Justice, Texas Southern University

Joetta Stevenson, Greater Fifth Ward Super Neighborhood #55

### Natural Connections: Collaboration with the Environment

*Restoring relationships with the natural world benefits both people and the planet. An example of the intersection of Anishinaabe teachings and Western ways of knowing in the healing process. (11 min video)*

Leah Prussia, College of St. Scholastica

## **Mental Health + Our Changing Climate: Impacts, Inequities, Responses**

*Hear from the authors of this groundbreaking report and the latest tools and resources for practitioners, communities, and policymakers to understand the mental health impacts of climate change and bring forth solutions. (38 min video)*

Susan Clayton, PhD, The College of Wooster  
Christie Manning, PhD, Macalester College  
Gavin Rienne, MPH, University of Kentucky  
Derrick Sebree, PsyD, Michigan School of Psychology

## **Climate Action: Local Health Leadership**

*Think globally, act locally is advice we hear often, but what does that look like for climate action that improves health and health equity in a small town? (25 min video)*

Madelyn Gustafson, National Environmental Health Association  
Armen Henderson, MD, MBA, Dade County Street Response, Disaster Relief Team  
Nichole Lemin, MS, REHS, MEP, Franklin County Public Health

## **Climate Change + Disabilities: Collaboration with the Association of University Centers on Disabilities**

*Over 61 million Americans live with a disability. Learn how climate impacts people with disabilities, and the need for climate justice to include disability justice, too. (8 min video)*

Meighen Speiser, ecoAmerica  
Liz Weintraub, Association of University Centers on Disabilities

## **Reports from the Field: Direct from Climate for Health Ambassadors**

*Hear opportunities for you to act and advocate with tools and resources provided through ecoAmerica's Climate for Health program. Climate Ambassadors share their actions to engage communities, peers, and policymakers on equitable climate solutions. (36 min video)*

Milagros Elia, MA, APRN, ANP-BC, M. Elia Nature-Based Healthcare Solutions  
Kasondra McCracken, MCHES, Arizona State University  
Sydney Otis, ecoAmerica  
April Taylor, Chickasaw Nation  
Gregory White, Decatur Active Living, City of Decatur

## **Caring for Yourself to Care for the Planet**

*Engaging with our climate emergency can feel overwhelming at times. To do our best work, we all need to prioritize self-care every day. (8 min video)*

Bruce Bekkar, MD, Public Health Advisory Council of the Climate Action Campaign

## **Looking Forward: Onwards for Climate and Health**

*Knowledge is power, but so is passion. Hear the call to find and create pathways for health professionals to learn and pursue their passion on climate. (15 min video)*

Katherine Catalano, MS, American Public Health Association  
Natasha Sood, MPH, Medical Students for a Sustainable Future

## **How to Build Programs + Policies that Equitably Address Climate's Health Effects**

*Dive into the step-by-step playbooks detailing city strategies that address "the trifecta" of climate, health, and equity. Organized by Healthy Babies Bright Futures and the National League of Cities. (55 min video)*

Robert Blaine, DMA, National League of Cities  
Emily Koo, City of Providence, Rhode Island  
Hon. Emily Larson, City of Duluth, Minnesota  
Linda Rudolph, MD, MPH, Public Health Institute; Medical Society Consortium on Climate + Health