

Fossil Fuels & Climate Change Damage Our Health

What Do Doctors Say? Physicians Urge Action.

Medical societies have rung the alarm:

“Climate Change is harming the health of Americans.”

The consequences for human health could be catastrophic.^{1,2}



Fossil Fuels Drive Climate Change - Health Impacts Here & Now.

- Extreme heat: dehydration, heat stroke; over 10,000 deaths
- Severe storms: injuries, displacement, and contaminated water
- Degraded air: worsens asthma & heart disease
- Ticks and mosquitos increase their range: West Nile, Lyme, Zika
- Floods & warm water grow microbes: cholera, paralytic shellfish poisoning, toxic algae
- Depression, anxiety, and PTSD due to severe weather & heat
- Heat and drought damage to crops; CO2 lowers nutritional value

The sooner we take action, the more harm we can prevent.¹

Fossil Fuel Particle Pollution and Ozone Damage Our Health, causing:



- 200,000 premature deaths/year
- 180,000 non-fatal heart attacks/year
- 130,000 ER visits for asthma/year
- 29 million lost work/school days/year
- Lung cancer, strokes, diabetes and dementia.³⁻⁵
- Fetal harms, links to learning and behavior disorders in children.

Lowering CO2 emissions would have **health benefits** valued at over **\$500 billion each year**, or \$200/ton CO2-e. **Far outweighs the cost of** the transition to **clean energy**, by up to 10-fold if driven by pricing carbon⁶⁻⁸.

Do it for yourself. Do it for your family.

Imagine your parent without a stroke, your child without asthma, your husband without a heart attack.

Doctors agree “the **most important action** we can take to protect our health is to reduce heat-trapping pollution by reducing energy waste and accelerating the inevitable **transition to clean renewable energy.**”

-- Medical Society Consortium, 2017

SOLUTIONS & RESOURCES on the back



Actions You Can Take

At Home – conserve energy and food, use clean energy, eat less meat.

At Work – “green” your workplace; promote resilience and disaster preparedness.

In Your Community – support clean energy and good transportation policy.

Call your representatives. Economists agree: the **single most effective policy is to price carbon to reflect its true cost and return the revenue to us.** Ask Congress to pass a ***Carbon Fee and Dividend.***

Resources (non-partisan):

The Centers for Disease Control: www.cdc.gov/climateandhealth/

The Natural Resources Defense Council:

www.nrdc.org/resources/climate-change-threatens-health

Citizens Climate Lobby: <http://citizensclimatelobby.org/>

Best Resource for MDs:

Medical Societies Consortium on Climate and Health: <https://medsocietiesforclimatehealth.org/>

References

- 1 Medical Alert! Climate Change Is Harming Our Health. Medical Society Consortium on Climate & Health March 15, 2017 <https://medsocietiesforclimatehealth.org/reports/medical-alert/>
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- 3 **Caiazzo, F. et al.** Air pollution and early deaths in the united States. Part I: Quantifying the impact of major sectors in 2005. Atmospheric Environment volume 79, Nov 2013, 198-208. <http://doi.org/10.1016/j.atmosenv.2013.05.081>
- 4 **Shindell,D.** Societal Benefits from Reductions in Emissions of Methane and Black Carbon. Written Testimony to the Senate Committee on the Environment and Public Works Hearing on the Super Pollutants Act of 2014. Dec 2,2014. http://sites.nicholas.duke.edu/drewshindell/files/2015/01/Senate_EPW_testimony_Dec2014_Shindell_v3.pdf
- 5 **NIH 2017 air pollution.** https://www.niehs.nih.gov/research/supported/exposure/air_pollution/
- 6 **Thompson, T. et al.** A systems approach to evaluating the air quality co-benefits of US carbon policies. Nature Climate Change. Published online 24 August 2014. <http://ipclimatechange.trg-learning.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Thompson-et-al-2014-Health-Benefits-of-Carbon-Policies-nclimate23421.pdf>
- 7 **West, J et al.** Co-benefits of mitigating global greenhouse gas emissions for future air quality and human health. Published online: 22 September 2013 |DOI:10.1038/NCLIMATE2009. https://www.gfdl.noaa.gov/wp-content/uploads/files/user_files/van/publications/west_et_al_nclimate.pdf
- 8 **Jacobson, M.Z. et al.** 100% clean and renewable wind, water, and sunlight (WWS) all-sector energy roadmaps for the 50 United States. Energy Environ. Sci., 2015, 8, 2093-2117.