

Local Health Department Tool on Points of Engagement on Climate Change and Health Equity [WORKING DRAFT]

The actions/activities and points of engagement below were the result of the October 31, 2019 CA Climate Action Team Public Health Workgroup meeting discussions and input, and were compiled by the Climate Change and Health Equity Program, California Department of Public Health (Revised: Mar. 2020)

Geographic level of engagement	Actions / Activities
<p>Local policy and planning processes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Contribute health and equity content to updates of the local Climate Action Plan, and related work plans and documents (see CDPH Climate Change and Health Equity Program's (CCHPEP) "Climate Action for Health: Integrating Public Health Into Climate Action Planning") Pick a few issues in the Climate Action Plan, and support your supervisors and local elected officials in achieving these, and follow up with them regularly to assess progress. ● Participate in the General Planning process (environmental justice (per SB 1000), safety (per SB 379), circulation, land use, and housing elements) and assure integration of climate, health and equity language, tools, data, and partnerships. ● Use a Health in All Policies (HiAP) approach to improve living conditions through action on social determinants of health in climate change planning and policy (e.g., transportation, housing, energy, food systems, land use). Support local agencies in implementing existing policies that can support healthy living and climate change goals. Forge relationships and partnerships with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Local transportation, land use, housing, energy, natural resources, education, and other non-health entities ○ environmental justice advocates and communities ○ local universities, state schools, community colleges, and other academic partners ○ health insurers ○ health care sector ○ Tribal communities ○ community based organizations ○ community members ○ organized labor community ○ state government (e.g., CA Air Resources Board and their grant programs) ○ private sector, including with innovation / technology startups ● Forge long-term relationships to support community-based organizations and organizing groups with technical assistance, guidance, data, and engagement opportunities (inside/outside)

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<p>Local policy and planning processes (continued)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identify and help to secure funding for local and regional climate and health projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Work with local agencies and partners to develop funding mechanisms to support community partners to engage in climate change assessments, planning, program implementation, demonstrate value of community-based organizations (CBO), environmental justice (EJ), and other partners. ○ Establish dedicated funding to create health department staff position(s) to work on climate change and related issues (e.g., developer fee that funds health department staff person to review/integrate public health in planning and development decisions) ● Contribute health equity content to Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (which is now required to address climate change) ● Declare local climate health emergency ● Partner with hospital community benefits program to improve community health through climate action ● Serve as a health appointee on local planning commission and other advisory bodies; join local planning work group or provide consultation to local planning agency ● Support local water, flood districts, recreation districts, and public works with public health policies, evidence, data, and vulnerability assessments to promote climate resilient infrastructure ● Participate in planning with Office of Emergency Services and Public Health Preparedness Program (wildfire, extreme heat, sea level rise/storms/flood preparedness) ● Partner with local energy efficiency/weatherization providers to refer public health home visiting clients with health conditions to receive weatherization services that can improve their housing conditions and health (see RAMP's Energy Efficiency and Health guide for guidance on how to set this program up) ● Partner with public health nurses, community health workers, and promotoras to leverage their knowledge, resources, and relationships with community members to take climate action. Partner on trainings on climate change for public health nurses, promotoras, and other community health workers. ● Advocate and partner with local air districts to address GHG emissions and associated air pollution. Join an AB 617 community steering committee. ● Provide public statement about the health impacts (full life cycle) of a fossil fuel economy ● Green operations and services to reduce GHG emissions, particularly health care services

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<p>Local policy and planning processes (continued)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Utilize existing research and bring research to policymakers. ● Present on climate change, health equity, and healthy communities strategies to local elected and appointed officials (city council, board of supervisors, planning commissions, transportation advisory bodies, etc.) ● Use clear, basic language to provide messages about climate change and health impacts (e.g., extreme heat and association to climate change) and opportunities to achieve public health objectives through climate action. See chapter on communications in PHI’s Climate Change, Health, and Equity: A Guide for Local Health Departments. ● Get involved in designing local public school (K-12) curricula ● Shape the narrative: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Have health officers talk about climate change all the time, incorporate into health officer actions and conversations ○ Ask elected officials to carry this message to the public in their communications, to build consensus for climate actions and policies ○ Write Op-Eds, Letters to Editors (LTEs) about how climate change is impacting your community’s health, and how climate action can improve a range of community health conditions. Provide guidance about incorporating climate messages into media statements ○ Educate local health department professionals on how to integrate climate and health framing and language in their work ○ Educate health care providers about climate change and health impacts (e.g., Grand Rounds at hospitals) ● Work with local government and policymakers to put in place policies and practices to prevent displacement and encourage jobs and workforce development for economically marginalized people as we implement low-carbon, healthy, compact community strategies ● Educate local community about the health impacts around climate change, leveraging community relationships and trust to focus on communities facing climate and health inequities.

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<p>Regional policy and planning processes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Add public health and equity language, approaches, and indicators/data to Sustainable Communities Strategy—Regional Transportation Planning process at Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) from SB 375 ● Work closely with regional public health associations such as Bay Area Regional Health Inequities Initiative (BARHII), Public Health Alliance of Southern California (PHASC), or San Joaquin Valley Public Health Consortium (SJVPHC) ● Work with one of 7 California Alliance of Regional Collaboratives for Climate Adaptation (ARRCA) ● Partner and provide input to transportation agencies who are distributing funds for projects and initiatives that could integrate health and equity more deeply
Geographic level of engagement	Actions / Activities
<p>State policy and planning processes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Partner closely with state health equity, environmental justice, and climate change organizations and advocacy groups ● Provide public comment on climate change, health, and equity at Strategic Growth Council, the Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program (ICARP), the Office of Health Equity Advisory Committee, and other meetings with relevance for climate, health, and equity. ● Arrange meetings with state health leadership to describe conditions and needs of LHDs around climate and health. Have a specific ask. ● Attend Climate Action Team--Public Health Work Group meetings hosted by CDPH and CalEPA / CA Air Resources Board ● Apply for or partner with lead applicant for state climate-related funding (California Climate Investments and other grant programs) that improves social determinants of health (Active Transportation Program, Affordable Housing & Sustainable Communities, Urban Greening Grants, Transformative Climate Communities) (Scroll down and see Climate Change and Health Equity Program’s resources on their webpage here). ● Work with health organizations, advocates, and legislative authors to inform bills and policies to advance and resource climate and health work ● Participate in legislative hearings on climate change and health, with health and equity stakeholders and community organizations

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<p>State policy and planning processes (continued)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Collaborate with CDPH and engage in a conversation about labor and workforce development, and the health-based concerns about just transition. ● Ask state government / Governor to declare a health emergency around climate change ● Shift the purpose and function of state regulatory agencies to prioritize focusing on preventing harm to people ● Work with the California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO) to make climate change and health more visible in jurisdictions where health officers do not feel comfortable speaking up. Ask CCLHO to find legislators to sponsor a bill to provide funding to local health departments (LHDs) to do climate change work. ● Leverage existing funding, initiatives, outreach efforts, and messaging (e.g., California for All / CaliforniaVolunteers funding). ● Join Public Health Awakened to do health equity advocacy in your personal or professional capacity.
<p>Environmental Health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Enhance surveillance and laboratory capacity to address food and waterborne illness risk. ● Work with Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) to ensure that it has the objective of addressing climate-related hazards, and plans are in place to minimize impacts on food, water, and waste systems during a climate-related disaster. ● Identify, support, and implement long-term policies and systems changes for water conservation ● Establish plans to respond to vector-borne diseases; detection of invasive mosquito species, or mosquito- related illness such as Dengue or Zika, for example through house-to-house education and inspection for standing water. ● Develop Safe Surplus Food Donation Best Management Practices to reduce food waste (e.g., Orange County’s (OC) Waste Not OC, a public/private effort to end hunger and reduce food waste, originally conceived by the OC Public Health Officer) ● Map hazardous waste sites and establish related protocols for monitoring for release of toxics following extreme weather events, floods, or wildfires.

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Internal to LHDs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● See “Climate Change, Health and Equity: A Guide for Local Health Departments” from Center for Climate Change and Health (at Public Health Institute) for more ideas across a range of public health programs and functions ● See CalBRACE Adaptation Toolkit, especially the “interventions” tab ● Conduct a Community Climate Change Inventory (template in the CalBRACE Adaptation Toolkit, under “Before you start” tab): an environmental scan of current actions and entities addressing climate change in your community, identify new partners and next steps. ● Use climate and health communications from “Climate Change, Health and Equity: A Guide for Local Health Departments”. Work with the public information officer to incorporate climate change messages into health alerts (such as heat warnings, harmful algal blooms, wildfires, smoke, fishery closures, and vector risks) ● Create a Climate Change and Health Vulnerability Assessment using Climate Change and Health Equity Program’s (CCHPEP) data and tools / Climate Change and Health Vulnerability Indicators Visualization (CCHVIZ) ● Participate in local Community Health Improvement Plan and Assessment (CHIP and CHA) through the Public Health Accreditation process (through National Association of City and County Health Officials (NACCHO)) ● Surveillance of climate-sensitive illness and disease (heat-related illness, vector-borne diseases and vectors, etc.) ● Provide regular communications to senior management team or all Local Health Department (LHD) staff; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ share your concerns for the health impacts of climate change in your community; ○ share your excitement about improving living conditions through climate change planning and policy; ○ ask staff members to make proposals about how to address climate change in their work ● Contact CDPH Climate Change and Health Equity Program (CCHPEP) for consultation about technical support tailored for your county: CCHPEP@cdph.ca.gov