

# California Department of Public Health (CDPH)

## Office of Health Equity - Climate Change and Health Team

Climate change creates significant and evolving challenges to human health and well-being. While climate change will touch everyone, some people are particularly vulnerable to its impacts, especially the very young, elderly, those with chronic diseases and disabilities, some communities of color, immigrants, tribal nations, and those with limited resources. Climate change poses a variety of public health risks, including increased heat, wildfire smoke, drought, outdoor and indoor air quality, water quality, sea level rise, toxics, extreme weather events, flooding, workplace safety, mobility, infectious and vector borne diseases, limitations on health services, displacement, challenges to mental health, and food safety and food security.

The Climate and Health Team embeds health and equity in California climate change planning, and embeds climate change and equity in public health planning. The Team works with local, state and national partners to assure that actions taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (mitigation) and actions taken to prepare for the challenges brought by climatic changes (adaptation) have beneficial effects on health while not exacerbating already existing unfair and preventable differences in health status of some groups (health inequities).

### **Planned Activities for 2016**

#### **I. Integrate health and equity into climate change mitigation strategies:**

- **AB 32 Scoping Plan:** Participate on the green building/energy efficiency and transportation and land use work groups organized by the California Air Resources Board. Contribute to the public health analysis of the Plan that will highlight the health benefits of strategies such as active transportation and urban greening, and will discuss how health outcomes are tied to wealth and economic development.
- **Health Impact Assessment (HIA) of composting:** Participate in a CDPH-led HIA of the potential health benefits or harms of diverting organic waste to new closed composting facilities in contrast to landfills.

#### **II. Integrate health and equity in climate change adaptation strategies:**

- **Building Resilience Against Climate Effects in California (CalBRACE)**
  - Release Climate and Health Profile Reports for all 58 California Counties, forecasting climate impacts (extreme heat, sea level rise, wildfires, drought and air quality).
  - Release vulnerability assessment reports for 11 counties identifying locations and communities vulnerable to climate impacts.
  - Provide technical assistance to counties in implementing adaptation planning.
  - Conduct literature reviews of public health interventions to adapt to climate change.
  - Synthesize recommendations from the literature reviews, Safeguarding California Implementation Plan and other climate adaptation guidance to develop and submit a request for five more years of BRACE funding from the CDC. Anticipate beginning work on new CalBRACE cycle in October 2016.
- **Safeguarding California Implementation Plan**
  - Participate in Technical Advisory Group to inform implementation of Plan

#### **III. Support state, local, and other partners to address climate change and health:**



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- **State Climate Action Team – Public Health Workgroup (PHWG):** Hold four PHWG meetings in Sacramento and by webcast, from 1 – 3:30 pm. Meeting January 19<sup>th</sup>, April 19<sup>th</sup>, July 19<sup>th</sup>, October 18<sup>th</sup>
  - The April 19th meeting will address health impacts of extreme heat. See <http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/ab32publichealth/meetings/meetings.htm> for more information. To sign up for the email list serve for information on future Public Health Workgroups, click here:  
[http://www.arb.ca.gov/listserv/listserv\\_ind.php?listname=ab32publichealth](http://www.arb.ca.gov/listserv/listserv_ind.php?listname=ab32publichealth)
- **Communications on climate change, health, and equity:**
  - Following up on the *OutsideIn SLO: We Take Health and Climate Change Personally* pilot climate change and health communications project in collaboration with the San Luis Obispo County Public Health Department, reach out to provide technical assistance and support to other local health departments.
  - Publish Climate Change and Health Equity Issue Brief providing basic information on climate change, health, and equity for health professionals.
  - Provide presentations to various stakeholders as requested (e.g. Public Health Nurses presentation, OPR's Health Planning Leadership webinar, etc.)