# HEALTH & CLIMATE RESOURCE GUIDE



Step Up for Health at the Global Climate Action Summit



# **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

INTRODUCTION	1
PART I: KEY RESOURCES	2
PART II: CHALLENGE AREA RESOURCES	3
Healthy Energy Systems	3
Inclusive Economic Growth	3
Sustainable Communities	4
Land and Ocean Stewardship	4
Transformative Climate Investments	5
Cross Cutting Theme: Health Inequities	5
PART III: AUDIENCE SPECIFIC RESOURCES	6
Health Professionals	6
Health Care Systems	7
Business Leaders and Entrepreneurs	7
Government, Community Planning, and Public Health	8
Scientists and Academicians	9
PART IV: ADDITIONAL RESOURCES	10
Multimedia and Factsheets	10
Educational Programs and Content	11
Additional Information and Publications	13

# INTRODUCTION

# THE HEALTH & CLIMATE CHALLENGE

Health organizations around the globe concur that **climate change is the greatest threat to human health in the 21st century.** Every individual will be affected by some combination of extreme weather patterns, food insecurity, air pollution, vector borne diseases, rising waters, or a host of other challenges to daily living, with the poor and disenfranchised being hit disproportionately. No matter one's occupation, country of origin or religious preference, global warming is a present and increasing danger to human health that must be addressed now.

This Health & Climate Resource Guide highlights much of the important work performed to date by individuals and organizations in many countries, whose efforts have already identified solutions to climate related health challenges. For example, health care systems are creating better work environments while using energy more efficiently. Organizations supporting the education and work of young women are enhancing both personal and community well-being while reducing health inequities. Community planners are learning about the positive health effects of urban gardens, and their promotion of active transportation is improving air quality and reducing chronic diseases, to name just a few of the important initiatives underway.

Given the profound impact of climate change on human health now and in the future, strong engagement from partners across all sectors is required to "Take Ambition to the Next Level" to protect and promote health while advancing social equity. The knowledge, expertise and passion of health professionals, along with scientists, corporate leaders, teachers, community planners, native leaders, youth and specialists in all areas are essential to creating a healthy, equitable and sustainable future for people everywhere.

## **ABOUT THIS GUIDE**

To encourage inspiration, collaboration, and commitment to next steps, this guide is broad in scope, yet also focuses on summit challenge themes and the needs of specific audiences. Assembled from the contributions of summit participants, it contains key health and climate resources including articles, consensus documents, fact sheets, toolkits, helpful infographics, and a number of important websites, all of which can facilitate the discovery of what is possible.

"Opportunities for Action" highlight ways that people can make a difference now, and conference attendees are encouraged to create new commitments based upon fresh ideas that arise from reading the Guide.

# **PART I: KEY RESOURCES**

These resources provide a broad overview of the relationship between climate and health. Several documents and websites outline opportunities, barriers and potential "co-benefits" of taking action. Tools for solutions and a number of successful models are presented.

- → The Lancet Countdown uses compelling infographics and indicators to communicate how climate change is affecting human health today. The 2017 Report (available for free with registration) creates a sense of urgency and highlights opportunities for action. This endeavor seeks to build momentum toward a healthier future. Elevate this movement by sharing their graphics and tagging @LancetCountdown.
- → The World Health Organization developed the Climate and Health Country Profile Project to showcase the progress of nations and inspire others to take action. It underscores how all countries must step up to address global health threats caused by climate change. To promote accelerated action the organization created two health and climate change toolkits that provide key resources for climate change adaptation. These tools can be used across sectors but are especially useful for "planners, policy makers, and those working at the policy/practice interface" (WHO).
- → The Global Consortium on Climate and Health Education (GCCHE) envisions a future in which all health professionals throughout the world are "trained to prevent, mitigate and respond to the health impacts of climate change." To achieve this goal, the GCCHE maintains a curated health and climate resource library for students and educators. Moreover, they inspire commitment from leaders of health professions as schools join the consortium.
- → Health Care Without Harm is an international NGO founded in 1996 that works to transform health care worldwide so that it reduces its environmental footprint, becomes a community anchor for sustainability and a leader in the global movement for environmental health and justice. See how health care systems around the world are implementing climate solutions by visiting their homepage and signing up for their Climate and Health Newsletter.
- → The Global Climate and Health Alliance was formed in 2011. Alliance members are health and development organizations from around the world, united by a shared vision of a sustainable future. Members support efforts in leadership, advocacy, policy, research, and education. Learn more by visiting their homepage.
- → The World Bank is committed to addressing the health and climate challenge through their Climate-Smart HealthCare Program. This initiative is "establishing a knowledge base to inform development lending" and "supporting countries to integrate climate change and health considerations into development planning" (World Bank).
- → The Climate Impact Lab is a unique collaboration of 30 climate scientists, economists, computational experts, researchers, analysts and students from leading research institutions. They use a data driven approach to quantify climate impacts and provide quality health research.

# PART II: CHALLENGE AREA RESOURCES

The Global Climate Action Summit inspires deeper commitments across five key challenge areas: Healthy Energy Systems, Inclusive Economic Growth, Sustainable Communities, Land and Ocean Stewardship, and Transformative Climate Investments. Moreover, the additional category of "Cross-Cutting Theme: Health Inequities" draws attention to a topic that is important to address across multiple challenge areas. Notably, many of the solutions to global warming also offer exciting opportunities to remedy inequities in health outcomes.

## **HEALTHY ENERGY SYSTEMS**

#### **♦** Mobility:

- > The Climate Group: Black Carbon Briefing Paper
- Center for Climate Change and Health: Transportation Fact Sheet (US)

#### Energy:

- ➤ US Climate and Health Alliance: Energy Efficiency Fact Sheet (Global)
- Center for Climate Change and Health: Energy and Health Fact Sheet (US)
- > Nature: Health and Climate Benefits of Different Energy Choices
- ➤ USAID: Powering Health
- Health Care Without Harm:
  - Healthy Energy Initiative
  - Coal and Health Portal
  - The Health Impacts of Energy Choices Briefing Paper

## **INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH**

#### Good Jobs:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Impact of Climate on Workers

#### **Economic Opportunity:**

- > The New Climate Economy: Benefits of Low-Carbon Cities
- > Global Health: The Economics of Health and Climate Change
- PLOS | ONE: Economic Analysis for a U.S. Power Plant Carbon Standard

#### Resilient Growth:

- > Partnership for Resilience and Preparedness: Visualizing Resilience
- U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit: Homepage; Health
- California Governor's Office of Planning and Research: Resilience Program
- United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction: The Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities has an addendum focused on Public Health System Resilience

# PART II: CHALLENGE AREA RESOURCES

# **SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES**

#### Cities:

- Cities for Health: Homepage
- C40 and Ramboll: Urban Climate Action Impacts Framework
- > Climate Readiness Institute: Climate Change & Bay Area Human Health
- Environmental Health Perspectives: Are Sprawling Cities More Vulnerable to Climate Change Than Compact Cities?

#### Infrastructure:

- > Center for Climate Change and Health: Greening, Climate Change and Health
- National Public Radio (NPR): Green Spaces Can Ease Depression
- ➤ Nature: Co-benefits of the Green Building Movement
- > Drawdown: Walkable Cities; Bike Infrastructure; Green Roofs
- World Health Organization: Health Co-benefits of Housing Sector Mitigation

## LAND AND OCEAN STEWARDSHIP



#### **Opportunity For Action: Meatless Monday**

Dietary changes can result in beneficial outcomes for personal and planetary health. In industrialized nations, such as the US or Europe, reducing meat consumption presents an excellent opportunity for personal action. Make a commitment to join the **Meatless Monday** movement happening in 40 nations around the world then inspire additional action by posting these delicious **infographics**.

#### Forests and Biodiversity:

World Health Organization: Biodiversity and Human Health

#### Food and Agriculture:

- ➤ Liveable Future: Addressing the Diet-Climate Connection
- Friends of the Earth: Municipal Guide to Climate-Friendly Food Purchasing
- Center for Climate Change and Health: Food & Agriculture Fact Sheet (US)

#### Oceans:

- > Oceanography: Climate Change, Oceans, and Human Health
- National Research Council: From Monsoons to Microbes: Part 1
- > The National Academies: Oceans and Human Health
- European Marine Board: Linking Oceans and Human Health
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Preparing for Coastal Flooding

# PART II: CHALLENGE AREA RESOURCES

## TRANSFORMATIVE CLIMATE INVESTMENTS

#### Corporate Engagement:

The Climate Group: This **briefing** is aimed at international business leaders and policymakers to spur discussion and encourage action on climate and low carbon growth.

#### Investment:

- ➤ EcoAmerica: Climate change and Health Opportunities for Grantmakers
- World Health Organization: Finance Resources for Health and Climate
- United Nations: Using Innovative Financing for Health and Climate Change
- Drawdown: This science based assessment lists the net cost and savings of the 100 top solutions to global warming that are available now. Many of the solutions improve health.

# **CROSS CUTTING THEME: HEALTH INEQUITIES**



#### **Opportunity For Action: Addressing Health Inequities**

The Public Health Institute created a "Framework for Action" to strengthen collaboration at the health, equity, and climate change nexus. View the full report discussing the framework here.

#### General

- ➤ Environmental Protection Agency: **Health Inequities Factsheets**
- **EcoAmerica: Mental Health and Our Changing Climate**
- > Nature: Impact of Regional Climate Change on Human Health
- California Department of Public Health: Climate Change and Health Equity Issue Brief

#### Age and Ability

- > Environ Health Perspect: Threats to Child Health from Fossil Fuels
- ➢ Pediatrics: Climate Change and Global Child Health
- World Institute on Disability: Climate Change Training & Preparation

#### Gender

- Universal Access Project: Reproductive Health Factsheet
- > Women at the Center: Climate Change Homepage; Infographics
- Drawdown: Women and Girls- Family Planning; Educating Girls
- > Health Policy Plus: Family Planning Model

#### Additional Tools

- California Department of Public Health: Climate and Health Vulnerability Indicators
- World Health Organization:
  - Mainstreaming Gender into Climate Programmes
  - Health Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment Methodology

In addition to serving as a broad resource for the five summit Challenge themes, this Guide also contains a host of documents and tools that are useful to attendees who have already chosen specific areas of interest. In particular, the references below are most applicable to health professionals, health systems administrators, business/entrepreneurs, government leaders, community planners, public health departments and scientists/academicians.

## **HEALTH PROFESSIONALS**



#### **Opportunities for Action: Health Professionals Take Action**

As trusted professionals, physicians, nurses and other health care workers have the unique opportunity to be at the forefront of their patients' climate resiliency. They can recognize and treat patients who have experienced adverse effects of climate change and provide education to prepare patients who are at high risk. The resources below offer health professionals clear opportunities to implement change and advocate for health and climate.

- ➤ Health Care Without Harm: Nurses Climate Challenge
- Medical Society Consortium on Climate Change and Health: Take Action
- > US Climate and Health Alliance: Example of Political Activism

#### Toolkits

- US Climate and Health Alliance: Advocacy Tools for Health Professionals
- American College of Physicians: Climate Change Toolkit
- ➤ Center for Climate Change & Health: Guide to Climate Change, Health and Equity

#### **♦** Fact sheets and Infographics

- > Transportation: Fact sheet; Infographic
- > Energy Efficiency: Fact sheet; Infographic
- > Renewable Energy: Fact sheet; Infographic
- American Lung Association: Doctors for Climate Health; Meet Our Doctors

#### General

- ecoAmerica: Climate for Health; Talking Points; Communication Guidance
- US Climate and Health Alliance: Homepage
- American Academy of Pediatrics: Climate Change and Children's Health
- Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments: Climate Change and Health

# **HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS**



#### **Opportunity for Action: Health Care Climate Challenge**

Health Care Without Harm's **Global Green and Healthy Hospitals** program provides a **Case Study Library** that illustrates how the health sector is taking action globally. Health systems are encouraged to further their commitments by joining the **Health Care Climate Challenge**. Specifically, for the Global Climate Action Summit, Health Care Without Harm is challenging health systems from around the world to **commit to 100% renewable energy**.

#### Publications

- > Health Care Without Harm: Protecting Margins With Resilient Health Care
- > World Health Organization: Addressing Climate Change in Health Care Settings
- ➤ The NHS: Carbon Reduction Strategy for England
- Public Health England: Financial Case for Sustainable Health Systems
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: Health Care Resilience
- > PLOS | ONE: Environmental Impacts of the U.S. Healthcare System
- > Bay Area Council Economic Institute: Building a Climate-Smart Healthcare System

#### Toolkits

- World Bank: Low-Carbon and Resilience Strategies for the Health Sector
- World Health Organization: Building Climate Resilient Health Systems
- Practice Greenhealth: Bringing Climate into Community Benefit Activities
- Health Care Without Harm: Reducing the Footprint of Anesthetic Gases
- > U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit: Building Healthcare Sector Resilience
- > U.S. Health Care Climate Council: Climate Action Playbook

## **BUSINESS LEADERS AND ENTREPRENEURS**



#### **Opportunity for Action: Business Climate Leaders**

American businesses can learn how to advocate for a better climate by becoming **Business Climate Leaders**. Together, the private industry can work together in teams to influence policy at the national and global level. This initiative includes a **Health & Medical Team**.

#### Publications

- > World Health Organization: **Health in the Green Economy**
- > Cornell Chronicle: Sustainability Sows a Healthy Business Climate
- > World Health Organization, Europe: Circular Economy and Health
- American Journal of Public Health: Business Leadership in Climate Change Responses
- Pfizer (Pharmaceutical Company): Science Based Targets; Company Actions

# **GOVERNMENT, COMMUNITY PLANNERS, AND PUBLIC HEALTH**

#### Publications

- > The U.S. Global Change Research Program: Climate and Health Assessment
- ➤ The US National Climate Assessment (2014): Health Chapter
- World Health Organization:
  - Climate Resilient Water Safety Plans
  - Climate Services for Health: Fundamentals and Case Studies
  - Effects of Climate Change on Mortality, 2030s and 2050s
  - National Health Adaptation Planning

#### Data and Statistics

- The Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation: Global Burden of Disease
- US Center for Disease Control: US Public Health Tracking Network

#### Toolkits

- ➤ The Lancet: Policy Responses to Protect Public Health
- Global Heat Health Information Network: Learning Center
- > Climate and Health Alliance: National Health and Climate Strategy (Australia)
- > US National Association of County and City Health Officials: Toolbox
- US National Center for Disaster Preparedness: Climate and Health Course
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Guidance and Trainings
- California Department of Public Health: CalBRACE Project
- Public Health Institute: Climate Change, Health, and Equity: A Guide for Local Health Departments

#### Examples of Local Health Departments in Action

- US National Association of County and City Health Officials: Success Stories
- > California Department of Public Health: Climate Change and Health Equity
- ➤ Los Angeles County Department of Public Health: Health and Climate Change
- Minneapolis Health Department: Climate Change Resiliency
- > Multnomah County Health Department: Climate and Health
- San Francisco Department of Public Health: Adaptation Framework

#### Infographics

Climate Central: Using the "topic" filter, users can search for infographics related to climate and health. Each infographic includes a summary of health trends and can be modified to show statewide data from around the United States.

# **SCIENTISTS AND ACADEMICIANS**

#### Air Quality

- Chest: Lungs in a Warming World- Climate Change and Respiratory Health
- > Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology: Pollen and Emergency Department Visits
- International Journal of Biometeorology: Impact of Control for Air Pollution and Respiratory Epidemics on the Associations of Temperature and Mortality

#### Extreme Weather and Natural Disasters

- Review of Economics and Statistics: Extreme Weather Events, Mortality and Migration
- SSRN: Economic and Human Losses Following Environmental Disaster
- Institute for the Study of Labor: Population Health Effects of Weather and Pollution

#### ♦ Heat

- > Epidemiology: Global Variation in the Effects of Ambient Temperature on Mortality
- University of South Florida: Heat Waves at Conception and Later Life Outcomes
- International Journal of Epidemiology: Temperature and Diarrheal Diseases
- Epidemiology: Mortality Displacement of Heat-Related Deaths
- Occupational and Environmental Medicine: Contrasting Patterns of Mortality and Hospital
  Admissions During Hot Weather and Heat Waves in Greater London, UK

#### Nutrition

- ➤ Nature: Increasing CO2 Threatens Human Nutrition
- > PNAS: Evaluating the Co-benefits of Dietary Change
- American Journal of Clinical Nutrition: Food Consumption and Climate Change

#### Vector-borne diseases

- > Nature: Climate Change and the Global Malaria Recession
- Parasites & Vectors: Temperature on Plasmodium Falciparum and P. Vivax
- > PNAS: Climatic Suitability for Malaria Transmission in Africa
- Nature: The Global Distribution and Burden of Dengue

#### Waterborne Diseases

- ➤ Environ Sci Technol: Impacts of Climate Change on Waterborne Diseases
- American Journal of Epidemiology: Heavy Rainfall Events and Diarrhea Incidence

#### General

- World Health Organization: Global Research Priorities
- > The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences: Literature Portal
- Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS): Climate Change and Your Health
- Environmental Health Perspectives: Health Effects of Greenhouse Gas Mitigation
- ➤ EcoHealth: Climate Change and Global Health- Quantifying a Growing Ethical Crisis

# **MULTIMEDIA AND FACTSHEETS**



#### **Opportunity for Action: Spread the Message**

Multimedia and factsheets can be effective tools to showcase the connections between Health & Climate. These resources can be shared online or displayed in public. So take the time to tweet, post, and share these great materials. Don't forget to add the summit hashtags: #GCAS2018 #StepUp2018 #HealthforAll #ClimateChangesHealth

#### ♦ MultiMedia

The Lancet developed a **media library** that contains podcasts, videos, as well as infographics. These resources cater to a wide variety of learners.

#### Videos

- > Tedx Oshkosh: Climate Change is Affecting Our Health. Is There a Cure?
- Tedx Montreal: Healthy Planet, Healthy People
- > TedMed: Why Hospitals Are Making Us Sick
- New Security Beat: **Healthy People**, **Healthy Environment- A Film Series**

#### Infographics

- The BMJ: Health Impacts of Climate Change; Co-benefits
- > The American Public Health Association: Climate Affects Your Health
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Climate Effects on Health
- > The Center for Climate Change and Health: Climate Change & You
- Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC): Extreme Heat
- Medical Society Consortium on Climate and Health: US Climate Impacts
- > World Health Organization: Air Quality Life Index™; Health in all Policies; Infographics

#### Factsheets

- World Health Organization: Climate Change and Public Health-Key Facts
- Environmental Protection Agency: Greenhouse Gas Endangerment Findings
- World Meteorological Organization: El Nino Southern Oscillation and Health
- American Public Health Association:
  - Warmer Water and Flooding Fact Sheet
  - Extreme Rainfall and Drought Fact Sheet
  - Heat Fact Sheet
- EcoAmerica:
  - Climate Changes Mental Health
  - Climate Changes Allergies and Asthma
  - Climate Changes Children's Health

# **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND CONTENT**

#### **University Programs:**

- The University of Wisconsin- Madison offers a free massive open online course titled Climate Change Policy + Public Health. "In addition to providing evidence for climate change's impact on human health, this course [explores] three primary areas where co-benefits can be realized: renewable energy, agriculture and food, urban design and active transport" (University of Wisconsin-Madison).
- The Yale School of Public Health offers an 18-week, fully online certificate program on climate change and health. The program prepares public health professionals and those in related fields to address the health impacts of climate change through three six-week courses: 1) Introduction to Climate Change and Health, 2) Climate Adaptation for Human Health, and 3) Communicating Climate Change and Health. While focusing on distinct topics, all three courses interweave common themes of climate change health impacts, vulnerability and health equity, and the co-benefits of mitigation and adaptation.
- Columbia University runs a Climate and Health Program through the Mailman School of Public Health. This program aims to "foster innovative, cross-disciplinary, translational scholarship on the human health dimensions of climate change, with the goal of advancing society's capacity to understand, anticipate, and prevent adverse health consequences" (Columbia: Climate and Health Program). The school of public health is also host institution for the Global Consortium on Climate and Health Education.
- George Mason University runs a Program on Climate and Health through the Center for Climate Change Communication. This program collaborates with multiple partners to increase the awareness of the health harms associated with climate change and the health benefits of climate change solutions.
- The University of California- San Francisco has a Global Health Program that offers Masters and PhD programs in Global Health. Medical school faculty have created a curriculum in sustainable healthcare education for the health professions schools of medicine, nursing, pharmacy and dentistry; it is available throughout the UC system and for use by other institutions.

# **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND CONTENT**

#### **Curricula and Textbooks:**

- ❖ The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences developed Climate Change and Human Health Lesson Plans for high schoolers (grades 9-12). These materials are "intended to promote student discovery and learning about the complex interactions between climate change, the environment and human health" (National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences).
- Fifteen years ago, Emory University started a "faculty development program to infuse sustainability and environmental issues across the curriculum" (Emory University). This effort, titled the Piedmont Project, graduated many professionals from all disciplines, including public health and medicine. A catalogue of the resulting course syllabi is available to the public.
- Created as a collaborative effort between climate and health experts from Columbia University, the Climate Information for Public Health Action Textbook targets a broad technical public health community, alongside development practitioners and policy-makers engaged in climate change adaptation. Focused on "infectious disease, hydro-meteorological disasters and nutrition, the book explores why, when and how data on the historical, current and future (from days to decades) climate can be incorporated into health decision-making" (Routledge). The authors plan to have a free online version of the textbook available in the Fall of 2018.
- The International Federation of Medical Students Associations developed a training manual on climate and health that "aims to provide training and education opportunities for students on the health consequences of climate change, the co-benefits of mitigation, and the role of health sector in adaptation and mitigation efforts. It discusses climate change with a unique perspective on the health implications, impacts and opportunities; and showcases good practices and policies that protect and promote our health. Finally, it provides resources to create, organize and lead activities in communities around the world through non formal education; and highlights the necessity of having a politically engaged youth." (IFMSA).

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND PUBLICATIONS

#### Homepages

- Climate Nexus: Homepage
- World Health Organization: Global Change Homepage
- World Meteorological Organization: Public Health
- > PLOS Medicine: Climate Change and Health
- ➢ Glaser Foundation: Global Health and Climate Change Homepage
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Climate & Health Program
- > American Public Health Association: Climate Change Homepage
- US National Association of County and City Health Officials: Climate Homepage
- > California Climate Action Team: Public Health Workgroup Resources
- University of California, San Francisco: Evidence to Policy Initiative
- North Carolina Institute for Climate Studies: Climate and Health Resources

#### Data Sources and Tools

- World Bank: Climate Knowledge Portal
- > World Health Organization: Atlas of Health and Climate
- Associated Program on Flood Management: HelpDesk
- Columbia University: IRI Climate and Society Map Room
- California Environmental Health Tracking Program: Homepage
- Cal-Adapt: California Climate Change Research Homepage
- US NOAA: National Drought Monitor; Heat Health Information System
- > California Department of Public Health: Healthy Communities Data and Indicators

#### General Publications

- > IPCC: Human Health-Impacts, Adaptation, and Co-Benefits
- American Public Health Association: Adaptation in Action Part 2
- Clinical Review & Education: Climate Change Challenges and Opportunities
- > Environmental Protection Agency: Extreme Heat Guidebook
- > National Center for Environmental Health: Communications Toolkit
- > Public Health Reviews: Solving the Global Climate Crisis
- World Health Organization:
  - Strengthening Health Resilience to Climate Change
  - Protecting Health from Climate Change
  - Promoting Health while Mitigating Climate Change
  - The Health Benefits of Tackling Climate Change
  - Lessons Learned on Health Adaptation to Climate Variability and Change: Experiences Across Low- and Middle-income Countries

# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND PUBLICATIONS

#### Academic Publications

- > American Journal of Public Health: Climate Change Supplemental Issue
- > Energy Economics: Temperature, Human Health, and Adaptation
- > PNAS: Impact of Climate Change on Global Malaria Distribution
- > Bull World Health Organization: Climate Change and Vectors: Regional Analysis.
- The Journal of Infectious Diseases: Climate and Vectors: Where Are We Next Heading?
- The American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene: Relationship of Climate, Geography, and Geology to Rift Valley Fever in Kenya During 2006-2007.
- International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health: Impact of Climate Change on Ambient Ozone Level and Mortality in Southeastern United States
- American Journal of Preventive Medicine: Symptoms of Heat Illness Among Latino Farm Workers in North Carolina

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