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Health Care in the Age of Planetary Health

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Climate change is the greatest public health threat of the 21st century
Air pollution from burning fossil fuels kills seven million people annually, twice as many people as AIDs, tuberculosis and malaria combined (WHO)
Estimated health effects from U.S. coal-fired power plant emissions

A 2010 study by the Clean Air Task Force estimated that in the US on an annual basis, air pollution from coal-fired power plants accounts for more than:

- 13,000 premature deaths
- 20,000 heart attacks
- 1.6 million lost workdays
- The total monetary cost of these health impacts is over $100 billion annually.

Drought

Increasing incidence of droughts are already impacting millions of people, destroying crops and forcing migration. This will dramatically increase by 2100.
Food Security and Nutrition

- 48 million are already food insecure in America, yet 40% of the food produced is wasted
- Two thirds of Americans are either obese or overweight
- Obesity and diabetes account for over $240 billion in health care costs annually
- Higher temperatures will increase likelihood of food contamination and reduce quality of food
Rainfall, Storms, Floods, and Sea Level Rise

Sea level rise and river flooding will inundate cities, threaten health care infrastructure, contaminate drinking water, and make people homeless. US government allocated $48 million to relocate the community of Isle de Jean Charles, the first official American climate refugees.
Infectious Disease

Warming temperatures allows mosquitoes to bring malaria, dengue fever, Zika virus, and West Nile virus to new regions.
Climate Change and Mental Health

- Contributes to trauma, PTSD, anxiety, depression
- First responders, women, children and low income people most vulnerable
Climate Refugees

Estimates are between 25 million and 200 million environmental refugees by 2050 (International Organization on Migration)
Climate Change and Equity

Climate change is a threat multiplier: children, poor people, the elderly and communities of color will be impacted the most.
COAL POLLUTION IS KILLING YOUR FAMILY.

JOIN THE FIGHT AGAINST COAL POLLUTION
Paying with Our Health

Global fossil fuels subsidies: $5.3 trillion
  = 6.5% of global GDP
  > Health spending of all the world's governments

More than half of these subsidies are externalities:
• Health care costs for treating victims of air pollution
• Lost income from ill health and premature deaths

Ending these subsidies would:
• Prevent 1.6 million premature deaths/yr
• Significantly reduce health care costs
• Reduce CO$_2$ emissions by 20%

Source: International Monetary Fund 2015
Health Care Contributes to GHG Emissions in Some Countries

In Others it Lacks Access to Energy for Basic Health Services

Low Carbon Health Care
Investing in Community Resilience

Gundersen Health, USA

83% emissions cut since 2008.

Energy independence in 2014
• 60% Clean Renewable

• 40% Energy reduction
  – Saves US $2-million per year
• Renewable energy
  – Solar power
  – Geothermal energy
  – Wind Turbines
  – Dairy digesters
  – Combined heat and power
  – Biomass boiler
Kaiser Permanente’s 2025 Environmental Stewardship Goals:
Raising the Bar on Environmental Responsibility

**CLIMATE ACTION**
Become “carbon net positive” by buying enough clean energy and carbon offsets to remove more greenhouse gases from the atmosphere than we emit.

**SUSTAINABLE FOOD**
Buy all of our food locally or from farms and producers that use sustainable practices, including using antibiotics responsibly.

**WASTE REDUCTION**
Recycle, reuse or compost 100% of our non-hazardous waste.

**WATER CONSERVATION**
Reduce the amount of water we use by 25% per square foot of buildings.

**SAFER PRODUCTS**
Increase our purchase of products and materials meeting environmental standards to 50%.

**SUSTAINING SUSTAINABILITY**
Meet international standards for environmental management at all of our hospitals.

**COLLABORATION**
Pursue new collaborations to reduce environmental risks to foodsheds, watersheds and air basins supplying our communities.
As Solar Industry Scales, Prices Fall

Source: SEIA
Low Carbon Health Care: Sustainable Purchasing

* accelerate the adoption and use of safer, greener products by leading healthcare systems,
* catalyze innovation in next generation product development, and
* inspire similar action in other sectors.
Low Carbon Health Care - Resilience

U.S. National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences report co-authored by Health Care Without Harm.
Incorporating Health into Energy Policy

Table A.1. Summary of Measures by Health Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Indicator</th>
<th>Healthy Food</th>
<th>Physical Activity, Walkability, Bikeability</th>
<th>Outdoor Air Quality</th>
<th>Indoor Air Quality</th>
<th>Improved Access</th>
<th>Green Space</th>
<th>Job Creation</th>
<th>Job Access</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reduction Measures</td>
<td>LUT 5.1</td>
<td>LUT 5.2</td>
<td>LUT 5.3</td>
<td>LUT 5.4</td>
<td>ALL</td>
<td>EE 4.1</td>
<td>EE 4.5</td>
<td>EE 1.1</td>
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Oakland votes to ban coal shipments, citing health risks

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Leveraging Health Sector Voices

A Call to Climate Leadership
By Sr. Mary Ellen Leciejewski, OP, MA, Sr. Susan Vickers, RSM and Rachel Lee Wenger, MPA

No Time to Stay Quiet: The Clean Power Plan Is Critical to Protect Public Health
February 22, 2016 | Kim Knowlton

Healthcare confronts climate change: Schools, providers focus on health effects to dampen political opposition
By Andis Robeznieks | June 13, 2015

Transitioning away from fossil fuels to a low carbon economy

- Reduces greenhouse gas emissions
- Reduces health impacts from fossil fuels/toxic chemicals
- Lowers health care costs
CLIMATE SUMMIT

WHAT IF IT'S A BIG HOAX AND WE CREATE A BETTER WORLD FOR NOTHING?

- ENERGY INDEPENDENCE
- PRESERVE RAINFORESTS
- SUSTAINABILITY
- GREEN JOBS
- LIVABLE CITIES
- RENEWCABLES
- CLEAN WATER, AIR
- HEALTHY CHILDREN
- ETC. ETC.