ADVOCACY FOR CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

*Moderator: Cecilia DeLoach Lynn, MBA, LEED AP*
Director, Sector Performance & Recognition Practice Greenhealth

#climatechangeshealth
Do No Harm: Climate Solutions in Your Hospital

Cecilia DeLoach Lynn, MBA, LEED AP
Director, Sector Performance & Recognition
Practice Greenhealth
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
- RENEWABLES
- CLEAN WATER, AIR
- HEALTHY CHILDREN
- ETC. ETC.

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Climate Change

Changing hearts and minds

Clinical Care

Advocacy

Hospital operations
Emissions from energy and water use
Emissions from food transport miles and meat production
Emissions from waste anesthetic gases
Emissions from waste hauling, treatment and landfill gases
Emissions from fleet vehicles
Emissions from supply transport
Emissions from employee commute
Operationalizing GHG Reduction

Scope 1
- Energy Reduction
- Onsite Renewables
- Waste Anesthetic Gases

Scope 2
- Energy Reduction
- Clean Energy

Scope 3
- Waste Minimization & Diversion
- Transportation
- Supply Chain
Waste Anesthetic Gases

8 hours of desflurane = 116 days of

At the University of Wisconsin, containers holding the various anesthetic gases are prominently labeled with their global warming potential. Since the labels were introduced, the hospital has cut about 4 million kilograms per year of carbon dioxide-equivalent emissions—comparable to removing almost 900 cars from the road—while saving about $20,000 per month.¹
By reducing air exchanges per hour for non-surgical periods, Cleveland Clinic saved two Gwh/year in energy output and $250,000 per year.

From 2008 to 2015, Advocate Health Care reduced its energy consumption by 23 percent per square foot (weather normalized), saving $23 million and avoiding the release of 203,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide, equivalent to the energy to power nearly 19,000 homes for a year.

Using a lean process called Rapid Process Improvement Workshop, Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center reduced their annual supply purchases by $858,759, removed 91,753 pounds of instruments from the processing cycle, which resulted in the net savings of almost $1.5 million.
HealthPartners has implemented a comprehensive waste reduction program that has resulted in a 14 percent reduction in paper and indirect savings of $1.3 million. The program has diverted 166 tons of food from the trash to compost and recycled 1500 tons of materials in 2016, with 793,000 pounds diverted from the operating room, for a total savings of over $940,000.

University of Vermont Medical Center procures over 45 percent of its food locally and sustainably, including food grown on their rooftop garden. Food waste is composted offsite, and then some of that compost is purchased back for use in the gardens. UVM Medical Center utilizes a room-service model for patients which helps to reduce food waste.
Climate and Health Program

Three Pillar Strategy

Mitigation
Reduce the carbon footprint of hospital operations.

Resilience
Prepare hospitals for climate impacts and anchor communities and regions for greater community resilience

Leadership
Leverage the moral, political, and economic influence of the health care sector to change policy and markets.
Health Care Climate Council

• A leadership body committed to protect patients and employees from the health impacts of climate change and become anchors for resilient communities

• 19 leading health systems

• 500 hospitals in 27 states & 240 Congressional districts

• Annual operating revenue of more than $165 billion

• 1 million employees
Hospitals as Anchors for Resilient Communities
Clinician Advocates for Climate Solutions in Virginia

Samantha Ahdoot, MD, FAAP
Chair, Cofounder
Climate Changes Health

- Shifts in range and life cycles
- Extreme Weather
- Rising Temperature
- Plant Allergens

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Medical Societies Address Climate Change

Global Climate Change and Children’s Health

COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Climate Change and Health: A Position Paper of the American College of Physicians

Ryan A. Crowley, BSJ, for the Health and Public Policy Committee of the American College of Physicians (*)

American Thoracic Society Documents

An Official American Thoracic Society Workshop Report: Climate Change and Human Health


This Official Workshop Report was Approved by the American Thoracic Society Board of Directors, January 2012

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Medical Society of Virginia
Resolution 2016-PASSED!

Protecting Human Health in a Changing Climate

A warming world poses significant risks to human health, from: extreme weather events; heat illness; air pollution; allergies; food and water contamination; infectious disease; and…

Whereas these effects are felt disproportionately in vulnerable populations, including children, the elderly and the disadvantaged; and…

Virginia AAP supports Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, 2015

Starting in Virginia

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Coming Together in Virginia

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Building an Organization

“Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action”

Mission:
Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action (VCCA) is building a network of activated and engaged clinician leaders ready to speak on how climate change solutions protect the health of our patients and communities in Virginia.

#climatechangeshealth
Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action (VCCA) is building a network of activated and engaged clinician leaders ready to speak on how climate change solutions protect the health of our patients and communities in Virginia.

Clinicians have the knowledge and mission to play a vital role in protecting the health and prosperity of Virginia’s families and communities from climate change. VCCA aims to bring this critical perspective into climate-related policymaking in our state.

**Our Work:**

In our work to foster climate and health advocacy and policy-making in Virginia, VCCA is working in three main areas:

**Education**

VCCA is working to educate medical professionals and students across disciplines in Virginia. We are bringing educational events to medical centers, hospitals, and medical societies throughout the state. Our first event at Inova Fairfax Hospital in 2017 featured speakers from Virginia Department of Health, U.S. Department of Agriculture and American Lung Association, amongst others. Presentations from this event are available on our website. For 2018, VCCA has coordinated three Grand Rounds presentations at three Virginia hospitals and a CME/CNE conference at Bon Secours Health System in collaboration with Virginia Commonwealth University.

Through these events, we aim to recruit a base of clinicians across the state to serve as advocates for their patients and communities.

**Advocacy**

VCCA is working to increase understanding of the critical intersections between health benefits and climate change solutions. We are engaging with elected officials and policymakers and participating in public forums across the state to help ensure that policies are made with the health of our citizens and communities at the top priority. We seek to promote sustainability and resilience of communities and medical facilities.

**Community Outreach**

VCCA is working to educate and empower the public around local and state climate-related policies that impact public health and welfare. Through work with community leaders, production of educational materials, op-eds and letters to the editor, VCCA is empowering the public to protect their families and communities.

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VCCA Launches 2017

Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action

What is the Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action (VCCA)?
VCCA is a coalition of clinicians in Virginia focused on the important relationship our changing climate has on our health.

What Climate Change Means to the Health of Virginians: A Day of Education
Building Coalitions

Hospitals

Medical Societies

Organizations

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April 23 2017
Conference, Inova Fairfax Hospital
*Climate Change and Health in Virginia*

January 2018
VCU and UVA Schools of Medicine
*Pediatric Grand Rounds, Samantha Ahdoot, MD*

February 2018
Conference, Bon Secours Health System, Richmond.
*Health in a Changing Climate*
*Understanding the Impacts on Virginians*

March 2018
Inova Fairfax Hospital
*Internal Medicine Grand Rounds, Nitin Damle, MD*

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Advocacy Day January 25, 2018

• With VA American College of Physicians
• Presentation by Dr. Marissa Levine,
Virginia State Health Commissioner

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Community Outreach

July 2017:
Meeting with Richmond Sustainability Manager
Alicia Zatcoff

October 2018:
Children’s Festival, Fauquier County

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Advocacy Pearls
Practical advice for an advocate of any level

Bret Clawson
VCU SOM Class of 2019
Disclosure

I have no relevant financial or nonfinancial relationships to disclose
Becoming an Advocate

Know who represents you
Synergy

Find organizations or other advocacy groups to partner with and strengthen your efforts.
Political Capital

What can you leverage to gain political support for a cause?
Art and Marketing:
Get attention for your cause
Creativity for a Cause
Advocacy at VCU SOM
Thank you VCCA!
Nurses and Climate Advocacy

Cara Cook, MS, RN, AHN-BC
Climate Change Program Coordinator
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments (ANHE)

Mission: Promoting healthy people and healthy environments by educating and leading the nursing profession, advancing research, incorporating evidence-based practice, and influencing policy.

Climate change is a health crisis!
“Climate change is the biggest global health threat of the 21st century... The impacts will be felt all around the world – and not just in some distant future but in our lifetimes and those of our children.”

The Lancet Commission on Health and Climate Change, 2015
Why Healthcare Professionals?

Highest honesty & integrity
- Nurses
- Medical doctors
- Pharmacists
- Police officers
- Clergy

Lowest honesty & integrity
- Bankers
- Lawyers
- Business executives
- Advertising
- Car salespeople
- Congress
Health professionals have a responsibility to learn about the health impacts of climate change, educate others about impacts, and advocate for solutions.
Nursing Collaborative on Climate Change and Health
Health Sector: Opportunity for Action
Education

• Inclusion of climate change in curriculum, continuing education, and competencies
  • Strategies for Incorporating Climate Change into Nursing Curricula
• Global Consortium on Climate & Health Education
• NEW Campaign: Nurses’ Climate Challenge
Educating 5,000 health professionals on climate & health
Practice

• Advocate for climate friendly environments & practice:
  • Shared Governance
  • Green teams/committees
  • Institutional leadership

• Need to emphasize resiliency and preparedness
Social & Political Advocacy

- Contact legislators
- Community outreach & education
- Speak to local & professional organizations
- Participate in organizing an action-oriented event
- Share health perspective in climate discussions
- Motivate others to ACT!

Image: Working Nurse
Contact

Cara Cook, MS, RN, AHN-BC
Climate Change Program Coordinator, ANHE

cara@envirn.org
Health In A Changing Climate - Policy

- Virginia General Assembly Overview
- Current Policies
Virginia’s General Assembly

lis.virginia.gov

House of Delegates
- 49 Democrats
- 51 Republicans

Senate
- 19 Democrats
- 21 Republicans
Reducing Climate Pollution

Regulatory – Link with RGGI

Legislative – Joining RGGI
Linking vs. Joining is about who receives revenue.

Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative

RGGI

Market-Based Approach

Reduce CO_2 30% by 2030

Fund Energy Efficiency & Mitigation
Health Impacts of Pipelines

- Construction Impacts
- Methane Leaks
Pipeline Legislation

• Support SB950
Making Clean Energy a Reality

- Oversight of Utilities
- Barriers for Renewable Energy
QUESTIONS?

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