

State-Level Climate Policy: How We Win and Why We Lose



Moderator: Bev Harp

*Director of State Affairs
Medical Society Consortium
on Climate and Health*



Tonyehn Verkitus

*Executive Director
PSR Pennsylvania*



Samantha Ahdoot

*Chair and Founder
Virginia Clinicians for
Climate Action*

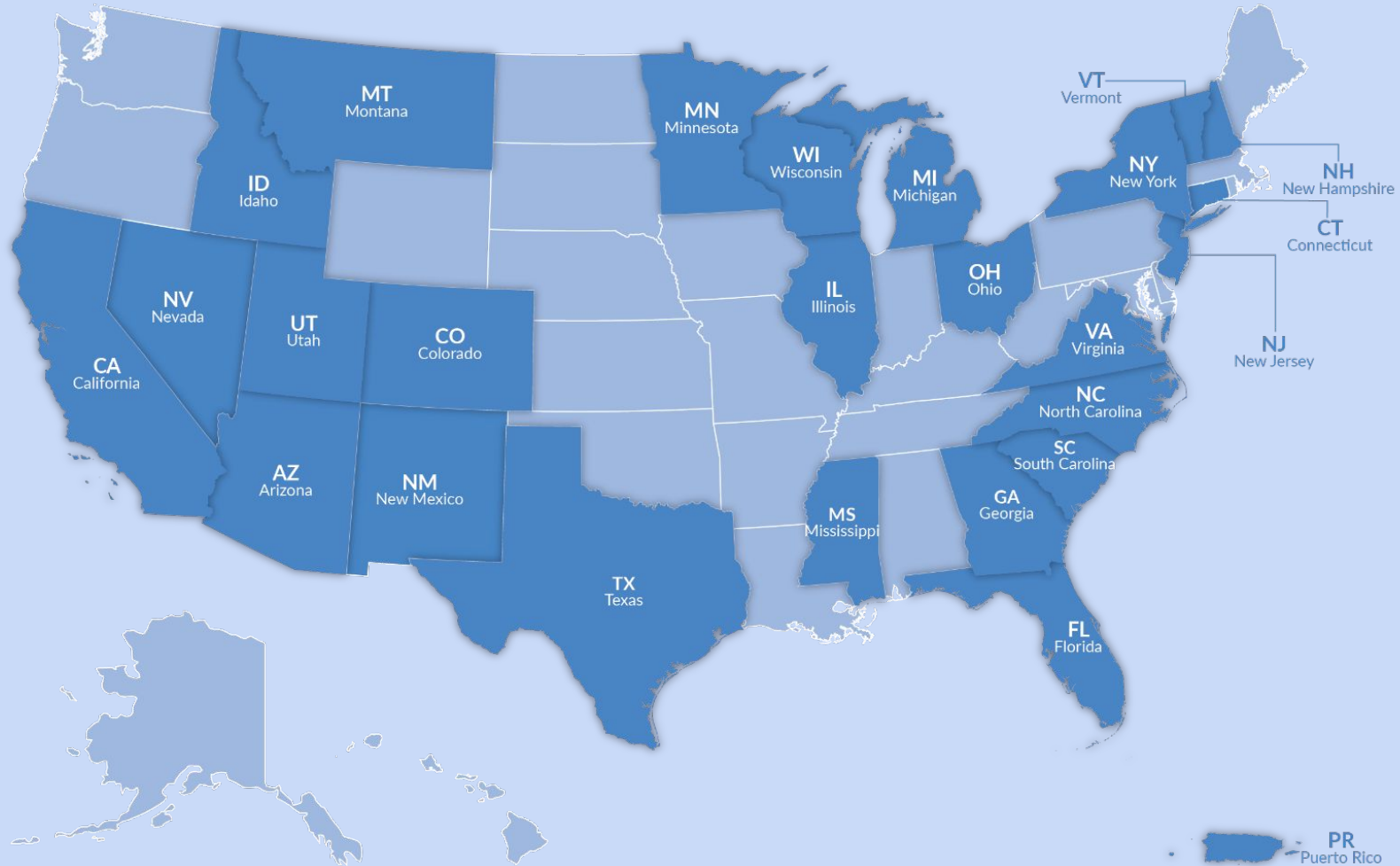


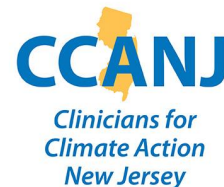
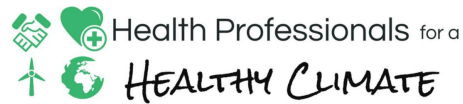
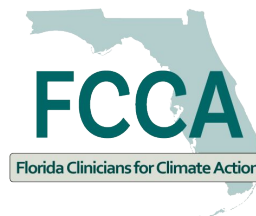
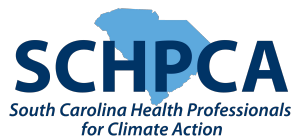
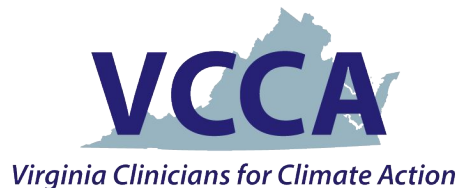
Cheryl Holder

*Founding Co-Chair & Interim
Executive Director
Florida Clinicians for Climate Action*



The Medical Society Consortium on
CLIMATE & HEALTH





PSR



PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY





Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action

Health and Climate Advocacy in Virginia A Tale of Success and What Came Next

Samantha Ahdoot, MD, FAAP

Chair and Co-Founder

Pediatrician, Pediatric Associates of Alexandria

Associate Professor of Education, UVA School of Medicine

2014-Climate Policy Comes to Virginia



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[NEWS](#)

[EVENTS](#)

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Republican Delegate Unveils First-Ever State Legislation to Raise \$200 Million Annually for Flooding Adaptation and Climate Mitigation

Posted on December 22, 2014 | By [ccansupporter](#) | In [Press Releases](#)

2015-VA Pediatricians Support Climate Policy



American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



Virginia Chapter

Virginia Chapter
2201 West Broad Street
Suite 205
Richmond, VA 23220
Phone: 804/643-4631
Fax: 804/788-9987
ltavis@amdpeds.org

**Virginia Chapter
Executive Committee**
President
Barbara L. Kahler, MD, FAAP
Vice President
Samuel T. Bartle, MD, FAAP

Secretary-Treasurer
Sandy L. Chung, MD, FAAP
Immediate Past President
William C. Ross, MD, MBA, FAAP
Executive Director
Jane B. Chappell

Chapter Web site
www.virginiapediatrics.org

AAP Headquarters
141 Northwest Point Blvd
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007-1098
Phone: 847/434-4000
Fax: 847/434-8000
E-mail: info@aap.org
www.aap.org

TO: Members of the Senate Agriculture Committee
FROM: Virginia Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
DATE: January 28, 2015

RE: Support for SB 1428

On behalf of the Virginia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, I am requesting your support for Senate Bill 1428 (McEachin), Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative; Commonwealth Resilience Fund established. This legislation introduces vital protection for children from the impacts of rising global temperatures, worsening storms and rising sea levels.

Global warming is a major threat to the health, safety and security of children in Virginia. As global temperatures rise, many other major changes are occurring, including melting glaciers, worsening storms and rising sea levels. These fundamental changes ultimately impact human health, and children are at particularly high risk.

The Hampton Roads region of Virginia is at particularly high risk from rising sea levels and flooding. A storm surge in this region would present a major threat to children, families and communities. To understand the potential impact of such an event on a large community such as Hampton Roads, we can examine the impact of Hurricane Katrina on the children of New Orleans.

Following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, greater than 5,000 children were separated from their families. Over 34,000 calls were made to a special hotline that the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children established after the storms and the last missing child was reunited with her family after six months. It is estimated that 400 children and adolescents were rescued from flooded homes, and that 11,000 children were placed in the New Orleans Convention Center and Superdome at some time. Between 200,000 and 300,000 children were evacuated and relocated, temporarily or permanently.

Climate change presents other significant health risks to children. These include increased heat illness, worsening respiratory and allergic disease due to impacts on air quality and plant pollen production, and changes in patterns of climate sensitive infections.

Our nation's leading scientific organizations, including NASA, NOAA, and the American Academy of the Advancement of Science, conclude that it is very likely (95% certainty) that human generated greenhouse gases are the cause of observed climate change. While some uncertainties remain, our children deserve our action on the best available evidence to protect their health, safety, and their future. Please support this legislation, which provides a mechanism for Virginia to offer protection from dangerous climactic changes to our most cherished and vulnerable citizens- our children.

Sincerely,

Barbara L. Kahler, MD, FAAP
President, Virginia Chapter



Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action

2017-VCCA is Launched

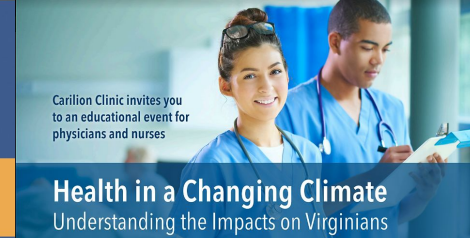
Mission

Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action educates and mobilizes clinician leaders to bring the health voice to climate policymaking in Virginia.



Vision

Virginia will become a national model for equitable climate change solutions that protect the health of all Virginians.

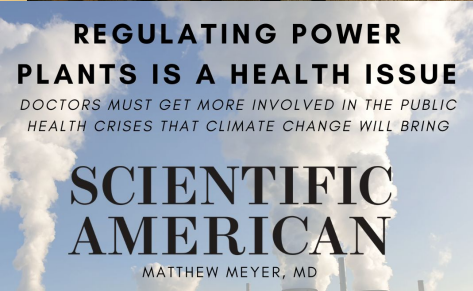


Carilion Clinic invites you to an educational event for physicians and nurses

Health in a Changing Climate
Understanding the Impacts on Virginians

Theory of Change

Clinicians have the knowledge and mission to play a vital role in protecting the health of Virginia's families and communities from the effects of climate change. This clinical voice can overcome entrenched partisan and economic barriers, by focusing on the health benefits of climate solutions and the health dangers of inaction.



VCCA Structure

All licensed health care professionals and trainees

Physicians, Nurses, Pharmacists, Psychologists,
Public Health Professionals, etc.

Over **500** general members

~15 Steering Committee members

Staff: Executive Director, Communications Manager, Fellows

Committees: Healthcare Sustainability, Education, Advocacy

Statewide representation

Northern Virginia, Richmond, Charlottesville, Roanoke, Hampton Roads



VCCA 7TH Annual Advocacy Day 2/1/24



The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) Analysis

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, the first carbon-trading program in the U.S., involved 10 states in the Northeast
- Abt conducted a study, one of the first of its kind, to determine the health impacts of the program
- Our analysis quantified a reduction in premature deaths, asthma attacks, and other benefits

Summary of Cumulative RGGI Health Benefits, 2009 to 2014

Avoided Health Effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 300–830 premature adult deaths 		
	Avoided Morbidity		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 35–390 non-fatal heart attacks • 420–510 cases of acute bronchitis • 8,200–9,900 asthma exacerbations • 13,000–16,000 respiratory symptoms 		
	Other		
Value of Avoided Health Effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 180–220 hospital admissions • 200–230 asthma ER visits • 39,000–47,000 lost work days • 240,000–280,000 days of minor restricted activity 		
	Low	Central	High
	\$3.0 billion	\$5.7 billion	\$8.3 billion

Energy Insecurity Is SDH in Virginia

Energy Insecurity in Virginia

% income spent on utilities by VA households:

Average: 2%

Low income: 7%

Extremely low income: 17%

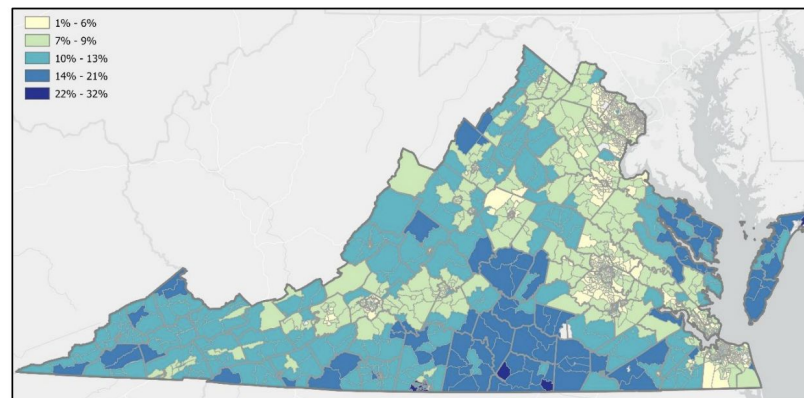


Energy
insecurity

Dangerous coping mechanisms: reduce food & health expenditures, forgo heating/cooling causing unhealthy home temperatures

Pitt D, Suen I, MacKenzie M, Alexander A, Lumsden M. *Investing in Virginia through energy efficiency: an analysis of the impacts of RGGI and the HIEE program. January 2023*

Figure ES-1. Map of Average Energy Burden of Low-Income Households by Census Tract




Source: Low-Income Energy Affordability Data (LEAD), US Department of Energy



Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action

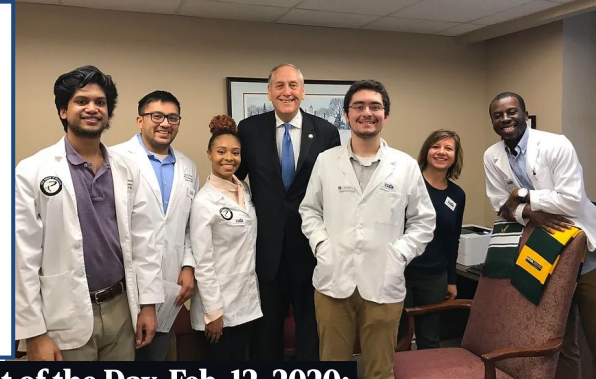
VCCA Supports RGGI 2017-2020



Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action

Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action Supports Virginia's Revised Plan to Reduce and Cap Carbon Dioxide Emissions from Fossil Fuel Fired Electric Power Generating Facilities

On behalf of over 300 doctors, nurses, allied health professionals and students across our state, Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action supports the revised proposal to reduce and cap carbon dioxide emissions in Virginia.




Tim O'Mara: RGGI provides a path to protect kids' health

By **PILOT ONLINE**
March 17, 2020 at 12:05 a.m.

**Correspondent of the Day, Feb. 12, 2020:
Climate change affects health of all Virginians**

Richmond Times-Dispatch

Feb 11, 2020 0



Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action

Clinician Support for Executive Directive 11

On behalf of over 200 doctors, nurses, allied health professionals and students across our state, Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action submits this letter in support of Executive Directive 11. We ask that this program be designed to significantly reduce carbon emissions and increase renewable energy capacity relative to current levels in order to protect public health, with a focus on vulnerable populations.



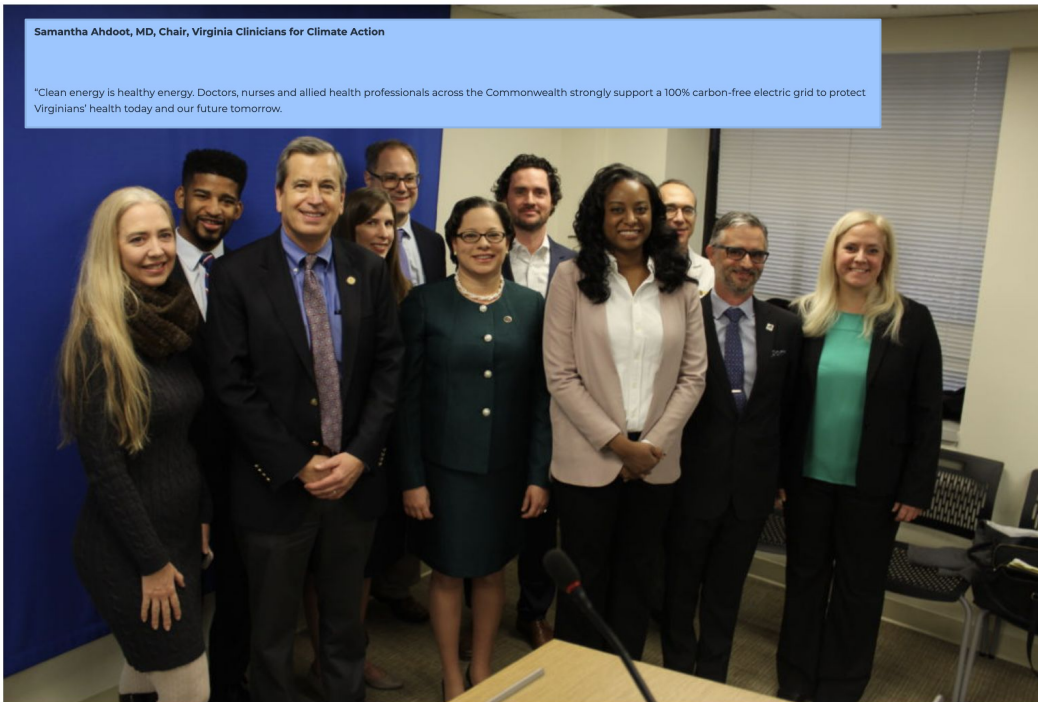
The Virginia Clean Economy Act 2020

ROUNDUP: LAWMAKERS, ADVOCATES UNVEIL THE VIRGINIA CLEAN ECONOMY ACT

By dave | December 19, 2019 | Categories: Updates From The Capital | Comments Off

Samantha Ahdoot, MD, Chair, Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action

"Clean energy is healthy energy. Doctors, nurses and allied health professionals across the Commonwealth strongly support a 100% carbon-free electric grid to protect Virginians' health today and our future tomorrow.



COMMENTARY



Clean Economy Act would make Virginia a leader on climate change



MARCH 2, 2020 12:01 AM



A worker installs solar panels at Washington and Lee University. (Photo courtesy of Secure Futures LLC.)

By Matthew Burke, M.D.

Virginia General Assembly 2020

The year all our dreams came true!

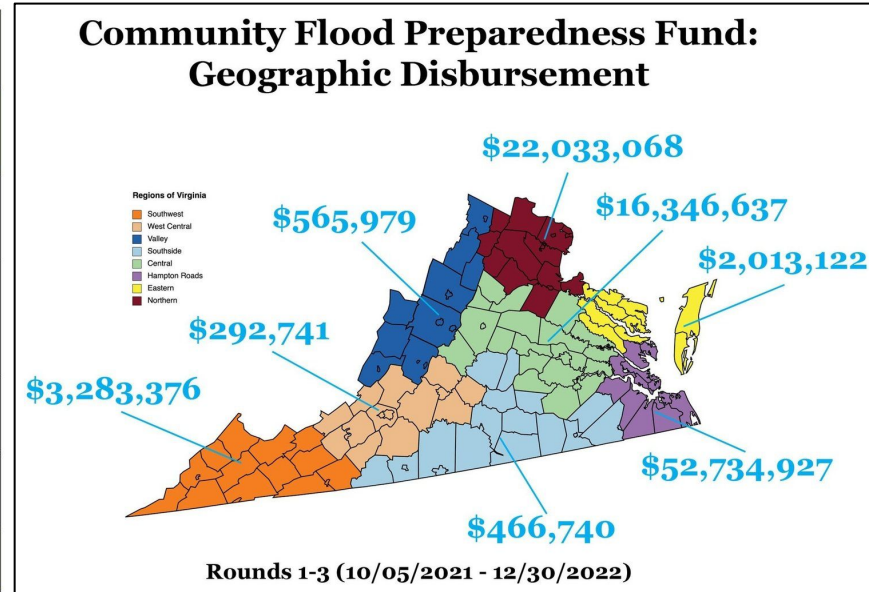


RGGI Supports VA Coastal Resilience!

VA Community Flood Preparedness Fund: Award Cycles					
Grant Round	Announcement Date	Amount Released	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded	% Designated Low-Income
4	07/07/2023	\$85M	\$76M	TBD	TBD
3	09/28/2022	Phase One: \$40M Phase Two: \$56.4M Total for Round 3: \$70M	\$93M <i>64 applications</i>	Phase One: \$13.6M <i>27 applications</i> Phase Two: \$51.8M <i>22 applications</i>	72%
2	12/22/2021	\$17M	\$29.7M <i>37 applications</i>	\$24.5M* <i>30 applications</i>	86%
1	10/05/2021	\$18M	\$14.5M <i>32 applications</i>	\$7.8M <i>19 applications</i>	49%
Total		\$190M**	\$213M	\$97.7M	74%

*DCR released funds that were left over from Grant Round One to fund additional applications in Grant Round Two.

**The total amount released represents only a portion of the money available in the CFPPF, which receives a 45% allocation from the quarterly Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative auctions.



Governor Youngkin Announces Plan to Leave RGGI



Commonwealth of Virginia
Office of the Governor

Executive Order

NUMBER NINE (2022)

PROTECTING RATEPAYERS FROM THE RISING COST OF LIVING DUE TO THE REGIONAL GREENHOUSE GAS INITIATIVE

By virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor, I hereby issue this Executive Order to re-evaluate Virginia's participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative and immediately begin regulatory processes to end it.

Importance of the Initiative

Reliable and affordable access to electricity is imperative to the health and safety of all Virginians. Our hospitals, schools, businesses, and homes all rely on this essential service. And the unpredictable and rising cost of electricity poses a significant and immediate threat to our Commonwealth and its citizens. In 2019, alone, over 100,000 Virginian households required Energy Assistance with a cost of \$46 million to the Commonwealth.

Virginia's participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) risks contributing to the increased cost of electricity for our citizens. Virginia's utilities have sold over \$227 million in allowances in 2021 during the RGGI auctions, doubling the initial estimates. Those utilities are allowed to pass on the costs of purchasing allowances to their ratepayers. Under the initial bill "RGGI rider" created for Dominion Energy customers, typical residential customer bills were increased by \$2.39 a month and the typical industrial customer bill by was raised by \$1,554 per month. In a filing before the State Corporation Commission, Dominion Energy stated that RGGI will cost ratepayers between \$1 billion and \$1.2 billion over the next four years.

Inside Climate News

Politics & Policy

Trump's Former Head of the EPA Has Been a Quiet Contributor to Virginia's Exit From RGGI

Gov. Glenn Youngkin caused an uproar picking Andrew Wheeler as his natural resources secretary. Senate Democrats blocked Wheeler's nomination, but now he oversees regulatory efforts and remains involved in environmental policy.



By Jake Bolster
July 26, 2023



Andrew Wheeler arrives for a House Appropriations Committee hearing in the Rayburn House Office Building in Washington in March 2020, when he served as President Donald Trump's administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. Wheeler currently is head of Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin's newly created Office of Regulatory Management. Credit: Drew Angerer/Getty Images.



a Clinicians for Climate Action

Governor Youngkin and RGGI

Youngkin announces slate of environmental board appointments

Picks include four new air board members

BY: SARAH VOGELSONG - MAY 16, 2022 5:37 PM



Gov.-elect Glenn Youngkin met with outgoing Gov. Ralph Northam Thursday at the Executive Mansion. (Ned Oliver/Virginia Mercury)



VCCA members Danny Walden (left) and Vivienne Pierce McDaniel (center) spoke about the need to protect the health of Virginians by staying in RGGI at a press conference alongside partners at the League of Conservation Voters, Virginia Energy Efficiency Coalition, and State Senators Hashmi, Edwards and Lewis.

UNHEALTHY OUTCOMES

Commentary: Giving up on greenhouse gas plan is bad for climate, and our children

Richmond Times-Dispatch

DR. MATTHEW SCOTT Aug 25, 2023 6

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA
SCHOOL of LAW

Cale Jaffe
Professor of Law, General Faculty
Director, Environmental Law and Community Engagement Clinic

January 9, 2024

Hon. Rhonda T. Vaughn, Clerk
Floyd County Circuit Court
27th Judicial District of Virginia
100 East Main Street, Room 200
Floyd, Virginia 24091-0057

RE: Association of Energy Conservation Professionals, et al. v. State Air Pollution Control Board, et al., Case No. CL23000173-00

Ms. Vaughn:

Enclosed please find for filing in the above-captioned matter the Motion of Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action and the Virginia Energy Efficiency Council (Public Health and Energy Efficiency Amic) Seeking Leave to File a Brief as Amici Curiae in Support of Petitioners.

Also included with this filing, as Attachment A, is the proposed Brief of Amici Curiae.

The Motion and Brief are being filed in paper form via overnight mail. A return envelope (postage prepaid) is included and a date-stamped, return copy of this filing is requested. If you should have any questions, please contact me at (634) 524-1776, or via email at cjaffe@law.virginia.edu.

Respectfully,
Cale Jaffe
Coined to Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action & The Virginia Energy Efficiency Council

GOVERNOR YOUNGKIN'S PLAN TO REMOVE VIRGINIA FROM RGGI

August 2022

Plan announced for RGGI withdrawal through a Notice of Intended Regulatory Action (NOIRA)

Sept - Oct 2022

NOIRA submitted;
30-day public comment period

December 2022

Proposed regulation adopted by the Air Pollution Control Board on December 7th

Feb - Mar 2023

Draft regulations posted to the Register of Regulations;

Quarter 2, 2023

Revision period by the Department of Environmental Quality

60-day public comment period

June 7, 2023

Air Control Board voted to adopt final repeal regulation;

July 31, 2023

Final regulation published in the Virginia Register;

Final regulation submitted for Executive Review

Notices of Appeal filed

August 2023

Lawsuits Filed;
Public comments open until August 30th

September 2023

Repeal regulation is complete (if a 6-month extension is not requested)

December 31, 2023

Virginia's RGGI contract expires



Visit VAEEC.org/RGGI to learn more.

VA Rural Counties Fight Large Scale Solar

More Virginia Counties Are Seeking Solar Moratoriums, But Are They Legal?

ANDY BROWNSTEIN | OCTOBER 4, 2021

U.S. solar expansion stalled by rural land-use protests

By Nichola Groom

April 7, 2022 7:45 AM EDT · Updated 2 years ago



[1/32] Solar panels facing the sun are seen in the Spotsylvania Solar Energy Center, the largest solar project east of the Rockies, in Locust Grove, Virginia, U.S. April 4, 2022. REUTERS/Kevin Lamarque [Acquire Licensing Rights](#)

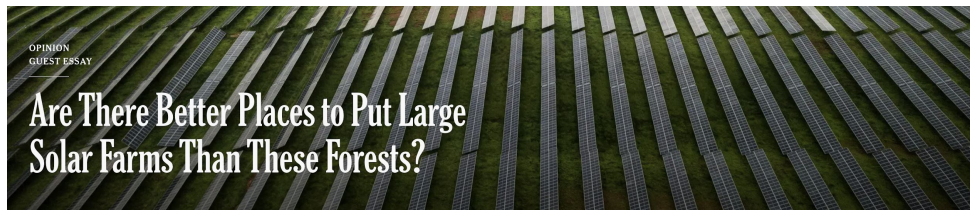
Virginia residents reject massive solar farm plan for third time over environmental concerns

One local landowner said the project would 'destroy nearly a thousand acres of timberland'



By Thomas Catenacci · Fox News

Published January 19, 2023 7:19pm EST



OPINION
GUEST ESSAY

Are There Better Places to Put Large Solar Farms Than These Forests?

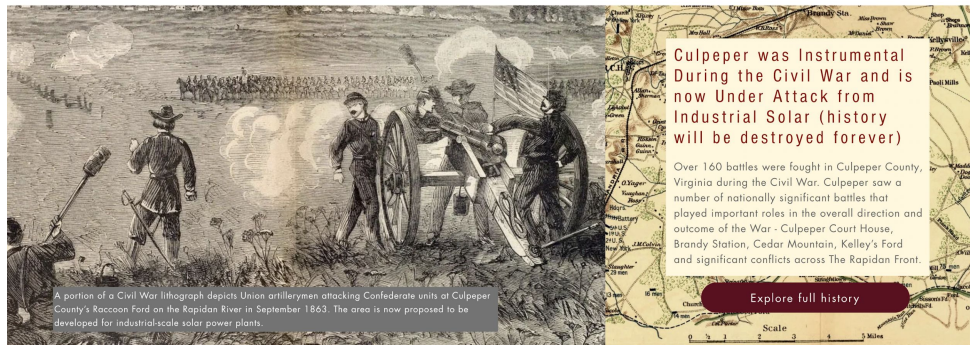
Trinity's Creek Solar, a 134-acre, 10-megawatt installation along Highway 99, is the first solar project operating in Charlotte County, Va. Melissa Lyttle for The New York Times

Help us protect agricultural-forestry zoned land

Home | About Us | Gallery | Video Hub | [Culpeper County's Story](#) | Citizen Groups | Press Room | Resources



Culpeper's History and Opposition to Industrial Scale



Culpeper was instrumental during the Civil War and is now under attack from industrial solar (history will be destroyed forever)

Over 160 battles were fought in Culpeper County, Virginia during the Civil War. Culpeper saw a number of nationally significant battles that played important roles in the overall direction and outcome of the War - Culpeper Court House, Brandy Station, Cedar Mountain, Kelley's Ford and significant conflicts across the Rapidan Front.

Explore full history

'Gettysburg' director, Ron Maxwell Comes Out Swinging Against Utility-Scale Power Plants and Writes a Letter to the Culpeper Board of Supervisors (view here)

VCCA Collaborates on Parking Lot Solar Bill

Take Action: Support Parking Lot Solar Pilot Program

Parking lot solar is a practical and effective way to utilize already developed land toward the collective goal of generating more renewable energy to meet the state's growing demand. It also mitigates transmission impacts and gets energy on the grid quickly. Bills [SB234](#) (Hashmi) and [HB367](#) (Reid) establish Virginia's first-ever parking lot solar pilot program and provide dedicated funding to incentivize further implementation of such projects across the state.

PARKING LOT SOLAR

SUPPORT SB 234/HB 367

WRITE YOUR LEGISLATORS TODAY!



Supporting Groups

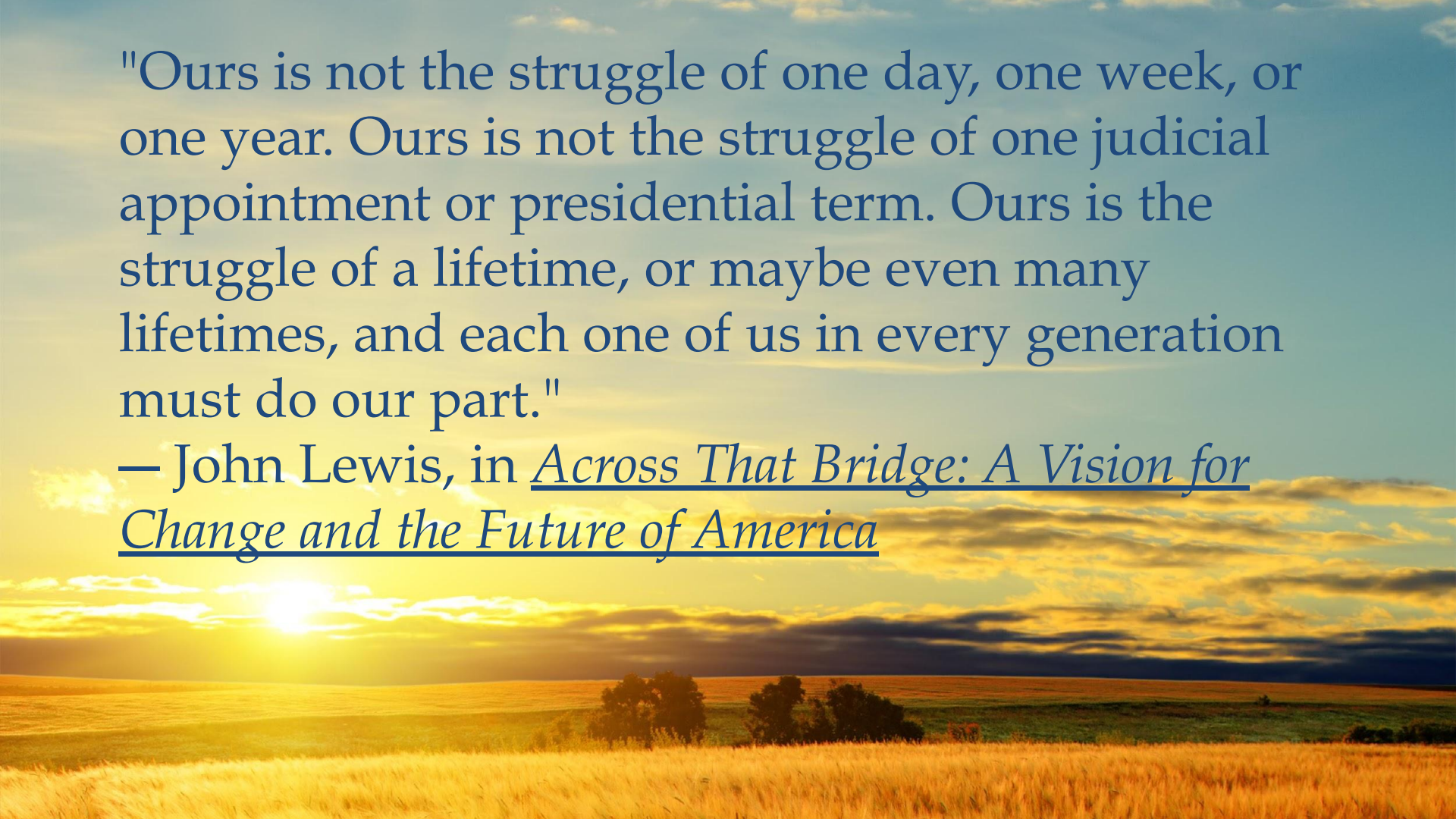
Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action, Virginia Farm Bureau Federation, Southern Environmental Law Center, Virginia Conservation Network, NRDC, Climate Cabinet Action, Virginia Agribusiness Council, League of Conservation Voters, and Virginia Cattlemen's Association.



Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action

"Ours is not the struggle of one day, one week, or one year. Ours is not the struggle of one judicial appointment or presidential term. Ours is the struggle of a lifetime, or maybe even many lifetimes, and each one of us in every generation must do our part."

— John Lewis, in *Across That Bridge: A Vision for Change and the Future of America*





Walking the Tightrope of Advocacy and Policy

The intricate dance of physician engagement

Tonyehn Verkitus

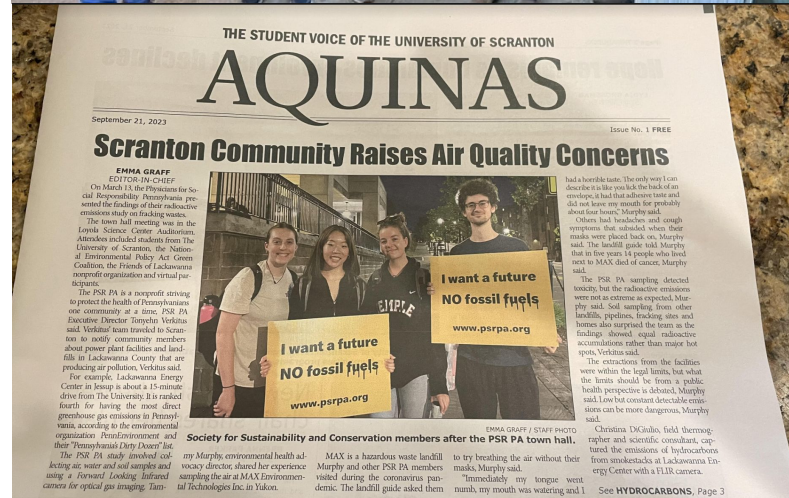
Executive Director

Mission

PSR PA professionals champion the health of all communities by advocating for socially and environmentally just actions.

Vision

PSR PA develops safe and resilient communities for a healthy future.





ROBERT NICKELSBURG/GETTY IMAGES

PES Refinery Explosion, South Philadelphia (*CNN*)



US Steel, Clairton, PA (*PSR PA*)



Pennsylvania Shell Ethylene Cracker Plant
Beaver County
(*Ryan Gattis*)



Pennsylvania Climate Action Plan



Strategies for government, business, agriculture, and community leaders—and all Pennsylvanians

Strategies to Meet Pennsylvania's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Goals

Starting implementation of all of these strategies now will enable Pennsylvania to meet its goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions 26 percent by 2025 and 80 percent by 2050, compared to 2005 levels.

Start Now and Implement in 5 years:

- Institute the most up-to-date building codes for energy efficiency.
- Improve residential and commercial energy efficiency (electricity and gas).
- Increase distributed on-site solar energy.
- Increase industrial energy efficiency and fuel switching.
- Use programs and incentives to increase energy efficiency for agriculture.
- Incentivize use of distributed combined heat and power.
- Keep nuclear energy generation at current levels.

Start Now and Implement in 10 years:

- Incentivize building electrification.
- Increase fuel efficiency of light-duty vehicles and reduce vehicle miles traveled for single-occupied vehicles
- Increase use of light-duty electric vehicles.
- Institute a low-carbon fuel standard to reduce the carbon intensity of transportation fuels.
- Increase capture of biogenic methane from non-fossil sources, including animal manure, food waste, and landfill gas, for use in by commercial and industrial properties.
- Reduce fugitive methane emissions from fossil fuel extraction industries such as oil and natural gas operations.
- Provide training and tools for agricultural best practices.

Infrastructure

Pause on LNG Terminal 'Saved Chester,' Mayor Stefan Roots Says

By David Bjorkgren
Published: 5:04 am EST February 6, 2024



\$1
Funding

Funding Awards

Total Per Capita

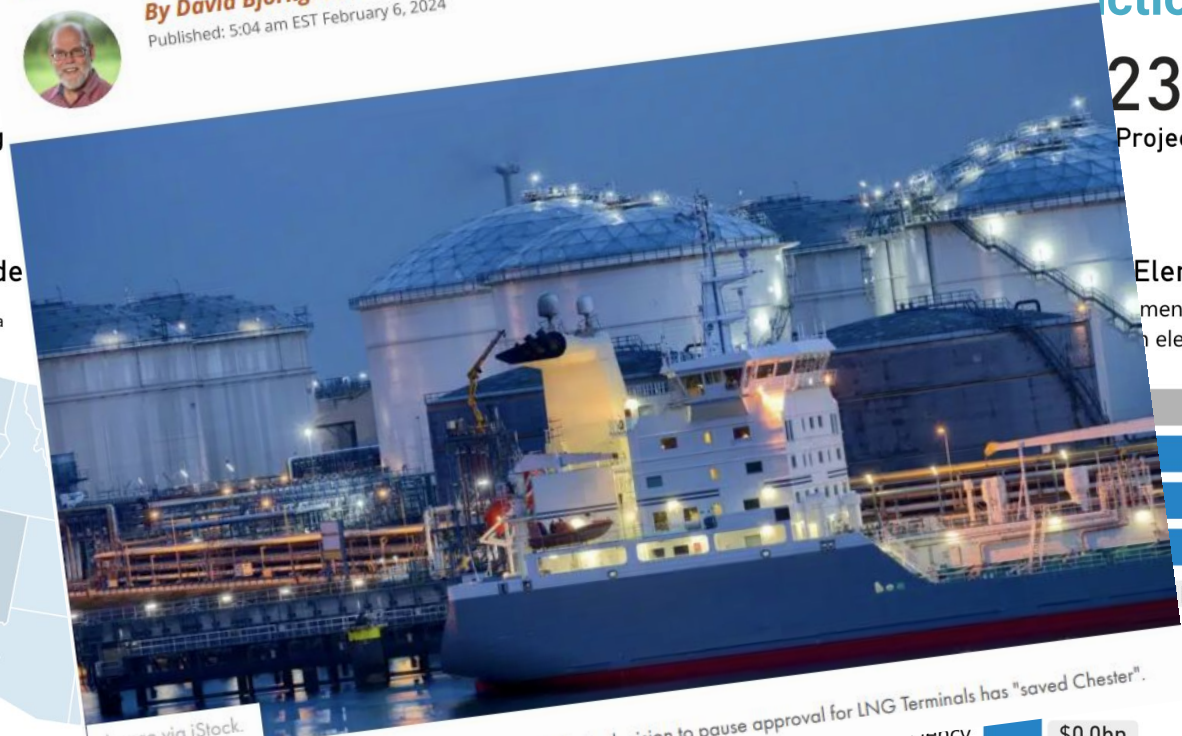


Image via iStock.

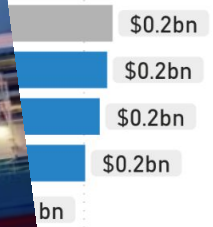
Chester's mayor Stefan Roots said the Biden Administration's decision to pause approval for LNG Terminals has "saved Chester".

Inflation Act (IRA)

237
Projects

Elements

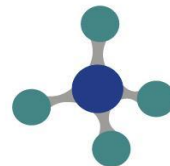
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CLIMATE PROGRAM PORTAL

How Climate Informs Strategic Decisions

- Decreasing CO2 by phasing out fossil fuels
- Decreasing methane and all toxic emissions
- Increasing health provider climate education through CME, film clubs, conferences and webinars.
- Providing solutions!



FLIR OGI
PSR PA

A Practitioner's Tool for Evaluating Climate and Health

	Description	Questions to consider	ICD 10 Codes
		Primary Climate Code: Issues due to physical environment	Z58
O	Occupation and work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What do you do professionally? What is your workplace like (outdoor vs indoor, stationary vs mobile) Have you ever been in the military? worked on a farm? done volunteer or seasonal work? How do you get to and from work? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Z56.0 Z56.1 Z56.2 Z56.89 Z57.39 Z57.6
C	Conditions/ Health: medications and mental health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do you have any chronic medical conditions? Are you currently being treated? If so, for what disease/symptoms? What medications do you take: prescribed, over the counter, and/or herbal? Do you engage in any alternative healing or cultural practices? "What brings you here today?" "What do you think is going on?" "Can you trace your symptoms to a date, time, location or event?" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> X30 Z65.5 Z77.11 Z77.118 Z77.2
A	Activities: food and food access, transportation and travel, hobbies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What activities do you and your family engage in? What hobbies do you or your family have? Do you garden, fish or hunt? Do you eat what you catch or grow? How close are food/ grocery/pharmacy sources to you? Do you use weed killer, bug killers, or foggers? How do you get to work, or other places? What methods of transportation are available to you? How often do you travel by plane? Car? Other modes? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Z94.1
R	Residence: home, habitat, community, region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In what kind of location do you live? How far are necessary supplies and resources? What means do you have to access these places? What is your current housing situation? When was your residence built? Have you done any remodeling or updating to your home? If so, when and for what purpose? How long have you lived there and what circumstances brought you there? Who owns or manages your residence? If not you, how responsive is that person to your needs? What materials is your home primarily made up of? Have you had problems with your home upkeep and maintenance? Have you experienced frequent disruptions in your energy supply? What aspects of your medical care are dependent on a reliable energy source? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> X01 Z77.011 Z77.11 Z77.110 Z77.111 Z77.112 Z77.118 Z77.120 Z77.2

Physicians for Social Responsibility Pennsylvania
www.psrpa.org / info@psrpa.org
 OCAREER © PSR PA 2022



Concerned Health Professionals PENNSYLVANIA

SERVING THE COMMUNITY

Physicians for Social Responsibility Pennsylvania promotes socially and environmentally responsible practices, policies and programs to safeguard and improve public health. We accomplish this through education, training, direct service, and advocacy.



46 air monitors and water test kits distributed



Hosted three Town Halls across PA for 100+ participants



BETTER TOGETHER

Christina Diguilio has been working with communities to help validate the experience of those impacted by fracking and petrochemical infrastructure by using FLIR Optical Gas Imaging to document hydrocarbon emissions. Often residents are told "there's nothing to see here", but the Optical Gas Imaging camera tells a very different story.

Support Physicians for Social Responsibility PA so we can continue to serve our communities.



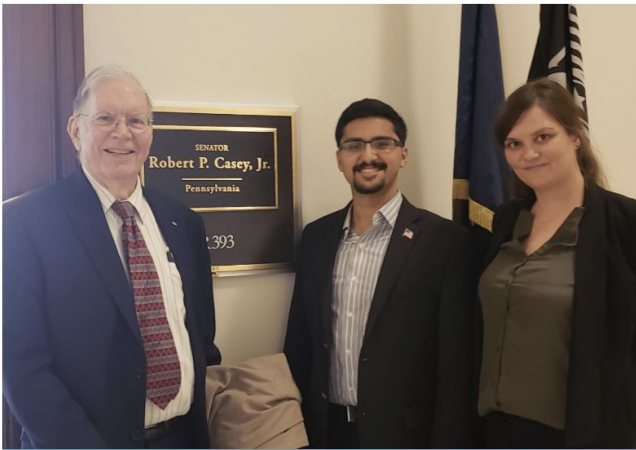
Mobilized members for 50+ actions



Collected stories from frontline community members



Gave 20+ presentations, comments & testimony



PSR Climate Ambassadors Project

PSR's climate ambassador program for established health professionals who are passionate about protecting present and future generations from catastrophic climate change



Next Generation Climate & Health Ambassador Program

PSR's climate ambassador program for young, emerging health professionals who are passionate about advocating for climate change solutions and environmental justice.

Health Professional Advocacy



The Social Life of Trees

New York Times
article by Ferris Jabr

“An old-growth forest is neither an assemblage of stoic organisms tolerating one another’s presence nor a merciless battle royale: It’s a vast, ancient and intricate society. There is conflict in a forest, but there is also negotiation, reciprocity and perhaps even selflessness.”

Tonyehn@psrpa.org



Heat Advocacy

Cheryl L. Holder, MD

Exec. Dir. Florida Clinicians for Climate Action

Medical Society Consortium on Climate Health

February 12, 2024



Florida Clinicians for Climate Action

(FCCA) is a coalition of health professionals and health organizations concerned about the impacts of climate change on Florida residents, especially those in vulnerable populations.



ESTABLISHED
JAN. 2018
501c3



456
Supporters



MONTHLY
ACTIVITIES

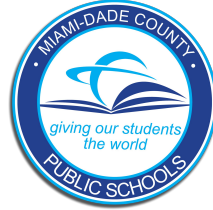


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2019



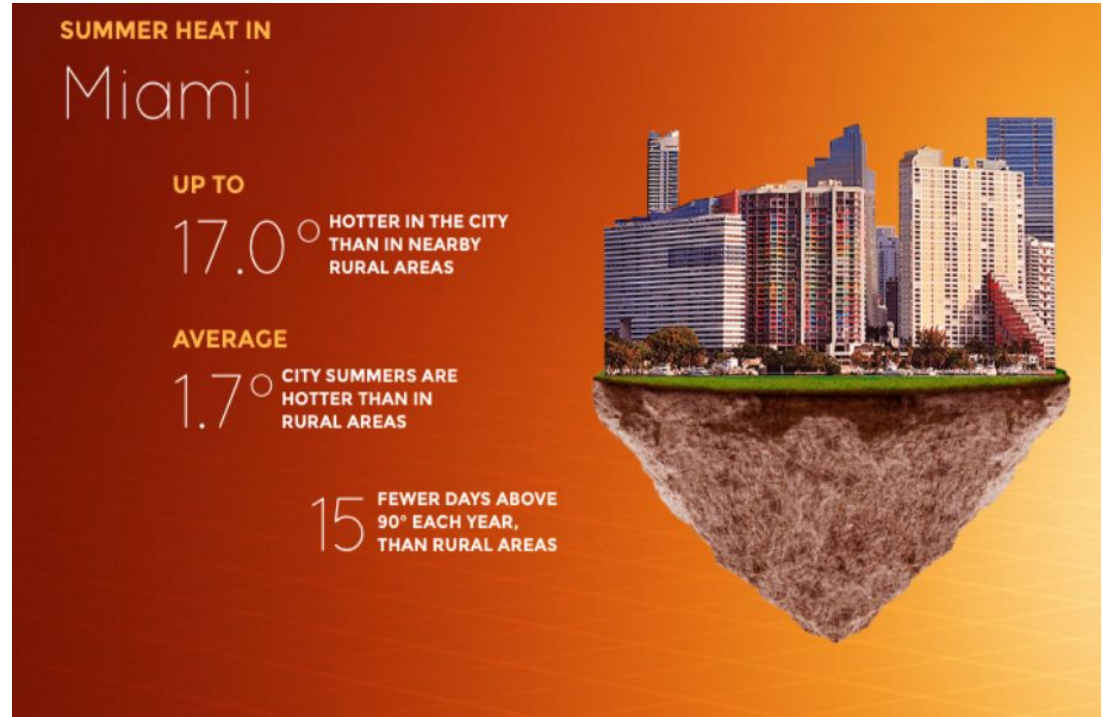
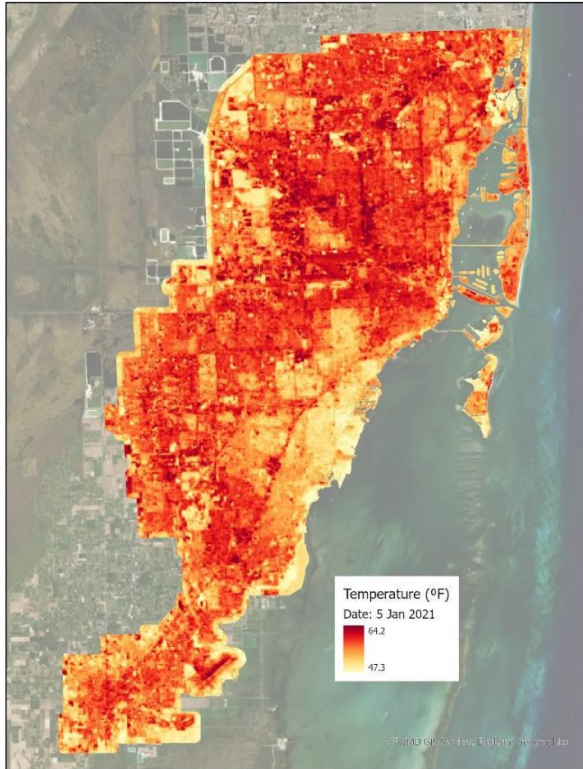
THE WOMEN'S FUND MIAMI-DADE

CC Collaboration is a critical asset

Heat Index Affects Health

Heat Index Above 90°F	Heat Index Above 100°F	Heat Index Above 105°F	Heat Index Off the Charts
			
Outdoor workers become more susceptible to heat-related illness.	Children, elderly adults, pregnant women, and people with underlying conditions are at heightened risk of heat-related illness.	Anyone could be at risk of heat-related illness or even death as a result of prolonged exposure.	Undetermined: any level of exposure is presumed extremely dangerous for all people and likely to result in heat-related illness or even death

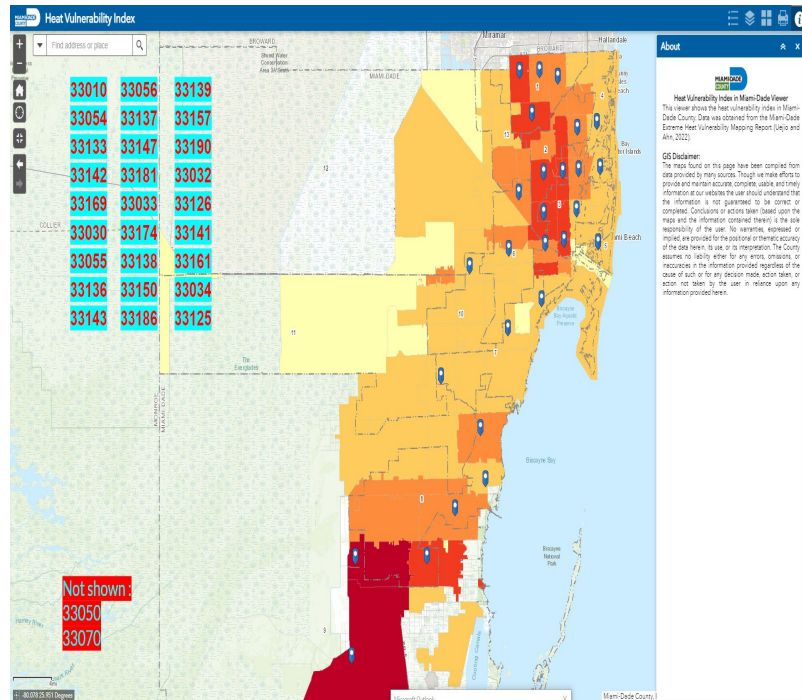
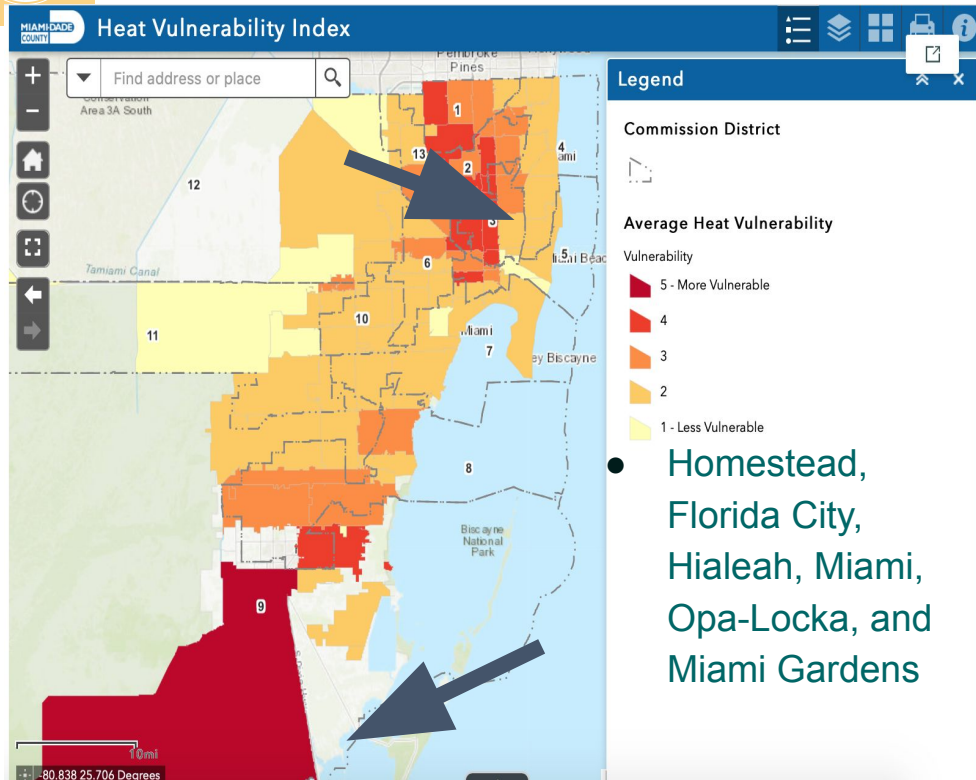
Background: Currently in Miami



Heat risks are also **elevated** in urban environments due to **Urban Heat Island Effect**



ArcGIS Story Map: Vulnerability



Water, Shade and Rest- 2021



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¡Qué Calor!

¡Qué Calor! is a **worker-led campaign** to win life-saving protections for outdoor workers in South Florida. On the frontlines of climate change and extreme heat, hundreds of thousands of outdoor workers in South Florida are forced to work outside in the extreme heat without any local, state, or federal heat standards. Led by those most impacted by the problem – farmworkers, plant nursery workers, day laborers, and construction workers – ¡Qué Calor! is building a grassroots movement for climate, health, and labor justice.

[Support Us](#)



In Florida, the heat can kill. But there are no laws to protect its many outdoor workers

JUNE 11, 2023 5:30 AM

<https://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/environment/climate-change/article277386338.html>

Protect our outdoor worker



<https://www.we-count.org/quecalor>

- **Heat Ordinance Goals:**
- Mandate 10 minutes of rest for all farm and construction workers (est. 80K) if heat index is 90 F or more for two consecutive hours. Also, education on heat for workers and a county office for heat issues.
- Expected to occur at most five (5) days per year based on historical records.

Advocating for the Outdoor Worker



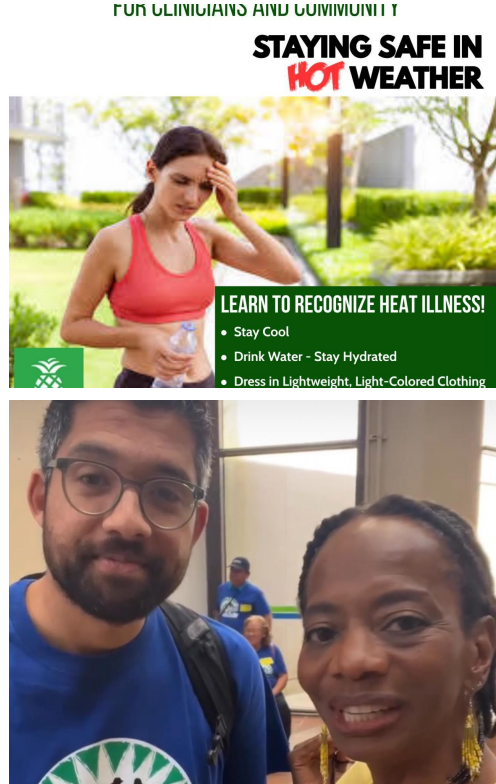
Calls for change after Florida farmworker, 29, dies in heat. 'Is that what we deserve?'

JULY 19, 2023 6:57 PM

<https://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/environment/climate-change/article277646833.html>



Photo-C.L.
Holder



Advocacy Activities

- Social Media
- Op Ed
- Awareness at outreach events
- Advocacy Action of the Month
- Comments at commission meetings.

Advocacy Activities

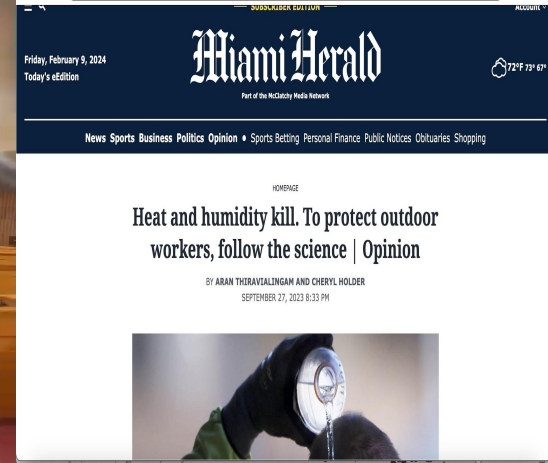
FCCA in the Press

[Lessons for Florida: Tropical nations know the risks of mosquito-borne diseases and extreme heat | The Invading Sea by Anh Le](#). Also published in the Orlando Sentinel and Tampa Bay Times! This was our first FCCA Oped Team publication - congratulations Anh!

[Doctor issues critical warning about taking extreme heat more seriously: 'We can...prevent death' \(thecooldown.com\)](#) by Cheryl Holder.

<https://www.orlandosentinel.com/2023/08/13/letter-s-oucs-high-demand-climate-change-ignorance-speedy-trump-trials/> by Shauna Junco

<https://www.tampabay.com/news/tampa/2023/08/22/floridas-heat-takes-toll-health-shade-provides-relief-not-all/> featuring quotes by Cheryl Holder



Outcome



Miami-Dade's worker heat protection bill was a milestone. Lobbyists are watering it down

SEPTEMBER 27, 2023 5:30 AM

FINAL Vote
Postponed
For March 2024!

HOME PAGE

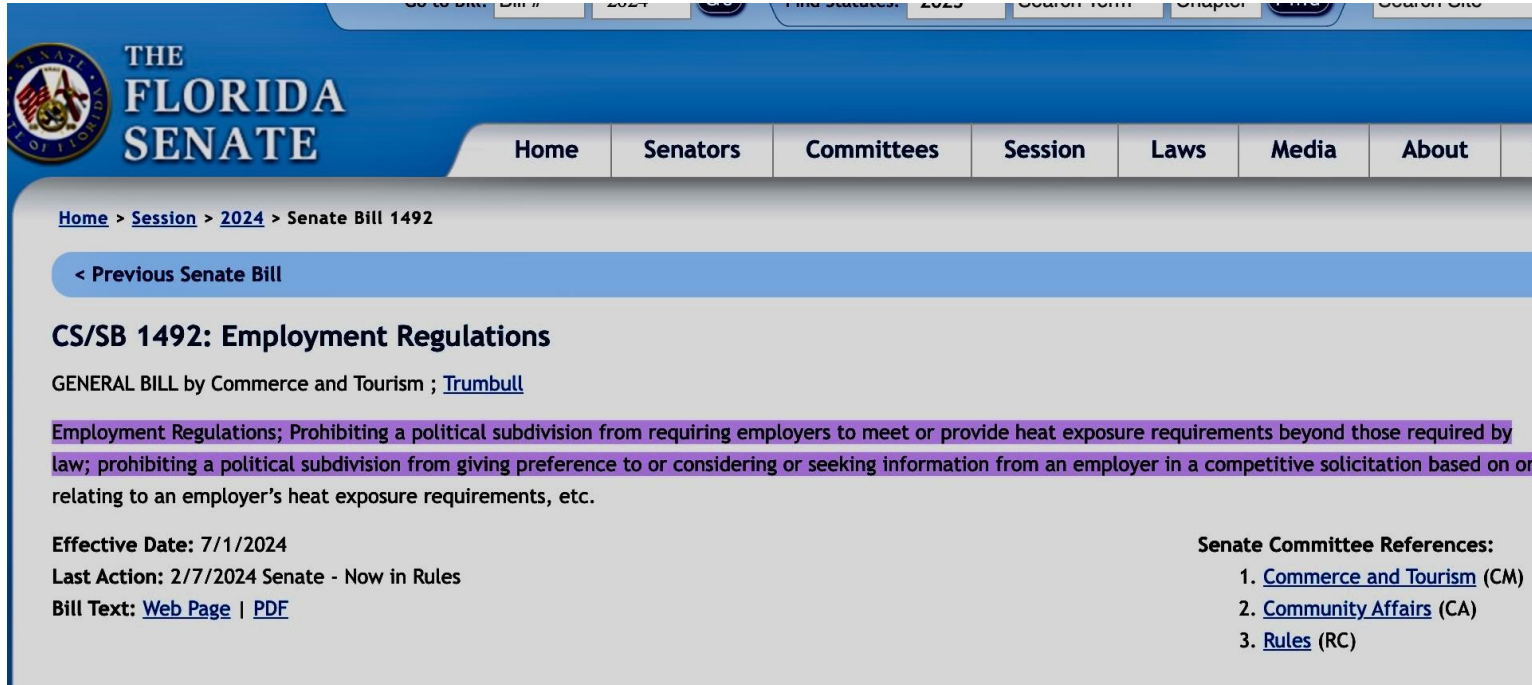
Miami-Dade was set for a landmark heat-safety law. Don't let lobbying derail it | Opinion

BY THE MIAMI HERALD EDITORIAL BOARD
SEPTEMBER 27, 2023 2:38 PM



Two farmworkers tend to crops in Homestead.
ALIE SKOWRONSKI askowronski@miamiherald.com

Preemption?



The screenshot shows the Florida Senate website for Senate Bill 1492. The header includes the Florida Senate logo and navigation links: Home, Senators, Committees, Session, Laws, Media, and About. The breadcrumb trail is Home > Session > 2024 > Senate Bill 1492. A blue button labeled '< Previous Senate Bill' is visible. The main heading is 'CS/SB 1492: Employment Regulations', followed by 'GENERAL BILL by Commerce and Tourism ; [Trumbull](#)'. The bill description is highlighted in purple: 'Employment Regulations; Prohibiting a political subdivision from requiring employers to meet or provide heat exposure requirements beyond those required by law; prohibiting a political subdivision from giving preference to or considering or seeking information from an employer in a competitive solicitation based on or relating to an employer's heat exposure requirements, etc.'. Below this, the effective date is 7/1/2024, the last action is 2/7/2024 Senate - Now in Rules, and the bill text is available as a web page or PDF. On the right, 'Senate Committee References' lists: 1. [Commerce and Tourism](#) (CM), 2. [Community Affairs](#) (CA), and 3. [Rules](#) (RC).

THE FLORIDA SENATE

Home > Session > 2024 > Senate Bill 1492

< Previous Senate Bill

CS/SB 1492: Employment Regulations

GENERAL BILL by Commerce and Tourism ; [Trumbull](#)

Employment Regulations; Prohibiting a political subdivision from requiring employers to meet or provide heat exposure requirements beyond those required by law; prohibiting a political subdivision from giving preference to or considering or seeking information from an employer in a competitive solicitation based on or relating to an employer's heat exposure requirements, etc.

Effective Date: 7/1/2024
Last Action: 2/7/2024 Senate - Now in Rules
Bill Text: [Web Page](#) | [PDF](#)

Senate Committee References:

1. [Commerce and Tourism](#) (CM)
2. [Community Affairs](#) (CA)
3. [Rules](#) (RC)

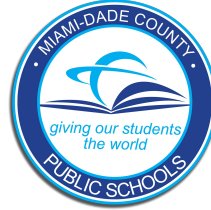


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Collaboration is a critical asset

**Please follow us on Instagram @flclinicians
Please follow us on Facebook and LinkedIn
@Florida Clinicians for Climate Action**

Thank You

www.floridaclinicians.org

