A Declaration on Climate Change and Health

As leading public health, disease advocacy and medical organizations, we reiterate our longstanding commitment to addressing climate change as a public health issue. The statement below articulates our consensus on the health impacts of climate change and the need for action to protect the public’s health.

- The health impacts of climate change demand immediate action.
- The science is clear; communities across the nation are experiencing the health impacts of climate change, including:
  - Elevated ozone and particulate air pollution, linked to asthma attacks, cardiovascular disease and premature death;
  - Extreme weather patterns, such as heat and severe storms, cause droughts, wildfires and flooding that destabilize communities, especially those least equipped to defend themselves; and
  - Increased vector-borne diseases by expanding seasons and geographic ranges for ticks, mosquitoes and other disease-carrying insects to roam.
- The most vulnerable – children, seniors, low income communities, some communities of color, and those with chronic disease – disproportionately bear the health impacts of climate change.
- Bold action is needed to address climate change by cleaning up major sources of carbon pollution including power plants, cars, trucks and other mobile sources.
- Communities must have the tools and resources to adapt to and mitigate the unique impacts of climate change in their communities.
- The Climate Action Plan will help cut carbon pollution and other greenhouse gases, preparing the U.S. to address climate impacts we can’t avoid and to lead the world in our global climate efforts.
- We commend President Obama and his entire team for bringing greater awareness to the public health impacts of climate change.
- The public health, disease advocacy and medical community are united in our efforts to protect the public from the risks of climate change.

SIGNED

Allergy and Asthma Network  Health Care Climate Council
American Academy of Pediatrics  National Association of County and City Health Officials
American College of Preventive Medicine  National Association of Hispanic Nurses
American Lung Association  National Environmental Health Association
American Psychological Association  National Medical Association
American Public Health Association  Public Health Institute
American Thoracic Society  Physicians for Social Responsibility
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America  Trust for America’s Health
Children’s Environmental Health Network  U.S. Climate and Health Alliance
Health Care Without Harm