

# CLIMATE AND COMMUNITY HEALTH

Working together, communities can prepare for and respond to the critical health effects of our changing climate. Here are just a few examples of the diverse partners that play a role.

## MEDIA / METEOROLOGISTS

### HOW THEY HELP

- Report on the health impacts in your community
- Report extreme weather alerts with recommended protective actions
- Provide information on available community assistance, such as evacuation shelters and cooling centers

## LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT

### HOW THEY HELP

- Monitor health trends to identify new and emerging threats
- Identify at-risk groups and mobilize community partners
- Provide information on available community assistance
- Provide extreme weather and air pollution alerts with recommended protective actions
- Work with state health department to prepare

## HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

### HOW THEY HELP

- Educate patients about increased risks and protective actions
- Develop emergency response plans for extreme weather

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### HOW THEY HELP

- Develop emergency response plans for extreme weather
- Cool urban areas by adding heat-reflective surfaces and planting trees
- Develop and implement long-term adaptation plans
- Review building standards for increased resiliency
- Work with state government to prepare

## COMMUNITY-BASED GROUPS

### HOW THEY HELP

- Provide emergency shelter and cooling centers
- Provide transportation to emergency shelters
- Distribute information on community assistance
- Provide counseling after extreme weather events

## SCHOOLS

### HOW THEY HELP

- Provide emergency shelter and cooling centers
- Safeguard student athletes during extreme heat
- Provide counseling after extreme weather events
- Integrate asthma education and support

<https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/climate-change-and-health>

**According to the World Health Organization:**

- Climate change affects the social and environmental determinants of health – clean air, safe drinking water, sufficient food, and secure shelter.
- The direct damage costs to health (i.e. excluding costs in health-determining sectors such as agriculture and water and sanitation), is estimated to be between USD 2-4 billion/year by 2030.

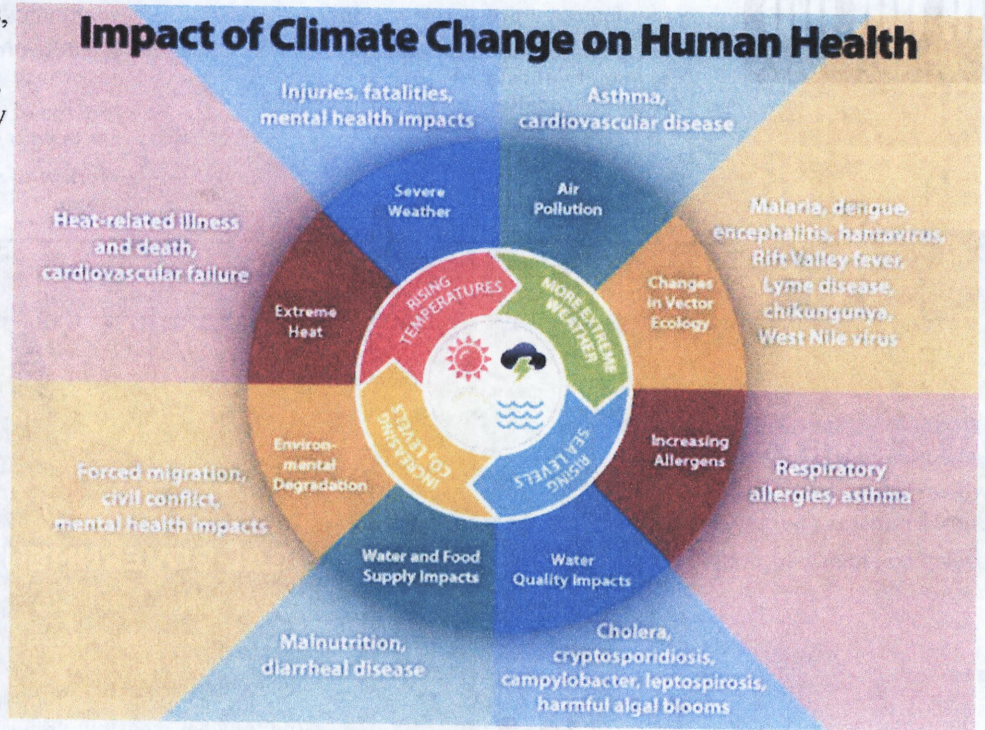
<https://www.cdc.gov/climateandhealth/effects/default.htm>

**According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:**

The list of threats on their web site includes:

Heat waves, Drought, Floods, Wild Fires, Air Pollution, which in turn causes Injuries, Allergies, Diseases carried by insects and food and water, Food insecurity, Stress and Mental Health disorders,

In the U.S., public health can be affected by disruptions of physical, biological, and ecological systems, including disturbances originating here and elsewhere. The health effects of these disruptions include increased respiratory and cardiovascular disease, injuries and premature deaths related to extreme weather events, changes in the prevalence and geographical distribution of food- and



water-borne illnesses and other infectious diseases, and threats to mental health.

[https://www.cdc.gov/climateandhealth/effects/mental\\_health\\_disorders.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/climateandhealth/effects/mental_health_disorders.htm)

(Suicide rates vary with weather, rising with high temperatures.)

<https://climate.nasa.gov/effects/>

**According to NASA: National Aeronautics and Space Administration**

Increased heat, drought, and insect outbreaks—all linked to climate change—have increased wildfire and tree diseases causing widespread tree die-off. Extreme heat will affect health, energy, agriculture and more. Decreased water availability will have economic and environmental impacts. Reduced agricultural yields, health impacts in cities due to heat, flooding and erosion are additional concerns.

**According to: The Audubon Society** and a study by the American Bird Conservancy, Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, U.S. Geological Survey, the Canadian Wildlife Service, and other institutions

<https://www.audubon.org/news/north-america-has-lost-more-1-4-birds-last-50-years-new-study-says>

“North America [has] nearly 3 billion fewer birds today compared to 1970—that’s more than 1 in 4 birds that have [...] disappeared in a mere half century.”

It's like all the birds in the world are the canary. We have to get out of the coal mine.

Fact Sheet compiled for City Commission Work Session by Donna Williams, 2916 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave N, Great Falls  
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