



Massachusetts General Hospital

Founding Member, Mass General Brigham

Center for the Environment and Health

Working to integrate sustainability into clinical, research, and educational activities, and to improve the environmental health and well-being of the hospital and our communities



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Healthcare Waste Reduction Through Blue Wrap Recycling

Healthcare organizations produce significant amounts of waste leading to increased greenhouse gas emissions and environmental contamination. Operating rooms generate 30% of a hospital's total waste. The Perioperative Services in coordination with Environmental Services has implemented a blue wrap recycling initiative for waste reduction. In 10 months, nearly 4 tons (18 bales) of blue wrap have been collected in a pilot study that includes 3 OR units. Expansion of the recycling program to the Legacy ORs in 2023 will increase the volume of clean waste diverted from incineration and landfill. To learn more about the waste reduction initiatives from the Perioperative Services, check out the MGH Blum Center webinar and the Health Care SOS podcast with Barbara Belanger RN, chair of the Perioperative Sustainability Committee.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TN9Tf-fSrVQ>

[Health Care SOS: Perioperative Sustainability](#)

Plant Powered 30 Challenge



Throughout the month of March, the Mass General Hospital (MGH) Center for the Environment and Health – in collaboration with Harvard University’s Green Medicine Initiative and Food Literacy Project – is inviting MGHers to take on the Plant Powered 30 Challenge: an initiative that encourages more plant-forward eating over a 30-day period. Staff interested in participating in the Plant Powered 30 Challenge are invited to join a Slack page to chat and share photos, recipes and resources with other MGHers taking the challenge. The MGHer with the most plant-based meals logged at the end of the month will win a \$100 prize!

It's not too late to join. [Register Here!](#)

Upcoming Events

Climate, Environment, and Health Webinar Series - co-sponsored by the MGH Center for Environment and Health, the MGH Institute of Health Professions Center for Climate Change, Climate Justice, and Health, and Brigham and Women's Hospital



Featured Speaker: Shanda Demorest, DNP, RN, PHN

Associate Director, Climate Engagement & Education -
Health Care Without Harm & Practice Greenhealth
Affiliate Faculty, University of Minnesota School of Nursing

Climate Smart Health Care: The Next Frontier for Health Professionals

[March 15th, 12 pm ET](#)

[Register here](#)



Featured Speaker: Edward Maibach, MPH, PhD

Distinguished University Professor and Director of the
George Mason University Center for Climate Change
Communication

**Limiting global warming to 1.5 - 2.0° C: A necessary and
unique role for health professionals**

[April 19th, 12 pm ET](#)

[Register here](#)

Featured Speaker: Dr Alexander Wilkinson



Respiratory Consultant East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust
Member of United Nations Medical Chemical Technical Options Committee

Environmental Impact of Inhaled Medications: A Green Challenge and a Golden Opportunity

[May 17th, 12 pm ET](#)
[Register here](#)

Symposium 2023 - co-sponsored by the Institute of Health Professions, The Center for Climate Change, Climate justice, and Health, the MGH Center for the Environment and Health, and Brigham and Women's Hospital



Climate Change and Health 2023: Achieving Human and Planetary Health through Sustainability Action

[Sat. April 1, 2023 8:30 am -12:30pm \(virtual\)](#)

Attendees will be able to: articulate how climate change affects human and planetary health, identify strategies to achieve sustainability at the individual, healthcare system, community, and policy levels, and build community by engaging with other participants to learn and expand networking spheres. This event is for students, staff, and clinicians interested in climate change and healthcare sustainability.

The symposium will offer 3.5 CEU's for Nursing, Physicians, Physician Assistants, Social Work, Pharmacists and Psychologists who attend the event and complete the post evaluation.

[Register here](#)



Earth Day Booth

The Center for Environment and Health will be holding an Earth Day Welcome Booth Event on April 24th in the Main Lobby near Coffee Central from 7 am to 2 pm. Stop by the booth to celebrate Earth Day with trivia questions, prizes and other giveaways!

March Blum Center Programs

Climate Change and Health Series:

The Mass General Food to Energy Program:
Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2023

Time: 12–1 pm (Eastern Time)



The next Climate Change and Health Series program, "The Mass General Food to Energy Program: Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions" will be held Wednesday, March 22nd. Speakers will discuss the link between food waste and greenhouse gas emissions, and examine the goals and outcomes of the Mass General Food to Energy Program. This free event is open to MGH staff, patients, and the public.

[March 22nd, 12 pm ET](#)

[Zoom link here](#)

Research

Measuring Environmental Impact in Radiation Oncology

Dalia Larios, MD is a 4th year resident in Radiation Oncology and an Associate of the Center for the Environment and Health. She is leading climate health efforts in her department through environmental footprint comparisons in early-stage breast cancer regimens with clinical equivalency using life cycle assessment methods, which are the gold standard to quantify greenhouse gas emissions and environmental pollutants. Dr. Larios is using similar methods to compare different radiation oncology treatments for prostate cancer. She presented preliminary data on this work at the 2022 American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO) national meeting and is now completing more extensive analysis. She is collaborating with oncology colleagues locally and nationally as well as others across multiple disciplines to explore how these kinds of environmental data can be incorporated into clinical decision-making.



Advocacy

Submit your comment to the EPA on Soot Pollution!

On January 27, 2023, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published an updated soot pollution standard. Exposure to soot, or particulate matter, is associated with cardiovascular disease, stroke, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, asthma, and premature birth. While the EPA proposed strengthening the existing regulations, the agency could go much further to protect health -- especially in vulnerable communities that already experience the most air pollution and related diseases.

The comment period is open through March 28th, and is an opportunity for the public to weigh in and support strongest possible standards. Health professionals have powerful and trusted voices – learn more through the Climate Action Campaign’s [Solutions for Pollution page](#), and then click “take action.”



Medical Society Consortium with in-person congressional visits

Physicians across the country are already seeing climate change impact their patients. The Medical Society Consortium on Climate and Health will host its 6th Annual Meeting on March 19-20, 2023 in person and virtually, with in-person Congressional visits on March 21. Seize the Moment for Climate Action: Building The Climate Health Movement will bring together leaders and key staff of medical societies and health advocates. It will include education and advocacy tracks with [CME/CE opportunities](#) and sessions on best practices for advocacy messaging. It will also include panels on climate policy, healthcare decarbonization, and equity. Register to attend the annual meeting and get involved. <https://bit.ly/MSCCH-AM23>

Trainees

HRSA Grant

The MGH Institute of Health Professions School of Nursing received a \$3.1 million grant from the US Department of Health and Human Resources and Service Administration

Bureau of Health Resources (HRSA). The 4-year grant titled Impacting Health in Partnership: Nurses on the Move toward Health Equity and Climate Justice, focuses on establishing a nurse-led mobile health service program to address the social determinants of health and the health consequences of climate change. Nursing students will engage with individuals across the lifespan at a variety of community sites where they will conduct assessments and deliver health education. The grant affords a unique opportunity for students and faculty to learn how to best address healthy equity and climate justice caring for a diverse society.



Bachelor of Nursing Science students are eligible to apply (by April 1) if they are enrolled in their third semester Population Health class. Faculty interested in mentoring can contact Kathy Sabo (KSABO@PARTNERS.ORG)

Sustainability in Healthcare Podcast

Listen to our recent podcast episode, "[Calling all trainees! Integrating climate curricula and getting involved during residency.](#)" with guest speaker, Jake Fox.



Have any colleagues who want to integrate sustainability into their health care system but don't know where to start? Refer them to our podcast "[Health Care SOS: Sharing on Sustainability](#)" – a podcast series devoted to sharing the ways in which Mass General is integrating environmental sustainability into the clinical, research and educational activities of the hospital, and to providing tools and knowledge to support other health care institutions to do the same.

Also check out our latest webinar "[Training the Health Professional Workforce for 1.5 Degrees and Beyond](#)" with Dr. Cecilia Sorensen.

Resources

Climate and Health Teaching Resources

Climate Resources for Health Education is a free and publicly available repository of learning objectives, problem-based

learning cases, and slide presentations on climate and health. These resources have been developed by hundreds of trainees and health professionals in collaboration with experts from the Global Consortium on Climate and Health Education (GCCHE), Massachusetts General Hospital, Brigham Women's Hospital, University of California San Francisco, and Emory School of Medicine.



GCCHE is offering a free certificate-based multilingual course to equip health leaders with the knowledge and tools to prepare for climate change. Visit their website for more information and to [register](#) for the Pan-American Climate Resilient Health Systems course.

Harvard Burke Climate and Health Fellowship



In partnership with the Salata Institute for Climate and Sustainability, the Harvard Global Health Institute is offering a 2-year fellowship program for eligible research fellows, post-doctoral scholars, and early career faculty pursuing scholarly research at the intersection of climate change and global health. The Burke Climate and Health Fellowship will support fellows as they work closely with Harvard faculty mentors in any school or department on their proposed research project.

All application materials are due by Friday, March 10th.

For more information and to apply click [here](#).

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