



American Public Health Association's Center for Climate, Health and Equity

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 @SuriliSutaria

 @ClimateHealthEquity



About APHA

The American Public Health Association champions the health of all people and all communities. We strengthen the public health profession, promote best practices and share the latest public health research and information. We are the only organization that combines a nearly 150-year perspective, a broad-based member community and the ability to influence policy to improve the public's health. Learn more at www.apha.org.



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APHA's Center for Climate, Health Equity

About Us

What We Do



Raise awareness to encourage action, so that everyone in the U.S., beginning with the public health field, recognizes the urgency of practices, policies and individual choices that improve health outcomes and address climate change.



Enable an environment and culture in which "climate healthy" and equitable health choices are easy choices.



Promote policies focused on environmental justice and health equity designed to address climate change adaptation and mitigation.



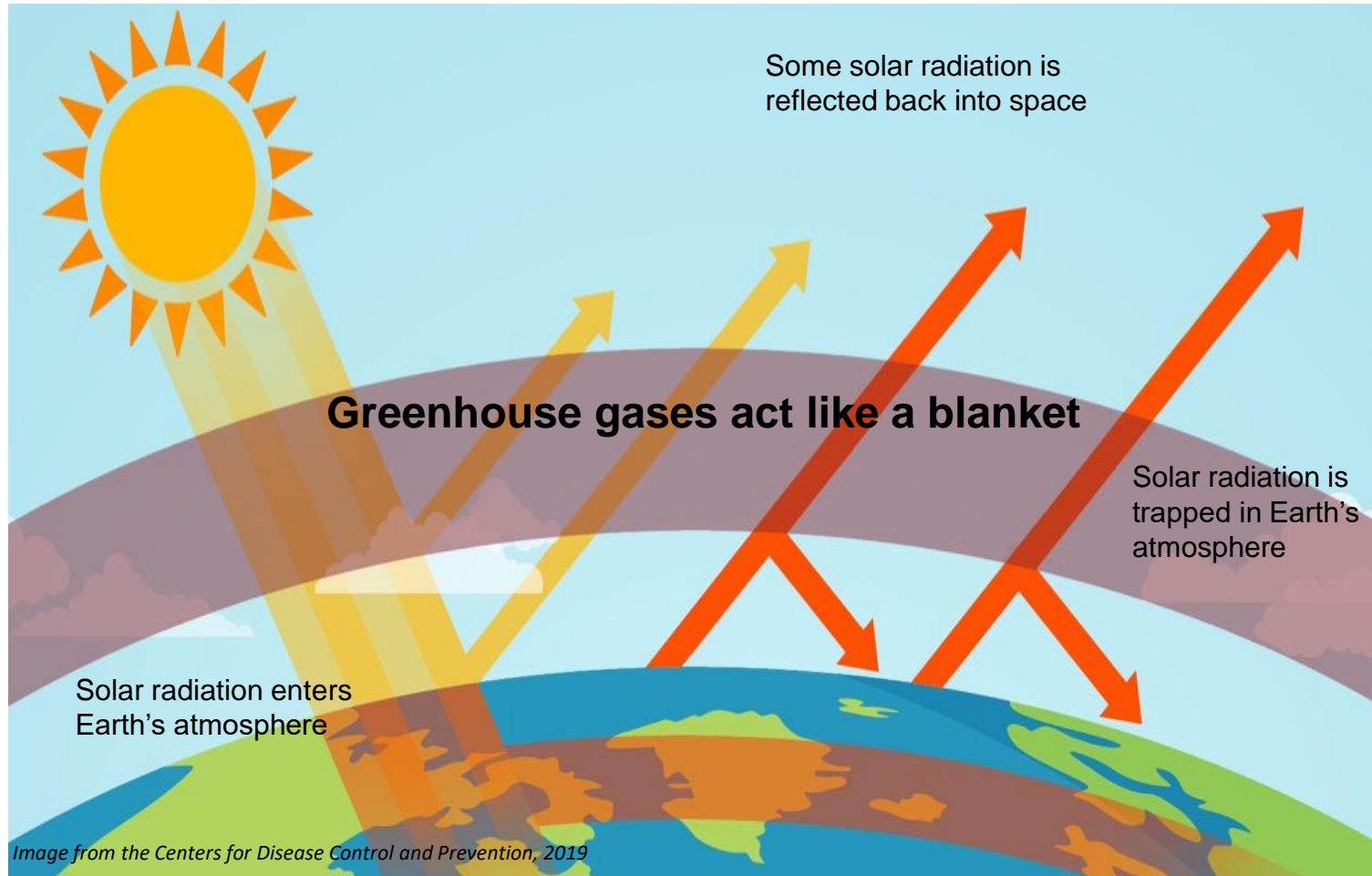
Support science that clarifies the health impacts of climate change and policies in order to guide decision making.



Lead the charge to build awareness and action around the connection between climate change and health.

Background

GHG Emissions Impact our Climate



Background

Climate Change Impacts our Health

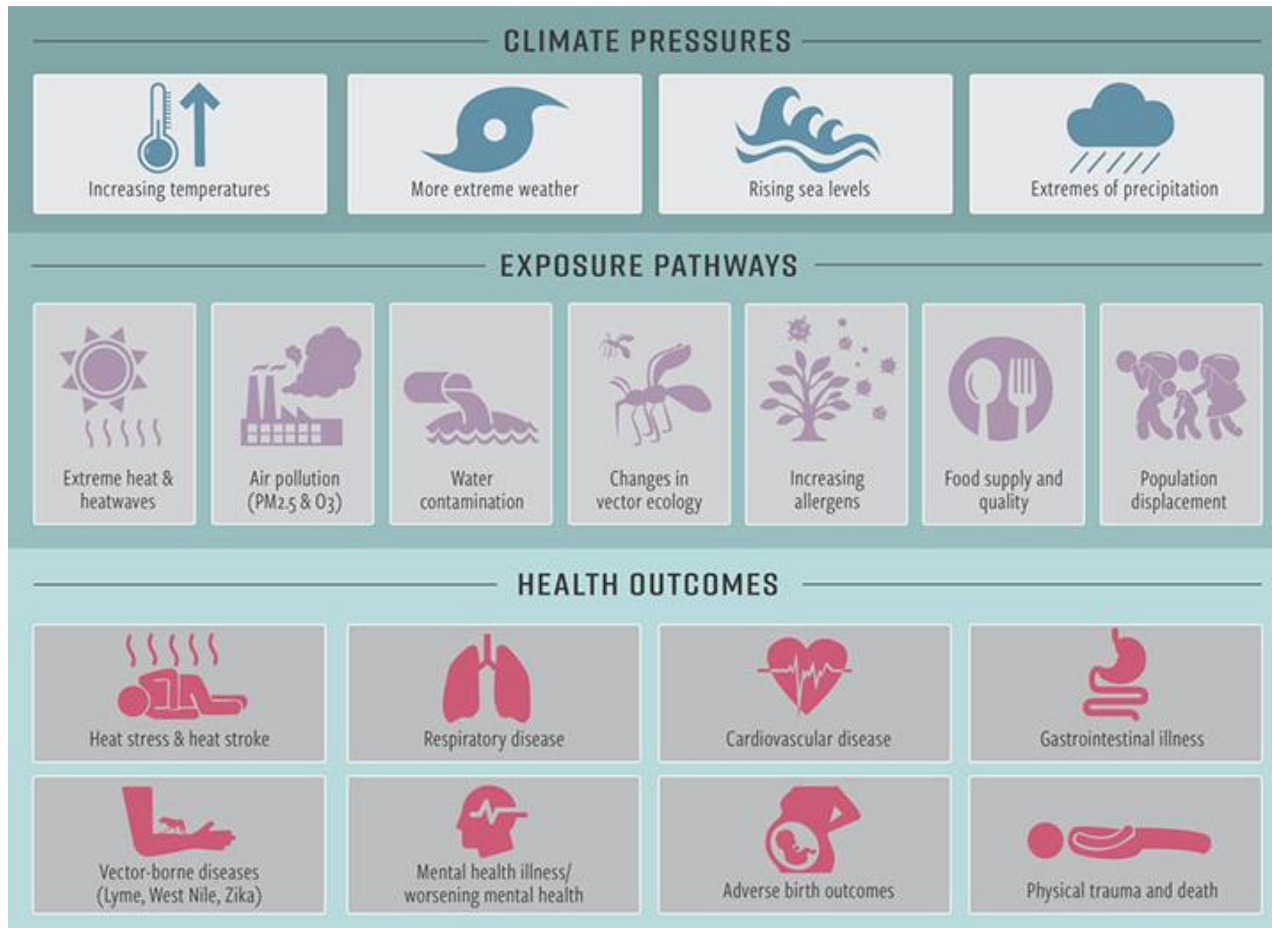


Image from the 2018 Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change Brief for the United States of America

Background

Climate Change Impacts Equity

Climate change poses “unacceptably high and potentially catastrophic risk”¹ to human health

- Heat waves and related mortalities
- Changing patterns of disease transmission
- Threats to food security
- Water contamination
- Rising seas and flooding, and resulting damage to health infrastructures

These challenges exacerbate health inequities that communities of color and low-income people already face

¹Yale Program on Climate Change Communications, “Americans Underestimate How Many Others in the U.S. Think Global Warming is Happening,” July 21, 2019, <https://climatecommunication.yale.edu/publications/americans-underestimate-how-many-others-in-the-u-s-think-global-warming-is-happening/>

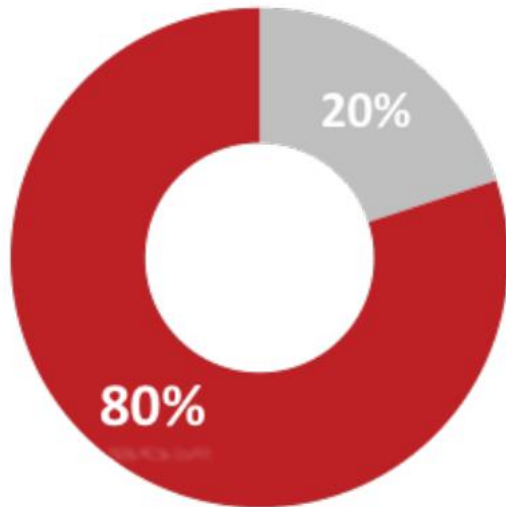
Climate, Health & Equity

Faces of Equity



Climate, Health & Equity

Health Equity 101



■ Clinical Care ■ Non-Clinical Determinants

What Drives Health? ²

- Health is more than Health Care
- Health inequities are neither natural nor inevitable
- Your zip-code may be more important than your genetic code for health
- The choices we make are shaped by the choices we have before us
- Structural racism acts as a force in the distribution of opportunities to health
- All policy is health policy

²Health Equity Report for the District of Columbia 2018

Climate, Health & Equity

Health Equity 101

Nine Key Drivers:

	1. Education		2. Employment
	3. Income		4. Housing
	5. Transportation		6. Food Environment
	7. Medical Care		8. Outdoor Environment
	9. Community Safety		

Climate, Health & Equity

Human and Civil Rights Framework

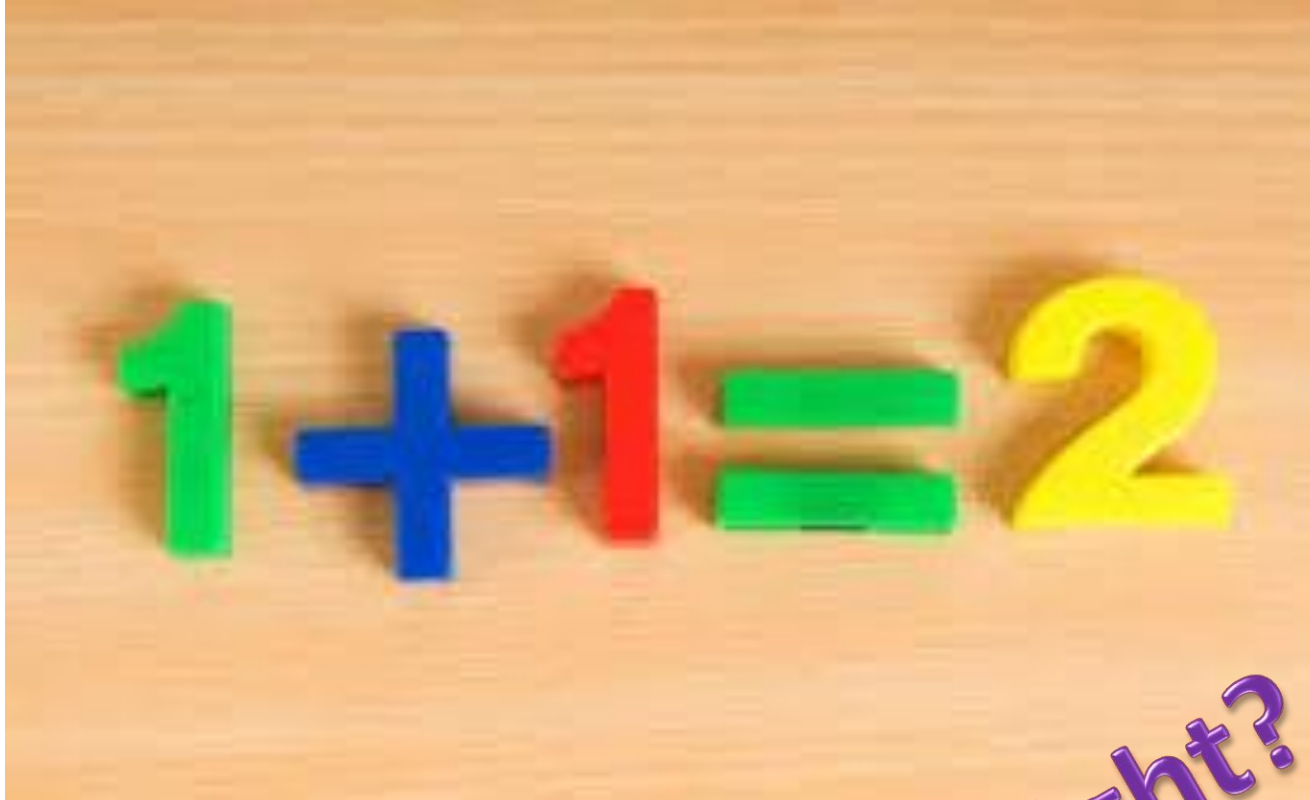
Human Rights

- Right to Self Determination
- Right to Safe and Healthy Work Conditions
- Right to Highest Standard of Physical and Mental Health
- Right to Food
- Right to a Decent Living Condition
- Equal Rights Between Men and Women
- Right of Youth and Children to be Free From Exploitation

Civil Rights

- Ensuring peoples' physical integrity and safety.
- Protection from discrimination on grounds such as gender, religion, race, sexual orientation, national origin, age, immigrant status, etc.
- Equal access to health care, education, culture, etc.

Adapted from a presentation given by Jacqui Patterson of NAACP



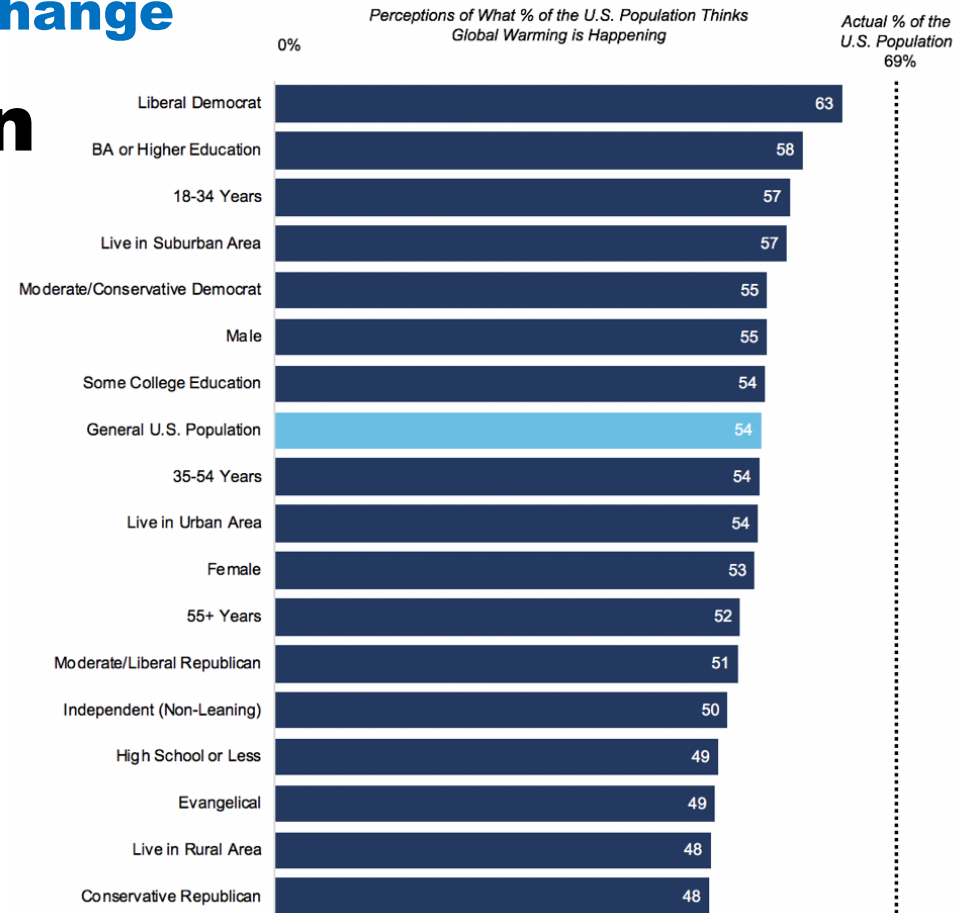
Right?

Marshalling the Public Health Response to Climate Change

Public Perception

- Pluralistic ignorance about climate change is a barrier
- Sharing concern about climate change increases people's own willingness to discuss the issue

Americans Underestimate How Many Adults in the U.S. Think Global Warming is Happening



Source: Yale Program on Climate Change Communications, "Americans Underestimate How Many Others in the U.S. Think Global Warming is Happening," July 21, 2019, <https://climatecommunication.yale.edu/publications/americans-underestimate-how-many-others-in-the-u-s-think-global-warming-is-happening/>

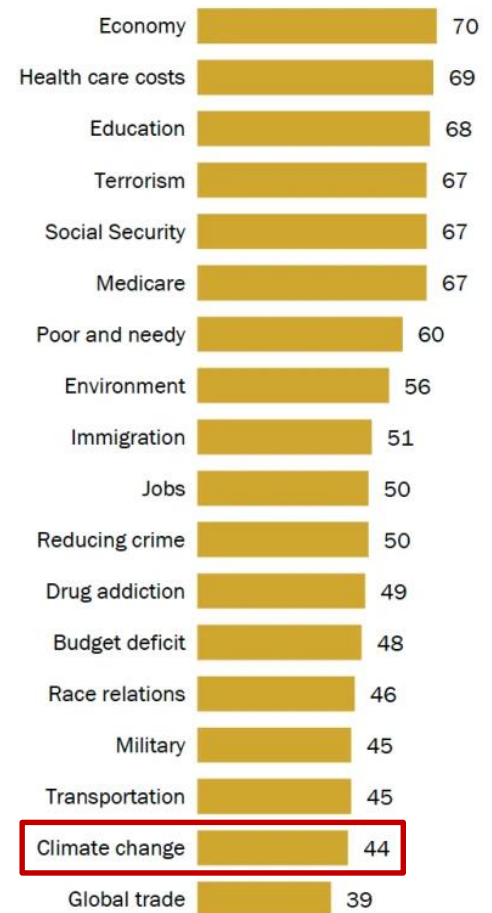
Marshalling the Public Health Response to Climate Change

Public Perception

- The public consistently ranks the issue as a low priority for taking action
- At the federal level, the topic has become so politically polarized that action is paralyzed

Public's policy priorities for 2019

% who say ___ should be a top priority for Trump and Congress this year



Source: Pew Research Center, "The Public's Policy Priorities for 2019," February 4, 2019, https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/02/04/state-of-the-union-2019-how-americans-see-major-national-issues/pp_2019-01-24_political-priorities_0-02/

Marshalling the Public Health Response to Climate Change

Solutions in the NOW

1. Promote policies focused on environmental justice and health equity designed to address climate change adaptation and mitigation
 - That enable an environment and culture in which "climate healthy" and equitable choices are easy choices
2. Understand the needs of the Public Health field
 - Augment training
 - Influence practice
 - Lead to impactful action

U.S. Call to Action

Policies focused on Health Equity

ON CLIMATE, HEALTH, AND EQUITY: A POLICY ACTION AGENDA

2019

Climate change is one of the greatest threats to health America has ever faced—it is a true public health emergency. The health, safety and wellbeing of millions of people in the U.S. have already been harmed by human-caused climate change, and health risks in the future are dire without urgent action to fight climate change. As former Surgeon Generals Richard Carmona and David Satcher said: “We’re all at risk and our leaders must lead on global warming. Now.” But the health crisis caused by climate change also presents a major health opportunity. Building healthy energy, transportation, land use, and agriculture systems now will deliver immediate and sustained health benefits to all and reduce future health risks from climate change.

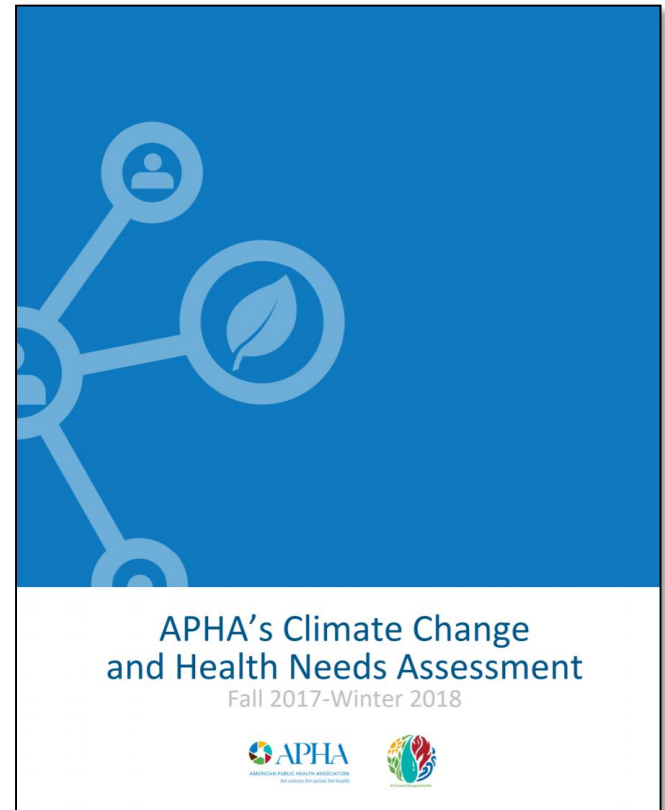
Source: 2019 US Call to Action on Climate, Health and Equity: A Policy Action Agenda
https://climatehealthaction.org/media/cta_docs/US_Call_to_Action.pdf

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Understand the needs of the Public Health field

Key Findings:

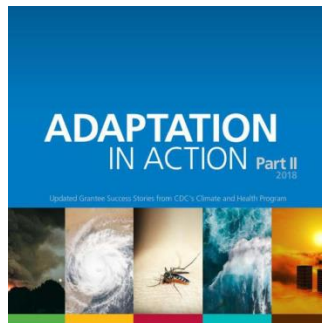
- Build capacity for the public health professional
- Create guidance on messaging and develop a clearinghouse
- Continue to broaden cross-disciplinary collaborations



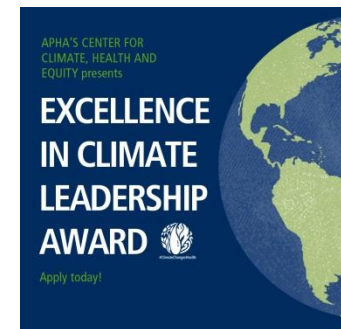
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What 2019 has brought us

- a) Engaging local EJ community
- b) Capacity building
 - a) Affiliates
 - b) Member components
 - c) Students and early career professionals
- c) Advocacy Training



#SpeakForHealth Advocacy Bootcamp on
#ClimateChangesHealth



“Do we settle for the world as it is, or do we work for the world as it should be?”

— President Barack Obama



Thank You

Surili Sutaria Patel

Center for Climate, Health and Equity
Center for Public Health Policy

apha.org/climate

