

***NH Healthcare Workers for Climate Action***  
***PO Box 4253***  
***Concord, New Hampshire 03302***

New Hampshire Healthcare Workers for Climate Action (NH HWCA) is a grassroots, nonpartisan, non-profit organization whose mission is to provide NH healthcare workers the tools to educate and mobilize the public in support of climate solutions to improve health for all. In working towards fulfilling our mission, we are pursuing many different methods to educate ourselves and our healthcare colleagues. We have created six interdisciplinary working groups –Children’s Health, Behavioral Health, Education, Communications, Climate Justice, and Policy & Advocacy. Each working group, composed of healthcare volunteers, is developing and enacting plans to advance our mission in their focus area. We have developed a webinar series, free to all attendees, with national experts from across the country educating our members about various aspects of climate change related health impacts, health equity issues, and how to pursue solutions. Volunteers in our Speakers’ Bureau are speaking to community organizations in New Hampshire such as library groups, faith organizations, and rotary clubs to raise awareness about the health impacts of climate change and how individuals can help. Additionally, we are working to create our own educational curriculum for healthcare workers, starting with a collaboration with Dartmouth-Hitchcock to produce a Climate and Health ECHO course which will debut in the spring of 2022. We are also exploring opportunities to add education and training about climate-related health impacts to the curricula at several universities in New Hampshire. Educating and empowering health professionals and students to better advocate for climate action is the main priority of NH HWCA.

In addition to our main focus on educating healthcare workers, our newly formed Policy & Advocacy working group is organizing to communicate with NH HWCA participants regarding climate-related legislation in NH and to contribute evidence-based information from expert healthcare voices at public hearings for proposed legislation relating to climate and health. Subgroups associated with the organization are also working to engage local hospital systems to pursue sustainability and greenhouse gas reduction.

In just six months of operation, we have involved over 2,000 people, and almost 800 New Hampshire healthcare workers have signed on to a letter calling for climate action from senior elected officials. Mark Mitchell, the State Director of Affairs for the Medical Society Consortium on Climate and Health, has stated, “New Hampshire Healthcare Workers for Climate Action has gotten off to the fastest, most impressive, and most impactful launch of any of our state affiliates to date. Their focus on innovative programming, inclusivity, climate justice and engaging local, state and national leaders is a model that we are now showcasing to our more established states”. Our organization’s mission is complementary to the mission of the National Academy of Medicine’s Action Collaborative on Decarbonizing the U.S. Health Sector and NH HWCA would be an impactful Network Organization.

