



New Jersey Climate Change  
Resource Center

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National Academy of Medicine Organization  
500 5<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
Washington, DC 20001

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the New Jersey Climate Change Resource Center at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, we are committed to supporting the priority areas of the Action Collaborative on Decarbonizing the U.S. Health Sector to address climate change and protect human health, well-being, and equity. Under New Jersey law, our Center is obligated to conduct applied research, develop tools and guidance and provide practical support for addressing climate change, as well as connect actionable research to policymakers, planners, practitioners, the media, communities, students, and other individuals through outreach, training, and education.

Further, we co-facilitate the New Jersey Climate Change Alliance, a diverse cross-sector network of state leaders that integrates evidence and diverse points of view to inform strategies and outline New Jersey policy options. The Alliance serves as an advisory body to our Center. The Alliance operates through topical workgroups, one being Public Health including leaders in health care delivery, health professional education and communication, and policy, financing and metrics. The Public Health Workgroup has been highly active over the past decade producing various analyses such as a Climate and Health Profile Report for New Jersey (consistent with CDC guidance), two Health Impact Assessments on pending state climate decisions (adoption of the state Energy Master Plan, adoption of the California Clean Truck Rule) and analysis of the intersection between health equity and disproportionate climate change impacts, which was the culmination of a day-long workshop including climate and Environmental Justice leaders, public health leaders, and others. A strong emphasis in its workplan priorities includes integration of health equity into climate decisions and the consideration of climate change as part of state and local public health policy.

In 2022, the Workgroup is developing recommendations for integration of climate change into the State Health Improvement Plan and continuing work to assess and predict the impact that specific state and local climate change policies will have on health equity. In addition, the Resource Center is responding to workgroup needs through integration of climate and health equity data through a grant from the Patrick J. McGovern Foundation 2022 Data for Climate Action Accelerator Program, which will also include guidance and training on use of the data building upon the Resource Center's existing web-based data visualization and mapping tools platform. Ms. Herb also serves as the Chair of a National Academy of Sciences Workshop Planning Committee on the topic of "Communities, Climate Change, and Health Equity."

Thank you for consideration of our application.

Sincerely,

*Marjorie B. Kaplan*

Marjorie B. Kaplan, Dr.P.H.

Co-Director New Jersey Climate Change Resource Center

Associate Director, Rutgers Climate Institute

*Jeanne Herb*

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