

April 12, 2022

Action Collaborative on Decarbonizing the U.S. Health Sector (Climate Collaborative)
National Academy of Medicine

To Whom it may concern:

Please accept this letter as evidence of the commitment of the School of Public Health (SOPH) at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) as a requirement for membership in the Network Organizations of the Climate Collaborative.

The University of Alabama at Birmingham is an R1 Institution, ranked 20th nationally (9th among public universities) in NIH funding. In 2021, UAB was named America's [No. 1 Best Large Employer by Forbes](#).

The SOPH was first accredited in 1978 and currently includes 76 fulltime faculty, 140 staff, serving over 1000 undergraduate and graduate students. The SOPH is ranked 19th among 65+ schools of public health in NIH funding, and 9th among public schools of public health. The [SOPH's mission](#) is to make positive and lasting change in the public's health through the pursuit of excellence in scholarship, teaching, and service to the larger community. At UAB, "We serve students, patients, the community and the global need for discovery, knowledge dissemination, education, creativity and the application of groundbreaking solutions." **The UAB Office of Sustainability has established a strategic plan that includes a commitment by UAB to obtain 20% of its energy requirements from renewable sources by 2025.** <https://www.uab.edu/sustainability/initiatives/strategic-plan>

Our commitment may be seen through work we already have underway within two of the four priority areas of the Climate Collaborative: Professional Education and Communication, and Policy, Financing, and Metrics, noted below.

Health Professional Education and Communication:

- The [UAB Superfund Center](#) and the School of Public health take climate education into the local schools with a health ambassador program which focuses on high school students through the year and in the summer brings students into its research labs for more intensive education on environmental issues and climate change.

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- The [Center for the Study of Community Health, a CDC-funded Prevention Research Center](#), offers a unique environment that includes clinicians, researchers, health-related professionals, social and behavioral scientists, and community leaders who are setting new standards in community-based prevention in the state of Alabama and around the world.
- We have joint faculty appointments with the [UAB Sustainable Smart Cities Research Center](#), which fosters cross-disciplinary research, training, and outreach that integrates health, socio-economic impacts, and infrastructure design for the purpose of developing innovative solutions within emerging sustainable smart cities and communities.

Policy, Financing, and Metrics:

- Through the SOPH [Lister Hill Center for Health Policy](#) we are supporting seminars focused on climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies through policy formulation and research.
- Faculty have the expertise to identify policies and assess financial implications and impacts of health sector decarbonization and resilience.
- We have established a cluster hire for Climate Change and Human Health, with the goal of establishing a Center for Climate Change and Human Health by hiring 6 new fulltime tenure-track/tenured faculty.

We look forward to becoming a member of the Network Organization of the Climate Collaborative.

Sincerely,



Paul C. Erwin, MD, DrPH
Dean and Professor