Statement of Interest for the Action Collaborative on Decarbonizing the U.S. Health Sector (Climate Collaborative)

The Association for Prevention Teaching and Research (APTR) is interested in becoming a Network Organization committed to supporting the priority areas of the Climate Collaborative and working together to galvanize a movement to address climate change and protect human health, well-being, and equity. APTR is the national membership association dedicated to advancing prevention and public health education, training, and research. Our members include preventive medicine programs, graduate programs in public health, medical school departments with a population health focus, health professions schools, and faculty responsible for teaching public health. The mission of the association is to lead innovation in prevention and public health education. APTR and our members share a vision that prevention and public health are integral parts of every health professional’s education.

APTR develops curricular resources, professional development programs and tools for its diverse membership. Through cooperative agreements and grants with such federal agencies as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, APTR and its members conduct a wide range of educational, training, and research projects. The APTR annual meeting, Teaching Prevention, gathers faculty from medicine, public health, and other health professions to focus on the knowledge, skills, collaborations, and resources needed to teach, practice, and promote population health improvement. The official APTR journal, American Journal of Preventive Medicine publishes articles in the areas of prevention research, teaching, practice and policy. Original research is published on interventions aimed at the prevention of chronic and acute disease and the promotion of individual and community health.

APTR supports the Climate Collaboration priority area of Health Professional Education and Communication - empowering health workers and learners to better advocate for decarbonizing health care through education and communication that emphasize the health and equity benefits of climate actions through education and curriculum resources. APTR convenes a working group of members from public health and preventive medicine programs to address concerns that the lack of a CEPH competency focused on environmental health may have the unintended consequence of diminishing MPH programs and schools from offering courses and tracks in environmental health and have authored publications on this issue. Additionally, APTR has several resources to support integration of climate change issues into the curriculum including a Climate Change Resource Library to support the APTR Policy Statement: The Role of Health Professions’ Academics in the United States in Combatting Climate Change. APTR also has various learning and teaching modules around climate change.