



Commitment Statement May 2022

SolaVida is a non-profit organization whose mission is to draw new constituencies into the crucial push for a deeper and faster response to the challenges of global warming. Given the scope of this change to our shared environment, we need far more action by far more people. The most vulnerable communities on the planet are hit first and hardest. Their voices can no longer be ignored. SolaVida's focus is to work within and around specific communities, tailoring the approach to the unique interests and perspectives of each group.

Starting in 2017, we have been working to gather physicians, nurses, therapists, veterinarians, researchers, health system executives and administrators, and all medical/health professionals in speaking out about climate change. The members of these groups share a deep concern about climate change and its impacts on their patients, families and communities.

As has been true throughout US history, states lead and the Federal government follows. For that reason, our work has been strategically focused on helping to foster the creation of state specific groups. These groups work to educate the public and lawmakers regarding the fact that climate change is poised to become the dominant social determinant of health driving all other social determinants of health – and to advocate for smart policy and programs that will drive carbon pollution down.

SolaVida has set-up and/or is a leading partner in three state groups: the Vermont Climate and Health Alliance, the New Jersey Clinicians for Climate Action, and the New Hampshire Health Care Workers for Climate Action. We have also consulted with groups in other states on specific projects and initiatives. One central focus of the work is health professional education and communication through statewide professional forums (e.g., a forum held on April 21, 2022 attended by more than 100 NJ health professionals), dozens of presentations to health and medical organizations including medical schools. The second focus has been support and engagement around high impact state policy with particular focus on reducing carbon pollution from transportation, buildings and electric power generation – the leading source of greenhouse gas emissions in most states. As part of this work, volunteer health professionals from the organizations listed above have met with senior state legislators and administrators including Governors, spoken at public rallies attended by thousands of people, written dozens of op-eds, and the like.