

King County Medical Society Climate Pledge

JUNE 2022

The King County Medical Society (KCMS) is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. With over 650 hospitals and thousands of other providers across the country (1), KCMS includes plans to protect public health and lower costs. Because KCMS understands that the health care sector accounts for 8.5% of U.S. emissions, and because President Biden’s goal is to reduce national greenhouse gas emissions 50-52% in 2030 and reach net-zero emissions in 2050 (1), KCMS is stepping forward to state its commitment to this cause.

With more the 4,000 members and over 12,500 physicians in the county, KCMS is among the largest county medical societies in the U.S. KCMS represents the collective voice of its member physicians who practice in King County – Washington state’s largest and most urban county.

KCMS (established in 1888) supports physicians and works to improve the quality of life for doctors and their patients by promoting the highest ideals and standards of medical practice. The core mission of KCMS is to be a powerful voice and political advocate for physicians and patients at local, state, and federal levels. KCMS has written numerous resolutions for the WA state legislature to reduce carbon emissions.

Like other Major medical associations, including America’s Essential Hospitals, the American Association of Medical Colleges, and the National Academy of Medicine, KCMS is committed to taking climate action. The KCMS Board of Trustees sees action on climate change as a public health priority. Our physicians and scientists know firsthand the consequences of climate change and how it affects public health through more frequent and intense severe weather, extreme heat, and threats to food and water security. KCMS focuses on supporting individuals and communities most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

References:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/06/30/fact-sheet-health-sector-leaders-join-biden-administrations-pledge-to-reduce-greenhouse-gas-emissions-50-by-2030/>