



Initiative on Transforming Systems for Climate & Health

Climate change is driving an escalating cascade of crises—from extreme weather events and worsening food insecurity to shifting patterns of infectious diseases and rising rates of non-communicable diseases. These interconnected conditions are profoundly affecting human health, with historically marginalized and under-resourced populations disproportionately shouldering the burden. This reality exacerbates disparities, heightens vulnerabilities, and threatens global progress toward a sustainable and healthy future for all.

Despite calls for bold action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to unavoidable climate impacts, these considerations remain critically under-addressed. Bridging this gap demands a **coordinated, systems-level approach** that transcends sectors, regions, and disciplines, placing health for all at the forefront of climate action.

About the Initiative

To address this urgent and growing need, the National Academy of Medicine (NAM) is spearheading an initiative on Transforming Systems for Climate & Health, an ambitious effort to catalyze mitigation and adaptation solutions that center health for all in climate action. By convening global leaders across diverse sectors and leveraging the best available evidence, the initiative aims to:

- **Identify high-impact strategies** to cut emissions in the highest-emitting sectors while advancing health for all.
- **Direct investments** toward proven, evidence-informed interventions that strengthen (and promote synergy between) adaptation and mitigation, prioritizing communities most vulnerable to climate impacts.
- **Equip leaders and decision makers** across government, industry, and civil society with evidence-based tools, metrics, and guidance to drive measurable progress toward a health-centered and net-zero future.
- **Foster the global adoption of effective, place-based solutions** by scaling and replicating successes from diverse economic and geographic settings.
- **Mobilize collective action** by engaging key champions within and across sectors to implement and sustain transformative and health-centered systems change.

The NAM envisions a future where climate action is synonymous with health for all. Achieving this will require bold innovation, targeted investment, and global cross-sector collaboration. By centering human health and well-being in the climate agenda, NAM and its partners are paving the way for a resilient, sustainable, and healthier future for all.

Climate Grand Challenge

The Roadmap is a part of the NAM Climate Grand Challenge – a multi-year global initiative to improve and protect human health and well-being by working to transform systems that both contribute to and are impacted by the changing climate. Learn more at nam.edu/ClimateAndHealth.