



**National Academy of Medicine
Climate Week NYC 2026
Wednesday, September 23, 2026**

Climate and Health Commons at Climate Week NYC 2026

The 2026 Climate and Health Commons will serve as a central platform for climate and health programming and networking during Climate Week NYC. Jointly hosted by the National Academy of Medicine (NAM) and the New York Academy of Medicine (NYAM), this partner-driven convening will elevate health-centered climate action and engage a broad coalition of organizations, sectors, and participants. The Climate and Health Commons is designed to increase visibility, strengthen coordination, and support momentum across the climate and health field.

Following an opening plenary, participants will move into two one-hour blocks of smaller sessions designed for focused exchange, relationship-building, and collaboration, before reconvening for a closing plenary and networking reception.

Please Note: The Commons is a mix of open and closed sessions. Open sessions (noted by green on the agenda) are open to all Commons attendees. Closed sessions (noted by orange) are invite-only and attendance cannot be requested at this time.

Location: New York Academy of Medicine, 1216 5th Ave, New York, NY 10029

In-person access: Open to all CWNYC attendees, advanced registration required (200 attendee limit).

Virtual Access: Advanced registration required; ZOOM details to be sent directly to registered attendees.

Climate and Health Commons at Climate Week NYC Session Partners



EVENT AGENDA

1:00 – 1:30pm	Opening Keynote
1:30 – 2:30pm	Opening Plenary
2:30 – 2:45pm	BREAK
2:45 – 3:35pm	Concurrent Session Block #1
3:35 – 3:50pm	BREAK
3:50 – 4:40pm	Concurrent Session Block #2
4:40 – 4:55pm	BREAK
4:55 – 6:00pm	Closing Plenary: Nature, Health and Resilience: Protecting Community Well-Being in a Changing Climate
6:00 – 7:00pm	Reception

1:00 – 1:30pm | OPEN SESSION | Welcome and Opening Keynote

Description: TBD

1:30 – 2:30pm | OPEN SESSION | Opening Plenary

Description: TBD

2:30 – 2:45pm | BREAK

2:45 – 3:35pm | CONCURRENT SESSIONS BLOCK #1

2:45 – 3:35pm | OPEN SESSION | Concurrent Session #1: Unlocking Healthcare's Potential for Integrated Heat & Air Quality Solutions: *The Cooperative's Inaugural Innovation Forum*

Description: Accelerating environmental threats like heat and poor air quality are not only affecting health but also redefining what it means to deliver patient care. As these risks grow, there is a pressing need for healthcare systems to harness mechanisms across the care delivery spectrum to develop holistic responses that help patients stay healthier and more resilient to environmental threats. Based at Mass General Brigham, The Cooperative is developing innovative healthcare models that coordinate and collaborate with diverse stakeholders institutionally, locally within Greater Boston, and nationally.

This inaugural Innovation Forum will collaboratively solve problems, elevate success stories, and

share lessons learned. It will focus on the opportunity for healthcare to work alongside public health and communities to develop innovative, patient-centered approaches that protect those most vulnerable to heat and poor air quality. Leaders from across healthcare, government, and community-based organizations will build a collective vision for transforming healthcare from reactive treatment to proactive care in our changing climate.

2:45 – 3:35pm | OPEN SESSION | Concurrent Session #2: Embedding Climate and Health Education Across the Health Workforce

Description: As climate change increasingly shapes the conditions in which health professionals practice, health systems must move beyond awareness-raising toward systematic integration of climate and health competencies across the education and training continuum. This panel, hosted by the Global Consortium on Climate and Health Education at a National Academy of Medicine–sponsored Climate Week event, will explore how health professional education can be transformed to prepare the current and future workforce for climate-smart, climate-resilient care.

Building on ongoing national efforts to embed climate and health education across postgraduate training, continuing professional development, health system workforce training, and institutional leadership pathways, the session will highlight practical strategies for moving from competencies to implementation. Panelists will discuss emerging models for integrating climate and health into accreditation structures, professional society priorities, residency and fellowship programs, employer-based workforce training, and health system leadership development.

The conversation will focus on what it takes to advance durable systems change: aligning institutional incentives, supporting educators and champions, overcoming barriers such as limited funding and competing curricular demands, and creating tools, case studies, and playbooks that can be adapted across disciplines and settings. Speakers will also reflect on how cross-sector collaboration among educators, professional societies, accreditors, employers, and health systems can accelerate uptake and ensure that climate and health education is grounded in equity, practice relevance, and measurable impact.

Participants will leave with a clearer understanding of actionable pathways for embedding climate and health education within their own institutions and professional networks.

2:45 – 3:35pm | OPEN SESSION | Concurrent Session #3: Climate-Smart Care Pathways: Integrating Mitigation and Adaptation Across the Continuum of Care

Description: TBD

2:45 – 3:35pm | OPEN SESSION | Concurrent Session #4: The Trust Deficit: Equipping Health Professionals for the Climate Conversation Online

Description: Despite mounting evidence of climate change's health impacts, only 3% of climate-related content online mentions health — a striking gap given that social media has become a primary source of information for a growing share of the public. This disconnect leaves a critical



narrative vacuum, one too often filled by misinformation or silence, at precisely the moment when trusted health voices are needed most.

This session will explore how health professionals can close that gap. Panelists will examine the current landscape of climate-health content online, introduce new AI-powered tools that translate peer-reviewed evidence and framing research into effective, ready-to-share social media content, and offer practical guidance for clinicians and health leaders looking to build an authentic, credible presence in this space. Drawing on perspectives from communication research, technology innovation, and frontline practice, speakers will make the case that equipping more trusted messengers with the right tools isn't just an opportunity — it's an urgent public health need.

2:45 – 3:35pm | CLOSED SESSION - INVITE ONLY | Concurrent Session #5: Climate Risk Is Business Risk: Building More Resilient Supplier Operations – Advancing Supplier Engagement Across the Health Care Value Chain

Description: Climate-related disruptions are increasingly affecting health care supplier operations from extreme weather and supply chain interruptions to evolving customer expectations and regulatory requirements. Yet many suppliers continue to face significant challenges responding to sustainability requests due to limited greenhouse gas data, inconsistent reporting approaches, and constrained internal capacity.

This invitation-only roundtable will convene health care suppliers, sustainability and supply chain leaders, procurement professionals, industry associations, and strategic partners to explore practical approaches for strengthening supplier engagement and capability across the health care value chain. The discussion will begin with a brief overview of the current landscape, including common challenges organizations face in responding to customer sustainability requests and why supplier engagement is becoming an increasingly important business priority.

Leaders from the National Academy of Medicine's Climate Collaborative Supply Chain Working Group will highlight two practical resources developed to help address these challenges: the Health Sector Climate Action Survey, which provides a standardized approach for supplier sustainability reporting, and the Leadership on Climate Transition (LOCT) for Healthcare training program, which helps suppliers build foundational sustainability capabilities. These resources will serve as examples of how organizations can strengthen supplier readiness while improving resilience, operational performance, and customer responsiveness.

The majority of the session will be an interactive, facilitated discussion focused on identifying strategies to expand supplier engagement across the sector. Participants will explore barriers to supplier participation, share successful approaches for building organizational capability, and discuss how existing tools, partnerships, and industry networks can accelerate adoption across health care.

Participants will leave with a stronger understanding of the business case for supplier engagement, practical resources they can champion within their organizations and networks, and actionable ideas for expanding supplier participation and capability throughout the health care value chain.



2:45 – 3:35pm | CLOSED SESSION - INVITE ONLY | Concurrent Session #6: Towards a More Perfect Union: Rebuilding the Nation’s Capacity to Address Climate Change’s Health Threats

Description: While flawed, the federal government provided a variety of support mechanisms for state and local governments to build resilience to the health effects of climate change. These included Disaster and Emergency Management programs, Social Supports like the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, and Health Policies like Medicaid Section 1115 waivers.

Most of these support systems have been defunded or abolished by the present Administration, with the policy changing from one of federal partnership with subnational governments to a preference for independent and unsupported subnational governments.

As the frequency and intensity of climate change-related health threats continues to escalate, and as states grapple with across the board cuts in federal support, it is highly likely that gaps in public health protection will emerge or worsen. The previous system had structural flaws and was insufficient to meet state and local needs fully. The current unstable status of federal programming affords an opportunity to “build back better” and create a more efficient and effective federal system of support for subnational governments.

This session is intended to inform a new initiative to develop a climate change and health policy agenda for federal support of state and local governments. The goal is to hear from leading state health, health, and emergency response officials about their top concerns and priorities for federal programming. We will take advantage of state and local officials who will already be attending NYC Climate Week or are located within an easy commute to NYC.

The outcome will be a brief report that could be developed into publication by FAS (by Dr. John Balbus) or other organization. The results will also provide vital information for the new initiative being started this summer and fall.

2:45 – 3:35pm | CLOSED SESSION - INVITE ONLY | Concurrent Session #7: After the Fires: What LA Schools Reveal About Mental Health Impacts — A Conversation on the Path Forward for Philanthropy

Description: Climate change is a public health emergency as extreme weather events including heat waves, flooding and storms are occurring more frequently and more intensely. As climate change continues to exacerbate extreme weather conditions, school communities are tasked with supporting emergency response and navigating the complex mental health consequences post-disaster amongst students, educators and administrators.

The Climate Mental Health Network is currently leading a study to examine the emotional impacts of the 2025 LA fires to school communities. To bring this important topic to the forefront, the Climate Mental Health Network proposes hosting a closed working session for funders interested in pursuing disaster philanthropy. The session will invite participants to learn about the importance of mental health responses to climate-fueled extreme weather and consider how an approach by engagement in the K-12 education sector can be robustly integrated into disaster relief and management.



We will host a discussion with experts, nonprofit and philanthropic partners from our current Los Angeles fires study to share about the research findings, strategies and best practices for collaboration, opportunities for engagement in Los Angeles and beyond on this topic, and how this research project has brought a unique group of partners together.

2:45 – 3:35pm | CLOSED SESSION - INVITE ONLY | Concurrent Session #8: Super Pollutants & Health on the Roadmap to NetZero: A Fast-Track Solution for Climate and Human Wellbeing

Description: On the path to net zero, super pollutants including black carbon (soot), methane, tropospheric ozone and hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) are powerful pollutants that remain in the atmosphere for a much shorter time than carbon dioxide but have a disproportionately large impact on near-term warming. Collectively, these pollutants are estimated to be responsible for up to 45% of current global warming caused by human activities, making them one of the most important opportunities for rapid climate action. Reducing super pollutant emissions could avoid as much as 0.5°C of warming by 2050, while delivering immediate benefits for air quality and human health. The health impacts are equally significant. For example, each year, more than 6 million people die prematurely from indoor and outdoor air pollution. Additionally, black carbon, a major component of fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), is linked to cardiovascular disease, stroke, lung cancer, and other serious health conditions, while also exerting a warming effect that can be 460-1500 times stronger than CO₂.

For the healthcare and pharmaceutical sector, super pollutant mitigation can complement continued investment in decarbonization and high-quality carbon removals as a near-term lever to slow the pace of warming. The consumer and healthcare sectors rely heavily on refrigerants, temperature-controlled supply chains, manufacturing processes, and healthcare delivery systems that can contribute to F-gas and other super pollutant emissions. At the same time, reducing these emissions offers a unique pathway to deliver near-term measurable climate, health, and community benefits for people while implementing long-term decarbonization measures to achieve net-zero science-based targets.

3:35 – 3:50pm | BREAK

3:50 – 4:40pm | CONCURRENT SESSIONS BLOCK #2

3:50 – 4:40pm | OPEN SESSION | Concurrent Session #1: AI Environmental Disclosure Questions: A Vital Tool for Healthcare Organizations

Description: Join us for the launch of Health Care Without Harm's Artificial Intelligence (AI) Environmental Disclosure Questions for Healthcare Sector Organizations. Procurement is one of the most direct levers health care organizations can use to influence the environmental implications of AI adoption. The health sector spends over a billion dollars on AI annually and health care organizations can use their market power to specify sustainability requirements and preferences in the bid process, resulting in vendor selection aligned with their environmental goals. Organizations can also use the questions to request data from existing vendors. In either case, the goal is to identify environmentally preferred vendors and encourage all AI vendors to become better stewards of our shared environment.



3:50 – 4:40pm | OPEN SESSION | Concurrent Session #2: Building Resilience in a Federal Vacuum

Description: 2025 saw a dramatic contraction in federal support to communities, particularly for climate, environment, and health. Grants, contracts, and leases were terminated and federal employees serving communities around the country were fired or reassigned. This session will examine how a variety of actors—local leaders, private sector, philanthropies, and community members—have addresses pressing needs and worked to rebuild resilience.

3:50 – 4:40pm | OPEN SESSION | Concurrent Session #3: Trusted Messengers, Shared Learning and Climate Resilience: How Frontline Providers Turn Climate Knowledge into Action

Description: Health systems increasingly recognize the impact of climate-related hazards on patient health, but translating knowledge into action remains a challenge, especially for under-resourced providers serving vulnerable populations. This session explores how frontline health organizations move beyond awareness and build systems that identify trusted messengers, share lessons learned and rapidly disseminate practical climate-health solutions. Drawing from AmeriCares work with 900+ clinic partners across the U.S., panelists will discuss how peer learning and preparedness initiatives help health care providers prepare for extreme heat, hurricanes, flooding and wildfire smoke. Attendees will leave with practical insights that accelerate climate and health interventions.

3:50 – 4:40pm | OPEN SESSION | Concurrent Session #4: Bridging the Gap: A Call to Action for National Heat Safety Standards To Help Parents and Coaches Keep Youth Athletes Safe

Description: Extreme heat puts athletes playing outdoors at dangerous risk of heat illness that ranges in severity from dehydration to heat stroke or death. As global temperatures increase, so do the health risks. According to research and federal data, roughly 55.4% of U.S. youth ages 6-17 (approximately 27.3 million children) participate in organized sports annually. About 9,000+ youth heat illness cases occur among youth athletes every year. If heat illness progresses to heat stroke, the chances of dying are about 30%.

August has been identified as the most dangerous month for many sports connected to fall sports. The symptoms of heat illness are often unrecognized by parents, caregivers, and coaches, especially those in Black, Brown, and under-resourced communities. Yet, there are no unified federal safety standards to keep youth athletes safe when extreme heat strikes. Existing guidelines consist mainly of a patchwork of voluntary collaborative efforts among organizations at the state and local levels. The root of the problem is not lack of knowledge of this preventable health condition—it's how to get critical knowledge to those who need it. Because children are dependent on adults to recognize and take action to prevent heat illness, we need a national standard for parents and coaches to be able to recognize the signs of heat illness so they can intervene in time. National safety standards are especially urgent now, as global temperatures are projected to continue rising due to the impacts of climate change.

3:50 – 4:40pm | CLOSED SESSION - INVITE ONLY | Concurrent Session #5: An Untapped Opportunity: Accelerating Employer Action on Climate and Health



Description: Employers are an underused channel for reducing the health impacts of climate events. More than three-quarters say extreme heat, poor air quality, and disasters are already affecting their workforce — yet only about one in twenty-five has measured their workforce's vulnerability. The knowledge to close that gap, and the will to act, largely exist in the clinical and public health communities and are not reaching corporate decision-makers fast enough.

This closed-door working session convenes the climate and health community, alongside engaged private-sector leaders, around two questions:

1. Where are the biggest opportunities for employers to ease the burden on the healthcare system by better managing climate-driven health risks for workers and their families, at home and at work?
2. What emerging policies, strategies, data, or messages are working inside climate and health professionals' own organizations (health systems, insurers, clinical settings, and beyond) that could be adapted into broad employer guidance?

Brief framing remarks will seed structured small-group discussion. Insights will directly inform upcoming programming for the Health Action Alliance's Extreme Weather + Work initiative and its forthcoming State of Extreme Weather and Workforce Resilience report.

3:50 – 4:40pm | CLOSED SESSION - INVITE ONLY | Concurrent Session #7: Building Integrated Healthcare Programs with Public Health and Communities to Improve Heat- and Air Quality-related Health Outcomes: A Cooperative Innovation Forum Deep Dive

Description: This invitation-only roundtable will explore practical steps required to build integrated healthcare programs in coordination with public health and community-based organizations that protect high-risk patients from the health impacts of heat and poor air quality.

3:50 – 4:40pm | CLOSED SESSION - INVITE ONLY | Concurrent Session #8: Rapid Health Assessment of the Energy Transition

Description: Climate change is a threat multiplier across health exposure pathways, through environmental degradation, and influences on economic and community security. Yet, the reverse is equally true. Climate mitigation solutions deliver immediate and direct benefits across all these domains. This session focuses on quantified health “co-benefits” from work already conducted by leading US and UK centers using state-of-the-art tools in this area of climate change and public health research.

This session is particularly timely as new efforts are slowing the ongoing transition away from fossil fuels. The session will show findings for across research teams at Harvard, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, George Washington University, and the University of Wisconsin to advance communication of the evidence-based health rationale to stay on track toward a clean energy future.

3:50 – 4:40pm | CLOSED SESSION - INVITE ONLY | Concurrent Session #9: Addressing Climate & Health in BioPharma



Description: Climate change is increasingly recognized as one of the most significant public health challenges of our time. As healthcare organizations advance their sustainability commitments, there is growing interest in understanding how leading companies are translating climate ambitions into tangible business practices and health outcomes.

UCB and Regeneron, in partnership with the National Academy of Medicine, will convene an invitation-only roundtable of 8–10 sustainability leaders from across the healthcare sector, including biopharma, health systems, and payers.

4:40 – 4:55pm | BREAK

4:55 – 6:00pm | Closing Plenary: Nature, Health and Resilience: Protecting Community Well-Being in a Changing Climate

Description: Climate change threatens health and livability for current and future generations. Despite millions of preventable deaths each year from unhealthy environments, the World Health Organization notes that most National Adaptation Plans fail to address environmental determinants of health, missing opportunities to embrace nature-based solutions for mitigation and adaptation that also benefit health at local and global scales.

As climate change increases risks from extreme heat, flooding, poor air quality, and other environmental hazards, communities are looking for solutions that protect both people and nature. This panel will explore how conservation and community resilience initiatives can improve health outcomes while helping communities adapt to a changing climate.

Drawing on examples from New York, panelists will discuss how urban forests can reduce heat exposure and support physical and mental well-being; how salt marsh restoration can improve environmental conditions and community health; and how flood adaptation strategies can reduce risks to homes, infrastructure, and public health. The conversation will also examine the growing field of planetary health, which recognizes the fundamental connections between healthy ecosystems and healthy people.

Attendees will gain practical insights into how nature-based solutions can strengthen community resilience, improve health equity, and deliver benefits that extend beyond environmental outcomes. The session is designed for public health and medical professionals, policymakers, climate leaders, and community organizations seeking effective, scalable approaches to protecting health and well-being in the face of climate challenges.

6:00 – 7:00pm | Reception

Disclaimer: This agenda lists other public and/or private organizations that are in no way under the control of the National Academy of Medicine (NAM) or the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (National Academies). Inclusion does not imply or constitute an endorsement or promotion by NAM or National Academies of any organizations. Neither NAM nor National Academies are responsible in any way for any content, advertising, products, services or information on or available from the organizations.