

About This Document

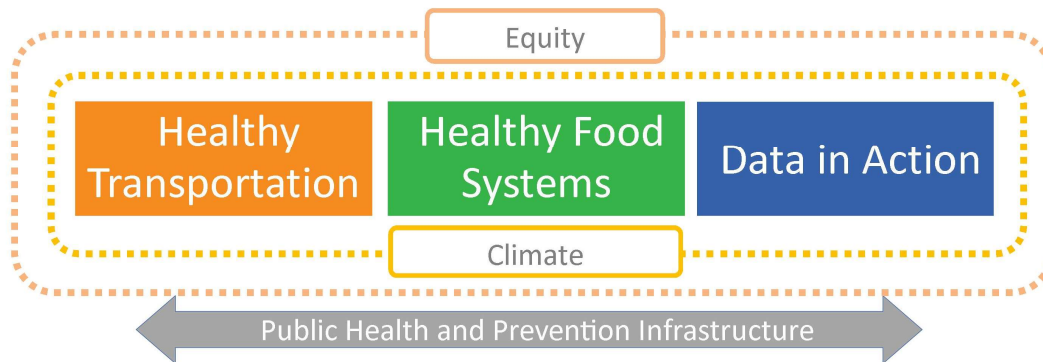
This resource of sample legislative platform language provides a range of options for local health departments seeking to integrate health promoting policies into their jurisdiction’s legislative platform. Topic areas identified support and advance the Public Health Alliance of Southern California priority initiative areas. Sample language is drawn upon evidence-informed, federal, state and local best practices accompanied by references and resources. Development of policy and policy recommendations is part of Public Health’s Essential Health Services as defined by the [American Public Health Association 2014](#).

Disclaimer: Contents of this resource are not intended to reflect positions of Alliance members.

About the Alliance

The Public Health Alliance of Southern California (Alliance) is a collaboration of local health departments in Southern California. Collectively our members are statutorily responsible for the health of nearly 60% of California’s population. Our vision is “All Southern California communities are healthy, vibrant and sustainable places to live, work and play.” The Alliance builds healthy communities through upstream multi-sector policy, systems and environmental change; and mobilizes and amplifies the Southern California local health departments’ regional voice in three Priority Initiatives: **Healthy Transportation and Land Use, Healthy Food Systems and Data in Action**. The Alliance work is grounded in two overarching frameworks including: **1) Equity/Opportunities for All and 2) Climate and Health**.

Priority Initiatives:



The Suggested Legislative Platform Language statements are grouped around these priority initiatives and overarching framework categories, with sections devoted to each. A sixth section provides recommended language for supporting overall Public Health and Prevention Infrastructure.

Document Structure

This document provides a set of sample legislative platform policy statements that support and advance the three Alliance Initiative Priorities and overarching approaches to address equity and climate change. These policy statements were identified by the Alliance within the context of our current work to achieve significant policy, systems and environmental change for the Southern California region. References provided in the document demonstrate how each policy statement is aligned with leading public health organizations, other prominent regional, state and national organizations, research centers and local laws and ordinances.

Guiding Principles

The Alliance's efforts to reduce the burden of chronic disease and build healthy communities will be guided by core principles to protect health, equity and sustainability, and ensure the greatest near- and long-term benefits:

- Take substantial and timely action toward primary prevention
- Support strategies with the highest potential impact through policy, systems and environmental change that can shift population health
- Promote health equity and environmental and social justice by identifying and addressing the social determinants of health to reduce health disparities.
- Engage the community in assessment, planning, decision-making and policy development to address health inequities
- Support greater resource allocation for communities suffering a disproportionate burden of social and behavioral determinants that lead to chronic disease
- Maximize health, environmental and economic co-benefits, including climate change adaptation, readiness, mitigation and community resilience especially for the most vulnerable with chronic illnesses
- Prioritize prevention for children and youth, the aged and other vulnerable groups
- Support better quality health care and self-management for those already affected by chronic disease
- Promote "Health in All Policies" approaches within government and non-governmental organizations to improve population health
- Build collaboration between public health, healthcare, transportation, land use planning, energy, housing, agriculture and environmental health sectors to improve population health

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Strengthen the public health role and involvement in climate change action, including mitigation, adaptation and resilience.

References

<p>California Natural Resources Agency</p>	<p>“Responding to climate change provides opportunities to improve human health and wellbeing by working across sectors including energy, agriculture, housing, land use and transportation. “ Health co-benefits and adaptive capacity protect people while combating climate change through active transportation, urban greening, mixed use zoning, affordable, healthy and energy-efficient housing, sustainable forestry and consumption of locally grown produce.</p> <p><i>(Safeguarding California: Implementation Action Plans, California Natural Resources Agency, March 2016, page 147;</i> http://resources.ca.gov/docs/climate/safeguarding/Safeguarding%20California-Implementation%20Action%20Plans.pdf</p>
<p>CCLHO</p>	<p>Health Officers, health and environmental health departments must demonstrate leadership and form strategic alliances with public and private partners, community, planning and transportation, agriculture, parks and recreation, air quality boards, pest abatement districts and others. Climate mitigation strategies that will help protect human health include: assessment of community vulnerability and resilience to climate change; assessment of the impact of climate change legislation, regulations, and policies on public health; development of mitigation and adaptation strategies that maximize health co-benefits; participation in local greenhouse gas emissions inventories and climate change or sustainability action plans; Promotion of culturally appropriate risk communication, education, and outreach; advancement of a climate change research agenda; enhancement of climate change health impact surveillance; and reduction of air pollution, in particular greenhouse gases, in partnership with local air quality management districts and planning agencies.</p> <p><i>(CCLHO Policy Platform, Fall 2010, page 53, 54;</i> https://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/cclho/Documents/CCLHOPolicyPlatform.pdf</p>
<p>CHEAC</p>	<p>Support efforts to develop climate change mitigation strategies to help protect against potential impacts on human health.</p> <p><i>(CHEAC 2016 Legislative Platform;</i> http://www.cheac.org/page/Legislation/pdfs/legishs/2016/2016_Leg_Platform-Final.pdf</p>

Strengthen public health capacity, infrastructure and resources (including funding) to prevent and prepare for the impacts of climate change on health.

References

<p>CSAC</p>	<p>Potential impacts of climate change on human health are recognized. Heat-related illnesses, air pollution, wild fire, water pollution and supply issues, mental health impact and infectious diseases all related to the health and well-being of residents, and to the range and cost of services provided by county governments. There are direct human health benefits associated with mitigating greenhouse gas emissions, such as lowering rates of obesity, injuries, and asthma. Prevention, planning, research and preparation are keys to coping with public health issues brought about by climate change.</p> <p><i>(CSAC Climate Change Policy Statements and Principles, November 2007, page 11;</i> http://www.counties.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/csac_climate_change_policy_final.pdf)</p>
<p>CCLHO</p>	<p>Climate change mitigation strategies that will help protect the human environment include: Assessment of community vulnerability and resilience to climate change; assessment of the impact of climate change legislation, regulations, and policies on public health; development of mitigation and adaptation strategies that maximize health co-benefits; participation in local greenhouse gas emissions inventories and climate change or sustainability action plans; promotion of culturally appropriate risk communication, education, and outreach; advancement of a climate change research agenda; enhancement of climate change health impact surveillance; and reduction of air pollution, in particular greenhouse gases, in partnership with local air quality management districts and planning agencies.</p> <p><i>(CCLHO Policy Platform, Fall 2010, page 53;</i> https://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/cclho/Documents/CCLHOPolicyPlatform.pdf)</p>
<p>CHEAC</p>	<p>Support efforts to develop climate change mitigation strategies to help protect against potential impacts on human health.</p> <p><i>(CHEAC 2016 Legislative Platform;</i> http://www.cheac.org/page/Legislation/pdfs/legishs/2016/2016_Leg_Platform-Final.pdf)</p>

Build the evidence base through research, monitoring, surveillance, and pilot projects to evaluate the health implications of climate change and identify climate change solutions that optimize health.

References

<p>CDC</p>	<p>The Building Resilience Against Climate Effects (BRACE) framework can help health departments prepared for and respond to climate change. The process allows health departments to understand the people and places in their jurisdiction that are most vulnerable and susceptible to adverse impacts to climate change.</p> <p><i>(CDC Climate and Health Program, Assessing Health Vulnerability to Climate Change: A Guide for Health Departments;</i> https://www.cdc.gov/climateandhealth/pubs/assessinghealthvulnerabilitytoclimatechange.pdf)</p>
<p>California Natural Resources Agency</p>	<p>Partner across state agencies and departments to collect data to understand the impact of climate related illnesses and deaths. Conduct routine surveillance of the health, mental health, social and economic factors associated with heat illness and death, wildfire smoke, cases of food-borne illness and others.</p> <p><i>(California Natural Resources Agency, Safeguarding California: Implementation Action Plans, March 2016, page 166, 167;</i> http://resources.ca.gov/docs/climate/safeguarding/Safeguarding%20California-Implementation%20Action%20Plans.pdf)</p>

Promote strategies to address climate change that optimize for health, equity, and well-being.

References

<p>U. S. Climate and Health Alliance</p>	<p>Statement of Principles- Equity: Climate change threatens to disproportionately harm the poor, vulnerable, and disadvantaged; strategies to address climate change must link with efforts to address health and social inequities and human rights.</p> <p><i>(U.S. Climate and Health Alliance, Statement of Principles, February 2014; http://usclimateandhealthalliance.org/about/statement-of-principles/)</i></p>
<p>CCLHO</p>	<p>Climate change mitigation strategies that will help protect the human environment include: Assessment of community vulnerability and resilience to climate change; assessment of the impact of climate change legislation, regulations, and policies on public health; development of mitigation and adaptation strategies that maximize health co-benefits; participation in local greenhouse gas emissions inventories and climate change or sustainability action plans; promotion of culturally appropriate risk communication, education, and outreach; advancement of a climate change research agenda; enhancement of climate change health impact surveillance; and reduction of air pollution, in particular greenhouse gases, in partnership with local air quality management districts and planning agencies.</p> <p><i>(CCLHO Policy Platform, Fall 2010, page 53; https://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/cclho/Documents/CCLHOPolicyPlatform.pdf)</i></p>
<p>CSAC</p>	<p>Potential impacts of climate change on human health are recognized. Heat-related illnesses, air pollution, wildfires, water pollution and supply issues, mental health impacts and infectious diseases are all related to the health and well-being of residents and to the long-range costs of services provided by county governments. There are direct human health benefits associated with mitigating greenhouse gas emissions, such as lowering rates of obesity, injuries, and asthma. Prevention, planning, research and preparation are keys to coping with public health issues brought about by climate change.</p> <p><i>(CSAC Climate Change Policy Statements and Principles, November 2007; http://www.counties.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/csac_climate_change_policy_final.pdf)</i></p>

Promote community environments that simultaneously support health, and climate change mitigation and resilience (e.g. active transportation, walkability, urban greening).

References

<p>U. S. Climate and Health Alliance</p>	<p>Statement of Principles- Health in All Policies: Sustainable, resilient communities can only be achieved through mutually reinforcing changes in transportation, energy, housing, agriculture, commerce, water, health care, and other systems; collaboration across sectors and a “Health in All Policies” approach are thus required to ensure that systems are sustainable and aligned with the needs of both people today and future generations.</p> <p><i>(U.S. Climate and Health Alliance, Statement of Principles, February 2014; http://usclimateandhealthalliance.org/about/statement-of-principles/)</i></p>
<p>CDPH</p>	<p>Policies that support active transportation help Californians incorporate more health-promoting physical activity into their lives, while also reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other harmful co-pollutants. Infill development can help to reduce urban sprawl, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and support location-efficient housing that promotes active transportation and allows workers to reap both economic and health benefits.</p> <p><i>(Health in All Policies Task Force Report to the Strategic Growth Council, December 3, 2010 – Executive Summary, page 7; http://sgc.ca.gov/pdf/HiAP_Task_Force_Report-Dec_2010.pdf)</i></p>
<p>CHEAC</p>	<p>Support legislation and funding that encourages consideration of public health impacts in the design and planning of healthy communities. Support efforts to develop climate change mitigation strategies to help protect against potential impacts on human health.</p> <p><i>(CHEAC 2016 Legislative Platform; http://www.cheac.org/page/Legislation/pdfs/legishs/2016/2016_Leg_Platform-Final.pdf)</i></p>

CSAC	<p>There are direct human health benefits associated with mitigating greenhouse gas emissions, such as lowering rates of obesity, injuries, and asthma. Counties believe that prevention, planning, research and preparation are the keys to coping with the public health issues brought about by climate change, and that any public policy related to climate change and public health must take into account the existing roles and resources of county government.</p> <p><i>(California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Climate Change Policy Statements and Principles, November 2007, page 11; http://www.counties.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/csac_climate_change_policy_final.pdf)</i></p>
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Integrate health, equity and sustainability into decision-making processes, planning documents, guidelines, funding formulas and certification requirements across policy arenas.

References

American Public Health Association (APHA)	APHA calls upon national, state, and local health agencies and organizations to develop climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies and policies to prepare for and manage the health risks of climate change, doing so in ways that promote equity and sustainable development. Public health departments and health care systems should incorporate climate vulnerability assessments, planning, tracking, and interventions into public health strategies and health care provision. APHA also calls upon policymakers and public administrators to actively include community members when developing climate change strategies and policies at the local, regional, state, and national levels.
	<i>(APHA Public Health Opportunities to Address the Health Effects of Climate Change- Action Step #1; http://www.apha.org/policies-and-advocacy/public-health-policy-statements/policy-database/2015/12/03/15/34/public-health-opportunities-to-address-the-health-effects-of-climate-change)</i>

Prioritize an equity frame across climate action plans/ strategies, recognizing that the most socioeconomically vulnerable communities are often the ones that are most vulnerable to climate change.

References

<p>California Natural Resources Agency</p>	<p>It is recognized that climate change does not affect all people equally and resources must focus on supporting the resilience of people and communities who are most vulnerable to climate change effects.</p> <p><i>(California Natural Resources Agency, Safeguarding California: Implementation Action Plans- Public Health Sector Plan, March 2016, page 146;</i> http://resources.ca.gov/docs/climate/safeguarding/Safeguarding%20California-Implementation%20Action%20Plans.pdf)</p>
<p>CDPH CalBRACE Project</p>	<p>California Building Resilience Against Climate Effects (CalBRACE) is an evidence-based project that provides resources and technical assistance for the state and local health departments to build climate adaptation capacity and enhance resilience at the local and regional levels.</p> <p><i>(California Department of Public Health, California Building Resilience Against Climate Effects, downloaded June 2016; https://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/Pages/CalBRACE.aspx)</i></p>
<p>CalEPA Urban Heat Island Index</p>	<p>In 2015 CalEPA released the study, “Creating and Mapping an Urban Heat Island Index for California” which defines and examines the characteristics of the urban heat island and creates an Urban Heat Island Index to quantify the extent and severity of urban heat islands for individual cities.</p> <p><i>(California Environmental Protection Agency, Urban Heat Island Index for California, downloaded June 2016: http://www.calepa.ca.gov/UrbanHeat/)</i></p>

Promote adaptation planning and community resilience that incorporate health and health equity.

References

<p>U.S. Climate and Health Alliance</p>	<p>Statement of Principles- Action for adaptation and resilience: Because climate change is already occurring, we must also act now to protect people from the impacts of climate change and to build climate resilient communities with the social, economic, and physical capacity to thrive in the face of climate change.</p> <p>Statement of Principles- Equity: Climate change threatens to disproportionately harm the poor, vulnerable, and disadvantaged; strategies to address climate change must link with efforts to address health and social inequities and human rights.</p> <p><i>(U.S. Climate and Health Alliance, Statement of Principles, February 2014;</i> http://usclimateandhealthalliance.org/about/statement-of-principles/)</p>
<p>Texas Health Institute</p>	<p>Report describes how 15 major U.S. cities are working to educate, engage, and empower vulnerable communities of color to build resilience to climate change.</p> <p><i>(Texas Health Institute, Status and Progress in Engaging Communities of Color to Advance Resilience to Climate Change- Experiences of 15 U.S. Cities, December 2014;</i> http://www.texashealthinstitute.org/uploads/1/3/5/3/13535548/thi_climate_resilience_vulnerable_communities_final_report_12_11_2014_new.pdf)</p>

Improve baseline resilience in vulnerable locations and populations: health, well-being, financial security, and housing.

References

<p>Journal of Environmental and Public Health</p>	<p>Local health departments can develop climate change environmental public health indicators (EPHI) to assist in implementing the 10 essential public health services and the CDC Building Resilience Against Climate Effects (BRACE) framework. This work can also leverage the community vulnerability assessment results to ensure interventions designed to address climate change do not further impact existing health disparities.</p> <p><i>(Journal of Environmental and Public Health, An Approach to Developing Local Climate Change Environmental Public Health Indicators, Vulnerability Assessments and Projections of Future Impacts, Volume 2014 (2014), Article ID 132057; http://www.hindawi.com/journals/jeph/2014/132057/)</i></p>
<p>CDPH CalBRACE Project</p>	<p>California Building Resilience Against Climate Effects (CalBRACE) is an evidence-based project that provides resources and technical assistance for the state and local health departments to build climate adaptation capacity and enhance resilience at the local and regional levels.</p> <p><i>(California Department of Public Health, California Building Resilience Against Climate Effects, downloaded June 2016; https://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/Pages/CalBRACE.aspx)</i></p>
<p>San Francisco Department of Public Health</p>	<p>San Francisco Department of Public Health Climate and Health Program developed a Heat Vulnerability Index that geographically predicts high risk areas during an extreme heat event. The Department continues their work to promote community resilience through education improvement and engagement to reduce the health impacts to climate change.</p> <p><i>(San Francisco Department of Public Health, Environmental Health, Climate and Health Program, downloaded June 2016; https://www.sfdph.org/dph/EH/climatechange/)</i></p>

Incorporate outdoor workforce health and safety protections for severe weather events.

References

<p>CDC</p>	<p>Impacts to people working outdoors can experience direct effects of climate change associated occupational hazards such as: increased ambient temperatures, air pollution, and extreme weather. Additionally, indirect climate change associated occupational hazards are likely to occur from vector-borne diseases and expanded habitats, industrial transitions, emerging industries (e.g., renewable energy, carbon sequestration, and “green industries”), increased use of pesticides, and changes in the built environment.</p> <p><i>(CDC Climate Change and Occupational Safety and Health, May 4, 2016; http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/climate/how.html)</i></p>
<p>Department of Industrial Relations (CalOSHA)</p>	<p>California employers are required to take four steps to prevent heat illness for their employees: training about heat illness prevention; providing fresh water; providing shade; and developing and implementing written procedures for complying with CalOSHA Heat Illness Prevention Standard.</p> <p><i>(State of California Department of Industrial Relations (CalOSHA) Heat Illness Prevention, June 2016; http://www.dir.ca.gov/DOSH/HeatIllnessInfo.html)</i></p>

Promote climate change strategies that support equitable community development.

References

<p>Convergence Partnership</p>	<p>The Convergence Partnership, a collaboration of foundations and health-care institutions, works to foster healthier and more equitable environments for all children and families. Resilient equitable development is a priority area of focus for the Convergence Partnership. Equitable development is an approach to creating healthy, vibrant communities of opportunity. It involves promoting affordable housing without displacement, supporting inclusive transit-oriented development, creating expanded economic opportunity, and prioritizing health and prevention for communities, particularly in the context of a changing climate.</p> <p>The Partnership prioritizes: sustaining, strengthening, and stimulating healthy, sustainable, and equitable transportation policy; forging new connections to and within the community economic development field; and promoting community economic development strategies to advance community health and equity.</p> <p><i>(Convergence Partnership, Resilient Equitable Development, downloaded June 2016; http://www.convergencepartnership.org/cp-focus-areas/resilience-equitable-development)</i></p>
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