

About This Document

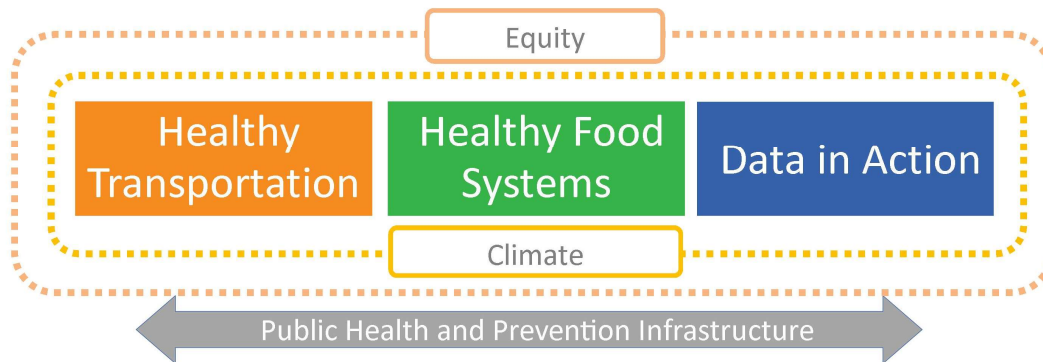
This resource of sample legislative platform language provides a range of options for local health departments seeking to integrate health promoting policies into their jurisdiction’s legislative platform. Topic areas identified support and advance the Public Health Alliance of Southern California priority 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

Contact Information:

PHASoCal.org · admin@PHASoCal.org · 619-452-1180

Ensure meaningful climate protections by aligning ARB-implemented GHG reduction targets with state mandated goals.

References

<p>California Governor’s Executive Order B-30-15</p>	<p>In April 2015, Governor Brown signed Executive Order B-30-15 establishing a 2030 greenhouse gas emissions reduction target of 40 percent below 1990 levels, addressing the need for climate adaptation, and directing State government to: Incorporate climate change impacts into the State’s Five-Year Infrastructure Plan; Update the State’s comprehensive strategy for safeguarding against climate impacts; Factor climate change from a lifecycle perspective into State agency planning and investment decisions; Implement measures under existing agency and departmental authority to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p><i>(California Governor’s Executive Order B-30-15, April 29, 2014; https://www.gov.ca.gov/news.php?id=18938)</i></p>
<p>Air Resources Board</p>	<p>Frequently Asked Questions About Executive Order B-30-15, 2030 Carbon Target and Adaptation.</p> <p><i>(Air Resources Board Frequently Asked Questions about B-30-15, revised 4/25/15; http://www.arb.ca.gov/newsrel/2030_carbon_target_adaptation_faq.pdf)</i></p>

Support strategies that promote a net zero emissions economy.

References

City of San Diego, CA	City of San Diego Climate Action Plan Draft July 2015 outlines five key strategies to further reduce 2020 and 2035 greenhouse gas emissions through: 1) energy and water efficient buildings; 2) clean and renewable energy; 3) bicycling, walking, transit and land use; 4) zero waste; and 5) climate resiliency. <i>(City of San Diego Climate Action Plan Draft 2015, pages 21, 23;</i> https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/legacy/planning/genplan/cap/pdf/draft_cap_july_2015.pdf <i>)</i>
Cambridge Institute	After COP21: Achieving a zero carbon economy. <i>(Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership;</i> http://www.cisl.cam.ac.uk/news/blog/after-cop21-achieving-a-zero-carbon-economy <i>)</i>

Support urgent and substantial reductions to greenhouse gas emissions, short- and long-term, across sectors (e.g. energy, transportation, food and agriculture sectors).

References

US Climate and Health Alliance	Statement of Principles- Emissions reduction: Greenhouse gas emissions must be significantly reduced without delay, to avoid reaching a climate “tipping point” that will increase the likelihood of catastrophic consequences for health and well-being. <i>(U.S. Climate and Health Alliance, Statement of Principles, February 2014;</i> http://usclimateandhealthalliance.org/about/statement-of-principles/ <i>)</i>
--------------------------------	--

Promote reduction of the systems that produce the sources of greenhouse gases (e.g. extraction of fossil fuels, expansion of unsustainable food systems).

References

APHA	<p>Exhorts US policymakers to immediately take necessary steps to reduce US greenhouse gas emissions, including carbon dioxide and methane, as called for in the President's 2013 Climate Action Plan, setting mandatory economy-wide limits on emissions with successive reductions over time to create incentives for energy efficiency and alternative energy production with an emphasis on renewable energy approaches. APHA thus calls for robust implementation of the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan as an important step toward emissions reductions.</p> <p><i>(APHA Public Health Opportunities to Address the Health Effects of Climate Change- Action Step #6; 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></p>
------	--

Promote sustainable, healthy sequestration strategies across sectors (e.g. sustainable agriculture and food systems, urban greening).

References

US Climate and Health Alliance	PHI supports efforts that reduce long-term climate change, promote climate resilient communities, protect all people from the health impacts of climate change, and optimize health and healthy equity outcomes and co-benefits. <i>(Center on Climate Change and Health Policy Platform, Center for Climate Change and Health, January 2014, Policy Priorities No. 9; http://climatehealthconnect.org/solutions/phi-climate-change-and-health-policy-platform/)</i>
--------------------------------	--