

About This Document

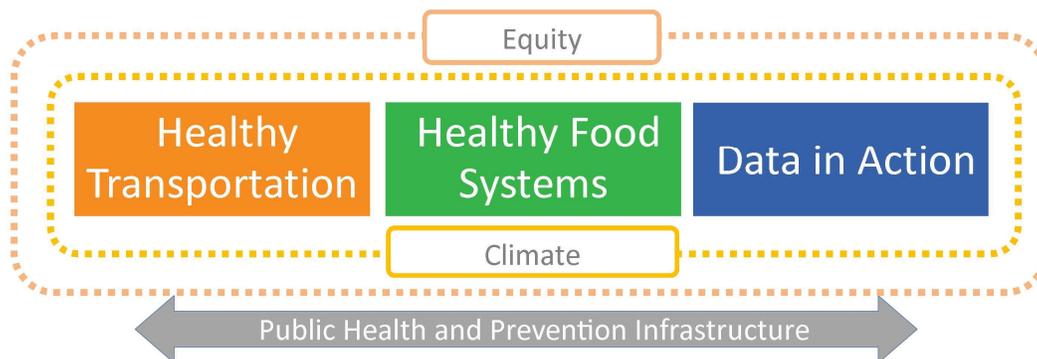
This resource of sample legislative platform language provides a range of options for local health departments seeking to integrate health promoting policies into their jurisdiction’s legislative platform. Topic areas identified support and advance the Public Health Alliance of Southern California priority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

Support safe and wide reaching food diversion programs to feed food insecure residents and minimize organic waste in landfills.

References

<p>California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)</p>	<p>Feeding hungry people with donations of extra food is an integral part of resource conservation. There are many local organizations that recover healthy food and deliver it quickly to those in need.</p> <p><i>(CalRecycle, Food Banks and Food Recovery;</i> http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Organics/Food/Donation/default.htm)</p>
<p>Waste Not Orange County</p>	<p>The Waste Not OC Coalition is focused on identifying sources of recoverable food from restaurants, grocery stores, hospitals, schools and other locations and educating potential donors to safely redirect food to those in need.</p> <p><i>(Waste Not OC Coalition, downloaded June 2016; </i>http://www.wastenotoc.org<i>)</i></p>
<p>Practice Greenhealth Academy</p>	<p>The Practice Greenhealth academy offers training and education programs to build and integrate sustainability programs in the nation's hospitals. Topics range from recycling less food to landfills, less water and composting.</p> <p><i>(Practice Greenhealth Academy, downloaded June 2016;</i> https://practicegreenhealth.org/greenhealth-academy<i>)</i></p>

Decrease food waste by implementing strategies to clarify differences between “sell by dates” and “best if used by” labels on food.

References

USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service	<p>With the exception of infant formula, there is no Federal requirement for product dating although more than 20 states require dating some foods. Open dating is found on perishable foods such as meat, poultry, eggs and dairy products. A “Sell-By” date tells the store how long to display the product for sale. You should buy the product before the date expires. A “Best if Used By (or Before)” date is recommended for best flavor or quality. It is not a purchase or safety date. A “Use-By” date is the last date recommended for the use of the product while at peak quality. The date has been determined by the manufacturer of the product.</p> <p><i>(USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service, Food Safety Information, August 2013; http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/wcm/connect/19013cb7-8a4d-474c-8bd7-bda76b9defb3/Food_Product_Dating.pdf?MOD=AJPERES)</i></p>
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Support adoption and proliferation of safe, emerging solid waste management practices, and streamline local permitting of organic waste re-use facilities.

References

CalRecycle	<p>The California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) works to increase the diversion of organic materials away from landfills and toward the production of value-added products such as compost, fertilizers and biofuels. Information on waste management and local permitting of organic waste re-use facilities is available on the website.</p> <p><i>(http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/SWFacilities/Permitting/facilitytype/compost/)</i></p>
CalRecycle	<p>Assembly Bill 1826 Chesbro (Chapter 727, Statutes of 2014) requires businesses to recycle their organic waste on or after April 1, 2016. In preparation, local jurisdictions must implement an organic waste recycling program by January 1, 2016. Mandatory recycling of organic waste is the next step toward achieving California’s aggressive recycling and greenhouse gas (GHG) emission goals. Organic waste such as green materials and food materials are recyclable through composting and mulching, and through anaerobic digestion, which can produce renewable energy and fuel. Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions resulting from the decomposition of organic wastes in landfills have been identified as a significant source of emissions contributing to global climate change. Reducing the amount of organic materials sent to landfills and increasing the production of compost and mulch are part of the AB 32 (California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006) Scoping Plan.</p> <p><i>California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), downloaded June 2016; http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Recycle/Commercial/Organics/#GENERAL</i></p>

Support water policies that prioritize water for food production over ornamental landscapes.

References

<p>Public Health Alliance of Southern California</p>	<p>The Water Security for Community and Household Gardens and Farms Webinar Series Recommendations for Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop FAQs and factsheets for the public on the health benefits of urban agriculture and the need to prioritize water use for edible landscapes. • Promote and demonstrate hierarchy of appropriate water use. Use greywater and alternative sources for ornamental landscapes to conserve potable water for use in edible gardens. Demonstrate these uses in community gardens, particularly on health department and county or city property. • Work with county agencies and municipal water districts to support policies that promote water and food security. Mandate use of greywater on nonedible plants on county property (including detention facilities). • Educate policymakers on the health benefits of community gardens (as a high priority for water use), and of using greywater/alternative water techniques where possible to have more potable water available for drinking and for food. Health departments, Food Policy Councils, and community-based organizations can work together to advance the dialogue. <p><i>(Public Health Alliance of Southern California Water Security for Community and Household Gardens and Farms, September 15, 2015; http://phasocal.org/communitygardens/)</i></p>
<p>California Governor's Executive Order B-29-15</p>	<p>California Governor's Executive Order B-29-15 requires new expedited actions that are needed to reduce the harmful impacts for water shortages and other impacts of the drought. Actions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Save Water Resources Board (Water Board) shall prohibit irrigation with potable water of ornamental turf on public street medians. • The Water Board shall prohibit irrigation with potable water outside of newly constructed homes and buildings that is not delivered by drip or microspray systems. <p><i>(California Governor's Executive Order B-29-15, January 14, 2014; https://www.gov.ca.gov/docs/4.1.15_Executive_Order.pdf)</i></p>