Welcome to the LIFE Webinar Series

We will begin the webinar momentarily
Mission Statement

Working to help low-income New Yorkers address energy issues.

LIFE, the Low-Income Forum on Energy, is a unique statewide dialogue that brings together organizations and individuals committed to addressing the challenges and opportunities facing low-income New Yorkers as they seek safe, affordable and reliable energy.

Supported by the New York State Public Service Commission and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), the LIFE dialogue encourages an interactive exchange of information and collaboration among the programs and resources that assist low-income energy consumers.
Webinar Series, Newsletter, Social Media

> Monthly webinars – Register at nyserda.ny.gov/LIFE-Webinar-Series
  • More to come in April

> Monthly electronic newsletter
  • Sign up at nyserda.ny.gov/LIFE – “Join the email list”
  • Direct link – nyserda.ny.gov/LIFE-Mailing-List

> Social media
  • Twitter: @LIFEny
  • LinkedIn: Low-Income Forum on Energy
Connect

> Find more information on the website
  • nyserda.ny.gov/LIFE

> Join the mailing list for announcements and updates
  • Sign up at nyserda.ny.gov/LIFE – “Join the email list”
  • Direct link – nyserda.ny.gov/LIFE-Mailing-List

> Contact LIFE
  • Phone: 866-697-3732, ext. 3628
  • Email: LIFE@nyserda.ny.gov
Asking Questions During Today’s Webinar

1. Locate the Q&A function in the upper right portion of your webinar panel. Click on the small arrow to the left of “Q&A” to expand the text field.

2. Type your question into the text field and click “send.”
Climate change is the leading public health issue of our time. At the American Public Health Association, we envision a future when climate change is a national priority with broad social and political support. A future when our nation addresses climate change in ways that improve public health and health equity, spurring the healthiest nation in one generation.

—Dr. Georges Benjamin, executive director
About APHA

Creating the Healthiest Nation in One Generation

• **Our Mission**
  Improve the health of the public and achieve equity in health status

• **Our Vision**
  Create the healthiest nation in one generation

• **Our Values**
  Reflect the beliefs of our members from all disciplines of public health and over 40 countries.

- Climate and health journey began in the 1920s
- Supported CDC’s Climate and Health Program
- Hosted the Year of Climate Change and Health
- Established the Center for Climate, Health and Equity
Challenges

A HOLISTIC REVIEW
Challenges

Health Impacts of Climate Change

1. Heat
2. Poor air quality
3. Vector-borne diseases
4. Disasters & extremes
Challenges

Mental Health

How does Climate Change Impact our Mental Health and Wellbeing?

• Immediate Impacts
• Gradual Impacts
• Indirect Impacts

Source: Making the Connection: Climate Changes Mental Health
Challenges

Disproportionate burden of climate change

Source: Fourth National Climate Assessment’s Figure 14.2 “Vulnerable Populations”
What Drives Health?

- Health is more than Health Care
- Health inequities are neither natural nor inevitable
- Your zip-code may be more important than your genetic code for health
- The choices we make are shaped by the choices we have before us
- Structural racism acts as a force in the distribution of opportunities to health
- All policy is *health* policy

Source: Health Equity Report for the District of Columbia 2018
### Climate, Health and Equity

#### Health Equity 101

**Nine Key Drivers:**

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<th>1. Education</th>
<th>2. Employment</th>
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<td>3. Income</td>
<td>4. Housing</td>
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<td>5. Transportation</td>
<td>6. Food Environment</td>
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<td>7. Medical Care</td>
<td>8. Outdoor Environment</td>
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<td>9. Community Safety</td>
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Climate, Health and Equity

Healthy Housing

Americans spend roughly 70% of their time in the home. The home environment, in turn, may promote or diminish health.

~35M metropolitan homes in the US have at least one health or safety hazard, exposing residents to preventable risks, such as:

- Lead exposure
- Nurturing environment for mites, roaches, rodents, and molds—all of which may exacerbate asthma
- Preventable and unintentional injuries lead to ~11,000 deaths from falls, fires, drownings and poisonings
Climate, Health and Equity

Past housing policies are still impacting communities today

House affordability affects health outcomes:
- Inability to pay rent can force families to constantly move
- Frequent mobility and house instability have been linked to gaps in health insurance coverage among children

Redlining practices have pushed people of color to live in worse housing conditions and less desirable neighborhoods with higher environmental health risk
- Less green spaces to reduce heat
- Air pollution

Source: September 2020 Closing the Racial Inequality Gaps. https://ir.citi.com/%2FPRxPvgNWu319AU1ajGf%2BsKbjJiBJSaTOSdw2DF4xynPwFB8a2jV1FaA3Idy7vY59bOtN2lxVQM%3D
Climate, Health and Equity

Heat Island Effect

Source: Green Ribbon
Energy is a Public Health Issue

THE TIME IS NOW
About APHA

Our Journey into Energy Equity

• Policy Statements
• APHA Annual Meeting
• Factsheets
• Publication
Energy Equity as a Public Health Issue

Policy Statements

• The Public Health Impact of Energy Policy in the United States (2018)
• The Environmental and Occupational Health Impacts of Unconventional Oil and Gas Industry (2018)
• Public Health Opportunities to Address the Health Effects of Air Pollution (2017)
• Public Health Opportunities to Address the Health Effects of Climate Change (2015)
• Preventing Environmental and Occupational Health Effects of Diesel Exhaust (2014)
Energy Equity as a Public Health Issue

2019 APHA Annual Meeting

Roundtable questions:
1. How do U.S. energy transitions build from and contribute to environmental injustices and public health issues?
2. What does an energy just future look like for the U.S.?
3. What role can public health professionals play in the policy or program development of a just transition?
How public health professionals can advance an energy just future

Climate change exacerbates health inequities. Tobacco, economic, social and environmental resources enable people to cope with climate threats, such as extreme heat and natural disasters. But difficulty in accessing these can contribute to systematically undermines energy burdens on low-income earners.

U.S. communities lack access to affordable household energy sources, have lower health status, lower educational opportunities, fewer economic opportunities, and inadequate access to healthcare.

In 2012, 37% of U.S. householders reported having difficulty paying energy bills or managing adequate heating and cooling in their homes. Many low-income earners, alternative energy sources such as solar or wind are becoming common but they are more expensive.

Climate change is a threat multiplier.

Climate justice is associated with health inequities, disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable among us. This includes children and pregnant women, people with low incomes, the aged and people with disabilities and illnesses, and some communities of color, indigenous peoples and tribal communities, farmers, marginalized people of color and ethnicities and other workers to name a few.

Energy justice is the recognition that climate, economic, social, and environmental resource vulnerabilities parallel climate threats. Such social and political interventions can contribute to a healthy energy future for all.

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Energy justice is the recognition that climate, economic, social, and environmental resource vulnerabilities parallel climate threats. Such social and political interventions can contribute to a healthy energy future for all.

How do structural racism and climate change contribute to energy burden?

In the same way that climate change disproportionally affects certain populations, energy is a health risk to be aware of the 63 years of the Environmental Justice Act, this issue is not an isolated concern but a larger issue that spans many communities.

In the context of energy, race, class, and income matter. In the narrative for the procurement of energy in the country, the narrative is of the two-tiered and multi-tiered discriminatory practices, with the highest burden on the communities that have historically been underserved and in many cases, miss opportunities for economic growth.

Spotlight: Heat islands

Poor-quality housing and high-neighborhood density promote values, increase crime and end the quality of life and the environmental health of residents. Urban heat islands are a major threat to public health.

Factsheets & Publications

Energy Justice and Climate Change: Key Concepts for Public Health

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World Medical and Health Policy

Advancing Energy Justice as a Climate and Public Health Solution

Rachael McAloney, Eimear Costelloe, and Rachel Sartorello

Energy justice is a climate and health issue. Energy options contribute to greenhouse gas emissions and negative health outcomes from energy extraction and consumption, fuel as climate change disproporportionally affects certain populations, energy is a health equity issue.

The U.S. energy sector faces a critical need for energy access and affordability that leads to increased health equity. Here, we examine the role of energy equity in providing clean energy access to underserved communities.

By promoting energy justice as a priority, public health professionals can play a role in identifying health risks related to climate change and promoting clean energy policies.


Energy Justice: Introduction and Background

The U.S. energy sector is in a massive state of transition. For decades, the U.S. has been the world's leading producer of crude oil and natural gas and greenhouse gas emissions. This is due to a variety of factors, including economic and political changes, and the need to reduce global warming.

Advancing energy and climate justice is a complex challenge that requires a holistic approach to achieve a sustainable energy future and promote public health.

We acknowledge the benefits and challenges of transitioning to sustainable energy sources as a means to address environmental health and social justice issues.

World Medical and Health Policy
Solutions

Visualizing an energy just future

- The risks and benefits are equitably distributed
- Affordable energy is available
- Power is distributed
- Profits are reinvested locally
- Existing infrastructure is used for renewable power
- Improved environmental health conditions
- Relevant sectors are engaged
Solutions: ENERGY EQUITY

Case examples of energy just future

Partnership for Southern Equity’s Just Energy Circle and Just Energy Academy works to eliminate energy insecurity by advancing policies and institutional actions that promote racial equity and shared prosperity for all in the growth of metropolitan Atlanta and the American South.
Solutions: ENERGY JUSTICE

Case examples of energy just future

The Energy Democracy Project and the Initiative for Energy Justice develop resources to build collective power and advance the movement to democratize energy by providing law and policy resources to advocates and policymakers.
Energy as a Public Health Issue

Path to Justice

Inequality
Unequal access to opportunities

Equity
Custom tools that identify and address inequality

Equality?
Evenly distributed tools and assistance

Justice
Fixing the system to offer equal access to both tools and opportunities
Energy as a Public Health Issue

Multi-solving

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<th>Transition to healthy, sustainable agricultural practices</th>
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<td>Remove fossil fuels subsidies</td>
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<td>Shift to zero-carbon electricity</td>
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<td>Increase access to healthy transport options</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strengthen the public health system</td>
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<td>Invest in health recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic</td>
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Source: 2020 US Lance Countdown Brief
Energy as a Public Health Issue

Partnerships

- Strengthen community partnerships
- Support research and benchmarking
- Advocate for policy
- Develop education and communication
- Reimagine transportation
Energy as a Public Health Issue

Energy Just Future

Equitable distribution of risks and benefits

Profits are reinvested locally

Communities experience the health benefits of improved environmental health conditions

All relevant sectors are engaged in the just transition process
Thank You

Surili Sutaria Patel
Center for Climate, Health and Equity

Here’s how to connect:
apha.org/climate
@SuriliSutaria
@ClimateHealthEquity
Join Us and Connect

> Monthly webinars – Register at nyserda.ny.gov/LIFE-Webinar-Series
  • More to come in April

> Mailing list and newsletter sign up
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  • Direct link – nyserda.ny.gov/LIFE-Mailing-List

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