

Health Effects of Global Climate Change and the Medical Community

- Worldwide health Impacts
 - Specific Maine Impacts
- Medical Community Response

Happy United Nations Day

- It Takes a Village to Raise a Child
- It Takes All Villages to Heal the Planet

Seven Elements of a Climate-friendly Hospital

- ✓ Energy efficiency
- ✓ Green building Design
- ✓ Alternative energy Generation
- ✓ Transportation
- ✓ Food
- ✓ Waste
- ✓ Water

**Maine Medical Association
Resolution RE: Global Climate Change**

Resolution # 4: Global Climate Change, submitted by the MMA Public Health Committee, was amended and approved as follows.

WHEREAS, The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, made up of over 2500 of the world's leading scientists, concluded that human induced climate change "is likely to have wide-ranging and mostly adverse impacts on human health, with significant loss of life," and

WHEREAS, A May 16th, 2009 article entitled "Managing the Health Effects of Climate Change" in the *Lancet* journal began with the statement: "Climate change is the biggest global health threat of the 21st century," and

WHEREAS, Climate change is progressing world wide far more rapidly than anticipated, and

WHEREAS, A leading contributor to the acceleration of climate change is the continuing use of fossil fuels, and

WHEREAS, Fossil fuels themselves not only result in severe damage to the environment but as well are highly toxic to humans, including being associated with release of mercury and other toxic materials, and

WHEREAS, multiple health effects are expected and are already being manifested, with such as unpredictable and sudden changes in weather resulting in ice storms, hurricanes, and droughts with predictable health consequences including, but not limited to, carbon monoxide poisoning, crop failure with attendant starvation, heart attacks and heat strokes, panic, anxiety, depression, and

WHEREAS, there will be longer periods for insect breeding as well as new vectors being able to move into new areas resulting in increases in known diseases such as Lyme Disease, but also the appearance of entirely new diseases, and

WHEREAS, sea levels are expected to rise, resulting in drowning, salinization of water and soil, loss of homes, and potential massive dislocation of coastal residents, and

WHEREAS, Increases in ground level ozone, allergens and pollutants will result in severe respiratory problems particularly for vulnerable populations such as the young, the elderly, and those with chronic illnesses,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Maine Medical Association work with Maine people and groups interested in health, the Maine Legislature and its congressional delegation to assure that rapid action is taken to:

- Develop and sustain healthy alternative energy sources to reduce Maine's dependence on fossil fuels
- Track and disseminate data on environmental conditions, disease risks, and disease occurrence related to climate change
- Support enhancing the science base to better understand the relationship between climate change and health outcomes
- Communicate the health-related aspects of climate change, including risks and ways to reduce them, to the public and health providers
- Promote workforce development by helping to ensure the training of a new generation of competent, experienced public health staff to respond to the health threats posed by climate change.

Internet Resources

World Health Organization:

<http://www.who.int/en/>

Health Care Without Harm:

<http://www.noharm.org/World>