



CLIMATE AND
HEALTH
ALLIANCE

CLIMATE AND HEALTH NEWS

Children sue USA governments

The Children's Trust in the US has filed lawsuits against 50 states and the federal government on behalf of all American children for failing in their duty to protect the earth's atmosphere as a public trust to be guarded for future generations. The lawsuits rely on the long established legal principle of the public trust doctrine, which requires the government to protect and maintain certain shared resources fundamental for human health and survival. Read more [here](#).



NASA climate scientist James Hansen has led the team that provided the scientific background for their case – available [here](#).

Follow [CAHA](#)



on

[Facebook](#)



and [Twitter](#)

CAHA NEWS

[CAHA calls for policy to recognise rising health penalty from climate change](#)

The Climate and Health Alliance has highlighted the complex and increasing health risks associated with climate change, pointing to a new study released this month from the Union of Concerned Scientists.

The UCS study *Rising Temperatures, Worsening Ozone Pollution* suggests climate change is likely to cause dramatic increases in respiratory disease from ozone pollution. Read the media release [here](#).

Two degrees may be out of reach

The world's accepted guardrail for limiting global warming to two degrees and preventing dangerous is now likely to be out of reach, according to a new report from the International Energy Agency (IEA).

The IEA estimates global emissions hit a record of 30.6 gigatonnes of carbon dioxide in 2010, mainly from burning fossil fuel – a rise of 1.6Gt from 2009. This is the highest emissions ever recorded, and the IEA says this trajectory must be halted to avoid a 50% chance of a global average temperature rise of [4C by 2100](#). You can read the report five possible scenarios for global warming [here](#).

Doctors should give climate change the right treatment

The medical profession must do more to tackle climate change, according to David Shearman, George Crisp and David King in Crikey. Read the full article [here](#).

Climate action has clear public health dividend

CAHA responded to some extraordinary claims being made in the Weekend Australian last month by the co-author of the Skeptic's Handbook that climate action will jeopardise health. CAHA Convenor Fiona Armstrong responded: "This ignores decades of evidence published in the scientific literature regarding the adverse health effects of climate change and the emerging evidence about the significant health benefits of climate action". You can read the full article [here](#).

Time to improve performance of building in health care

A new report on sustainability of buildings in the health sector in Europe says change is urgently to reduce the footprint of buildings and create low carbon, sustainable, patient-centred healthcare services.

Poor procurement practices and a lack of leadership in health care has contributed to ongoing failure to adopt practices to improve building performance and development of sustainable health care infrastructure. Measures to reduce dependence on fossil fuels were being thrown off course by other, short term concerns, the report said.

CAHA complaint to 2GB

CAHA and the [Australian Climate Justice Program](#) have made a complaint to Radio 2GB asserting Alan Jones and Chris Smith are in breach of the industry code of practice which requires broadcasters to present news accurately and to distinguish factual material from commentary. This follows ABCTV's [MediaWatch program on 21 March 2011](#) about radio talkshow hosts who deny the science of climate change.

Radio 2GB has responded by saying that neither Alan Jones nor Chris Smith (also named in MediaWatch's program) are journalists and are therefore not bound by the Code.

The NSW Environment Defenders Office (who acted for CAHA and ACJP in preparing the earlier complaint) is now preparing a complaint on behalf of CAHA and ACJP to the Australian Communications and Media Authority.



You can read the full *State of the Art Report on Low Carbon Buildings in the Health Care Sector* [here](#).

WHO highlights co-benefits of climate action

A new report released this month from the World Health Organisation outlines the many large, immediate health benefits from the implementation of strategies to address climate change.

The *Health in the Green Economy* series reviews the evidence from emissions reductions in the health, energy, transport, and housing sectors, revealing green investments can help prevent cardiovascular and respiratory disease, obesity and some cancers.

The report calls for the health sector to play a bigger role in advocating for green investment as it can “prevent much illness, at very little cost”.

Read more and download the report [here](#).

VACANCIES

CAHA Board member

The Climate and Health Alliance has a position vacant on its Committee of Management (CAHA Board) for an enthusiastic and dynamic individual to help guide its operations and realise its vision to protect and promote health. Areas of expertise being sought: change management, information technology, media, fundraising, and sponsorship. Interested persons should submit an expression of interest including CV and details of board experience to convenor@caha.org.au no later than COB 1 July 2011. Please call CAHA Convenor Fiona Armstrong on 0438 900 005 if you require further information.

CAHA says ‘Yes’



The Climate and Health Alliance has joined with other civil society groups in the national campaign to [say “Yes”](#) to a price on carbon. This campaign is an effort to counter the voices of vested interests and parliamentarians who oppose effective climate action – aka the “No” campaign.

This campaign recognises that [a price on carbon is an important measure to create a financial disincentive](#) to the production of greenhouse gases and is a central part of effective emissions reduction policy.

It also recognises Australia’s effort to price carbon is an important contribution to the global mitigation effort but that it is [only one measure that must be part of a comprehensive policy suite](#) – see the [CAHA](#)

VOLUNTEERS

Meet our latest volunteer!

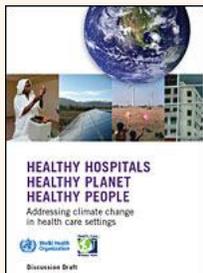
Elizabeth Haworth is an epidemiologist and public health researcher at the University of Oxford who has recently moved to Tasmania and offered her substantial expertise to help CAHA. Elizabeth is working on a CAHA Policy Position paper on Research – looking at what’s needed in climate and health research and implications for public policy. She’s also involved in our fundraising committee as a member of *Friends of CAHA*. We’re very fortunate to her involved!

CAHA is seeking volunteers to help realise its ambitious agenda to influence the policy debate. We need people to do research and policy work, help with the website, contribute to the CAHA blog, or prepare the newsletter. If you would like to help us, please contact CAHA Convenor Fiona Armstrong on convenor@caha.org.au or call 0438 900 005.

RESOURCES

Now available on the CAHA website:

[Healthy Hospitals, Healthy Planet, Healthy People: Addressing Climate Change in Health Care Settings](#) – a WHO/HCW report.



Public Risk Perceptions, Understandings, and Responses to Climate Change

A National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF) collaboration has produced an interim report from a project evaluating public risk perceptions, understandings and responses to the threat of climate change in Australia and Great Britain.

[paper on a carbon pricing framework](#) for more details on CAHA’s position.

CAHA activities

It’s been another busy month for CAHA – we’ve been out and about talking about climate and health, meeting with community, business, students, and health professional groups to share the work of CAHA and the imperative of recognising the implication for health in all policies, especially climate policy.

This included in a series of seminars for undergraduate students from a range of health disciplines at Deakin University in Melbourne in May. A copy of the presentation on ‘the role of health professionals in advocating for climate action’ is online [here](#).

CAHA Convenor Fiona Armstrong spoke recently in Melbourne with Professor John Wiseman on ‘climate change, catastrophe and transformation’ at the ARENA 2011 Forum series on [Fractures and Transformations](#). John spoke to some of the ideas outlined in the article [‘Sleepers Awake’](#). A

The report has found public concern in Australia levels was very high in relation to the threat and perceived impacts of climate change, viewing it as a “more immediate, proximal, and certain” threat, than British respondents. A distinctive minority of Australian respondents (5.8%) were “disbelievers” or “strong skeptics” with respect to the reality of current climate change. 90% of Australian respondents believed that human activities were playing a causal role in climate change, and 54% of Australian respondents believed they were already experiencing the effects of climate change. You can read the full report [here](#).

Climate and Health Council

The UK [Climate and Health Council](#) has revamped their website to make it interactive – there’s a blog, useful resources and the chance to interact with health professionals around the world. To find out more, follow the link [here](#).

BLOG

Health missing from climate story

In this latest blog, CAHA Convenor Fiona Armstrong argues, in all the to and fro of the current carbon pricing debate here in Australia, one important aspect of the story on climate action is missing.

“Why are we acting on climate change? Well, because of the evidence that it poses risks to the global economy, to infrastructure, and to our natural environment. All that is true and makes for a compelling case for action. But at its very core – climate change is a health issue.” Read more [here](#).

BOOKS

Changing Climate, Changing Health

Public health expert Dr. Paul Epstein has joined forces with science journalist Dan Ferber in a new book, “Changing Climate, Changing Health,” which looks at the global public health impacts of climate change. Go [here](#) to purchase.

transcript of Fiona’s presentation on: “Fairness, human flourishing and the future” is available [here](#).

Climate and Health Alliance Convenor Fiona Armstrong was recently in Darwin to speak at the 2011 Royal Australasian College of Physicians Congress. It was a busy few days and a successful visit, with a bit of local media (a piece in local paper, interviewed by ABC Radio Darwin).



While in Darwin, CAHA met with NT Department of Health, as well as the NT Health Minister; with ANF NT branch; and the NT Climate Change Minister’s senior advisor.

Achievements

We don’t like to boast but, we think CAHA has achieved a lot since it was established last year. We can’t include everything, but we’ve thrown together a summary of CAHA’s Achievements to offer an

EVENTS

Global Climate Justice – reducing emissions, eliminating poverty

11am-1pm Wednesday 29th June

Cosmopolitan Civil Societies Research Centre, UTS City Campus, Level 3, Mary Ann House, 645 Harris Street, Sydney.

Four Degrees or More? Australia in a Hot World

Tuesday, 12 July - Thursday, 14 July, 2011

This conference will explore the unintended consequences of current domestic and international climate policies. The international community has agreed to limit global warming to 2

degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. But our current emissions trajectory looks like we are more likely to reach 4 degrees or more. So what might Australia look like then?

Key speakers include: Professor Hans Joachim Schellnhuber and Professor Malte Meinshausen from the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research. [Click here to view the conference program](#)

Health and Sustainability conference

The Melbourne Sustainable Societies Institute will hold a conference on Health and Sustainability on Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th October 2011 in Melbourne. The aim of the conference is to: upskill advocates, leaders and researchers working at the nexus between health and environmental sustainability; support collaboration between researchers, to assist those working towards more environmentally sustainable health care, and to encourage those currently working in this field or seeking to develop a career in this discipline.

Follow CAHA on Twitter [@healthy_climate](#) and on [Facebook!](#)

insight – check it out [here!](#)

Friends of CAHA

CAHA welcomes four new members of Friends of CAHA: Monica Bhatia, retired social scientist from Australian Catholic University in Sydney; Fran Baum, public health expert, from Flinders University; Jacinta Morahan, a psychiatrist from Anglesea; and Elizabeth Haworth, public health researcher from Oxford University.

Fundraising

CAHA has launched a fundraising campaign to raise \$150K to undertake the projects outlined in its Policy, Research, and Advocacy Agenda. [Help us get health on the climate policy map by donating to CAHA. Check out the website link GET INVOLVED to find out how.](#)

Visit CAHA at www.caha.org.au

Our mailing address is:
PO BOX 523 Camberwell VIC 3124