



CLIMATE AND
HEALTH
ALLIANCE

Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA) news

Carbon tax should fund emissions cuts in health

The Climate and Health Alliance has this week released a new briefing paper on the carbon pricing framework. The paper outlines the position of the Climate and Health Alliance in response to the framework for the carbon price legislation and associated mechanisms being developed by the Multi-Party Climate Change Committee (MPCCC).

The CAHA paper calls for a carbon pricing framework that: will deliver sustained and substantial increases in price; provides compensation for low income and vulnerable people; does not provide compensation to emissions-intensive industries that have not taken any steps to reduce emissions; distributes revenue for investment in zero emissions technologies and strategies to draw down emissions; includes a comprehensive suite of policies in addition to the price mechanism; and distributes revenue to offset increasing operating costs for the health sector.

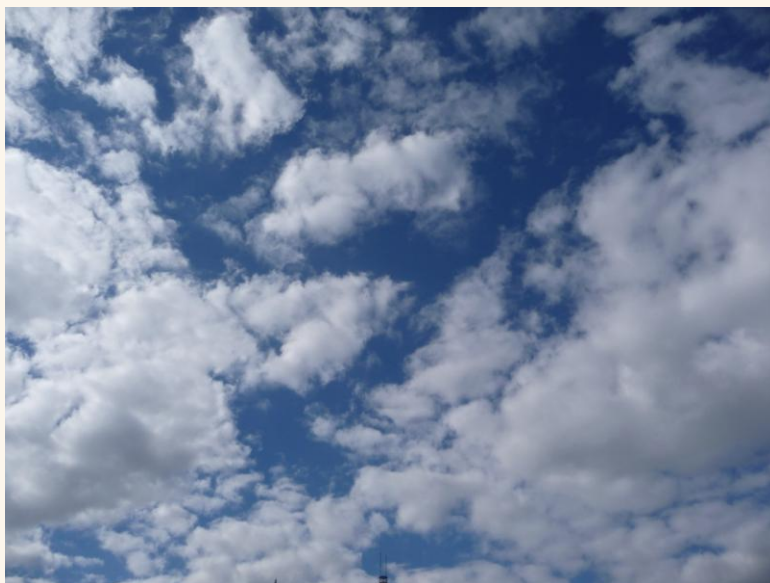
CAHA Briefing Paper No. 3: *The carbon price framework* is available [here](#).

Research

Health + environment

A new report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has compiled evidence on 15 selected environmental factors that influence people's health. The factors included temperature, extreme weather events, ultraviolet radiation, air quality, water fluoridation, transport, food and water safety, green space, vector populations, and environmental noise et al. A key finding is the significant lack of data, with many environmental factors not being evaluated for their impact on human health. The full report is available for download or you can read the summary [here](#).

News



Nurses fight for clean air

[Nurses in the US](#) are banding together to fight for a healthy environment – most recently in a bid to prevent the whittling down of the Clean Air Act as Republicans seek to prevent the US Environmental Protection Agency regulate on greenhouse gas emissions – one of the last options available to the Obama Administration on climate policy.

[Climate Progress](#) reports the [Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environment](#)(ANHE) collaborated with [Health Care Without Harm](#) (HCWH) and the [National Association of School Nurses](#) (NASN) to produce [The Economic Affliction of Asthma and Risks of Blocking Air Pollution Safeguards](#) to document the growing economic cost from asthma. The report collected asthma data from each of the 50 states, finding more than 24 million Americans (including 7 million children) suffer from asthma, with costs exceeding \$53 billion annually.

Black carbon and health

The Indian Government has announced a new [study](#) to evaluate the health and environmental impacts of black carbon. Black carbon, produced from the combustion of fossil fuels and biomass for heating

Climate and health in Australia

The March 2011 edition of the Asia Pacific Journal of Public Health carries many articles on health and climate change in an Australian context - click [here](#) for more details.

Blog

Calm down, it's only a carbon tax

A new post on the CAHA blog republishes an article from the National Times last year in an effort to inject some reason into the current hysterical debate about the carbon tax. To read: *A tax on carbon is not so scary, really*, click [here](#).

Conferences

CRANaplus are calling for abstracts for their conference to be held in Perth October 11-14 Oct 2011. CRANaplus welcome submissions to the *Supporting the full spectrum of remote health practices* conference from a wide range of health professionals working/impacting in remote sector. Click [here](#) for more information.

and cooking in many developing countries, is rapidly gaining notoriety as one of the most significant climate forcing agents due to its reduction of the 'albedo' or reflective effect' of snow and ice. Control of black carbon from fossil-fuel sources is considered to be one of the fastest methods of slowing global warming in the immediate future.

City dwellers unprotected and vulnerable



A study of urban policies worldwide demonstrates that many cities are ill prepared to cope with climate change and that little is being done to either cut emissions to protect large urban populations from natural disasters and climate change. Sociologist Patricia Romero Lankao from the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) found the location and dense construction of many cities placed many populations at greater risk from climate change impacts such as storm surges and heat waves.

Over half the global population now live in cities and by 2020 there is expected to be over 500 urban areas with more than one million residents each. The pace of urban growth is leading to poor planning, and health and safety requirements are being overlooked, according to Lankao. There is also a failure to impose standards for development and construction that reduce emissions. Despite this, some cities are demonstrating a capacity for innovation, with South

Resources

Talking climate with patients

The Center for Climate Change Communication at George Mason University has produced a resource specifically for health professionals to help them talk about climate change. The resources is aimed at encouraging public health professionals to take advantage of the many opportunities they have to help the public and other decision-makers better understand the human implications of climate change, and to correct the misperception that climate change primarily harms the non-human world.

Conveying the Human Implications of Climate Change: A Climate Change Communication Primer for Public Health Professionals can be downloaded via the CAHA website *Latest reports* [here](#).

American cities Curitiba, Brazil, and Bogota, Colombia cited as leading examples of integrating development with mass transport systems. More information is available [here](#).

Protecting public health

Washington based science writer Catherine Cooney is published this month in [Environmental Health Perspectives](#) on the preparedness of public health agencies for climate change. She reports that while some cities have adaptation plans, very few public health agencies in the US have adequate climate change response plans. And while local plans are important, the development of a national climate change action plan is needed to guide local responses, according to researchers. Read more [here](#).

Medical and security experts join forces

A joint editorial in the [British Medical Journal](#) by medical and security experts has called for the two professions to collaborate on climate change, saying “climate change will present a threat to collective security and global order in the first half of the 21st century”.

The article precedes an international forum organised jointly by the UK Climate and Health Council, BMJ, and senior military figures in London to be held on 20 June 2011 to discuss: [Climate change—how to secure our future wellbeing: a health and security perspective](#).

Opinion

Wishful thinking and false hopes

Public intellectual Clive Hamilton spoke recently on the need for a climate action movement that acknowledges the “relentless force of scientific facts”, and called for environmentalism to focus on a mission that is “nothing less than saving humanity as a whole”. Read Clive’s speech to the April 2011 Climate Action Summit in Melbourne [here](#).

