



Montana Chapter ACP Climate Action Resolution

WHEREAS, the ACP position paper on climate change states that “climate change could have a devastating effect on human health,” including “higher rates or respiratory and heat-related illness, increased prevalence of vector-borne and waterborne diseases, food and water insecurity, and malnutrition;”¹ and

WHEREAS, the ACP position paper further states that “addressing climate change could have substantial benefits to human health;”¹ and

WHEREAS, the Fourth National Climate Assessment (NCA4), Volume II, states that “the health and well-being of Americans are already affected by climate change, with the adverse health consequences projected to worsen, and that “reducing greenhouse gas emissions would benefit the health of Americans in the near and long term” and “thousands of American lives could be saved and hundreds of billions of dollars in health-related economic benefits gained each year under a pathway of lower greenhouse gas emissions;”² and

WHEREAS, the Lancet Countdown reports “a lack of progress in reducing emissions and building adaptive capacity threatens both human lives and the viability of the national health systems they depend on, with the potential to disrupt core public health infrastructure and overwhelm health services;”²

RESOLVED, that the Montana Chapter of the American College of Physicians recognizes that climate change threatens the health and wellbeing of the patients we serve. Therefore, we:

- 1) support efforts to educate our patients and the healthcare community regarding the potential adverse health effects of climate change;
- 2) support our health care institutions in adopting more sustainable practices, including those within the institutions themselves and their supply chains;
- 3) support efforts to communicate with our local, state, and national elected officials, and request that they take urgent action to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change.

References

1. Crowley, R. A. Climate Change and Health: A Position Paper of the American College of Physicians. *Annals of Internal Medicine* **164**, 608 (2016). (https://www.acponline.org/acp_policy/policies/climate_change_and_health_2016.pdf), accessed 09.09.2019.
2. USGCRP, 2018: Impacts, Risks, and Adaptation in the United States: Fourth National Climate Assessment, Volume II: Report-in-Brief [Reidmiller, D.R., C.W. Avery, D.R. Easterling, K.E. Kunkel, K.L.M. Lewis, T.K. Maycock, and B.C. Stewart (eds.)]. U.S. Global Change Research Program, Washington, DC, USA, 186 pp. (https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/downloads/NCA4_Report-in-Brief.pdf), accessed 09.09.2019.
3. Watts, N. *et al.* The 2018 report of the Lancet Countdown on health and climate change: shaping the health of nations for centuries to come. *Lancet* **392**, 2479–2514 (2018). (<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5bdc9ff550a54fd70b355029/t/5bff5485758d466f35321ec6/1543459986203/2018+U.S.+Lancet+Countdown+Brief+.pdf>), accessed 09.09.2019.