The need for NIH to lead this science-based initiative, in partnership with communities throughout the world, is vitally necessary to address the imminent threat that climate change poses to our health, humanity, and our planet.

Objectives:

- Identify risks and optimize benefits to the health of individuals, communities, and populations from actions to mitigate or adapt to climate change.
- Develop the necessary research infrastructure and workforce to enable the generation of timely and relevant knowledge, drawing from the full spectrum of biomedical disciplines.
- Leverage partnerships with other scientific and social disciplines and organizations to achieve the most impactful results.
- Innovate across the research translation continuum to ensure findings are credible, accessible, and actionable for achieving these goals.

A Call to Action

NIH leadership recognizes that this is the time for renewed energies to study the impacts of climate change on health and disease, and to couple that with the need for much-needed data and knowledge for communities to adapt and prevent further harm from unprecedented climate impacts.
NIH Is Uniquely Poised to Address This Complex Challenge

NIH’s broad scientific expertise uniquely positions the agency to tackle the complex set of factors that coalesce in the problem of climate change impacts on health. This diagram, from the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP), which coordinates the climate change work of federal agencies, illustrates the complex direct and indirect relationships that are mediated by exposure pathways and contextual variables in populations to create risks of health outcomes from climate change across the lifespan.

NIH will empower research on climate change and health that exponentially increases the potential for understanding the complex drivers of adverse health outcomes and enables effective and impactful interventions.

Participating Institutes and Centers

Executive Committee:
The NIH Climate Change and Health Initiative is led by an executive committee comprising the directors of seven NIH Institutes and Centers. The NIEHS director chairs the executive committee, and NIEHS provides the Initiative’s administrative home.

- National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)
  Joshua A. Gordon, M.D., Ph.D.

- National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR)
  Shannon N. Zenk, Ph.D.

- Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD)
  Diana W. Bianchi, M.D.

- National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI)
  Gary H. Gibbons, M.D.

- NIH Climate Change and Health Working Group
  Aubrey Miller, M.D., NIEHS, Co-Chair
  Joshua Rosenthal, Ph.D., Co-Chair
  Gwen Collman, Ph.D., NIEHS, Strategic Advisor

For more information on the NIH Climate Change and Health Initiative Strategic Framework, visit https://www.nih.gov/climateandhealth.