A Health Voice for Climate Solutions in Virginia

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VCCA - Who Are We?

• Founded in 2017

• Clinicians = all licensed health care providers: Physicians, Nurses, Advanced Practice Providers, Pharmacists, Therapists, Healthcare Students

• Over 450 general members

• ~15 members in the Steering Committee

• Geographically concentrated in Northern Virginia and Richmond, with expanding presence throughout the state
VCCA—What Do We Do?

**Education**
Delivering conferences and presentations on climate and health at VA medical centers since 2017.

**Advocacy**
Supporting climate solutions that protect our patients by protecting the climate.

**Community Outreach**
Informing Virginians about why climate solutions protect the people and places they love.
Building Partnerships

Hospitals
- Bon Secours
- Carilion Clinic
- INOVA

Medical Societies
- American College of Physicians
- American Academy of Pediatrics

Organizations
- The Medical Society Consortium on Climate & Health
- Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
- Sierra Club
- Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action

Universities
- Virginia Tech
- UVA
- School of Nursing
Education

May 13th, 2021 - Climate Change and Pregnancy - Dr. Nathaniel DeNicola
April 15th, 2021 - Climate Change, Pollen Exposure Dynamics, and Burden of Allergic Disease in the Northeast U.S. - Dr. Amir Sapkota
March 18th, 2021 - Climate and Social Injustice - La'Veesha Rollins
February 18th, 2021 - Medication Disposal - Sustainable Pharmacy Project
January 12th, 2021 - 2021 General Assembly Preview: Climate and Health Priorities - Dr. Bob Kitchen
November 23, 2020 - The Health Impacts of Transportation Emissions in the Commonwealth - Dr. Drew Harris
October 29, 2020 - High-Value Anesthesia Care and the Social Cost of Carbon – Dr. Matthew J. Meyer
September 17, 2020 - Belly of the Beast: Food, Water, and Gastrointestinal Illness in our Changing Climate - Dr. Rebecca Philipsborn
August 6, 2020 - The Changing Patterns of Harmful Algal Blooms – Dr. Kimberly Reece
July 2, 2020 - The Dangers of Heat Exposure for Outdoor Workers – Drs. Julia Gohlke and Robert Kitchen
June 11, 2020 - The Enduring Legacy of Inequitable Heat Exposure in US Cities – Dr. Jeremy Hoffman
May 6, 2020 - Ticks and Tickborne Diseases of Virginia - Dr. Holly Gaff
April 2, 2020 - Climate Change & Allergic Disease - Dr. Christine James
Education

Virginia Climate and Health Education Collaborative
Summit, May 7-8, 2021

VCU School of Pharmacy
VCU School of Medicine
UVA School of Nursing
UVA School of Medicine
Lynchburg University Physician Assistant Program
VA Tech/Carilion School of Medicine
Georgetown School of Medicine
George Washington School of Medicine
Emory School of Medicine
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
Shenandoah University
Eastern Virginia Medical School
Advocacy

- Annual Advocacy Day
- Climate and Health Teaching Award
- Keynote Speaker
- Prioritize 3-4 initiatives yearly

4th Annual General Assembly Advocacy Day
January 19, 2021
Advocacy

The Health Voice for Equitable Climate Solutions
Allied with Kaiser, Bon Secours Mercy Health and VA AAP

Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative
PASSED 2020
VA joins regional carbon cap and trade program.

~60% of revenue are statutorily earmarked for equity related purposes: 10% of the funds must go to resiliency projects in low-income neighborhoods, and 50% of the funds must go to low-income energy efficiency projects.

Virginia Clean Economy Act
PASSED 2020
Requires 41% renewable electricity by 2030, 100% carbon-free power by 2050. All coal plants closed 2024.
• Caps electric bills at no more that 6% family’s income.
• Launches major offshore wind, requires local labor.
• Requires the VA Dept of Mines, Minerals and Energy & Environmental Justice Council prepare report to ensure VCEA doesn’t disproportionately burden minority communities.
• Requires consideration low-income areas, areas near fossil fuel infrastructure, and historically disadvantaged communities when considering new renewable projects, energy programs, and job training.
Pastor Paul Wilson, of Union Hill and Union Grove Baptist churches in Buckingham County, was among the most outspoken opponents of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, which was proposing to build a compressor station in the county. (2018 file photo by Robert Zullo / Virginia Mercury).
Advocacy

Clean Cars
Passed 2021

READ A SUMMARY OF VCCA’S REPORT ON TRANSPORTATION EMISSIONS IN VIRGINIA

Electrification of vehicles
Decreasing traffic related air pollution
Cleaner air
Better health for all Virginians

Read the full report here
Worker Heat Protection

Virginia Bureau of Labor Statistics: in 2015 and 2016 there were 100 nonfatal injuries and illnesses and 6 fatalities for workers caused by heat exposure.

“These numbers are generally understood to be gross undercounts because many heat-related illnesses and deaths are blamed on natural causes” as well as the methods of data collection.

In the first three weeks of July 2019, over 1,000 Virginians were admitted to ED or UC for heat illness, compared to 584 admissions in 2018 and 764 in 2017 during same period. Majority young men.

2020 VA bill: Employment health and safety standards; heat illness prevention.

Notice of Intended Regulatory Action to Adopt a Regulation on Heat Illness Prevention—opened for comment May 2021
Goals 2021

Support Worker Heat Protection

Federal Advocacy Campaign

Develop Virginia Education Collaborative

Consult with Virginia Department of Health re: Climate Change Committee

Student Athlete Heat Protection Program

Strategize for 2022 VA General Assembly
Bringing A Health Voice for Climate Solutions to Virginia since 2017

Thank you and please reach out!

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