Draft Climate and Health Assessment open for public comments

Public comments are now being solicited on a draft Climate and Health Assessment report by the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP). Synthesizing the best available scientific literature on this topic, the report assesses the observed and projected impacts of climate change on human health in the United States, covering weather and climate extremes, air quality, vector-borne diseases, water and food related issues, mental health and wellbeing, and risks facing vulnerable segments of the population, such as children, the elderly and people with existing health conditions.

The report is intended to inform health officials, urban planners and other stakeholders about the impacts of climate change. To ensure the draft report benefits from robust input and rigorous peer review, in addition to public comment, this draft report is concurrently being submitted for review by the National Academy of Sciences, with release of the final report expected in 2016.

Information on the assessment, draft chapters, and instructions for submitting comments are available at http://www.globalchange.gov/health-assessment. All comments must be submitted to the website by Noon Eastern time on June 8, 2015. Publication of the final assessment is expected in spring 2016.

Learn about this report and other actions to protect communities from the impacts of climate change in a White House Fact Sheet.
Next generation air monitor used for community air pollution project

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy visited Newark, New Jersey’s Ironbound community on March 13 for the unveiling of a next generation community air monitor designed by EPA researchers. This launch will help the community learn more about local air quality and serve as a pilot for citizen science air monitoring efforts that EPA plans to expand to other communities. After the air quality data is collected and reviewed, the Ironbound Community will share the results at a public meeting. Community members are using new air quality monitoring guidance documents available in EPA’s Air Sensor Toolbox for Citizen Scientists.

Read more in the news release.

Cookstove research featured in Voice of America video

Voice of America reported on EPA’s research to test the emissions and energy efficiency of cookstoves used in developing countries. The research supports an international initiative to develop cleaner sustainable cooking technologies. Cookstove smoke is a major contributor to indoor air pollution in countries where stoves are used for cooking and heat. In the video, EPA researcher Jim Jetter explains the research being conducted at EPA’s laboratories in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina to protect public health.

Click here to view the video.

EPA’s clean cookstove research includes work by six universities that received grants totaling nearly $9 million in 2014 to support research on the impacts on air quality and climate from residential cooking, heating or lighting.

Listen to our new EPA Science Bite Podcast:

Connecting Climate Change, Electricity and Water Resources (with MARKAL)
Video on secondary organic aerosols research

Students at Rutgers University filmed “Skycatcher,” a video on a long-term secondary organic aerosols (SOAs) research project lead by Dr. Ann Marie Carlton, an EPA grant recipient from Rutgers.

Learn more about EPA’s SOA research.

Key Links

- EPA’s Air Research
- EPA’s Climate Change Research