

# MGH Institute of Health Professions Joins National Nursing-Led Climate Change Initiative

*The Boston grad school's Center for Climate Change, Climate Justice, and Health partners with 10 national nursing organizations to address the growing threat.*

WASHINGTON, DC, USA, June 25, 2019 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments (ANHE) and Climate for Health has announced that the Center for Climate Change, Climate Justice, and Health, a nurse-led initiative at [MGH Institute of Health Professions](#) graduate school in Boston, has become the first academic partner of the [Nursing Collaborative on Climate Change and Health](#).



Faculty and staff of the MGH Institute's Center for Climate Change, Climate Justice, and Health

The collaborative, which represents more than 150,000 nurses and nursing students nationwide, is an initiative that encourages and empowers nurses to act on climate as a health imperative.

“Because nurses have been rated for the past 20 years as among the most trusted professionals, they are uniquely positioned to lead in addressing climate change as a health emergency,” said Katie Huffling, the Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environment’s executive director. “Nurses already are witnessing how climate change is impacting the health of millions of people so they must be adequately prepared to care for those affected by climate-related events. As the first academic institution partner of the Nursing Collaborative, the MGH Institute’s Center for Climate Change, Climate Justice, and Health brings leadership on how the important topic of climate and health can be taught to all nursing students as well as practicing nurses across settings in acute care, community, rehabilitation, and other population-based settings.”

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*Dr. Patrice Nicholas, Director,  
MGH Institute Climate Center*

The MGH Institute’s Climate Center is a nurse-led initiative focused on exposing and educating all health professionals on how they can respond to the impacts of climate change and address climate mitigation, adaptation, and resiliency through education, practice, research, and service. The Center’s mission, vision, and core values aim to galvanize support for climate action locally, regionally, nationally, and globally.

“Most health professionals do not truly understand how climate change is affecting people,” said

Professor of Nursing Patrice Nicholas, the Climate Center's director. "We all must learn more about the health effects of climate change and use that knowledge to educate our patients, families, and communities so they understand how they are affected by climate-related illnesses caused by poor air quality, which include respiratory, cardiac, and renal health problems, vector-borne diseases, heat stress, and mental health sequelae related to extreme weather events such as hurricanes, wildfires, and flooding."

"We will be adding climate change information to our curricula at the MGH Institute, first in nursing and then in our occupational therapy, physical therapy, physician assistant studies, and speech-language pathology programs," noted Assistant Professor of Nursing Suellen Breakey. "As a graduate school with 1,600 students, we have the opportunity to educate a new generation of health care practitioners who can really make an impact on improving their patients' lives."

The Nursing Collaborative on Climate Change and Health is a partnership composed of the Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments, Climate for Health, and several national nursing organizations committed to elevating action and advocacy on climate change and health. Member organizations represent nurses from across the profession and nation, including:

- Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments (ANHE)
- American Academy of Nursing (AAN)
- American Association of Occupational Health Nurses (AAOHN)
- Association of Public Health Nurses (APHN)
- Center for Climate Change, Climate Justice, and Health at MGH Institute of Health Professions
- National Association of Hispanic Nurses (NAHN)
- National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health (NPWH)
- National Student Nurses Association (NSNA)
- Nurse Alliance of Services Employees International Union (SEIU) Healthcare
- Public Health Nursing Section of the American Public Health Association (APHA)
- Preventative Cardiovascular Nurses Association (PCNA)

While climate change carries significant health risks, addressing this issue also presents an opportunity to improve health on a global scale. Through the Nursing Collaborative, nursing organizations are committed to climate action and working towards just and equitable climate solutions to protect public health.

To learn more about the Nursing Collaborative on Climate Change and Health and encourage your nursing association to join, visit <http://envirn.org/nursingcollaborative>.

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#### About the Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments

The Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments is the only national nursing organization focused solely on environmental health issues. The mission of the Alliance is to promote healthy people and healthy environments by educating and leading the nursing profession, advancing research, incorporating evidence-based practice, and influencing policy.

#### About [ecoAmerica](#)

ecoAmerica builds institutional leadership, public support, and political will for climate solutions in the United States. We help national mainstream organizations elevate their climate leadership, providing them strategy, tools and resources to: demonstrate visible climate leadership, empower climate literacy, engage all constituents, and build collective action and advocacy. We help our partners permanently transform into national climate leaders who inspire others on solutions. Climate for Health is a program of ecoAmerica.

#### About the Center for Climate Change, Climate Justice, and Health at MGH Institute of Health Professions

The Center for Climate Change, Climate Justice, and Health at MGH Institute of Health Professions in Boston is the first-of-its-kind, nurse-led initiative that focuses on addressing ways all health care professionals can respond to the impact of climate change and help improve such things as ensuring access to safe drinking water, growing a sufficient amount of healthy food, and creating safe, clean environments that can improve ecosystems. The MGH Institute is the only academic affiliate of Partners HealthCare, New England's largest health care provider.

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