

Resources from the Academic Medicine, Climate Action, and Environmental Justice Panel at Climate Week NYC 2024

On September 25, 2024, the Medical College of Wisconsin Center for Sustainability, Health and the Environment (SHE Center) and the Association of American Medical Colleges Center for Health Justice co-hosted a panel at [Climate Week NYC](#) titled, *Academic Medicine, Climate Action, and Environmental Justice*. Panelists had the opportunity to share resources and content pertinent to the conversation, which is organized below.

To read more about the panel discussion on, click [here](#), or [view the recorded conversation](#). If you are interested in staying in touch with the SHE Center, check out our [website](#), join our [listserv](#), or [follow us on X](#).

Get Involved

- [Medical Students for a Sustainable Future](#): Medical student group with chapters across the US advocating for climate action
- [Images in Clinical Medicine](#): Call for images highlighting the health impacts of climate change for the Earth Month 2025 issue of the New England Journal of Medicine
- [Climate Action and Sustainability in Academic Medicine Community](#): Free online space for those in academic health systems who are interested in sustainability
- [MedEdPORTAL Climate and Health Education Collection](#): a peer-reviewed curriculum toolkit for educators and institutions that addresses the impact of climate on health

Ongoing Efforts

- [White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council](#): Advises the White House Environmental Justice Interagency Council and the Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality

Papers and Media

- [How the threat of climate change inspired my career in medicine \(and I'm not the only one\) | The Lancet \(2023\)](#): Harleen Marwah, MD, discusses her pathway to creating Medical Students for a Sustainable Future
- [Young doctors are at COP28, and they've got a message for world leaders | NPR](#): Physicians who attended COP28 in Dubai discuss healthcare worker involvement in the climate conversation
- [Climate Action in Academic Medicine | AAMC \(Nov 2022\)](#): An initial discussion of how academic medicine is working against the climate crisis
- [Reasons for Optimism About Academic Medicine's Actions Against Climate Change | Academic Medicine \(2023\)](#): Authors describe how well poised academic medicine is to play a role in the fight against climate change, especially with a new generation of physicians leading the charge

- [Accelerating Climate Action Through Academic Health Systems: A Call to Duty | JAMA \(2024\)](#): A call for academic medicine to reduce its direct impact on the environment, live its mission, and create an environment for collective action
- [Civil Eats](#): Anthony Nicome, MHS, writes on the intersection of food, transportation, and public health in the US
- [Network Focused on Community-Driven Climate Solutions Announces Members and Strategic Partners | NAM \(2023\)](#): National Academy of Medicine welcomes new Climate Communities Network participants and describes the role they will play in creating solutions and eliminating inequalities
- [Rising Tide | AAMC \(2024\)](#): A discussion on the increasing number of young Americans concerned about the climate crisis and willing to make change
- [Down to Earth: U.S. adults back environmental justice, but policy awareness falls short | AAMC \(2024\)](#): A commentary on the public's awareness of climate change and environmental justice versus policy efforts that are addressing those concerns
- [Building a Sustainable Future: How Healthcare and Community Development Can Unite for Climate Justice | Medium \(2024\)](#): A commentary on how new funding for sustainability can allow community based organizations and healthcare groups to collaborate for change

During the event, panelists discussed the role that academic medicine plays in the ongoing climate crisis, both as contributors to the problem by participating in high carbon emitting procedures and research, but also as part of the solution, by engaging students, clinicians, researchers, and the communities they serve to work across disciplines and effect change. Panelists agreed that, while the crisis can leave many feeling lost and without agency, we should “never worry alone.” Several discussed their advocacy efforts at their respective institutions to incorporate climate content throughout the medical school curricula. Closing questions from the audience touched on topics including sustainable changes to medical school curricula, competitiveness as a driver of change, and impacts of the pandemic on stakeholder buy-in. The event speakers are listed below.

Gaurab Basu, MD, MPH, Director of Education and Policy, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health Center for Climate, Health and the Global Environment

William Mallon, EdD, Senior Director, Strategy & Innovation, AAMC

Harleen Marwah, MD, MS, Editorial Fellow, New England Journal of Medicine

Anthony Nicome, MHS, Environmental Justice Research Fellow, AAMC Center for Health Justice

Moderator: **Christa Wagner, PhD**, Director, MCW Center for Sustainability, Health, and the Environment

