



# KANSAS CLIMATE + HEALTH DECLARATION

The Kansas Climate + Health Declaration aims to increase awareness of the impacts of climate change on public health, to increase civic engagement on climate action in Kansas, and to advance policies that build community resilience and safeguard the future of our state.

## Climate disruption impacts the lives, health, and economic well-being of Kansans.

- Because our agricultural economy depends heavily on the weather, **“Climate change is a substantial concern in Kansas.”**<sup>1</sup>
- We are already seeing the impacts of a changing climate. If we do not take immediate action to reduce emissions, we face increased **risks of extreme drought, wildfires, floods, and food shortages.**<sup>2</sup>
- In Kansas, increases in extreme weather **threaten livelihoods, destabilize communities, and drain resources.** Farmers, ranchers, construction workers, first responders, and military personnel will be among the first to experience the effects of climate change.<sup>3</sup>

## Climate change is a major public health concern in Kansas.

- Kansans will experience **increases in cardiovascular diseases, respiratory diseases, and other chronic conditions** according to projected climate change scenarios.<sup>1</sup>
- Longer periods of pollen production will worsen asthma symptoms and lead to **longer, more intense, allergy seasons.**<sup>4</sup>
- Warmer temperatures and changes in the geographic ranges of ticks and mosquitos will **increase vector-borne diseases** such as Lyme disease and West Nile Virus.<sup>5</sup>
- **Increased heat wave intensity and frequency**, increased humidity, degraded air quality, and reduced water quality will increase public health risks.<sup>6</sup>
- **Impacts on mental health** include increased stress, depression, and anxiety; strained social and community relationships; increases in aggression, violence, and crime; and increases in trauma, shock, and post-traumatic stress disorder.<sup>7</sup>

## Those least responsible will be the most impacted and least able to adapt.

- **“Climate change exacerbates existing health and social inequities.”**<sup>8</sup>
- **Vulnerable populations will bear the greatest burden.** Children, seniors, low income communities, communities of color, immigrant communities, those with chronic disease, pregnant women, indigenous peoples, and people with disabilities will be most impacted.<sup>8</sup>
- **“Failure to take prompt, substantive action would be an act of injustice to all children.”**<sup>9</sup>

## Solutions exist to build resilience, economic opportunities, and healthy communities.

- Protect Kansas water, energy, air, and land resources.
- Reduce emissions associated with electricity generation, transportation, and agriculture.
- Secure and increase access to healthcare across the state.
- Learn about solutions that work in Kansas.
- Take action in homes, organizations, and communities.
- Adopt state and local Climate Action Plans setting a deliberate course for the future.

See “References” on next page for citations or visit [ResilientKansas.org](https://ResilientKansas.org).

## WE DECLARE OUR COMMITMENT TO A HEALTHIER FUTURE FOR ALL.

**We stand with leading public health organizations** in making a clear call to our state’s leadership to address climate change as a primary threat to public health.

**We urge bold, comprehensive action** to reduce emissions and build resilience. We need to reduce risks of climate disruption to safeguard the future of our state.

Sign online at [ResilientKansas.org](https://ResilientKansas.org)

# WAYS TO MOVE THE CLIMATE + HEALTH DECLARATION FORWARD IN KANSAS:

## INDIVIDUAL SIGNERS

- o Sign the Declaration to show your support for action on climate change as a health issue. Sign online at [ResilientKansas.org](https://ResilientKansas.org).
- o Share with your networks.
- o Commit to securing additional signatures.
- o Express your concerns about climate change and public health to elected officials.
- o Vote on climate issues. Write a letter to the editor about climate change and public health.

## ORGANIZATIONAL SIGNERS

- o Secure organizational support as a signatory on the Climate + Health Declaration.
- o Encourage employees, supporters, or networks to sign the declaration.
- o Adopt an organizational statement on climate change and public health.
- o Advocate for the Climate + Health Declaration.

For more information, email [TakeAction@ResilientKansas.org](mailto:TakeAction@ResilientKansas.org) or visit:

[ResilientKansas.org](https://ResilientKansas.org)

## REFERENCES

- [1] Kansas Health Institute (2019). [Health and Climate Change in Kansas](#).
- [2] Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (2019). [Summary for Policymakers of IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C approved by governments](#).
- [3] U.S. Global Change Research Program (2016). [Climate and Health Assessment: The Impacts of Climate Change on Human Health in the United States: A Scientific Assessment](#).
- [4] American Lung Association (2019). [Asthma and Climate Change: What you need to know](#).
- [5] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2014). [Climate and Health: Diseases Carried by Vectors](#).
- [6] U.S. Global Change Research Program (2018). [National Climate Assessment: Fourth National Climate Assessment - Chapter 21: Midwest](#).
- [7] American Psychological Association (2017). [Mental Health and Our Changing Climate: Impacts, Implications, and Guidance](#).
- [8] American Public Health Association (2019). [Climate Change is a Health Emergency](#).  
-- (2018). [Climate Change: A Guide for Local Health Departments](#).  
-- (2019). [Climate Changes Health: Vulnerable Populations](#).
- [9] American Academy of Pediatrics (2019). [Climate Change and Children's Health](#).