Hello to the Palmetto State’s health and climate advocates!
This is our June Newsletter.
June is the Great Outdoors Month and Fight the Filthy Fly Month. As it happens, both topics are pertinent to climate and climate related changes.
SCHPCA MISSION STATEMENT:

Our MISSION is to **educate** the public and health professionals on the impact of climate change on health; to **advocate** for state policy focused on mitigation, adaptation, and equity; and to **collaborate** with state and national groups, as healthy professionals have the ability and duty to approach rapid climate change as the key public health issue of our times.

**JUNE FOCUS:**

The **Great Outdoor month** means that millions of Americans will be traveling and this impacts Climate Change due to the environmental impact of an increase in usage of plastic products such as bottled water. To put things into context: On average, Americans use **13 plastic water bottles per month per person**. Similarly, on average, Americans use **100 billion** (that’s right, B-illion) plastic bags annually.

As healthcare professionals, we should be aware of the scientific research/innovations that will help compact these devastating human impacts.

A prominent innovation to target plastics includes **biodegradable Cassava-plastic products**, made by Avani Kumala.

Another fairly recent discovery is a **Plastic-eating bacteria**. A new strain of bacteria, *Pseudomonas putida*, is a hot organism being studied as it appears to feed on **polyurethane diol**. This is pivotal as we are one step closer to finding a way to recycle or eliminate polyurethane products.

June is also **Fight the Filthy Fly Month** when house flies, mosquitos and other insects are more bothersome to us. Good luck trying to kill those pesky flies. There
might be a new, safer, non-chemical way of killing insects, in particular mosquitoes. A sonic killing technique called Acoustic larvicide system, in which sound, transmitted, at a particular frequency kills the mosquito larvae. This idea was invented by Michael Nyberg when he was a teenager and in process of further research, patent and potential mass production. This is an inspirational story for numerous reasons. First, not only are mosquitoes annoying, but they, also, spread numerous dangerous and decimating diseases such as West Nile virus. Secondly, this story articulates the importance of listening to ideas, especially from young minds. Lastly, this shows that everyone can contribute to helping our planet.

**JUNE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY:**

“Catching up with the Science”

Read up on a series of articles in the New England Journal of Medicine

United Nations Climate Change Conference [UNCCC]

[Here is the link:](https://unfccc.int/event/may-june-2021-climate-change-conference-sessionsof-the-subsidiary-bodies)

**ACTIVISM**

If you want to be more actively involved, consider Doctors for Extinction and Rebellion

[Here is the link:](https://www.doctorsforxr.com/)

**WHAT WE'RE READING/WATCHING/LISTENING TO:**
Podcast:
[Code Green: The Climate-Smart Health Professional](https://example.com/code_green) by Natasha Sood and Sarah Hsu.

Book:
[The Story of More: How We Got to Climate Change and where we go from here](https://example.com/story_of_more) by Hope Jahren.

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