

SCHPCA

*South Carolina Health Professionals
for Climate Action*



Hello to the Palmetto State's health and climate advocates!

This is our May Newsletter.

May is also Mental Health Month AND Asthma/Allergy Month. As it happens, both topics are so very related to climate and climate related changes.



Check our Facebook page - Click or copy/paste:
<https://www.facebook.com/SCHealthProfessionalsforClimateAction>

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.

SOUTH CAROLINA POLICY REVIEW:



The first half of the 2021-22 legislative session just ended last week. The following is a recap of pro-conservation bills that advanced through both legislative chambers and will land on the Governor's desk for the second half of the session, which starts January 2022. See below for CVSC's recap of these bills:

“This session we saw 5 pro-conservation bills advance through both chambers and head to the Governor's desk or to a conference committee. That is an outstanding number and one that we can all be proud of - especially with the high profile nature of some of these bills.

Santee Cooper Reform (H.3194) - The bill that adds some major reforms to Santee Cooper is headed to a conference committee where 3 Representatives and 3 Senators will work out the differences between these two bills. These differences will likely be worked out before mid-June so that the chambers can vote on the final proposal when the House and Senate return for budget debates and to consider conference reports.

While there are some uncertainties about the final bill, it is clear that it will include requirements for studying clean energy and coal plant retirement, approval by the Public Service Commission for energy generation plans and facilities, provisions for an equitable transition for communities and workers surrounding coal plants, considerations for diversity in Board appointments, and increased oversight by the Office of Regulatory Staff.

Solar Property Tax Clarification (H.3354) - A bill that makes solar more accessible for more residents passed the House and the Senate and is headed to the Governor's desk!

This pro-solar bill clarifies that solar panels should not be part of property tax assessments. This would not only prevent existing solar customers from being charged higher property taxes in the future but would also make installing solar panels more affordable for all South Carolinians.

E-Waste Extension (H.4035) - The bill that extends the sunset of electronic waste regulations (Reg. 61-124) passed the House and Senate with our support and is headed to the Governor's desk!

We are working diligently with stakeholders to improve the process for management and disposal of electronic waste in South Carolina. With the lessons learned from the last few years of the program's operation in South Carolina, stakeholders are working to address program challenges while also ensuring that potentially toxic materials from e-waste are disposed of appropriately. Extending the sunset of the existing program for two years will provide the necessary time to identify and advance the necessary fixes to the program.

Electric Vehicle Charging and Study Committee (S.304) - A bill that makes it easier to charge electric vehicles (or EVs) passed the Senate and the House and is now headed to the Governor's desk!

The bill allows third-party entities to establish charging stations and charge users for the energy they put into their EVs. By allowing private parties to establish charging stations and charge for their use, the bill will help expand the EV infrastructure throughout the state. In addition, the House added a provision to establish a study committee to look at the environmental and economic impact of electrification of the transportation sector.

Waste Tires (H.3222) - The bill that improves waste tire disposal rules passed the House and Senate with our support and is headed to the Governor's desk!

The bill addresses stockpiled tire waste that burdens many communities and our environment by clarifying what SC expects of waste tire facilities and provides a transparent pathway for enforcement and correction of compliance issues. It will also educate users of waste tire facilities so that they know who is operating according to the law – allowing users to support good actors instead of bad actors.”

MAY EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY:

“The Lexicon of Sustainability”

These are a series of PBS videos that are a few minutes each, but informative.

Here is a link to the intro video:

<https://www.pbs.org/food/shows/the-lexicon-of-sustainability/>

Here is a link to the series of videos:

<https://www.pbs.org/show/lexicon-sustainability/>



The Medical Society Consortium on Climate and Health hosts their annual meeting this month, May 21 - 25. Register online:

<https://medsocietiesforclimatehealth.org/annual-meeting/annual-meeting-2021/>

WHAT WE'RE READING/WATCHING/LISTENING TO:

Podcast:

How to Save a Planet: A podcast that investigates different climate solutions from kelp to nuclear energy to offshore wind.

Book:

The Story of More : How We Got to Climate Change and where we go from here by Hope Jahren.

JOIN SCHPCA

Email us at **info@schealthclimate.org**.

Membership is FREE!

We also accept monetary donations:

One-time: https://app.etapestry.com/onlineforms/SustainingWay/SCHPCA_donate.html

Monthly: <https://app.etapestry.com/onlineforms/SustainingWay/SCHPCA-monthly.html>