Happy winter to the Palmetto State’s Health and Climate Advocates! We hope you’re staying warm in these cold months.

We just want to take a second and thank you for reading our January Newsletter. Enjoy!

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.

Connect with Us!
We are always looking to connect with other South Carolinans who are passionate about protecting the planet and our health. Our membership is FREE and open to all. Check out our website, follow us on Twitter, and like us on Facebook to learn more about SCHPCA!

UPCOMING EVENTS:
2022 Annual Meeting • March 5-7
ACCELERATING CLIMATE SOLUTIONS:
From Urgency to Impact for Health & Equity
Have you been wanting to get active on climate change and health? SCHPCA is a proud affiliate of the Medical Society Consortium on Climate and Health. The Consortium will be having its 5th Annual Meeting on Zoom on March 5-7, 2022, with Congressional visits (online) on March 7th. **Accelerating Climate Solutions: From Urgency to Impact for Health & Equity** will bring together leaders and key staff of medical societies and health advocates. The meeting will include education and advocacy tracks with CME opportunities and sessions on best practices for advocacy. It will also include policy panel discussions on climate, health, and equity.

**Register to attend the annual meeting and get involved.** [Sign up here](#)

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**WHAT WE'RE READING**

Here at SCHPCA we strongly believe in the correlation between climate and health. Currently, our state is one of the few that couple health and environmental protection under one framework (SCDHEC). Last spring a task force to Strengthen the Health and Promote the Environment for SC (SHAPE SC) split into three subcommittees covering each group’s area of expertise. Recommendations brought to the table included gaps to meeting behavioral health services, housing and employment opportunities, and the possibility of restructuring or reformatting agencies to better accommodate change. The fully published report recommends the Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) be strengthened as one entity. This recommendation, if heeded, would continue to strengthen the systematic connection between environmental issues and health. That full report can be found [here](#).

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**IN THE NEWS**
You’ve seen it, now read it!

One of the most critically acclaimed science-fiction novels of all time, *Dune* is a masterpiece giving us an artist’s touch to help us enjoy the beauty of our world, and understand what happens when resources have power over our civilizations. Dive into *Dune* to enrich your perspective on climate change and so much more.

**WHAT WE'RE LISTENING TO**

With so much time on the computer these days, SCHPCA prefers podcasts. However it can be quite difficult to pick one with podcasts on just about anything, on every platform you can imagine. To help narrow your search, here’s one from AAAP Science Journal on masting, a peculiar ecological phenomenon, genetics impact on viral infections, and scientific insight from Beverly Daniel Tatum on racism and identity. There’s a little something for everyone here; we hope you enjoy!

**GETTING EDUCATED:**

A new edition to our newsletter, SCHPCA wants to be an educated community. We want to give you efficient and effective tools to educate yourself on the state of climate change and its effect on health, empowering you to feel confident no matter where you find yourself.

**CLIMATE SCIENCE**

Confused? Need a “pick me up” for climate anxiety? Welcome to Climate Solutions 101. Project drawdown provides a FREE 6 unit course on climate including our world’s state, current issues, and solutions from world leaders in the field. This video series coupled with
late nights reading *Dune* is a sure fire way to leave you feeling like a cross between John Muir and Greta Thunberg. You can check them out [here](#)!

**CLIMATE HEALTH**

Feeling a passion to do something as a health professional, but not sure how to communicate it?

Our partner organization The Medical Society Consortium on Climate and Health (MSCCH) provides a wide range of education resources. These catered courses were made for health professionals by health professionals. Anywhere from health educators, professionals, even your communities have free lesson plans made available through their website. There is something for everyone. Don’t let fear stop you from seeing the change you want to see. You can check them out on their website, [linked here](#)!

**ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY IN SC**

Not sure how to cut through newscasters copious amounts of “breaking news” stories? Or maybe you just want to be updated on current issues in our state? Have a heart for the environment? Do we have the place for you!

Conservation Voters of South Carolina legislative HOTLIST gives detailed reports of current events in our state’s policy. Up to date detailed information surrounding our state’s political “climate” can be found here. This is a one-stop shop for South Carolina environmental policy and law information in almost real time. Click [here](#) to see the Legislative HOTLIST.

**FEATURE ARTICLE**

Here at SCHPCA we’re all about scientists who want their research to be ACCESSIBLE. This month we decided to take Amelia Wesselink and Gregory Wellenius’s open access journal article discussing the impact of climate change on reproductive, perinatal and pediatric
health. These scientists, from Boston University School of Public Health, focus their issue of *Paediatric and Perinatal Epidemiology* on manuscripts and commentaries discussing the potential role of climate change impacts on pregnancy, newborns and children. Hitting close to home for most of our members, and only a few pages to read, we hope you can find time to read about their findings.

**Congratulations! You've reached the end of the newsletter and we hope you've enjoyed it. Our hope is that you feel empowered, supported, and encouraged.**

To get more information about any of our content shoot us an email and sign up to get involved! **We’ll see you next month!**

**JOIN TODAY!**
Membership is FREE!
We also accept monetary donations!