Happy June to the Palmetto State’s Health and Climate Advocates!

Summer is finally here! We hope that summer brings more time to spend with your family and friends and to soak up the beautiful summer weather.

Thank you for reading our June Newsletter. Enjoy!

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to educate the public and health professionals regarding 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 health 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!
**SCHPCA UPDATES**

**Electric Transportation Advocacy**

Last month SCHPCA joined the SC Electric Transportation Network, which is group focused on networking and collaborating to support electric transportation in SC. The main goal of the network is to provide information that educates decision makers on how to spend our 70 million dollar funding for electric transportation. Stay tuned for more updates on this group!

**Welcome to our New Interns, Kinly & Melina!**

Kinly is our new Communications and Events Intern and Melina is our new Advocacy Intern. We are excited for them to join the team and looking forward to the great work they will do.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Media and Messaging Training Workshop**

*June 2 @ 5:30-7pm*

As climate activists, it is important that we know how to talk to legislators & reporters and learn how to get our message across. Tomorrow the Health & Climate Rapid Response Media Team will be hosting a training to teach us these skills! [Register here!](#)

**Extreme Heat Panel Discussion**

*June 21 @ 12pm*

This event, moderated by our very own Dr. Brandon Emery, will discuss the risk of extreme heat the U.S. and what we can do to mitigate its effects. [Join here!](#)

**WHAT WE'RE READING**

**IN THE NEWS**
This month we are taking a break from the nonfiction books, and recommending a winner of the Pulitzer prize! This passionate novel intricately details the life of trees and how humans have shaped them. The environmental fables will leave you pondering humans' relationship with nature, considering your own environmental impact, and hopeful for the change to come.

Go outside, listen to the nature around you, and dive into this compelling read!

The two year legislative session just wrapped up, so there will be a pause on the approval and implementation of many of these bills. Stay tuned for advocacy opportunities to ensure these bills can be passed and implemented in the future!

**H.4831**

Last month we talked about the Offshore Wind Industries bill, which would establish more funding for the research of offshore wind industries, but was amended to study the economic viability of an offshore headquarters for the Carolina Panthers football team. The bill has since undergone more amendments, been read for the third time in the Senate, and was sent to a conference committee where it will be revised. It is unclear what the bill will look like after its revisions, but we are hopeful for what is to come.

**Green Space Sales Tax Bill**

This bill, which we mentioned in the April newsletter, was passed in the Senate! If signed by Governor Henry McMaster, the bill will establish a referendum in each county where approved by local voters, a 1% sales tax would be implemented to help fund land protection efforts in the county. Stay tuned for the bill to (likely) appear on your county's ballot!

**H.4775 Electronic Waste Recycling**

This bill was proposed to update and improve how electronic waste is disposed of. There were many propositions to improve the process and conservationists hoped it would continue to uphold the landfill ban, which prohibits electronics from being disposed of in landfills. However, the House and Senate did not agree on the proposed amendments so the bill was sent to a conference committee for more revisions.

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**FEATURE ARTICLES**

**Early Voting is Open in South Carolina!**
Primary elections are right around the corner, which means you should get out and vote! Electing officials who will advocate for the climate and health is one of the best ways to ensure a
climate-safe future. The South Carolina primary election day is June 14th, but early voting opened this Tuesday, May 31st. For more information on places to vote early, [click here].

**Healthcare Workers Can Put Health & Equity at the Center of the Climate Movement**

This editorial by Bulbus et al. outlines four main policy areas that healthcare workers should focus on to address health, climate, and equity. The article takes a deep dive into how we can unite to accomplish these things, and what this advocacy might look like. [Check it out!]

**Rising Temperatures May Lead to Decreased Sleep**

We've known for a while that global warming will impact many facets of our lives, but a new study conducted in Denmark found that warmer temperatures may also decrease how long people sleep, especially for women and elderly people. In areas of higher temperatures, research showed comparably more sleep loss per degree of warming. This is an interesting and alarming new aspect of climate change that many of us may not have previously considered!

**LGBTQ+ PRIDE MONTH & CLIMATE JUSTICE**

The month of June is LGBTQ+ Pride month, which is a great time to highlight the intersection of sexuality, climate, and health. Whether you are an ally or part of the LGBTQ+ community, we can all benefit from learning about the intersectionality of environmentalism.

Minority communities often experience disproportionate health impacts from climate change, and the LGBTQ+ community is no exception. For example, LGBTQ+ people are more at risk to be negatively affected by air quality and subsequently develop cancer or respiratory disease. Researchers attribute this to the clustering of LGBTQ+ communities in polluted inner-city neighborhoods, which occurs as a result of the social stigma and discrimination towards queer communities.

Likewise, LGBTQ+ individuals are particularly vulnerable to homelessness, due to the same discrimination mentioned above. Unhoused people are much more at risk for developing a climate-associated illness, like heat stroke, dehydration, or renal disease, and are at greater risk to be significantly affected by climatic disasters like flooding or drought. For an editorial describing one queer man's opinion on how climate change is affecting the LGBTQ+ community, [read this].

Environmental justice is crucial for all minority communities, especially the LGBTQ+ communities.

This Pride month we encourage you to continuing educating yourself on the intersection of sexuality, climate, and health, and to find ways to support the LGBTQ+ community. One great way to do this would be to support organizations like Out for Sustainability, Our Climate Voices, and Queer Nature that are bringing together LGBTQ+ groups to promote a healthier and safer climate.
For more information on how to celebrate Pride in South Carolina, check out SC Pride!

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!