



# World Environmental Health Day Declaration 2019

September 26, 2019

**The National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) is proud to join the International Federation of Environmental Health in celebrating World Environmental Health Day and raising global awareness about today's most pressing environmental health concerns. We embrace the 2019 theme, "Climate Change Challenges, Time for Global Environmental Health to Act in Unison."**

Climate change is the greatest threat to global health we currently face. It harms health by decreasing the quality of air we breathe, increasing our exposure to more frequent and intense extreme weather events, increasing extremes of precipitation including flooding and drought, expanding the geographic distribution and number of disease-carrying vectors, and exacerbating health inequities. Around the world, these impacts increase the risk of chronic and infectious diseases, harm mental health and well-being, threaten the safety and security of our communities, trigger food insecurity, and place a disproportionate burden on our most vulnerable populations.

Though global in its scale, the health impacts of climate change are inherently local. In fact, members of the environmental health workforce strive to protect communities across the globe from hazardous exposures in the environments where we live, learn, work, and play. The environmental health workforce is uniquely positioned to advance climate and health solutions because they have the expertise on the connection between climate change and environmental health and their work embodies the concept of *thinking globally while acting locally*.

NEHA is proud to host the **World Environmental Health Day Twitter Chat** on Thursday, September 26 from 2:00–3:00 p.m. EDT. The theme of our Twitter chat is "**Climate and Health.**" This conversation will bring together partners and allies to discuss how climate impacts health, highlight the role of environmental health professionals in protecting communities, and building resilience. Please [RSVP](#) for the Twitter chat and follow the conversation using the hashtag #WEHDChat.

In addition to increasing awareness of the environmental health workforce as a powerful solution on climate change, NEHA is working to reduce our organizational environmental impact on World Environmental Health Day. As such, September 26 will be an organization-wide telework day. Instituting an organization-wide telework day is a great way to collectively participate by working from home and cutting back on our vehicle carbon emissions for the day. Our staff has been asked to commit to reducing or eliminating unnecessary driving trips that day.

NEHA proudly endorsed the [2019 U.S. Call to Action on Climate, Health, and Equity: A Policy Action Agenda](#). In addition, NEHA has penned a [Declaration on 100% Clean Energy by 2030](#), for which we were honored to receive the [ecoAmerica Climate Leadership Award](#). In addition, NEHA is excited to have supported climate and health adaptation activities of health departments across the U.S. by [awarding two climate and health mini-grants](#) in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



We are honored to celebrate World Environmental Health Day. It is vital that all nations work together to understand how climate change is uniquely affecting health and that decision makers utilize the expertise of environmental health professionals in developing strong climate and health solutions. Whether through regulation, legislation, mitigation, or adaptation, we all must strive to do whatever possible to ensure that we have clean air to breathe, safe water to drink, and safe and secure food supplies, as well as are prepared for natural disasters. The health of the world is at stake.

We encourage everyone to learn more about our organization by visiting [www.neha.org](http://www.neha.org). NEHA is devoted to providing powerful solutions to address the health threats of climate change. Please join us!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Priscilla Oliver". The ink is a light grey color.

Priscilla Oliver, PhD, President

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David T. Dyjack". The ink is a light grey color.

David T. Dyjack, DrPH, CIH, Executive Director