Engaging Youth in Environmental Public Health

UNC Center for Environmental Health and Susceptibility · Alliance for Climate Education
Columbia University NIEHS Center for Environmental Health in Northern Manhattan · WE ACT
Harvard-Chan NIEHS Center for Environmental Health · Boston Children’s Hospital Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit
2017 PROGRAM: CLIMATE CHANGE & COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Columbia University
NIEHS Center for Environmental Health in Northern Manhattan & WE ACT

UNC Center for Environmental Health and Susceptibility & Alliance for Climate Education

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

Academic year workshops
Field trips
Webinars
Email exchanges
NYU Social Justice Expo
3-day Summer Institute
Action projects (NC)
Social justice projects (NY)
Climate Change & Human Health

• Highlight interactions between Earth’s spheres
• Promote systems thinking & critical thinking
• Bring relevant and local issues into the classroom
• Reinforce curriculum concepts
• Promote science and engineering practices
• Provide interdisciplinary connections
• Bring attention to current and emerging public health issues and public health careers
Environmental Literacy

The capacity to make informed decisions concerning the environment; to be willing to act on these decisions to improve the well being of other individuals, societies, and the global environment; and to participate in civic life. (Adapted from NAAEE)
Strengthening Community Resilience

Climate mitigation
Reduce greenhouse gas emissions

Climate adaptation
Plan for climate change impacts

Community capacity building
Foster social networks and inclusion
Program Features

● Place-based
● Active learning
  ○ Hands-on STEM
● Solutions focused
● Capacity building
Program Topics

Climate science · Air pollution · Human health · Disaster preparedness · Mitigation · Adaptation · Climate justice · Community resilience
Connecting Public Health Professionals and Students

Webinar Series

Disaster Preparedness & Resiliency in Health Care
with Marissa Hauptman,
New England Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit at Boston Children's Hospital

Climate Change & Human Health: A Clinician’s Perspective
with Ann Backus,
Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health
• Provide opportunities for students from diverse backgrounds to work together to build a device or solve a problem

• Invite students to consider:
  • all people, including vulnerable populations, when evaluating climate mitigation and adaptation strategies
  • role of civic engagement in fostering resilience
  • how to foster social connections in disaster response and recovery
What can students do with this knowledge?

- Take measures to **protect their personal health**
- Raise **family awareness**
- **Recognize co-benefits** of adaptation and mitigation efforts
- Engage with **policymakers** to support policies that will improve public health
- Promote **climate justice** by working to protect vulnerable populations
- Innovate **new technologies** that protect health
- Pursue **careers in public health**
Grace Baucom: Exploring the impact of extreme heat on sustainable farmers
A student’s perspective

Grace Baucom
Hometown: Chapel Hill, NC
Current School: North Carolina State University
Student Action Projects

Grace Baucom: Exploring the impact of extreme heat on sustainable farmers

Emily Liu: Connecting air quality and renewable energy
Challenges

• Preparing guests to tailor program content to youth
• Balancing delivery of science content with engaging activities
• Providing opportunities for sustained engagement of students during year
• Providing on-going support for action projects
Project Team

**North Carolina**
- Kathleen Gray & Dana Haine, UNC Center for Environmental Health and Susceptibility
- Briana Steele, Alliance for Climate Education

**New York**
- Diana Hernandez, Columbia University
- David Chang & Taylor Morton, WEACT for Environmental Justice

**Massachusetts**
- Ann Backus, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health
- Marlissa Hauptman, Boston Children's Hospital

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