

New York State American Academy of Pediatrics, District II
NY Chapters 1, 2 and 3
Position Statement on Climate Change

WHEREAS: Climate change has the potential to profoundly and disproportionately affect the health and well-being of current and future generations of children, and

WHEREAS: The mission of the members of the New York State American Academy of Pediatrics and its three component Chapters includes advocacy and action on issues that affect children's health, and

WHEREAS: The effects of climate change are already apparent and include an increase in the frequency and severity of extreme weather events, heat waves, winter storms, hurricanes and flooding, and also a significant increase in mean temperature and sea level, and the spread of vector-borne diseases throughout NYS, and

WHEREAS: Time grows short to successfully address and reverse the effects of largely unchecked climate change and the deleterious public health consequences for children including: disease prevalence, storm and weather patterns, food and water security, population displacement, and global conflict, and

WHEREAS: We wish to make our position on these matters known to all,

IT IS RESOLVED: That the members of Chapters 1, 2 and 3 of New York State District II, realizing the gravity of this situation, support:

- Ongoing efforts to educate physicians and others in healthcare, legislators, parents, children, learners at all levels and the public generally about climate change and its potential negative effects on the physical and mental health and well being of children locally, nationally and globally, and support
- The Environmental Health, Environmental Justice and Climate Change initiatives presented in National AAP's [Transition Plan: Advancing Child Health in the Biden-Harris Administration](#), and support
- The re-entry of the United States as a participant in the [Paris Climate Agreement](#) and efforts to reverse the rollbacks on environmental protections of the past four years, and support,
- The efforts in New York State to address and mitigate climate change impacts that affect the eight sectors outlined in the technical report [ClimAID](#), and support and
- Encourage pediatricians in all practice settings to foster discussion about these issues with patients, administrators, legislators, and healthcare institutions to help mitigate and prepare for the escalating effects of climate change.

References:

1. Global Climate Change and Children's Health. Samantha Ahdoot, Susan E. Pacheco and the Council on Environmental Health. Pediatrics November 2015, 136 (5) e1468-e1484; DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2015-323>
2. [2019 Report of the Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change](#)