

Astrobiology News November 2023: Community-Driven Climate Solutions

Life in the Universe includes life on Earth, and life on Earth includes communities impacted by climate change. This month, the National Academy of Medicine's (NAM) Climate Communities Network (CCN)¹ announced the first cohort in community-driven strategic partnerships to address climate-related health inequities.² This initiative brings together leaders representing community-based organizations that serve areas disproportionately affected by health-related impacts of climate change and representatives from government, academia, industry, and philanthropic organizations to innovate, inform policy, drive resources, and co-design solutions.

The CCN is one of a growing number of initiatives dedicated to mobilizing local expertise to co-create solutions to 21st century challenges. In contrast to models where local voices have little say in decisions that directly affect them, CCN was established to engage communities as equal partners in developing solutions to critical issues that impact their health and well-being. CCN members share their community's stories, expertise, and experience to influence the direction of climate work.

CCN is part of NAM's Grand Challenge on Climate Change, Human Health & Equity,³ a global initiative to improve and protect human health, well-being, and equity by working to transform systems that both contribute to, and are impacted by, climate change. Check out the Opportunity Grants⁴ site for information on funding interdisciplinary efforts at the intersection of climate change and human health. Climate change impacts all life on Earth, but disproportionately hurts the most vulnerable among us. Successful innovations and lasting solutions will likely be achieved only through efforts that don't exclude the most affected stakeholders.

There are many ways to take action on issues related to climate change – if you haven't already done so, please consider signing The Clergy Letter Project's Climate Crisis Letter.⁵ Also, remember you can assist scientific studies online by searching for climate projects on *Zooniverse*⁶ or *Scistarter*.⁷

Until next month,

Grace

¹<https://nam.edu/programs/climate-change-and-human-health/climate-communities-network/>

²<https://nam.edu/network-focused-on-community-driven-climate-solutions-announces-members-and-strategic-partners/>

³ <https://nam.edu/programs/climate-change-and-human-health/>

⁴<https://nam.edu/programs/climate-change-and-human-health/climate-change-human-health-opportunity-grants/>

⁵ https://www.theclergyletterproject.org/Climate_Letter/ClimateLtr.html

⁶ <https://www.zooniverse.org/projects?discipline=climate&page=1&status=live>

⁷ <https://scistarter.org/finder?phrase=climate&active=true>

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