

# MEDICAL STUDENTS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

# 20 25

## IMPACT REPORT



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# Looking Back on 7 Years

Dear friends and colleagues:

Reflecting on this past year, I'm struck by how much the landscape has shifted from this time last year. Federal support for climate and health work faces unprecedented uncertainty, yet our ability to meet this moment has never been stronger. What began as a handful of students has become a movement with real infrastructure, real expertise, and real staying power.

That strength showed up everywhere this year. This year, MS4SF was recognized as a semi-finalist for ecoAmerica's American Climate Leadership Award. Our annual conference showed incredible growth in its second year, drawing more than 150 participants who exchanged ideas on research, advocacy, curriculum, and sustainability while overlooking the Capitol. In the following months, our advocacy team submitted testimony to the EPA opposing critical environmental rollbacks. Student presentations through our research and healthcare sustainability teams grew fourfold. Our podcast, newsletter, and social media reached thousands of new listeners and readers.

We've also been building for the long haul, deepening partnerships with Climate Resources for Health Education and the Planetary Health Report Card and connecting medical students across the U.S. and internationally. Town halls and expanding regional networks are forging relationships designed to outlast any single political cycle.

We hope you take a moment to celebrate what we have accomplished together, and join us as we carry this momentum forward.

Sincerely,



Natalie Baker  
Executive Director, Medical Students for a Sustainable Future







# WHO WE ARE

## MEDICAL STUDENTS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

MS4SF seeded from the collective worry of a handful of medical students from around the country in 2019. Now, we count almost 1,000 medical students from hundreds of schools across the United States and abroad. We are the first and only group to unify and mobilize medical students recognizing climate change as an urgent threat to health and social justice.

Our growing voice is unique in that it unites the urgency of youth leadership with the health expertise and public trust of medical professionals. Our community organizes both nationally, contributing to efforts in advocacy, curriculum, climate-smart healthcare, and research, as well as within our local communities through our regional system and school chapters.

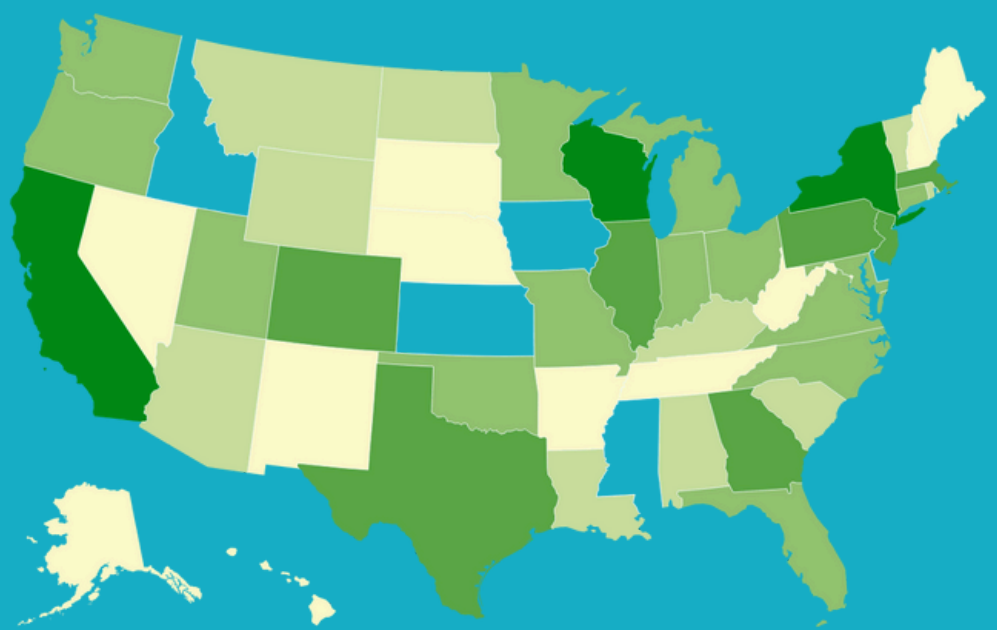


# Membership

OVER  
**970**  
MEDICAL STUDENTS  
FROM OVER  
**100**  
MEDICAL SCHOOLS

Number of Students

■ <3 ■ 3-7 ■ 7-17 ■ 17-34 ■ >34

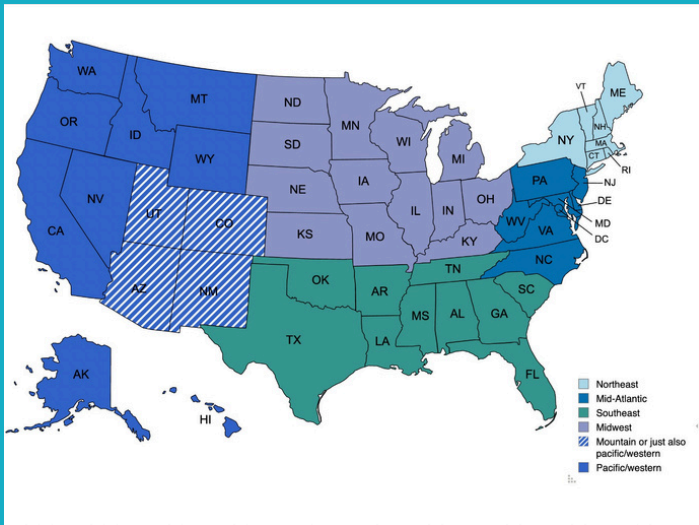


As of December 2025, MS4SF boasts a total of 977 members, of whom 504 are current medical students. We have averaged 120 new members each year over the past three years. Students and schools alike are becoming increasingly aware of the impact our climate has on health and we expect to see continued growth as we expand our reach and pursue new partnerships.

# Engagement

Last year, our leadership team set out to create regional infrastructure to support our growing membership. This new organizational infrastructure established regional leads and streamlined communication forums.

## MS4SF REGIONS AND LOCAL INITIATIVES



Members at **UCSD** hosted a Heat and Human Health Submit and advocated for curriculum reform to make more environmentally focused classes.

Members at **Kansas City University - Joplin** worked on developing an on-campus trail for students and staff to enjoy.

Members at **Stanford University** distributed heat-resilience kits and conducting climate needs assessments, while also working on reducing waste in operating rooms in the hospital.

Members at **SUNY Upstate Medical University** hosted an event spreading awareness on the dangers of lead poisoning in children and environmental health in Syracuse.

All MS4SF affiliated groups now have a direct path to the national leadership board, allowing for increased engagement, support for local initiatives, collaboration between schools regionally. Ultimately, this evolved structure supports a core value of MS4SF: community.

“Keeping up with MS4SF puts into context what's going on at our local medical school. Even as I'm dedicating most of my immediate time and energy to local efforts, it's nice to know how it fits into the bigger picture and movement.”

This year, we made a concerted effort to understand what initiatives local chapters are leading in the fight to address climate and health issues. We discovered just how passionate and thoughtful our members are through what they shared with us.



# Engagement

MS4SF significantly expanded outreach this year as well allowing us to better highlight the work of our members and our partners. Our Instagram follower count has continued to grow, and our website received nearly 15,000 views in the last year. We maintained our monthly newsletter with updates for MS4SF members about opportunities and nationwide achievements.



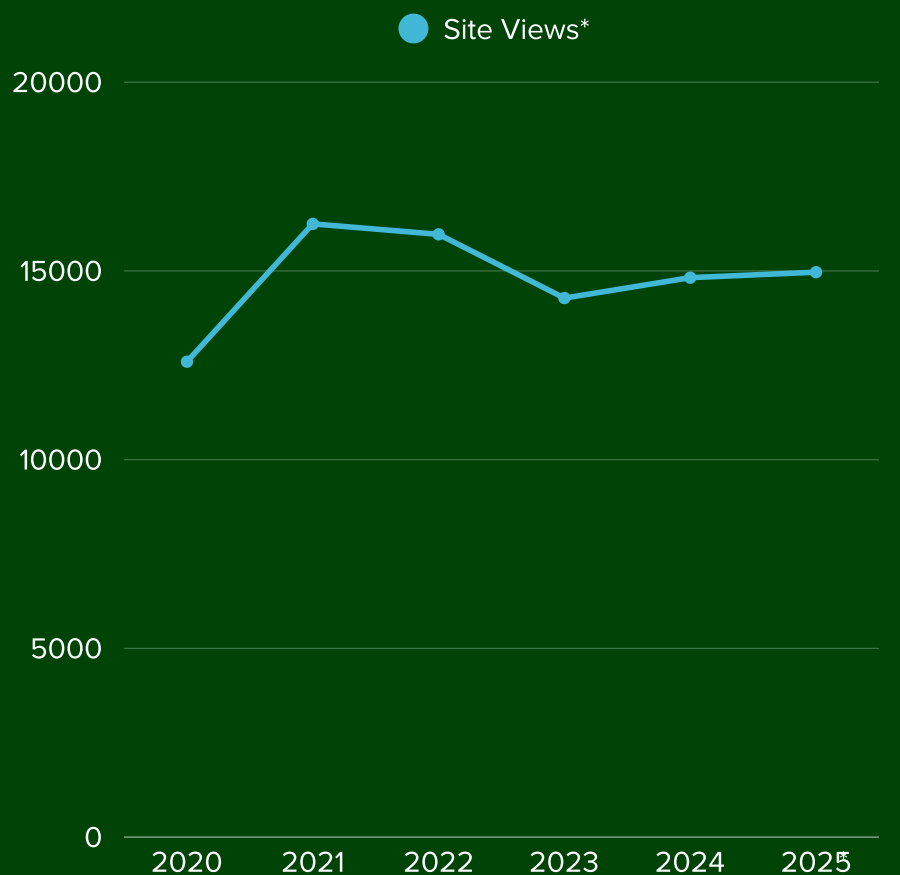
**238**  
FOLLOWERS



**276**  
LISTENS PER  
EPISODE



**5,252**  
ALL-TIME LISTENS



\*2025 data projected based on current trend

Our teams continued to publish new episodes of our podcast, Code Green (available on Spotify), which has received over 1,000 all-time listens since last year.

# Impact

**Advocacy is at the core of what we do and we continue to be strong vocal advocates for climate-smart policy on the local and national levels.**



Reviewed and edited environmental health proposals for AMA policies for the AMA committee on Public Health

Partnered with American Lung Association, American Public Health Association, and other nonprofits to support legislation in favor of climate health, clean energy, and against pollution affecting marginalized populations

Worked with the MSCCH Civic Engagement and Advocacy task force to build a coalition of healthcare workers and trainees and address some of the most pressing issues within the climate sphere head on

Published in the *Journal of Climate Change and Health*: “Medical students respond to the call to climate action”



# 2025 Milestones



## Climate Health Equity Conference

We hosted our second annual conference with over 150 attendees and 64 student abstract submissions.

## Interorganizational Collaboration

We hosted a joint town hall with the Planetary Health Report Card team (PHRC) and the Climate Resources for Health Education initiative (CRHE)



## Non-Profit Status

We officially registered as a non-profit allowing for increased growth and new opportunities

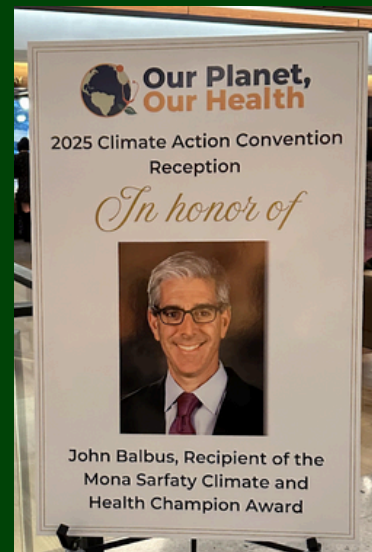
# Climate Health Equity Conference

We were invited by our partners at the Medical Society Consortium on Climate and health (MSCCH) to host our second annual conference this year, bringing together dozens of students from across the country to discuss the current state of climate and health, present their research and initiatives, and connect with like-minded students.



“It's been great connecting with students at different universities, and seeing the passion for climate health work that exists. And, it's fantastic to be part of an organization that can help channel that passion into meaningful advocacy.”

We were also joined by many climate heroes who discussed their roles in the climate crisis and emphasized the importance of our role as future medical providers, including the former HHS Office of Climate Change and Health Equity Director John Balbus. Planning is currently underway for the third iteration of this amazing event in February 2026.





# What did our participants love about our 2025 conference?

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“

**ORGANIZED AND EFFICIENT. INCLUDED A VARIETY OF DIFFERENT PROJECTS ABOUT DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF PLANETARY HEALTH**

”

“

**THE ENTHUSIASM! ALSO THE PANELS AND ORAL PRESENTERS WERE ENGAGING AND THOUGHT PROVOKING**

”

“

**GETTING TO HEAR FROM EACH OTHER ABOUT WHAT EVERYONE IS DOING AT THEIR INSTITUTIONS/SHARING IDEAS!**

”

“

**EXCELLENT KEYNOTE SPEAKER!**

”

“

**COMMUNITY FORMATION**

”

“

**DIVERSE VOICES**

”

“

**FRIENDLY AND COLLABORATIVE ENVIRONMENT**

”

“

**IT WAS REALLY AMAZING TO SEE THE GREAT COMMUNITY AND LEARNING ABOUT ALL THE OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED WITH PLANETARY HEALTH**

”

“

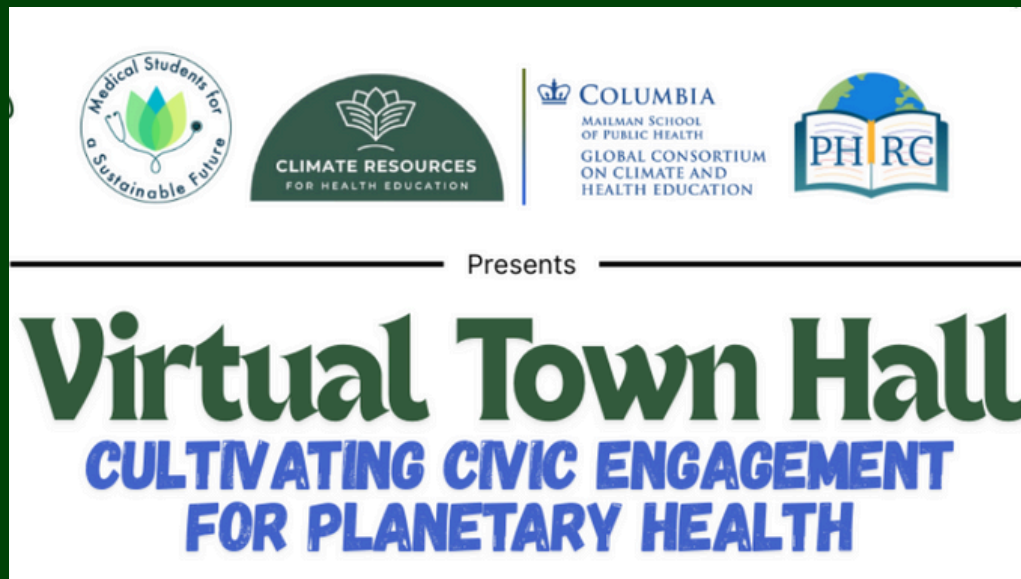
**GREAT RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS**

”

# Joint Town Hall with PHRC and CRHE

One of our goals this year, as an organization, was to increase collaboration with other actors in the climate health space, namely the Planetary Health Report Card group (PHRC) and the Climate Resources for Health Education initiative (CHRE). Now more than ever, it is imperative that we all work together in service of our common goal of addressing the negative effects of climate change on health head-on.

This year, we jointly hosted a town hall on civic engagement in planetary health, featuring members from Vote4Climate, to properly delineate how to use our voices and votes to influence climate policy.





# Non-Profit Status

**Medical Students for a Sustainable Future is completing its first year as a non-profit. This is a huge step forward for us an organization, bringing with it new benefits and opportunities for growth and development.**



**With our non-profit status, we have been able to develop a more robust ability to fundraise and build out a sustainable infrastructure to allow this work to continue for years to come. This will allow us to significantly scale up our efforts, providing greater opportunities for our members and expanding our reach to grow our organization.**

**“Whether it is the MS4SF chapter leads doing cool medical supply recycling programs, or starting new efforts on campus to integrate planetary health into the curriculum, national organizations such as USGBC doing outstanding work to green our nation's buildings, or physician leaders at the state level such as Dr. Lori Byron from Montana Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate and Dr. Samim Atmar from Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action. I am energized by the global efforts and have gained valuable insight from all of these diverse efforts.”**

# MS4SF in Print

News Feature | Published: 06 August 2024

## Doctors prepare for the “enormous health consequences” of climate change

[Sofia Moutinho](#)

[Nature Medicine](#) 30, 2382–2385 (2024) | [Cite this article](#)

2029 Accesses | 3 Citations | 23 Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

[Home](#) | [JAMA](#) | [Vol. 332, No. 10](#)

**Medical News & Perspectives** | Climate Change and Health

## Medical Schools Are Updating Their Curricula as Climate Change Becomes Impossible to Ignore

Monique Brouillette, MS<sup>1</sup>

[Home](#) / [News](#) / [Health News](#) / [Med Schools Embrace Climat...](#)

## Medical Schools Warm to Curriculum Changes as Climate Threats Grow

Schools training the nation's future physicians are incorporating climate change into courses, preparing students for challenges posed by the planet's shifting patterns.

 By [Steven Ross Johnson](#) | Nov. 6, 2023, at 9:39 a.m.



The Journal of Climate Change and Health

Volume 23, May–June 2025, 100439



Letter to the editor

## Medical students respond to the call to climate action



RESEARCH ARTICLE

## Evaluating the impact of a longitudinal, integrated climate change, health, and environment curriculum in undergraduate medical training at Harvard Medical School

Natalie Baker<sup>1</sup>, Hugh Shirley<sup>2</sup>, Madeleine C. Kline<sup>3</sup>, Julia Malits<sup>2</sup>, Akhil Mandalapu<sup>1</sup>, David R. Mazumder<sup>1</sup>, Shalini H. Shah<sup>4</sup>, Marissa Hauptman<sup>4</sup>, Jon Eisen<sup>2</sup>, David Jones<sup>5</sup>, Stephen Pelletier<sup>1</sup>, Gaurab Basu<sup>6\*</sup>



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