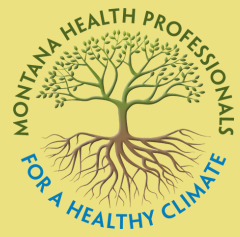


2021

**MONTANA
HEALTH
PROFESSIONALS
FOR A HEALTHY
CLIMATE**



Introduction

2021 was a challenging year. COVID-19 continued to alter plans, leading to canceled events and overworked health care workers, while emissions causing climate change continued to rise. But Montana colleagues continued to sign up for our newsletter - 260 so far.

We found ways to testify, write reports, collaborate with many Montana groups, obtain grants, write OpEds, and hold virtual events. Anything to “move the needle” on climate action.

We are all in this together.

HIGHLIGHTS

- 30 news/magazine articles and OpEds
- 65 presentations, virtual and in person, on climate and health, Montana and national
- 14 Podcasts
- 100 meetings with stakeholders across Montana on climate issues
- 2000 volunteer hours by board members
- 100% of the board contributed financially
- 3 grants obtained
- 13 academic articles published by board members
- 30 testimonies to Montana legislature, and Mt and federal government agencies

BOARD MEMBERS



Chair: Lori Byron, Pediatrician,
Hardin

Vice-Chair: Robert Byron, Internal Medicine Doctor, Hardin

Secretary: Marian Kummer, Pediatrician, Big Sky

Treasurer: Beth Schenk, Nurse and Sustainability Coordinator, Missoula
Nick Silverman, Climate Scientist, Missoula

Mari Eggers, Environmental Health Researcher, Bozeman

Jennifer Robohm, Psychologist, Missoula

Hayley Blackburn, Pharmacist, Missoula

Rebecca Elderkin, Public Health All Nations, Missoula

Anita Lowe Taylor, Doctor of Physiatry, Helena

ACCOLADES

Beth Schenk attended COP26 in Glasgow

Marian Kummer joined the Montana Asthma Advisory Group

Robert Byron joined the board of the Montana NGO AERO (Alternative Energy Resource Organization)

Hayley Blackburn co-founded the International group Rx for Climate

CLIMATE AND HEALTH EDUCATION

Teaching our upcoming health care professionals about climate and health is critical. In that regard, MontanaHPHC members taught, as guest lecturers, climate and health classes to:

- MSU nursing students,
- MSU environmental health students,
- MSU global health students,
- MSU political science students
- Mt Tech Environmental science students,
- W Mt Family Practice Residency doctors,
- MT AHEC students (high schools),
- numerous school groups regarding the flag program and,
- nursing and medical students and residents out of state.



Amelda Klink (left) and Chelsea Kuiper (below) founded a Student Chapter of the Montana HPHC at the University of Montana.



A first-ever Climate Change and Human Health Course was created at the University of Montana. 53 people enrolled in this course including nursing, pharmacy, physical therapy, behavioral health, and public health students.

At the Montana
Public Health
Training Center,
a virtual,
asynchronous



Climate Change and Human Health course opened in the fall of 2021. Over 100 people have registered so far. It is free and also provides free CME for nurses, pharmacists, and sanitarians.



We had a summer intern from the Yale Center on Climate Change and Health Summer 2021 Internship Program. Natalie Henning is a Master of Public Health student at Yale School of Public Health. She revamped our website and created a series of 6 videos of Montanans on climate and health available on the Montana Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate Youtube Channel.

Additionally, we made 65 presentations to groups around Montana as well as many out-of-state and national groups including: Mt Environmental Information Center members, Bitterroot Climate Action Group; Climate Smart Glacier County; Montana Chapter; American Academy of Pediatrics;

Institute of Ecosystems (MSU) Rough Cut Series; Montana Great Beginnings Great Families Conference Miles City UCC Church; The DPHHS Healthier Montana Lunch and Learn series; and MSU's Center for Science, Technology, Ethics & Society.

OUTREACH AND EVENTS

“We believe it is imperative that those of us in health care do our part to mitigate global warming”.

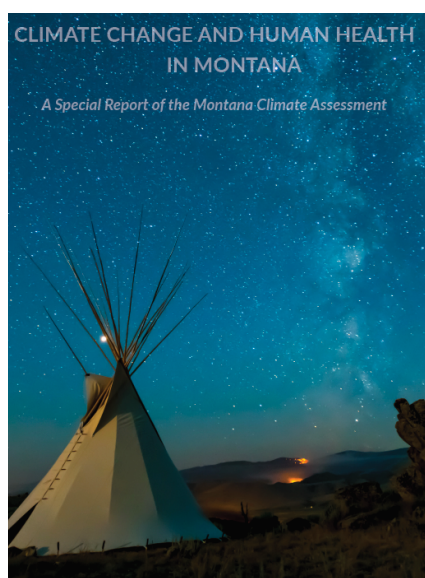
- Ned Vasquez, Rebecca Elderkin, Chelsea Kuiper, *The Missoulian*

IN THE NEWS

9 OpEds written by MTHPHC members were printed in Billings, Missoula, Bozeman, Helena, Great Falls, and Big Sky newspapers. Beth Schenk was featured in the New York Times article titled *Effort to Reframe Climate Change as a Health Crisis Gains Steam* and Lori Byron was featured in the CBS Morning News titled *From Asthma To Premature Births: Pediatricians Seeing Impacts Of Climate Change In Children*.

PUBLICATIONS

MTHPHC members were authors on *The Status of Tribes and Climate Change, and Climate and Health Concerns of Montana's Public and Environmental Health Professionals: A Cross-sectional Study* as well as 10 other academic publications. Dr. Rob Byron is a contributing author on the upcoming *National Climate Assessment V*.



"Key findings of the report include that the areas of greatest concern for climate impacts in Montana are increased temperatures and periods of extreme heat, worsening air quality, primarily from wildfires, and more frequent climate surprises, such as flooding and extreme weather events. "

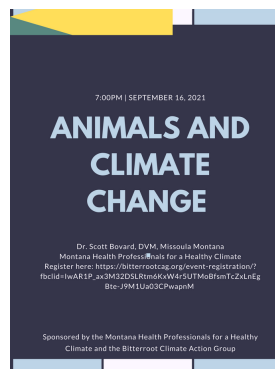
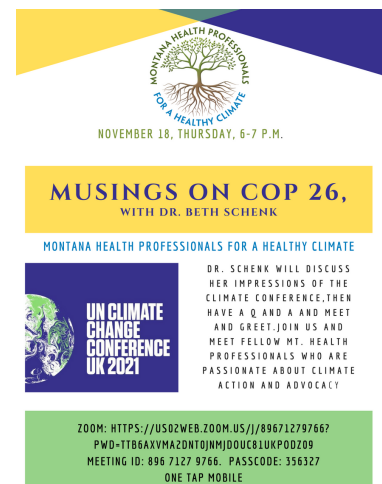
- Dr Marian Kummer, *Billings Gazette*

MTHPHC along with CAIRHE and the Institute on Ecosystems at MSU published the *Climate Change and Human Health Report: A Special Report of the Montana Climate Assessment, January 2021*. Three of the seven authors are board members. 10 presentations about the report were given this year, as well as 13 newspaper and magazine articles and an NPR radio story. Tabling about the report occurred at four medical/professional meetings. We are working with CAIRHE (Center for American Indian and Rural Health Equity) under a grant from the Greater Montana Foundation to create a documentary on C2H2.

VIRTUAL EVENTS & COLLABORATIONS

- 5/20** The What and Why of Weird Weather with Citizens Climate Lobby
- 8/16** Meet and Greet with Montana Health Professionals
- 9/16** Effect of Climate Change on Animals with MTHPHC and Bitterroot Climate Action Group
- 9/16** 10/21 Don't Fall For Gas: The Truth about Gas with MTHPHC and MEIC PT 1 & 2
- 10/12** What Every Parent Should Know with Families for a Livable Climate
- 11/18** Musings on COP26

We co-sponsored the *Montana Climate Stories* Website (mtclimatestories.org) with Families for a Livable Climate and Montana Mountain Mamas and collaborated with Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units on monthly discussions on creating indigenous internships in Environmental Health and Climate Change.



Additionally, we co-wrote a letter with numerous Montana organizations asking Bob Rowe of Northwestern Energy for clean energy for Montana households.

Dear NorthWestern Energy CEO Bob Rowe,

The time to move towards clean, renewable energy is now. We urge you to invest in clean energy for your customers, pay the penalty NorthWestern's shareholders owe to low-income and tribal energy assistance programs, and help protect present and future generations of Montanans from the dangers of expensive, outdated, harmful technologies that tie us to last century's technologies. NorthWestern should invest in modern clean energy systems that help create a safe, affordable, and livable world.

- Signed by over 1000 Montanans

TESTIMONY

“We recognized that we need to act now, and to encourage others to do the same.”

- B. Schenk



For the first time at a Montana Legislative Session, a major MT medical association testified on behalf of climate and clean energy (The Montana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics).

HEARINGS

3.21 Beth Schenk testified at the U.S House Committee on Climate and Health, representing Health Care Without Harm and the American Lung Association

MT Department of Labor

EPA

**Listening Session for adoption of 2021 IECC Building Codes
Hearing on Energy Efficiency Codes**

6.21 Controlling Air Pollution from the Oil and Natural Gas Industry, 2 MTHPHC members

- **6.21 2 MTHPHC members attended listening session in Billings**

6.21 SAFE1 Hearing (Light-Duty Vehicle Greenhouse Gas Emission Standards, 6 MTHPHC members

- **12.21 1 MTHPHC member testified virtually**

12.21 Session on Methane, 7 Montanans

MEETINGS WITH MT CONGRESSMEN

5.21 All 3 members of Congress, 2 MTHPHC members

10.21 MT nurses met with Senator Tester, 5 Montana nurses

11.21 MT doctors met with Senator Tester, 2 MTHPHC members

SIGN ONS

10.18.21 Signed on to a letter *Protect Health – Recommendations for the Biden Administration in response to the climate crisis*

10.14.21 signed on with ALA (American Lung Association) for *Health Professionals for Electric School Buses*

10.28.21 Signed on to a national organizational letter to Congress supporting climate provisions in the Build Back Better Act.

FUNDRAISING



“Patagonia supports environmental organizations with bold, direct-action agendas and a commitment to long-term change.”

We received a grant from Patagonia and are in the process of hiring a part-time coordinator for MontanaHPHC.

We are proud that 100% of our Board members contributed to MTHPHC and that we were able to raise \$800 at Yellowstone Valley Gives.



A Program of the
American Academy of Pediatrics

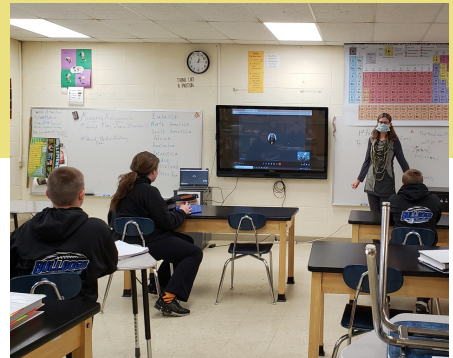
CATCH

Community Access to Child Health

We received 2 grants to promote the air quality flag program across Montana from American Academy of Pediatrics CATCH (Community Access to Child Health) and the Region 8 Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit.

Mac Nolde, a recent MSU graduate in Environmental Health, is our program coordinator. Over 20 schools and businesses have enrolled in the program. 5 MTHPHC physicians have spoken to classes of children in Missoula, Big Sky, Bozeman and Ekalaka.

As part of the program, we provide an air quality monitor to our rural schools when nearby AQ monitors are lacking; the data can then be accessed by the entire community.



OUR MONTANA HEALTH SOCIETY ALLIES



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Designed by: Alli Kane

