

# A Look at Climate Change and Public Health Policy



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# Agenda:



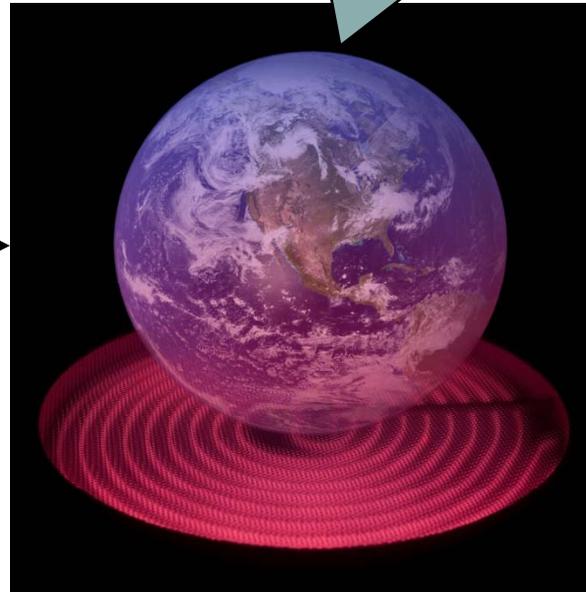
- Overview of the health impacts of climate change and APHA's efforts
- Federal climate change policy
- Examples of state policy and climate mitigation
- State and local policy regarding adaptation planning
- Looking to the future



# Health Effects: Climate Change

**Subtle & Extreme  
Ecological Change**

**Climate  
Change**



## **Health Effects**

- Heat stress
- Injuries
- Respiratory conditions
- Infectious diseases
- Malnutrition
- Diarrhea
- Harmful algal blooms
- Stress & depression
- Forced migration
- Civil conflict

# APHA's Work:

- Climate change policy in 1995 & 2007
- National Public Health Week 2008
- Webinar Series
- Climate Change Guidebook
- Advocacy



## Climate Change: Our Health in the Balance



National Public Health Week  
April 7-13, 2008

It's time for public health  
to have a voice  
in the conversation.

### CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE NATION'S HEALTH

There is a direct connection between climate change and the health of our nation today. Yet few Americans are aware of the very real consequences of climate change on the health of our communities, our families and our children.

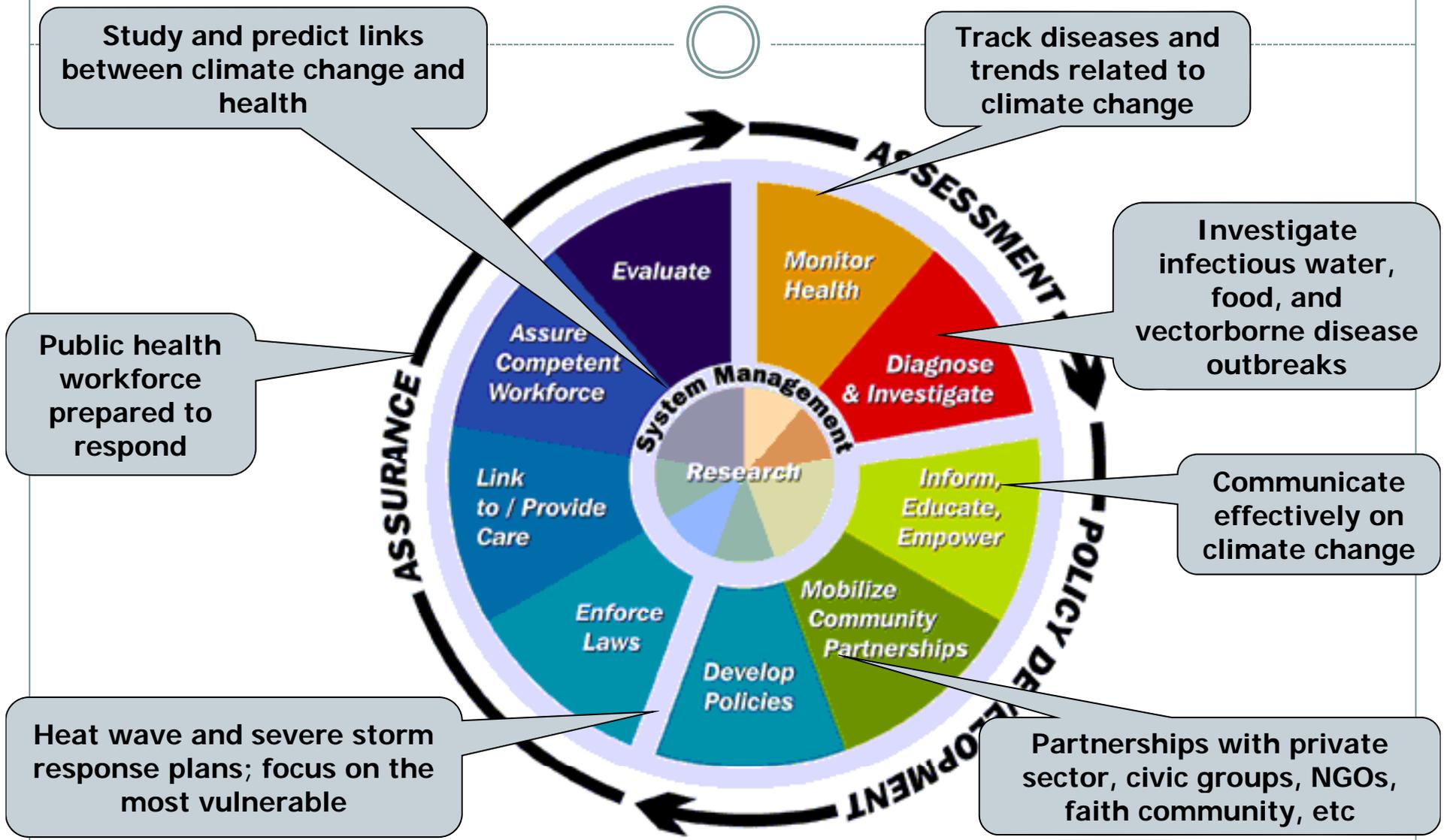
The public health community has an important role to play in making the connection between the way we lead our lives, our impact on the planet, and the planet's impact on our health. During National Public Health Week 2008, APHA will encourage individuals, families and communities to change their daily behavior in five important ways.

**It's time for public health to have a voice in the conversation.**

TAKE THE  
HEALTHY  
CLIMATE  
PLEDGE

BLOG

# Public Health Actions: For Climate Change



# Federal Climate Change Policy



- 2009 Endangerment Finding
- 2010 Waxman-Markey bill
- December 2011 re-introduction of Capps bill
  - Support infrastructure and capacity among federal, state, and local agencies to prevent health effects of climate change
  - Advance climate and health research, preparedness and planning to train the public health workforce in addressing climate change
  - Improve disease surveillance systems, create tools to predict and monitor climate effects
- Protecting the Clean Air Act

# State Policy and Mitigation Efforts:



- **Economy-wide GHG reductions**
  - Minnesota, California
- **GHG Reporting**
  - Wisconsin
- **Emissions reduction in the Transportation Sector**
  - Washington State



# State and Local Public Health Adaptation:



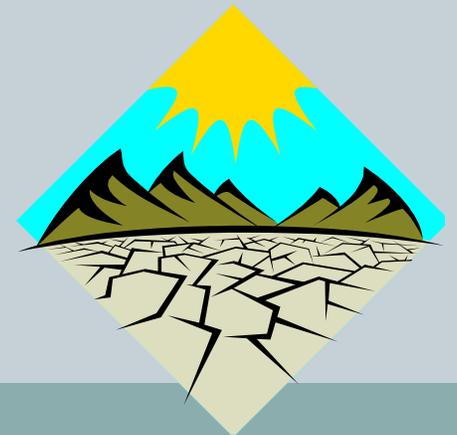
- State and local climate action planning can help states institutionalize public health safeguards and maximize health co-benefits in state climate policies
  - 13 states include public health measures in their climate change adaptation plans



## Examples of State & Local Adaptation Policy:



- Some cities including Seattle, Chicago, Milwaukee, Philadelphia and New York are making strides in adapting their water infrastructure for climate changes
- NYC instituted a heat wave adaptation program
- \*NACCHO & ASTHO have been instrumental in supporting state and local health departments in adaptation efforts



# State & Local Adaptation Planning:



- CA has an adaptation strategy that considers public health-including impacts from increased heat waves, air pollution, increased fires, water pollution, introduction of new diseases, impacts to agriculture and more ([http://resources.ca.gov/climate\\_adaptation/statewide\\_adaptation/public\\_health.html](http://resources.ca.gov/climate_adaptation/statewide_adaptation/public_health.html))
- Comprehensive list of state and local adaptation plans can be found at: <http://www.georgetownclimate.org/adaptation/state-and-local-plans?page=2>

# Looking to the Future:



- **Assessing public health capacity and infrastructure needs**
  - ASTHO and NACCHO are currently surveying public health officials and will present preliminary findings on the next webinar
- **Climate change and weather extremes require proactive public health planning**
  - 2011 weather extremes included flooding in the Mississippi, Texas wildfires, and more that resulted in billions of dollars infrastructural damage and health costs

# Thank You!



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*“Protect, Prevent, Live Well”*

