

CLIMATE ACTION TEAM Public Health Working Group

Near-Term Implementation Plan

Strategy 1: Evaluation of Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies with Public Health Co-Benefits

CAT Working Group Overview: The Public Health Working Group of the Climate Action Team was established to address cross-cutting issues related to climate change and health. The purpose of the Working Group is to provide a forum for communication, coordination, and education across agencies and with stakeholders. The Working Group is responsible for providing public health input into the AB 32 implementation process, as well as other public health issues related to climate change mitigation and adaptation. Climate change will significantly increase disease burden in California. Public health impacts will result from more severe extreme heat and other weather events, a decline in air quality, increases in allergenic plant pollen, more frequent wildfires, altered environmental conditions that foster the spread of communicable and vector-borne diseases, and impacts on food supply, water quality, shelter, and mental health. Public health has important roles in preventing the most catastrophic climate outcomes through engagement in climate change mitigation, in ensuring that climate change adaptation efforts address likely public health impacts, and in public health preparedness for response to climate-related emergencies.

Working Group Agencies: California Department of Public Health (designated lead), California Air Resources Board, Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, California Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Pesticide Regulation, California Natural Resources Agency, California Department of Fish and Game, California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection, California Department of Water Resources, California Department of Conservation, California Energy Commission, California Department of Food and Agriculture, California Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Local Health Departments, and Stakeholder Organizations.

Measure / Strategy

- A) Description: This strategy is focused on identifying and evaluating mitigation and adaptation strategies that offer climate and health co-benefits, and prioritizing those strategies with additional and independent beneficial effects on health. For example, community design (“smart growth”) that promotes walking and bicycling can increase physical activity and therefore support health while decreasing motor vehicle greenhouse gas and criteria pollutant emissions. Many methods can be used to evaluate the public health impacts of mitigation and adaptation strategies, including health impact assessment.
- B) Agencies Involved: California Department of Public Health (CDPH), California Air Resources Board (CARB), Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA).
- C) Scoping Plan/Adaptation Plan Reference: Public Health Strategy 1 (Promote Community Resilience to Reduce Vulnerability to Climate Change) and Public Health Strategy 3 (Identify and Promote Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies with Public Health Co-benefits) in the 2009 California Climate Adaptation Strategy. This document applies to Near-Term Action (a) of

Strategy 1: Promote Healthy Built Environments, specifically through the use of health impact assessment and development of guidelines for health impact assessment; and Near-Term Action (a) of Strategy 3: Identify and Prioritize Strategies with Co-Benefits.

- D) Metrics: The metrics used to define success for this Strategy are process measures that vary with each Task (see enumerated Deliverables below).
- E) Crosscutting Issues: The Public Health Working Group will coordinate with the Climate Change, Land Use, and Infrastructure (CCLU-In) Working Group when analyzing the health impacts of mitigation measures involving active transportation.
- F) Tasks and Deliverables:

Task 1.1: Health Impact Assessment of Cap and Trade Program

1. Description: CDPH and CARB, with input from OEHHA, shall conduct a phased health impact assessment (HIA) of the proposed Cap and Trade program. The HIA shall consider the potential health impacts of various cap and trade design options, with the goal of maximizing public health benefits and minimizing any potential adverse health impacts.
2. Deliverables: Phase I and Phase 2 HIA reports.
3. Agency Roles: CDPH and CARB are co-leads on Phases 1 and 2 of the HIA and are jointly responsible for the completion of deliverables. OEHHA will provide consulting assistance. Other stakeholders include academic advisors, HIA experts, industry representatives, public health organizations, and environmental organizations. Funding for Phase 2 is provided by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and The Pew Charitable Trusts.
4. Timeline: The Phase I HIA report will be completed by May 2010 for consideration during the development of the Draft Cap and Trade Regulation. The Phase 2 HIA report will be completed by September 2010 for consideration during the development of the Final Cap and Trade Regulation.

Task 1.2: Health Impact Assessment of Climate Change Mitigation through Active Transportation

1. Description: CDPH will conduct a health impact assessment of active transportation as a climate change mitigation approach. The HIA will qualitatively and quantitatively examine the potential health benefits or potential adverse consequences of active transportation.
2. Deliverables: HIA Outline and Workplan; final HIA report.
3. Agency Roles: CDPH is the lead agency. Non-profit HIA experts will provide consulting assistance. Stakeholders, including public health and environmental organizations, will be invited to comment.
4. Timeline: CDPH will develop HIA outline and workplan and initiate work on HIA by December 2010. HIA completion date to be determined based on availability of funds and staff.

Task 1.3: Development of Health Impact Assessment Guide

1. Description: With support from CDPH, an HIA expert at the San Francisco Department of Public Health is developing a Guide for Health Impact Assessment (Guide). The Guide provides a brief background on HIA, an outline of tasks in the HIA process, discussion of common issues and challenges encountered in the HIA process, and selected examples of and links to resources for practice, as well as suggestions for integrating health analysis

within the regulatory environmental impact assessment process, obtaining inclusion from diverse stakeholders, and for evaluating the HIA process.

2. Deliverables: Final HIA Guide.
3. Agency Roles: CDPH is the lead agency, with CARB providing input. The draft Guide has been discussed by the Public Health Working Group and public comment solicited and received. HIA experts will provide additional examples to CDPH for inclusion in the final Guide.
4. Timeline: Final Guide will be posted on CDPH website by December 2010.

G) SUMMARY TABLE:

Deliverable	Agencies	Deadline
Cap and Trade HIA Phase I Report	CDPH, CARB	Completed by May 2010
Cap and Trade HIA Phase 2 Report	CDPH, CARB	Completed by September 2010
Active Transportation HIA Outline and Workplan	CDPH	Developed by December 2010
HIA Guide	CDPH	Posted by December 2010