

Residents in the West are worried about climate change and support climate action. The majority of adults in the western states are worried about climate change, believe climate change will harm people in the U.S., and think Congress should do more to address climate change.²

Action on climate is critical to protect health and advance equity in the Western region

Taking urgent action to address climate change today is one of the most important things elected officials can do to protect the health of residents in their states. The 2021 Lancet Countdown U.S. Policy Brief outlines three policy recommendations to highlight how health and equity can guide action on climate change:

- 1. Rapidly increase funding to protect people's health:** Make urgent investments in research and local solutions that reduce the health impacts of climate change and that prioritize health and equity.
- 2. Account for the health-related costs of burning fossil fuels in decision-making:** Incorporate health-related costs of fossil fuels into calculations of the social cost of carbon and climate change to guide policies that prioritize health equity.
- 3. Rapidly cut greenhouse gas emissions, especially in areas suffering most from fossil fuel-related air pollution:** Reduce U.S. greenhouse gas emissions by 57-62% of 2005 levels by 2030 with a goal of a near zero-emission economy by mid-century. Direct at least 40% of investments towards improving air quality in under-resourced communities.

The Lancet Countdown U.S. Brief is supported by a diverse group of health experts from over 70 U.S. organizations. This document is supported by data and recommendations from the 2021 Lancet Countdown U.S. Policy Brief and global report, and prior years' reports. Additional region-specific information was obtained from the the **Fourth National Climate Assessment**. The Western region includes: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Washington, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, and Wyoming.

1. <https://www.nytimes.com/article/drought-california-western-united-states.html>

2. Yale Climate Opinion Maps 2020. <https://climatecommunication.yale.edu/visualizations-data/ycom-us/>