

**Position Statement  
On  
Climate and Health  
(Approved by the Board of Directors: July 28, 2018)**

There is a strong consensus among professional societies of physicians that the health and well-being of Americans are being adversely affected by climate change, and that these health concerns will continue to worsen as climate changes advance. Moreover, it is apparent that the very young and very old, as well as those of low-income and minority communities, are and will continue to be disproportionately affected by climate change.

There are many dermatologic consequences of climate change that will increasingly affect our patients and challenge our membership. In recognition of the importance of climate change to the health and well-being of our patients, the American Academy of Dermatology resolves to:

- Raise awareness about the effects of climate change on skin health and skin disorders;
- Work with other medical societies in ongoing and future efforts to educate the public and to mitigate the effects of climate change on global health;
- Educate our patients about the effects of climate change on the health of their skin; and
- Support and facilitate efforts of our members to decrease the carbon footprint of their dermatology practices and medical organizations in a cost-effective (or cost-saving) manner.

*This Position Statement is provided for educational and informational purposes only. It is intended to offer physicians guiding principles and policies regarding the practice of dermatology. This Position Statement is not intended to establish a legal or medical standard of care. Physicians should use their personal and professional judgment in interpreting these guidelines and applying them to the particular circumstances of their individual practice arrangements.*