

2025 Annual Report

Montana Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate



<https://www.montanahphc.org/>

We are a non-profit led by health experts advocating for climate action in Montana. We educate communities and policymakers about climate-related health risks, promote resilient healthcare systems, and support data-driven planning.



Table of Context



- 01. Board Members
- 02. Employees
- 03. 2025 Summary
- 04. Key Accomplishments
- 05. Tabling Events
- 06. Presentations
- 07. Presentations Cont.
- 08. Media and Communication
- 09. Publications
- 10. Publications Cont.
- 11. Climate and Health Stewards
- 12. Programs
- 13. Events Across Montana
- 14. Training and Capacity
- 15. Vision for 2026



Board Members



Lori G Byron 2019- Present
MD, MS, FAAP
Chair

Red Lodge, Montana
lori.byron@montanahphc.org



Nyla Chandler, 2025 - Present
MSN, FNP, APRN
Bozeman, Montana |



Robert Byron 2019 - Present
MD, MPH, FACP.

Treasurer
Hardin, Montana
robert.byron@montanahphc.org



Jennifer Robohm 2021 - Present
PhD
Missoula, Montana |



Elizabeth Schenk 2019 - Present
PhD, MHI, RN-BC, FAAN

Vice Chair
Missoula, Montana
elizabeth.schenk@montanahphc.org



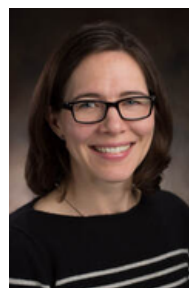
Hayley Blackburn 2021 - Present
PharmD, BCACP, BC-ADM

Missoula, Montana |
hayley.blackburn@montanahphc.org



Anita Lowe Taylor 2022 - Present
MD

Secretary
Helena, Montana
anita.taylor@montanahphc.org



Allison Young 2022 - Present
MD, FAAP

Missoula, Montana
allison.young@montanahphc.org



Employees



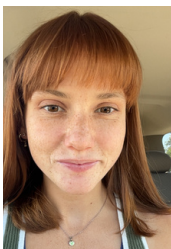
PROGRAM MANAGER

Julia Ryder 2023 - Present
B.A.,RN, BSN, MPH
Bozeman, Montana
juila.ryder@montanahphc.org



MEDIA OUTREACH

Livia Cole 2025- Present
RN, BSN Canidate
Billings, MT
liviaecole@gmail.com



JOURNALIST

Haley Yarbough
B.A Journalism, B.A. Biology
Society of Professional Journalists (SPI)
Mark of Excellence
haley.yarborough@umconnect.umt.edu



Montana Health Professionals
for a Healthy Climate

2025 Summary



In 2025, we broadened our media outreach to highlight how extreme weather affects both the mental and physical health of people in Montana. Our educational initiatives led to increased participation among Climate Stewards. We delivered presentations and set up informational tables across the state, sharing research-backed strategies for addressing climate change and its impact on human health. By fostering community connections, supporting the inaugural Montana Farm Summit, contributing to the 2025 Youth Climate Summit, and developing a free online course for healthcare professionals, we helped boost awareness of the links between climate change, CO2 emissions, and health.



Montana Health Professionals
for a Healthy Climate

Key Accomplishments

Media and Communication and Outreach

We tabled at 15 conferences, supported two part-time media students, and a Yale Climate-Health Intern for the Stewards Program.

We provided Legal Testimony, Scientific Publications, Podcasts, Radio Programs, our Television Show, and Opinion publications.

Increased Engagement and Participation

Social Media, Calls to Action, Climate Stories, Press Releases, Interviews with Public Television, and Numerous connecting events

Training and Capacity Building

New Moodle (online) Climate-Health Course, Conference, Presentations, Steward Events in 4 Cities, first ever Farm Summit, helped plan the Montana Youth Climate Summit





Montana Health Professionals
for a Healthy Climate

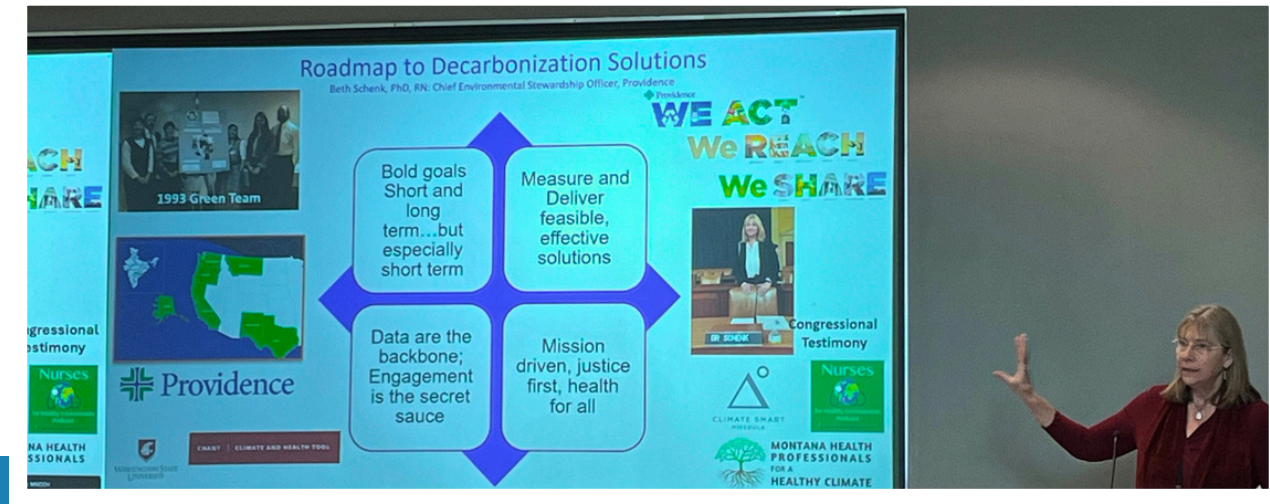
Tabling Events

- Montana Advanced Practice Nurse Conference
- MSU Billings, Student Nursing Orientation
- University of Montana Earth Day
- Montana State University Earth Day
- Earth Day tabling in Billings, Montana
- Flathead Earth Day celebration
- Red Lodge Fun Run event
- Public Health Summer Training Institute
- Montana Medical Association
- American College of Physicians
- Human Resource and Development Council Literacy Carnival
- Montana Healthcare Conference
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- Montana Nurses Association
- Montana Youth Climate Summit





Presentations



- Dr. E. Schenk: RN, Webinar, National Academy of Sciences: Clinicians Leading System-Wide Environmental Sustainability Transformation
- Dr. Rob, Dr. Lori Byron: Billings West High School Green Team
- Julia Ryder, MPH: MSU nursing class
- Dr. Lori Byron: Virtual Idaho Clinicians for Climate Action presentation
- Dr. Rob, Dr. Lori Byron: Fort Collins CCL on Climate/Health
- Dr. Lori Byron virtual: Yellowstone Cty Democrats
- Julia Ryder, RN, MPH: WWAMI Medical students
- Dr. Rob Byron: WWAMI medical students
- Dr. Rob, Dr. Lori: Mt Tech Environmental Health class
- Dr. E. Schenk: Schneider Perspectives Impact presentation
- Dr. E. Schenk: panel at Medical Society Consortium Annual Conference
- Dr. Rob Byron: paneled at the 2025 Climate Health Equity MS4SF national conference
- Dr. Lori Byron: League of Women Voters
- Dr. E. Schenk: ASHP Commission on Goals
- Julia Ryder, RN, MPH: Mt Farm Bureau Farm Safety Conference.



PRESENTATIONS CONTINUE

**MtHPHC submitted 5
stories published on**

**Montana Climate Stories :
(a site we co-sponsor)**

**Personal experiences with
the climate crisis in Montana,
and why it matters to you.**

- Dr Lori Byron: Dr. Robohm’s UMT class
- Dr. Rob, Dr. Lori Byron: Carolinas AHEC climate webinar: “Too Hot to Play.”
- Dr. E. Schenk, Julia Ryder, MPH, & Teresa Wicks, MN: Rural Nursing Conference
- Dr. Rob and Dr. Lori Byron: Climate Smart Montana
- Dr. E. Schenk, Seattle University
- Dr. E Schenk CU Sustainability Course.
- Dr. E. Schenk, Clean Med plenary panel
- Dr. E. Schenk: Clean Med2025
- Dr. Rob Byron: Panel CCL-Colorado: Health Risks of Extreme Heat and How to Build Resilience
- Dr. Lori Byron: National Girl Scouts’ Yellowstone Environmental
- Dr. Lori Byron: webinar, Our Children’s Trust: Webinar: Lighthiser v. Trump - A Historic Youth-Led Lawsuit
- Dr. Rob Byron: Panel, Union of Concerned Scientists.
- Dr. E. Schenk: American Medical Association
- Julia Ryder: Great Falls Nursing Students
- Lori Byron: Montana State University Environmental Health students
- Julia Ryder, BSN, MPH: MT Nurses Association
- Dr. Lori Byron: Panel, Youth Climate Summit
- Dr. Lori Byron: University of Washington Medical Students.
- Julia Ryder, BSN, MPH: Montana State University Nursing Students, Andrea Walsie’s class



Media & Communications



Podcasts

Beth Scheck has a [Nurses for Healthy Environments Podcast](#) with the Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environment, featuring the MthPHC Board of Directors in one edition.

Lori Byron on Dr. Jonathan Patz’s Podcast.

[Healthy Climate America Podcast \(Dr. Lisa Patel\)](#) featured Rob and Lori Byron.

Television

Our “Our Planet Our Health” - monthly show, Community 7, Billings

Magazines

Lori Byron AAP News: “Montana pediatricians score wins in environmental justice.”

Mountain Journal: “Byrons are Normalizing Climate in the Greater Yellowstone.”

Radio

The Wolf Radio 99.5 Billings - Lori Byron

Boise Public Radio - Lori Byron

MT Public Radio - covered our 2025 Farm Summit



Publications

Front Page, above the fold:



Climate change's hidden cost:
Mental health crisis among
Montana's farmers and ranchers
Author: Hannah Mark (Yale Intern of 2024)

Front page , above the fold!

- Billings Gazette
- Montana Standard
- Missoula Public
- Helena Indep Record



Academic Publications, 2025

Robohm, J., Shih, G., Stenger, R., (2024-2025) Climate Change Curriculum in a Network of US Family Medicine Residency Programs. *Journal of Graduate Medical Education*. Vol 16:6s. DOI: 10.4300/JGME-D-23-00850.1

Jordan, K., Polivka, B., Schenk, E., Potter, T., Huffling, K., & Castner, J. (2025). Climate adaptation and nursing. *AJN: The American Journal of Nursing*, 125(9), 46–51.

Potter, T., & Schenk, E. (2025). Planetary health and integrative nursing. **Integrative Nursing: A Whole Health Perspective**, 51.

Bhutta, Z., Dzau, V. J., Ahmet, I., Betancourt, V. G., Crooks, J., Devilbiss, E., ... Wortzel, J. (2025). A research agenda to protect human health and build resilience in the face of a changing climate. National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/28669>

Schenk, E.: National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. (2025). **A research agenda to protect human health and build resilience in the face of a changing climate**. The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/28669>

Schenk, E., Castner, J., Huffling, K., Polivka, B. J., & Potter, T. (2025). Nursing and climate mitigation: Decarbonization. *AJN: The American Journal of Nursing*, 125(4), 36–42.

Lokmic-Tomkins, Z., Schenk, E. C., Lee, J. J., & Moorley, C. (2025). Upholding planetary health through nursing leadership in a fragmented global landscape. **Journal of Advanced Nursing**.

Schenk, E. (2025). Thinking big and the WE ACT framework for environmentally sustainable critical care nursing. **Nursing in Critical Care*, 30*(2), e13247.

Schenk, E. Poster presentation, Western Institute of Nursing, April 12, 2025.

To see more publications, please see the appendix at the end of the report.

Opinion Pieces

Lori Byron

OpEd: Northwest Energy is Hurting Montanans
Helena Air
Missoulian
MT Standard
Madisonian

Dr. Robert Merchant

OpEd Billings Gazette "Preserve the
Clean Energy Tax Credits
Bozeman Daily

Karen Stears

Genetics counselor: LTE Billings Gazette

Montana Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate 2 national publications with BOD members as authors



Fueling Sickness:
The Hidden Health Costs
of Fossil Fuel Pollution

Dr. Rob Byron, and others



One Climate Event Away

ONE CLIMATE EVENT AWAY
DROUGHT



Farmers and ranchers aren't the only people affected by drought. On the Crow Indian Reservation, where Byron and her husband worked for 27 years, drought dried up a quarter of the drinking-water wells. "It was an enormous loss for the community."



Lori G. Byron, MD, MS

Board Chair, Montana Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate

Red Lodge, Montana

Sent to Yellowstone Public Radio, National Public Radio, Lee and Adams newspapers, and Bozeman Chronicle

Dr. Rob & Dr. Lori Byron in the Climate Matters Column



The column takes a closer look at how Montana's climate is changing, exploring the scientific reasons behind these shifts and what they mean for our health and the well-being of our families. The column is published throughout the state each year.

Laurel Outlook: <https://is.gd/wuesA9>

Stillwater County News: <https://is.gd/RI9WzH>

Bozeman Daily Chronicle <https://is.gd/qNNA1w>

Carbon County News: <https://is.gd/ccjtun>

Helena Air https://helenair.com/opinion/column/article_7ed46242-7e59-558a-8695-0d68f8afec59.html

Billings Gazette: <https://is.gd/K5QDBv>

MT Standard https://mtstandard.com/opinion/column/article_efc10a57-c4d2-504f-9191-58f2c2aa94de.html

Missoulian https://missoulian.com/opinion/column/article_56fa3511-7d12-5d4b-b76a-5006fcf970bd.html

Ravalli Republic: <https://is.gd/VL4Jsh>

Great Falls Gazette: <https://is.gd/3saxQz>



Climate Health Stewards & Highlights

Climate Health Stewards (CHS) is a network of health professionals committed to mitigating climate-related health risks. Their initiatives include patient education, the implementation of environmentally sustainable practices in healthcare facilities, and policy advocacy to reduce emissions and safeguard community health

The CHS base grew

- From 103 to 183
- Four events were held across MT.
- We tabled and presented at 15 conferences and events across Montana to attract more members and more stewards!

CHS advocates

- Some talked with patients,
- Some displayed lobby materials,
- Some testified at public meetings,
- Some wrote opinion pieces

Increased CHS knowledge

- 12 hr. Moodle Course created to train Montanans
- (3rd) Annual Conference
- Farm Summit
- Ride for Their Lives
- 14 webinar events,
- 2 webinars, and
- 12 live events





Programs

That Continue to Grow



Rotating Floor Banners

Our 2 sets of banners continue to move to new locations including a six-month stint at the Blackfeet Tribal Administration, where they are creating their own set using our template.



Environmental Health in a Box

Environmental Health in a Box teaches children about climate change, its health effects, and environmental responsibility through interactive lessons, books like Winston Churchill: One Bear's Battle Against Global Warming, crafts, and activities. Provided free to Boys and Girls Clubs in Montana, it aims to educate and empower youth about environmental issues and the link between the planet and their health.



EPA Air Quality Flag Program

The EPA School Flag Program helps communicate daily air quality conditions with colored flags that correspond to the EPA's Air Quality Index. The Flag Program is an easy way to generate public awareness about outdoor air conditions. On days with poor air quality levels, participating organizations can use this information to reduce exposure to air pollution and keep children safe.

We are grateful for our 2025 supporters:



CO2 FOUNDATION





Events Across Montana

- Ride for Their Lives, awareness bike ride
- Thriving Amidst Climate Chaos
- Climate Litigation Panel, Billings
- Youth Climate Summit, Livingston
- Full Ecology Session, Bozeman
- Plastics and Human Health, Billings
- Health Risk of Extreme Heat and How to Build Resilience, Webinar
- Environmental Art Contest, Billings
- Free Cycles Mental Health event, Missoula
- Stormwater Symposium, Red Lodge
- Imagination Brewery Event, Missoula
- Twila Moon: Glaciology and Climate Communication, Billings MT
- Webinar: Author Debra Hendrickson “The Air They Breath”
- Rotunda Day, Helena



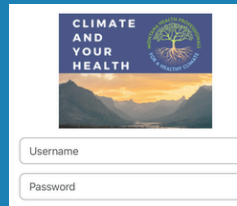
Youth Climate Summit

Montana students gathered not just to talk about solutions — but to belong. At the 2025 Montana Youth Climate Summit in Livingston, students, educators, and community leaders came together to explore climate change through art, storytelling, science, and mental health. The focus wasn't perfection or policy — it was a connection.





Training and Capacity Building



Free Moodle Course

Our own asynchronous, Montana-centric Moodle course on climate and health, with continuing education credits, was created thanks to CO2F.

montanahphc.moodlecloud.com

2025 Climate & Health in the 406

70 health professionals came together for the 3rd annual Climate and Health in the 406 Conference, the state's only conference that directly connects climate change to health. CME credits were offered for nurses and sanitarians. Held on the University of Montana Campus in Missoula, the event drew many students thanks to funding from CO2F.

2025 Farm Summit

Hosted by the Bob Quinn Institute and Villicus Farms, the event highlighted sustainable and organic farming practices that improve soil health, protect biodiversity, conserve water, and build climate resilience. Presentations emphasized regenerative organic certification, crop diversity, ancient grains, microfungi, and dryland farming techniques, alongside practical examples from C&S Produce and Villicus Farms.



Montana Health Professionals
for a Healthy Climate

Vision for 2026



We will further enhance our stewardship presence and expertise. By selecting analytic software, our goal is to identify which audiences require additional engagement and to broaden the dissemination of science-based information about extreme weather and health across diverse platforms.

The Youth Climate Summit attracted youth from across Montana and gave them a voice. Our future work will continue to include the voices of Montana’s youth and mentoring pathways that allow them to make an impact.

Administrators that operate behind the scenes will continue to shape innovative concepts that drive transformation.

2026 Annual Climate and Health Conference in Bozeman

Grow our media platform and story, inviting input from all Montanans.

Disseminate information about our Moodle Course.

Expand Environmental Health in a Box to schools

Start the Education and HEPA filter outreach program to Neonatal ICU patients and families

Mail info@montanahphc.org

Phone 406-671-5824

Website <https://www.montanahphc.org/>