



# Transforming Health Care in the Era of Climate Change: Resilience, Mitigation and Leadership Strategies

Gary Cohen

President and Founder

APRIL 3, 2006

www.time.com AOL Keyword: TIME

## SPECIAL REPORT GLOBAL WARMING

# TIME

**BE  
WORRIED.  
BE **VERY**  
WORRIED.**

Climate change isn't some vague future problem—it's already damaging the planet at an alarming pace. Here's how it affects you, your kids and their kids as well

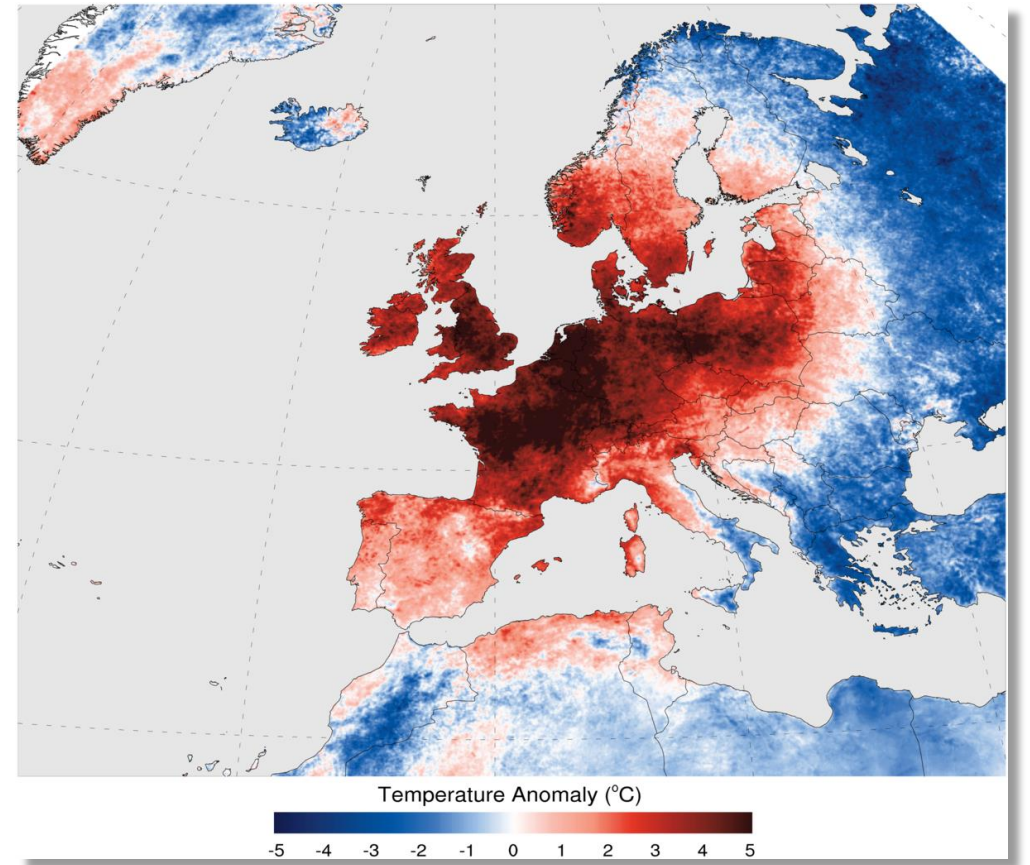
**EARTH AT THE TIPPING POINT**  
**HOW IT THREATENS YOUR HEALTH**  
**HOW CHINA & INDIA CAN HELP**  
**SAVE THE WORLD—OR DESTROY IT**  
**THE CLIMATE CRUSADERS**













BREAKING NEWS  BREAKING NEWS




6:13 48°

SANTA ROSA  
TOMORROW



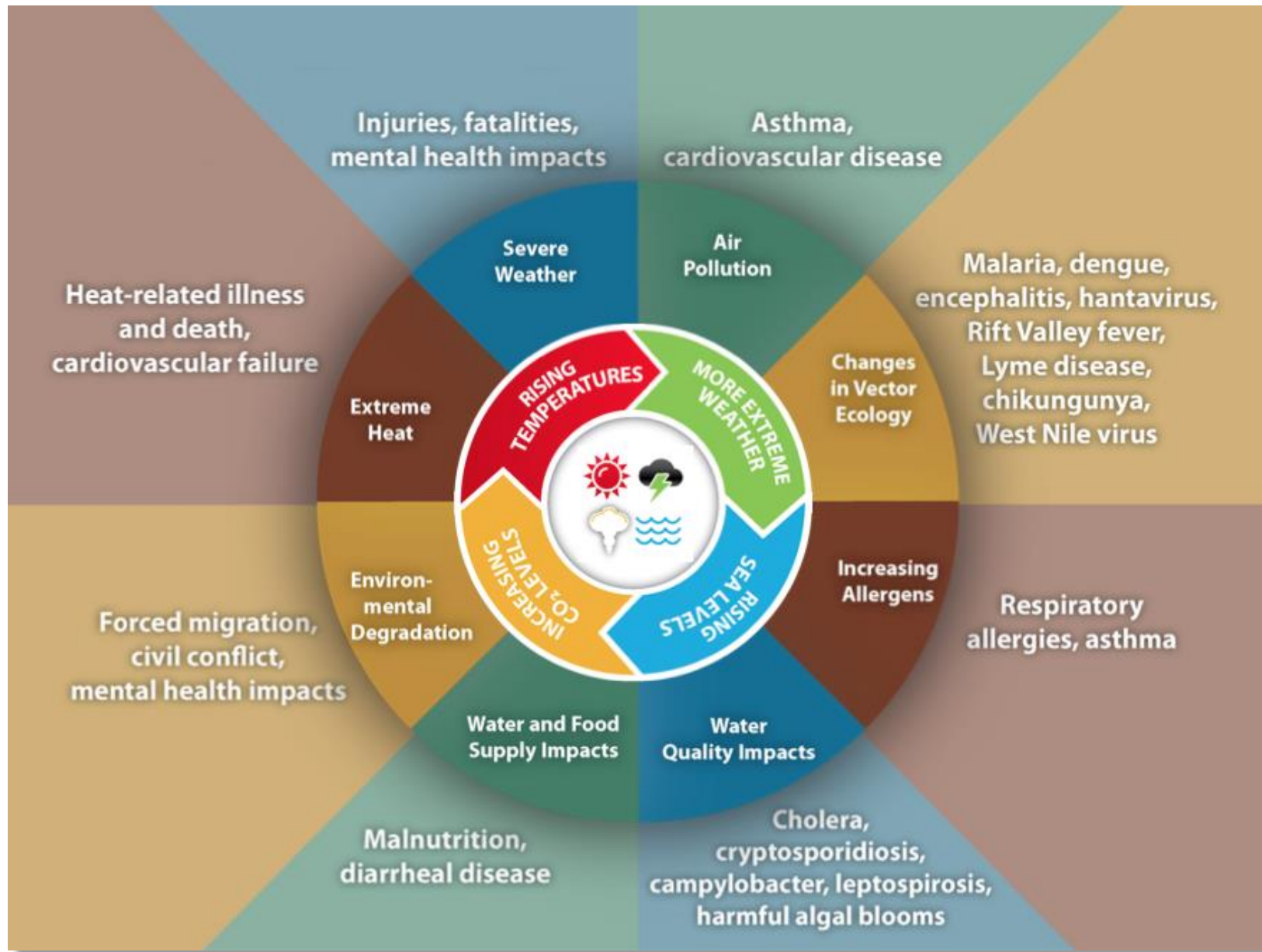
**NBC**   
BAY AREA 

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# Health Costs of Climate Change

The first scientific study to link health data to U.S. climate events found that for six cases between 2002 & 2009 the health care cost totaled **over \$14 billion dollars** (*Health Affairs*, 2011).

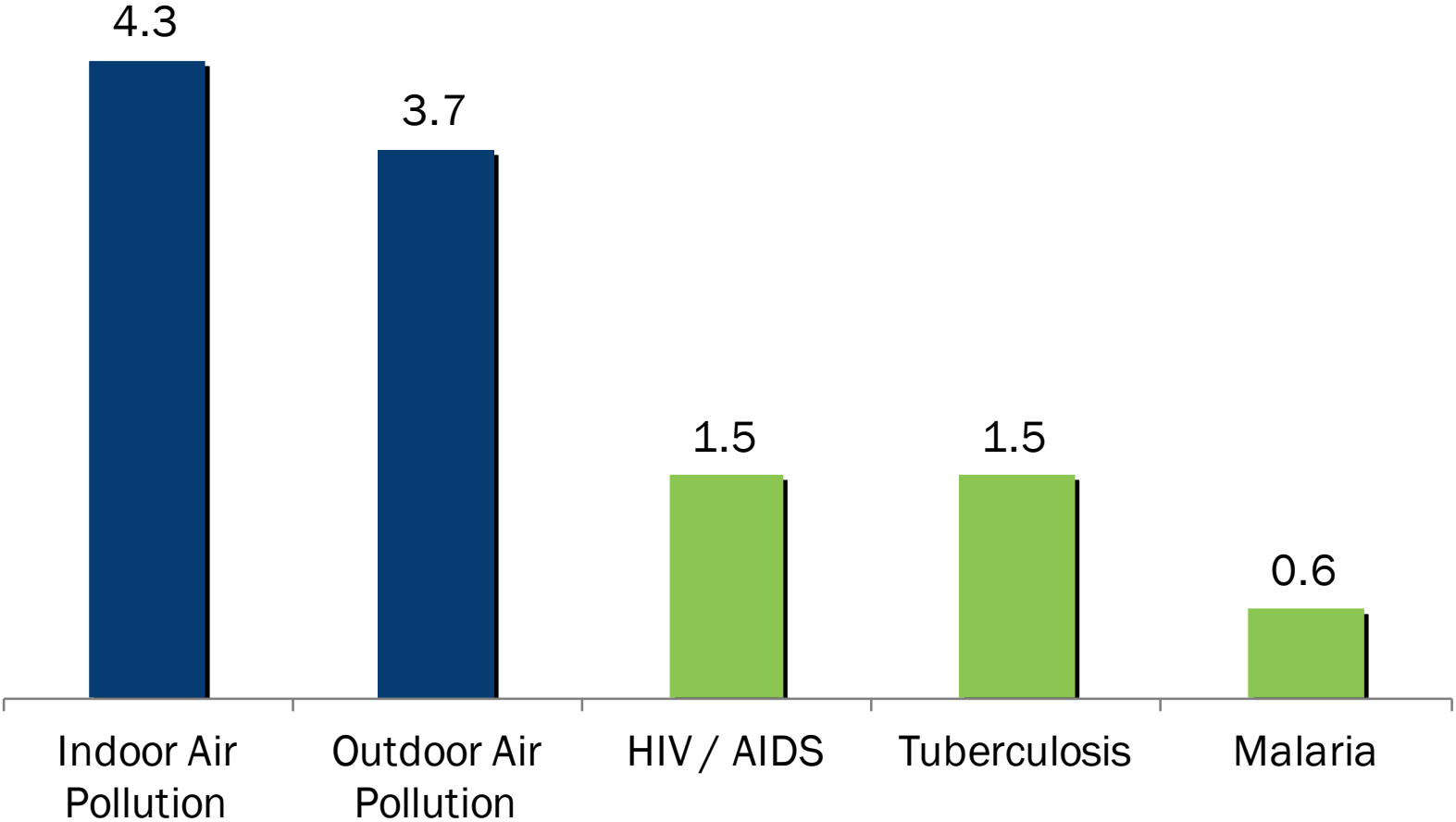
- Smog, Nationwide, 2002
- West Nile, LA 2002
- Wildfires, CA 2003
- Hurricanes, FL 2004
- Heat Wave, CA 2006
- Flooding, ND 2009

Health costs in climate change related case study areas, with costs per health effect, 2002-2009

Climate Change Related Case Study	Premature Death	Illness	Total Health Cost by Case Study
Ozone smog pollution	\$6.3 billion	\$254 million	\$6.5 billion
Heat wave	\$5.2 billion	\$179 million	\$5.3 billion
Hurricane	\$1.1 billion	\$255 million	\$1.4 billion
Wildfire	\$545 million	\$34 million	\$578 million
Mosquito-borne infectious disease	\$190 million	\$18 million	\$207 million
River flooding	\$16 million	\$5 million	\$20 million
<b>Total cost</b>	<b>\$13.3 billion</b>	<b>\$744 million</b>	<b>\$14.1 billion</b>

Source: NRDC

# Annual Global Deaths (Millions)



Source: World Health Organization 2013-2014

# Paying With Our Health

## Global fossil fuels subsidies: \$5.3 trillion

- 6.5% of global GDP
- More than health spending of all the world's governments

## More than half of these subsidies are externalities

- Health care costs for treating victims of air pollution
- Lost income from ill health and premature deaths

## Ending these subsidies would:

- Prevent 1.6 million premature deaths/year
- Significantly reduce health care costs
- Reduce CO2 emissions by 20%

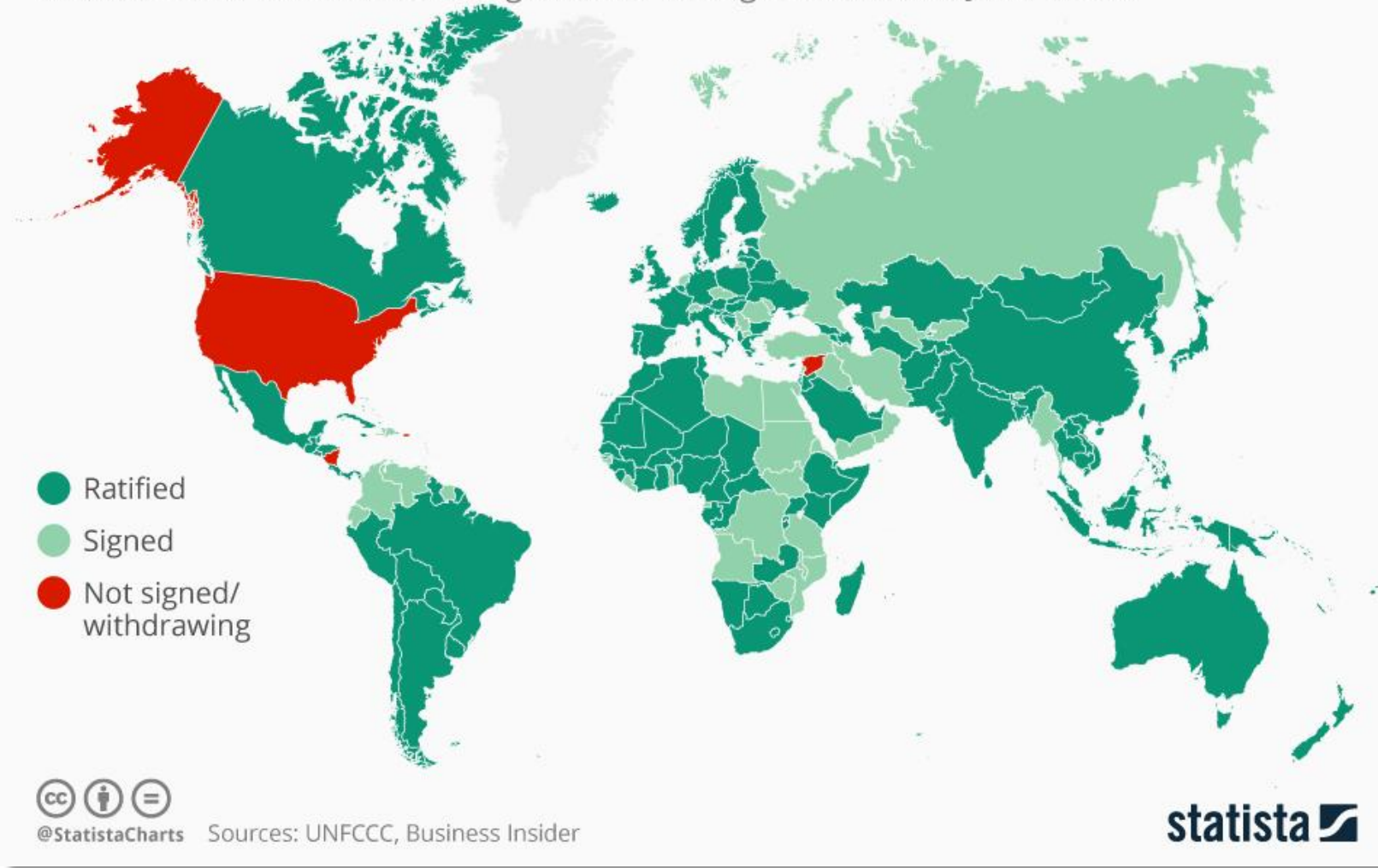


Source: International Monetary Fund 2015



# The State of the Paris Agreement

Countries that have ratified or signed the Paris agreement as of June 1, 2017





# U.S. Political Context

CLIMATE CHANGE

## President Trump Signs Executive Order Rolling Back Obama-Era Environmental Regulations

Justin Worland

Updated: Mar 28, 2017 5:03 PM ET | Originally published: Mar 27, 2017



## Trump is deleting climate change, one site at a time

The administration has taken a hatchet to climate change language across government websites. Here are several of the more egregious examples

by [Oliver Milman](#) and [Sam Morris](#)

## Trump withdraws US from Paris climate agreement

7:53 AM ET Fri, 2 June 2017

The world is reacting to President Trump's decision to pull America out of the Paris climate agreement.



What is the role of the health sector in addressing climate change?

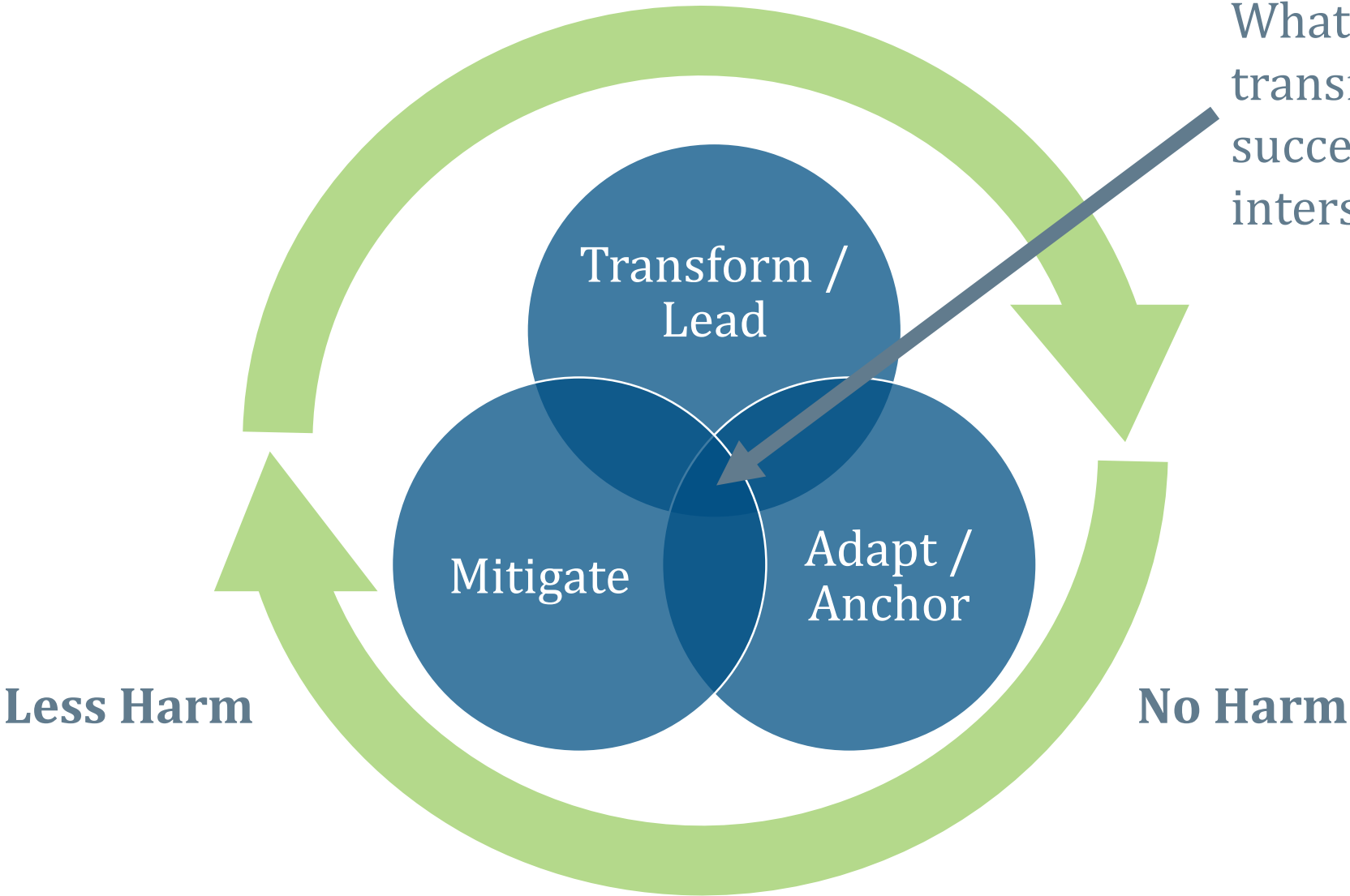
**Lancet**

**Commission** on

**Health & Climate '15**

By moving toward low-carbon health systems, health care can become more climate resilient/prepared, mitigate its own climate footprint, and provide leadership in society.

# Heal

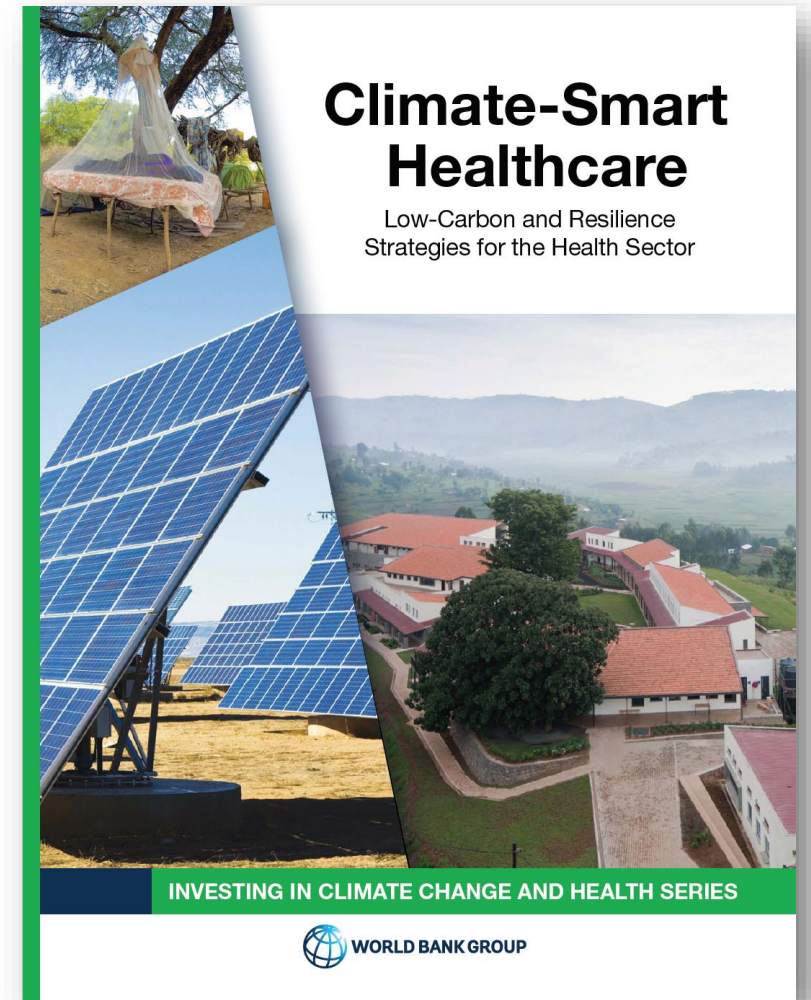


# Climate-Smart Health Care

*By reducing their emissions and becoming more resilient, health systems in every country can become leaders in contributing to both health and climate solutions.*

Josh Karliner

International Director of Program and Strategy  
Health Care Without Harm



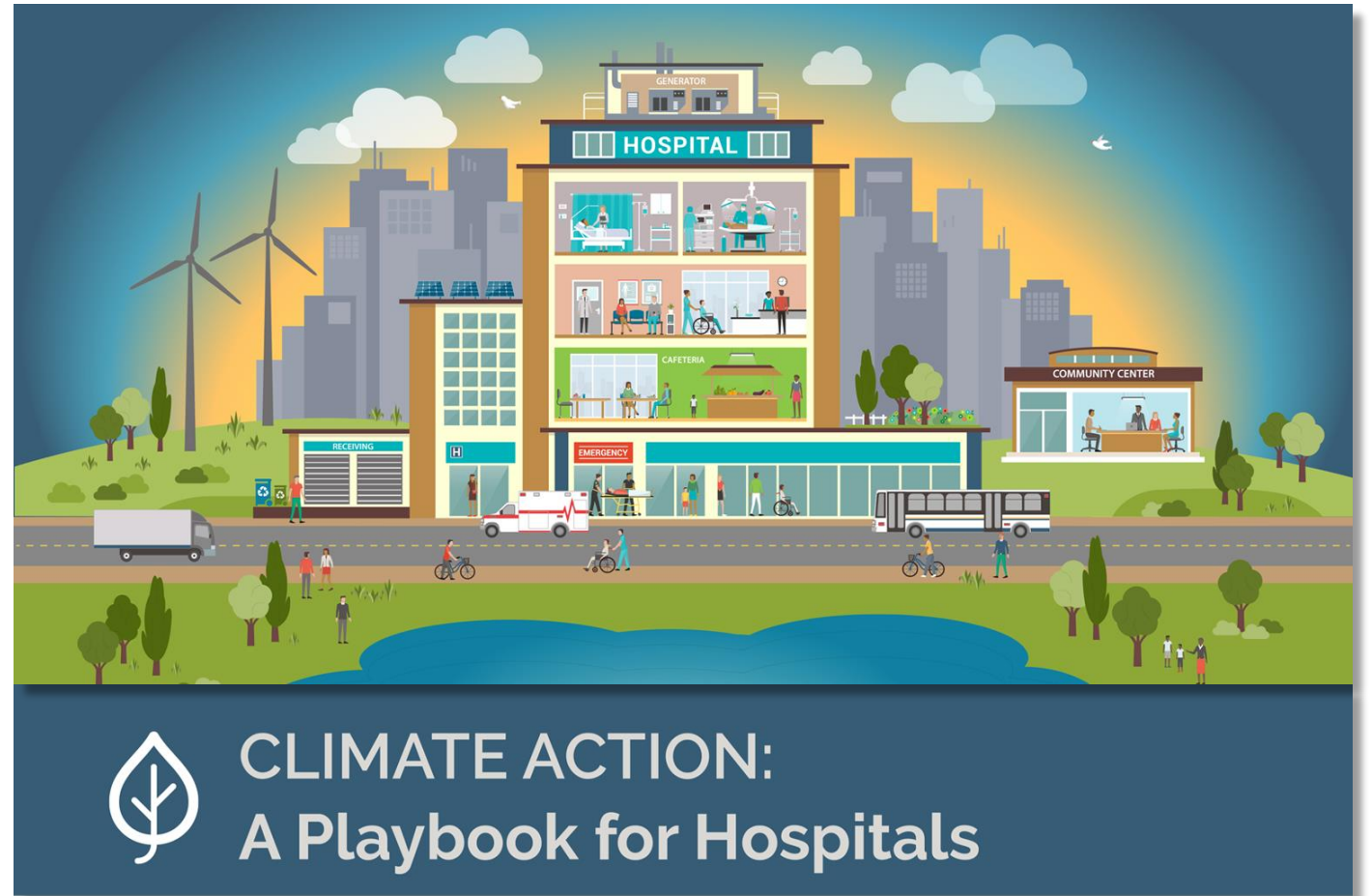
# Implementing Global Climate Smart Purchasing Standards

- Reduce toxicity of chemicals and materials in health products
- Reduce greenhouse gases in the supply chain
- Conserve resources (e.g. water in manufacturing)
- Leverage \$5 billion of annual UN system procurement
- Spread through Global Green and Healthy Hospital Network



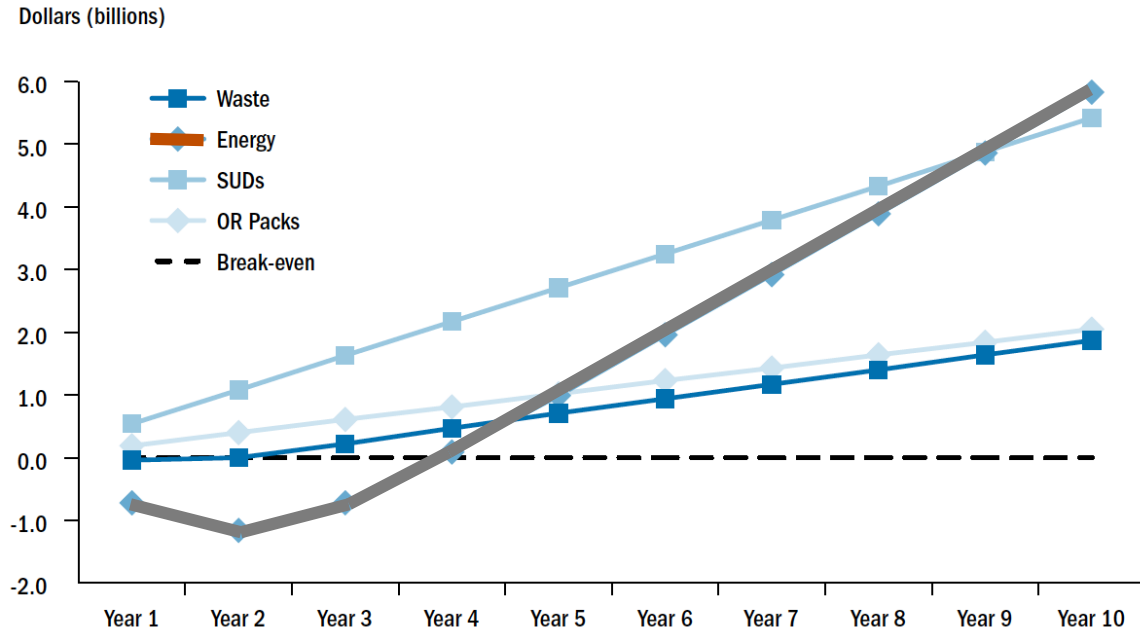


HEALTH  
CARE  
CLIMATE  
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# Bending the Cost Curve Through Sustainability Solutions

Exhibit 2. Ten-Year Savings Estimates, by Intervention



Annual savings could exceed \$5.4 billion (£3 billion) over five years, and \$15 billion (£9 billion) over 10 years

Annual Energy Savings: \$2 billion (£1 billion) by year 5, \$6 billion (£3.5 billion) by year 10.

Source: The Commonwealth Fund Issue Brief, November 2012, Can Sustainable Hospitals Help Bend the Health Care Cost Curve?  
URL: [http://www.commonwealthfund.org/~media/Files/Publications/Issue%20Brief/2012/Nov/1641\\_Kaplan\\_can\\_sustainable\\_hospitals\\_bend\\_cost\\_curve\\_ib.pdf](http://www.commonwealthfund.org/~media/Files/Publications/Issue%20Brief/2012/Nov/1641_Kaplan_can_sustainable_hospitals_bend_cost_curve_ib.pdf)





# The Medical Society Consortium



16 medical societies including:

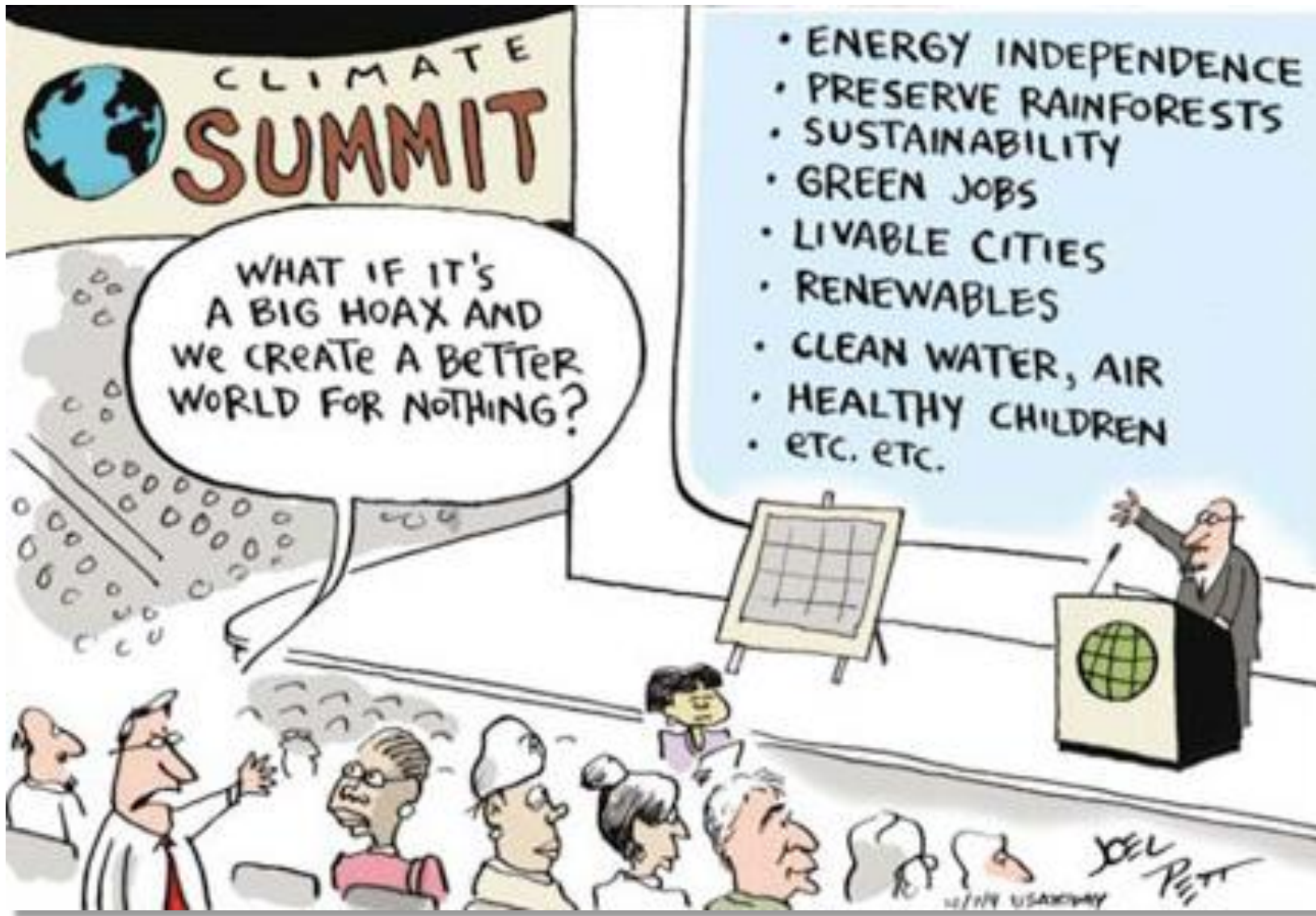
- American College of Physicians (ACP)
- American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP)
- American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)



# Climate Change: the Greatest Health Opportunity of the 21st Century– The Lancet 2015

- Transitioning away from fossil fuels to a low carbon economy
- Fuels a clean energy/green chemistry revolution that creates millions of jobs
- Reduces health impacts from fossil fuels/toxic chemicals
- Lowers health care costs
- Helps solve the climate crisis





# Right To...



**Health Care**



**Clean Environment**