

Writing Effective Letters to the Editor

Key Facts, Talking Points & Sample Media Coverage

Environmental Health & Climate Crisis

KEY FACTS

- [Communities across the country](#) are spending millions to respond to the impacts of worsening climate change.
- [Warming temperatures](#) are creating conditions that favor wildfires, including the burning of more than 4.7 million acres in the first nine months of 2020 alone.
- Nearly [1 in 3 Americans experienced](#) a weather disaster this summer.
- Climate change has [disproportionately impacted](#) lower income communities and communities of color.
- U.S. health-related costs of the current effects of ozone air pollution have been estimated at [\\$6.5 billion nationwide](#).
- [Lead pipes bring drinking water](#) to the homes of 22 million people in the U.S. today.
- Climate change was [impacting our health](#) yesterday, is today, and will tomorrow.
- [Mothers and their children](#) have been feeling the impact of climate change and this will only worsen if we don't act.
- Native land today as we know it covers around 55 million acres of land across the United States. These lands contain natural gas and oil reserves, coal, various minerals, and much more. Tribes have been facing difficulty in authority and management in some of their resources given non-tribal government involvement. Geopolitical lines are blurred and those who suffer are the tribal lands.
- For years the federal government and non-tribal individuals have Communities such as the Swinomish Tribe and Coast Salish tribes have been working together to make tools to help create a tool that looks at different indicators that can potentially impact native community health from natural resource contamination. The environmental protection agency was the first federal group to take on an official Indian policy where tribes were the primary parties for setting standards for making environmental policy decisions.

TALKING POINTS

- The effects of environmental health are pervasive as it relates to health disparities based on race, gender, national origin, or income.
- This year, especially, environmental injustices have been highlighted during the COVID-19 pandemic with clear disparities in morbidity and mortality experienced by people of color.
- The actions we take now to protect our communities will ensure the survival and health for tomorrow.

The Build Back Better [makes historic investments](#)

- to fight the climate crisis already devastating our community with the increasing frequency of forest fires and worsening severity of hurricanes hitting the south
- that will unlock the full potential of solar and help fight the climate crisis
- to create millions of new, good-paying clean energy and manufacturing jobs right here at home to fight the climate crisis
- in electric vehicle infrastructure and home energy efficiency rebates
- to fully replace lead service pipes contaminating our drinking water

RECENT RELATED MEDIA COVERAGE

Biden and Congress are so close to a grand plan for climate action and economic recovery

As the West burns, we need the Biden agenda to shore up our infrastructure, make our economy more competitive and make our society more equitable. USA Today

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2021/07/27/biden-climate-crisis-solutions-infrastructure-jobs-families/8060492002/>

Trainor and Nunez: Build Back Better offers Oregonians hope, Portland Tribune

<https://pamplinmedia.com/pt/10-opinion/523432-418293-trainor-and-nunez-build-back-better-offers-oregonians-hope>

Climate-Conscious Businesses Call for Passage of Build Back Better Act,

Public News Service

<https://www.publicnewsservice.org/2021-09-30/climate-change-air-quality/climate-conscious-businesses-call-for-passage-of-build-back-better-act/a75934-1>

Today's kids will live through three times as many climate disasters as their grandparents, study says, Washington Post

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2021/09/26/change-disasters-kids-science-study/>

Hospitals Confront Climate Change as Patients Sick From Floods and Fires Crowd ERs,

Kaiser Health News

<https://khn.org/news/article/hospitals-confront-climate-change-as-patients-sick-from-floods-and-fires-crowd-ers/>

Here are the biggest climate pieces of Democrats' spending plan, CBS News

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/climate-change-solar-wind-democrat-reconciliation-spending/>

TOOLS & RESOURCES

- **Tips for [Writing Letters-to-the-Editor](#)** - includes a sample LTE
Additional resources in the [AMSA Health Policy Action Committee Advocacy Toolkit](#)

- **Find Newspapers in Your Area**
[United States Newspaper Listing](#) - the Official Directory of U.S. Newspapers
- **AMSA Take Action** - includes tips & sample call script
[Call Congress - It's Time for Historic Investment](#)
- **Read AMSA On Call**
[Future Physicians Urge Congress to Pass a Robust Budget Package](#)
[Now is the Time to Invest in Our Nation's Future!](#)
- **Call Congress at (202) 224-3121 (switchboard)**
- **Find Your [US House Representative](#)**
- **Find Your [US Senators](#)**
- **Find [Town Halls](#) near you**

Additional Action Items:

- Read and discuss this article about [Tribal Access to clean water act of 2021](#)
- Check out this video of [Native Tribes dealing with Colorado River drought](#)
- EPA toolkit for [Assessing Allegations of Environmental Injustice](#)