



Water, Climate and Health Program: Strategic Plan

Mission:

The Water, Climate and Health Program pioneers interdisciplinary research, education and collaborative solutions to public health challenges associated with water and climate in Nebraska and around the world.

Guiding Principles:

Locally focused: Our priority is addressing health challenges related to water and climate in the State of Nebraska.

Globally Relevant: The challenges we address and solutions we forge can be widely adapted to regional, national, and global issues.

Community engagement: We will integrate science into public health practice for community solutions.

Independent and objective: We deal with complicated issues that lack easy solutions. We are evidence-based, science-focused, and nonpartisan.

Inclusive and collaborative: We strive for diversity and inclusivity in addressing these problems. We understand that partnerships that leverage resources, expertise, and relationships are the only way to deal with these complex issues.

Strive for excellence: We hold ourselves to the highest standard of scientific integrity.

Inspiring and empowering students to become leaders in water, climate and health.

Foundational Commitments:

Research: Conduct and disseminate research on public health issues related to water and climate.

Education: Train the next generation of problem solvers to research and address topics focused on health issues associated with water and climate.

Engagement: Work with stakeholders and communities on public health topics related to water and climate.

Policy: Provide scientific expertise for the development of policy to improve the health of our citizens.

Goals:

Research: Conduct and disseminate research on public health issues related to water and climate

- Be a national leader on water, climate, and health research.
- Conduct and disseminate research on public health issues related to water and climate in Nebraska and beyond
- Facilitate and cultivate scientific and community partnerships, to increase our productivity and impact.
- Strengthen and increase research capacity to address public health challenges for long-term solutions.
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Engagement: To enhance knowledge and inform change to improve water, climate and public health

- Engage with people living and working in Nebraska on public health topics related to water and climate.
- Increase access to and participation in learning experiences.
- Engage local leaders and experts to reach Nebraska's communities, particularly local public health departments, Natural Resource Districts, tribal leaders and UNL Extension.
- Increase access to climate and health curriculum and relevant learning experiences for UNMC students and faculty.
- Convene conferences and workshops to improve collaboration and engagement on topics related to water, climate, and health.
- Disseminate findings to national and international audiences at scientific meetings, workshops, and other venues.
- Facilitate partnerships and collaborations between other entities that advance our shared mission.

Policy: Facilitate policy development and advancement with the goal of improving public health.

- Provide reliable scientific information for the development of policy to policymakers, NRDs, general public and other stakeholders.
- Convene stakeholders
- Provide science-based communication for a variety of audiences

Education: Train the next generation of problem solvers to research and address topics focused on health issues associated with water and climate.

- Establish a competitive fellowship program to provide training, resources, and funding for students researching topics related to water and/or climate and health.
- Develop continuing education opportunities for working professionals.
- Facilitate career development opportunities for students.
- Create and contribute to community science within Nebraska, providing technical, research and educational expertise
- Supporting water, climate and health curriculum within NU