



2022

# ANNUAL REPORT

ALLIANCE OF NURSES FOR HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS



# MESSAGE FROM ANHE'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear friends,

As we head into our 15th year, I've been thinking a lot about what a wonderful journey we've taken together coming to this milestone - from our start with a small group of very dedicated volunteers committed to supporting healthy environments, to an organization that now has thousands of members and is an internationally recognized environmental health leader. From the beginning we have realized the power of nursing, and it is exciting to see others in the healthcare community, advocates, and elected officials now recognize our unique skills and abilities as well.

One of the things I am most proud of with ANHE is the community we have built together. When nurses find us, they often talk about how they've

found their people. They describe how special our community of nurses is and as we continue to grow, ensuring that we are a welcoming place for all nurses will continue to be a core part of who we are as an organization.

In this annual report I hope you see yourself in our many accomplishments. We couldn't do them without the time, dedication, and support of our ANHE nurses around the globe. Throughout the rest of 2023 we will be celebrating ANHE's 15th Anniversary and look forward to celebrating with you!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katie Huffling". The signature is fluid and cursive.

**KATIE HUFFLING, DNP, RN, CNM, FAAN**

*Executive Director*

# OVERVIEW OF ANHE STRUCTURE

## Forums & Committees

ANHE divides our activities into four Forums: Education, Practice, Research, and Policy/Advocacy and three Committees: Climate Change; Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion; and Food & Agriculture.

### Research

Focuses on framing and supporting an agenda for enabling nurses to solve environmental challenges through the creation of new knowledge. Provides resources, support, and mentorship for all researcher experience levels.

### Education

Offers recommendations to infuse environmental health across nursing curricula, teaching tips to engage nursing students in environmental health as part of nursing practice, and our crowning project the ANHE e-textbook.

### Policy & Advocacy

Discuss current policy issues and the role of nurses in advocating to protect public health and the environment. Rich discussions lead to actions that elevate the voice of nursing on the most pressing issues of our time.

### Practice

Offers webinars and networking to help nurses achieve “environmentally safe and healthy” practice an alignment with the nursing scope and standards of practice.

### Climate Change

Views climate change impacts from a global lens and works to incorporate elements of practice, education, research, and policy/advocacy.

### Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion

Supports organizational and programmatic activities relating to justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion. Provides a forum of ongoing reflection, dialogue, listening, and learning.

### Food & Agriculture

Focuses on how we grow/raise our food and equitably distribute healthy and safe food to all people. Provides opportunities for nurses to delve deeper into topics through webinars, discussions, and collective action.

# 2022 IN REVIEW

## 300+ NURSES

FROM ALL 50 STATES & DC  
CALLED ON EPA TO SET  
STRONG CLEAN CAR  
STANDARDS

## 24 NURSE FELLOWS

IN THE SECOND COHORT OF  
THE ENVIRONMENTAL  
HEALTH NURSE FELLOWSHIP

## 100+ ATTENDEES

AT THE THIRD NURSING  
SUMMIT ON  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

## 5 NURSES

SUPPORTED IN ATTENDING  
THE UNITED NATIONS  
CLIMATE CHANGE  
CONFERENCE (COP27)



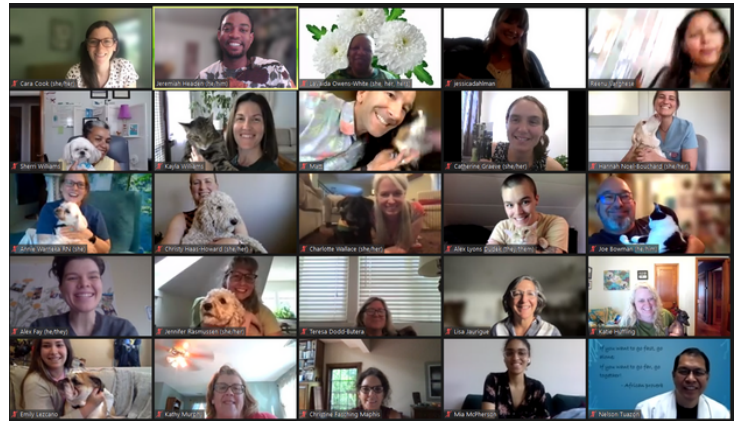
# NEW IN 2022

The Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments' continues to grow! In 2022, we welcomed Jeremiah Headen (top left), Environmental Health Nurse Fellowship Coordinator, and Melanie Schimpf (top right), California Nurse Organizer, to the ANHE team. We also welcomed three new board members - LaTiana Ridgell (bottom left), Dr. Kelly Jones (bottom center), and Dr. Aaron Salinas (bottom right). Both LaTiana and Aaron were in the first cohort of our ANHE Environmental Health Nurse Fellowship!



# ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH NURSE FELLOWSHIP

In June 2022, ANHE launched the second cohort of the Environmental Health Nursing Fellowship. This year's Fellowship is centered around four foundational principles: 1) Community Engagement via Partnership Building, 2) Health Equity + Anti-Racism, 3) Growing the Leadership of Nurses, and 4) Closing the Distance between Community and Care. We kicked off the Fellowship program with a virtual convening in June 2022. The second cohort consists of 24 nurse fellows and 8 nurse mentors. Nurse fellows partner with community-based organizations across the country to uplift community-level solutions to climate change and environmental harms. Learn more about the [mentors](#) and [fellows](#) who are participating.



## OUR COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, AND JUSTICE

Over the past few years, both organizationally and with our volunteers, ANHE has made incorporating diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice a core part of our work in achieving our mission and vision. ANHE's Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion committee has been advising and providing recommendations that advance and promote justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion within ANHE as an organization, in our programming, and in environmental health nursing as a whole.

As part of this work, the Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion committee and ANHE leadership developed and surveyed our membership to identify areas where we are doing well and where we can be doing better relating to these principles. Over 200 members took the survey. Based on survey results, in 2023, the committee will be working with the ANHE forums and committees to identify opportunities to more intentionally infuse these principles into the ANHE structure and network.

# EXPANDING ACCESS TO ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION

ANHE expanded its educational offerings to reach more nurses interested in environmental health. We released the second edition of the [Environmental Health In Nursing](#) e-textbook, an update to our award-winning open access textbook for nurses and other health professionals. The robust second edition represents the latest in environmental health nursing research, education, advocacy, and practice. We additionally released an updated [Water & Health: Opportunities for Action](#) report with expanded case studies of nurses across the country working at the intersection of water and health and key policy recommendations.

ANHE hosted the 3rd Nursing Summit on Environmental Health virtually. The theme for this year's Nursing Summit, Raising Nurses Voices: Redesigning Health for

People and the Planet, was reflected in the over 30 speakers and 15 sessions over the course of the two day event. At the Nursing Summit, ANHE awarded the inaugural Sapling Award to Dr. Aaron Salinas, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, PMHNP-BC, NRP. This award recognizes an emerging nurse leader that demonstrates an outstanding commitment to creating healthier environments for all.

We are excited to expand our educational offerings even further in the new year with the launch of an enviRN learning platform! This learning platform will house all ANHE hosted continuing education content, contain a robust search bar to organize by topics/content, and provide an updated way to obtain continuing education.



# RAISING NURSE VOICES THROUGH ADVOCACY & COLLABORATION

This year was monumental, as we saw one of the most significant pieces of climate legislation passed at the federal level. ANHE nurses worked tirelessly to advocate on behalf of health, continuing our calls for bold and ambitious climate action and strong regulations around methane pollution, lead in water, and toxic pollution in frontline communities. Nurses around the country met with key offices sharing stories from the field and their communities on how health is being impacted by climate change and environmental pollution.

ANHE nurses participated in press conferences, spoke at rallies and events in key districts, testified at US Environmental Protection Agency's public hearings, and submitted opinion pieces to local news outlets. We developed a video campaign featuring Dr. Roxana Chicas, PhD, RN and Gloria Barrera, MSN, RN, PEL-CSN and sent a letter to EPA Administrator Michael Regan, signed by over 300 nurses in all 50 states and DC, calling on EPA to move forward with the next round of cleaner car standards.

ANHE staff, nurses, and partner organizations meet with key Biden Administration officials, including Admiral Levine, Assistant Secretary for Health for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), to identify opportunities for nurses to partner with federal agencies around environmental health initiatives. Our advocacy, joined with the larger environmental movement, resulted in the historic passage of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act and advancement of EPA regulations to promote clean air, water, and a liveable climate.

ANHE continues to expand our partnerships and increase collaboration among nursing organizations so that we are prepared as a profession to address the climate crisis and other environmental concerns. In partnership with the American Lung Association, ANHE hosted quarterly calls with State Nurses Associations to promote collaboration and provide support for environmental initiatives.



# NURSES LEAD ON CLIMATE

We are seeing nursing leadership exponentially grow around climate change and health. ANHE received funding from the Mosaic Foundation to support collaboration and movement building among organizations in the environmental field. This project is supporting the Nursing Collaborative on Climate Change and Health in endeavors to increase collaboration across nursing organizations and the broader environmental health movement.

ANHE convened an advisory committee to the Nursing Collaborative on Climate Change & Health and started planning for a 2023 Leadership & Advocacy Training specifically for representatives of nursing organizations. This training is aimed at providing representatives with the tools and resources to launch climate and health initiatives within their respective organizations, building momentum among nursing on this critical issue.

2022 brought big milestones for the Nurses Climate Challenge (NCC). Due to the commitment of Nurses Climate Champions around the world, we met our goal of educating 50,000 health professionals by 2022! Further, more and more nursing faculty are taking up the helm in integrating climate and health education into nursing curricula. This is exemplified by the over 60 schools of nursing that have joined the School of Nursing Commitment through the NCC.

ANHE partnered with the Yale School of Nursing and Health Care Without Harm to develop a Planetary Health for Nurses continuing education online module. This course provides nurses with tailored information about climate change related stressors and how they impact the health of populations and communities around the world, while providing actionable steps, focused primarily on climate adaptation and resilience.



# GROWING THE NEXT GENERATION OF NURSE LEADERS

For the third year in a row, ANHE convened a Student Nurse Committee in partnership with the National Student Nurses' Association. The Student Nurse Committee provides a unique opportunity for nursing students to collaborate with their peers, explore areas of interest in environmental health, and connect with nurses across the ANHE network. This year's committee consisted of eight student members who worked on a project focused on lead and health. The committee created a series of graphics that provide information explaining the health effects of lead, an overview of the Biden-Harris Lead Pipe & Paint Plan, and practical action steps for nurses and nursing students.

ANHE awarded the inaugural ANHE Student Nurse Environment Health Leadership Award to Amelia Kirby at the closing ceremony of the National Student Nurses' Association annual convention. The purpose of the award is to recognize a nursing student who demonstrates outstanding commitment and environmental health leadership through action and advocacy. Through her involvement with the Planetary Health Alliance, Amelia helped lead an international team of nurses, nursing professors, and students to develop the nursing version of the Planetary Health Report Card.

## NURSES AT COP27

ANHE sent a delegation of nurses to the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) that was hosted in Sharm El Sheik, Egypt. While health was not as prominently incorporated into conference themes, there was a large delegation of health professionals and the largest constituency of nurses at a COP. ANHE board member Dr. Beth Schenk, participated on a panel of sustainability leaders moderated by Dr. John Balbus, Interim Director of the new Office of Climate Change and Health Equity at the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, discussing decarbonization of the global health sector.

ANHE Executive Director, Katie Huffling spoke on two panels focused on opportunities for climate action specifically in Nigeria and opportunities in the US healthcare system and current successes in promoting plant based diets across the health sector. ANHE posted daily updates to our [Instagram](#) page for nurses that weren't able to attend the conference.



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