



Making Polluters Pay for Climate Harms: Policies and Pushback

As climate-related disasters grow more frequent and costly, state and local governments are pursuing "Make Polluters Pay" strategies to hold major fossil fuel companies financially accountable for the public health costs of climate change. This policy brief explores the litigation and climate superfund laws driving these efforts, including a side-by-side comparison of the nation's first two climate superfund laws in Vermont and New York. It also examines the legal challenges and pushback these strategies face from industry, the federal government, and some states. [Read the full policy brief.](#)

Law & Policy Insights



Plug-in Solar Panels Can Expand Access to Affordable, Renewable Energy

In the face of rising energy costs and a strained electrical grid, policy-makers are eager for strategies to lower the energy burden for their constituents, including both homeowners and renters. Increasing access to plug-in (or balcony) solar by passing laws that address barriers to their use has become increasingly common in states across the U.S.

Resources



Demand Responsive Transportation to Increase Food Security

Local governments and community-based organizations seeking to improve public health through increasing access to nutritious food should consider the role of transportation policy. Demand Responsive Transit (DRT) is an alternative to public transportation that allows users to utilize smaller vans or buses without any fixed schedule or route. This resource includes case studies on DRT that could be applied in healthy food priority areas to increase access to healthy foods.

Webinar



Public Health in Pursuit of Voting Rights for All

Thursday, August 27, 2026 | 12:30 – 2:00 pm CST

Attend this webinar to hear from the Southern Poverty Law Center and Health & Democracy Partners about voting rights and public health. The Southern Poverty Law Center will unpack what the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Louisiana v. Callais* means for voting rights, the public's health, and public health. Speakers will discuss the connections between health and democracy—for individuals, communities, and the public health system—and identify ways for public health to join the voting rights movement to increase civic and voter participation.

Summit



2026 Public Health Law Virtual Summit: Law, Policy, and Public Health Data Modernization

December 8-10

Public health data modernization holds the power to transform public health and improve health for communities; and law and policy are indispensable components of this movement. Join us for a three-day virtual summit for insights and guidance on navigating an ever-shifting public health data legal landscape. Learn why law and policy are foundational to public health data modernization; hear how law and policy can support justice and community power in data and data technology, including AI and the role of law and policy in national frameworks for trusted data exchange. [Learn more and register.](#)

Announcements

Health and Equity Impact Assessments: Practical Use and Application

August 17 | 2:00 -3:00 pm CST

Health and Equity Impact Assessments are tools that can help identify unintended potential health impacts and accessibility or equity gaps in policies, practices and procedures. Join the Network's upcoming Equity Officer Peer Group (EOPG) Learning Session where EOPG Co-Chair, Lita Wills, Commissioner for the Division of Health Equity and Social Justice within the Cleveland Department of Public Health, will provide real-world examples along with insights into the benefits these assessments offer as well as the challenges they pose. If you currently work in a state, Tribal, local, or territorial government, [join the Equity Officer Peer Group](#) and receive a registration link. There is no cost to become a member or to attend peer learning sessions.

Health & Democracy Peer Group Inaugural Meeting

August 26 | 1:00 - 2:00 pm CST

The Health & Democracy Peer Group (HDPG) is a new initiative lead by the Network and Health & Democracy Partners, that is designed to bring together representatives of community-based organizations, health departments, and healthcare organizations interested in building trust in government and public health so they work for the people. The first meeting will focus on:

- Introductions
- Establishing group norms, practices, and preferences, including identifying topics members are most interested in exploring in future meetings
- Discussion of a peer example of integrating civic engagement into community health initiatives

If you currently work in a community-based organization, health department, or a healthcare organization with an interest in building trust in government and public health, [join the Health & Democracy Peer Group](#) and receive a registration link. There is no cost to join.

Worth Sharing

NALBOH 2026 Annual Conference

October 12-14, 2026, San Antonio, Texas

Boards of health play a vital role in protecting and improving community health. The National Association of Local Boards of Health (NALBOH) conference is designed to inspire and support both current and future board members by providing practical governance strategies, leadership development, and real-world examples that strengthen board effectiveness. Attendees will include new and experienced board members, community leaders interested in board service, and public health professionals who support boards of health. Sessions will aim to build governance capacity, foster meaningful board engagement, and provide actionable insights that participants can bring back to their communities.

Tell Us What You're Working On. We're Ready to Help.

REQUEST
ASSISTANCE

Network attorneys can provide consultation and guidance to:

- Identify the ways in which laws and policies may or may not impact a particular project or community; or the potential impact on different populations within a community.
- Provide examples of and compare public health laws or policy strategies from other jurisdictions.
- Analyze the legal authority to implement a policy or law, or reforms.
- Apply equity tools to laws and policies.

Thank you!

Your interest in the work of the Network is important. Together, we can advance law as a tool to improve public health. **Please forward the Network Report and encourage others to [join the Network](#)!**

The Network for Public Health Law provides information and technical assistance on issues related to public health. The legal information and assistance provided in this document does not constitute legal advice or legal representation. For legal advice, readers should consult a lawyer in their state.

