Simultaneous Solutions

Spur actions in your city that score a win for climate and children’s health

1 in 6 American kids have neuro-developmental delays — ranging from ADHD to IQ loss to autism — that can be caused by exposure to pollution, heat, and climate impacts

The U.S. gets 81% of its energy from fossil fuels, a main source of air pollution and a main cause of global warming. Air pollution can disrupt brain development in utero, with lifelong impacts.

Babies of color are 1.5x more likely to live in areas with poor air quality due to the many impacts of systemic racism.

Over the last 13 years, 90% of studies found a connection between hot temperatures and high rates of preterm birth, low birth weight, and stillbirths. Our last decade has been the warmest in ~125,000 years.

Take action in your city to improve climate and babies’ health simultaneously

Solve for climate impacts AND neurotoxic exposures by integrating actions to reduce neurotoxicants into your city’s climate, resilience, or sustainability plan

70% of the largest US cities have local climate action plans, and over 400 smaller cities do too. Few are explicit about children’s neurological health.

Implement Sustainable Purchasing

Local governments spend ~$2.5 trillion annually on procurement of goods and services. Every purchase has an impact—make it count!

Portland, Oregon focused its sustainable procurement on a small number of activities that provide the greatest return. For example, Portland now uses warm-mix asphalt that reduces fossil fuel use and VOC emissions.

Reduce Air Toxics

Air pollution and extreme heat are making it harder to have healthy pregnancies. Data from >32 million US births shows a significant connection between air pollution and adverse birth outcomes. The risk is highest for Black pregnant women.

Fayetteville, Arkansas focused on transitioning to clean energy. The city installed solar panels at the city’s two wastewater treatment plants, yielding an expected savings of $6 million—and producing no GHG or toxic air emissions.

2. https://ballotpedia.org/Climate_action_plans_in_the_50_largest_cities#:~:text=Environmental%20terms,change%20and%20promoting%20public%20health