



Health & Environment

A National Environmental Education Foundation Program

December 2009

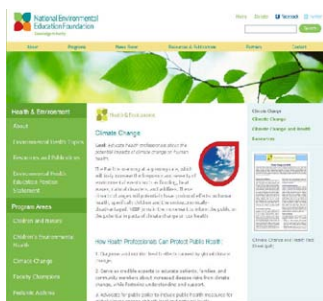
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Greetings!

Health & Environment News is a quarterly update on our activities designed to advance environmental health knowledge among health professionals. Please read on for our latest program news.

Climate Change Resources for Health Professionals



Just in time for the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, a wide range of resources for health professionals about the impacts of climate change are available on our [Climate Change Initiative's](#) Web page. This includes our new [Climate Change and Health Fact Sheet](#), which is a quick reference about the effects of global environmental change on human health.

Pediatric Asthma Initiative Trains Thousands of Health Professionals

In just three years, more than 3,200 health care professionals, medical students and residents have been trained on [environmental management of asthma](#) by our Pediatric Asthma Faculty Champions. These Faculty Champions are pediatric faculty members at five medical schools across the country who work toward integrating environmental management of pediatric asthma into medical education and practice. NEEF is expanding the [Pediatric Asthma Initiative](#) with additional Faculty Champions in new regions of the country. The training tools and resources are available both in [English](#) and [Spanish](#). The recently translated Spanish materials are being used in trainings both internationally and within the United States, including at the Children's Environmental Health Conference in Puerto Rico. Initial analysis of data collected from Faculty Champion

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Our Program

The goal of the [Health & Environment Program](#) is to advance environmental knowledge among health professionals to improve the public's health with a special emphasis on children and underserved populations. Through a variety of initiatives, we facilitate the integration of environmental health into health care provider education and practice.

Contact Us

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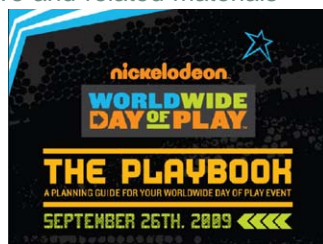
trainings over the past three years indicate that after training, pediatricians are much more knowledgeable about environmental management of asthma and also much more likely to recommend environmental intervention to their patients.

Environmental Health Track for Medical Students

George Washington University's School of Medicine has partnered with NEEF to create an environmental health track for medical students focusing on environmental influences on human health and basic toxicology. Students who choose this track attend a series of lectures on topics including taking an environmental health history and the impact of air pollution on human health. They also participate in a track-related summer internship and design, complete and report on a track-related project.

Improving Children's Health Through Nature

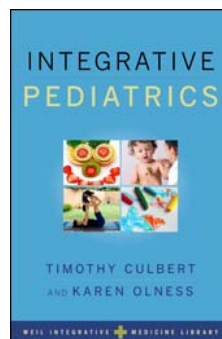
NEEF's [Children and Nature Initiative](#) educates health professionals on health benefits for children who participate in outdoor activities and connect with nature. In partnership with the [National Audubon Society](#) and the [US Fish and Wildlife Service](#), NEEF encourages pediatric health care professionals to "prescribe" nature to their patients in order to create and encourage opportunities for outdoor play in the natural environment. The initiative was presented at the [Children and Nature Network's 2009 Grassroots Gathering](#) in September. The initiative and related materials were also exhibited at the CDC's National Environmental Public Health Conference in Atlanta in October. The initiative was featured in Nickelodeon's [Playbook](#) for World Wide Day of Play. Our article titled "Building on Partnerships: Reconnecting Kids with Nature for Health Benefits" highlights our Children and Nature Initiative. It has been accepted for publication in Health Promotion Practice and the abstract is currently available on [PubMed](#).



Integrative Pediatrics Book Lists NEEF as a Resource

The [Pediatric Perspectives on Environmental Medicine](#) chapter, written by Mark D. Miller and Alice C. Brock-Utne, covers key concepts in pediatric environmental medicine, such as environmental history taking and offers NEEF's [Pediatric Environmental History Forms](#) as a tool. NEEF's other [pediatric environmental health](#)

[tools](#) are also listed as resources.



New Health & Environment Staff

Leyla Erk McCurdy, senior director of the Health & Environment Program, welcomes three new staff members. Jane Chang joined NEEF as the new program coordinator. She has her MPH from the George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services. Kate Winterbottom is our new project consultant. She has her MPH from Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. Marissa Tonelli is our intern. She is a senior at George Washington University, majoring in Public Health.

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The National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF) provides knowledge to trusted professionals who, with their credibility, amplify messages to national audiences to solve everyday environmental problems. Together, we generate lasting positive change.

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