

**American Public Health Association
Environment Section
Strategic Plan – 2004-2006
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Vision: The APHA Environmental Health Section (EHS) will serve as leaders for and directly advance environmental health research, policy and practice in the United States and internationally.

Mission: The mission of the APHA EHS is to:

- 1) Strengthen the voice of the nation's leading public health organization on environmental health issues
- 2) Facilitate collaboration and leadership development among the various disciplines of environmental health professionals and students
- 3) Influence policy and other changes that create and sustain healthy environments, with a special emphasis on children and other vulnerable populations.
- 4) Enhance research and public awareness on the prevention and treatment of disease caused or exacerbated by environmental factors

Values: The environment section is committed to these values: right to clean air and water, safe food supply, and health promoting environment; respectful collaboration among the multiple disciplines relevant to environmental health; elimination of health disparities.

Goals and objectives:

These goals are intended to be broad and perennial, with objectives that lay out some mechanisms by which the goals will be achieved. For each goal and objective, specific strategies and actions plans will be developed that specify areas and issues of concern to the section. These plans are described in a separate document entitled "Environment Section Priorities and Action Plan."

1. Influence national (and international, when opportunities arise) environmental health policy

- 1.1. On a biennial basis, identify priority issues for specific actions
- 1.2. Evaluate current APHA policy and ensure policies address priority issues
- 1.3. Develop and execute an action plan for each priority, with elements including:
 - 1.3.1. *Interaction with and mobilization of APHA staff*
 - 1.3.2. *Federal strategies with APHA staff/section volunteers*
 - 1.3.3. *State-based strategies with section volunteers*

1.3.4. *Inclusion in annual program planning*

1.3.5. *APHA communications (newsletter, website)*

2. Improve and integrate environmental health science and practice

2.1. Use this strategic plan as a guiding principle for annual program planning

2.1.1. *Reach out to academics from multiple disciplines, other outside expertise for sessions*

2.2. Conduct outreach to academia and agencies for policy work

2.3. Provide Continuing Education credits (to enhance quality of science of program sessions)

3. Convene and support communication among multiple disciplines of environmental health

3.1. Increase communication with the section, to include:

3.1.1. *Annual and Semi-annual meeting*

3.1.2. *Newsletter/website*

3.1.3. *List serve*

3.1.4. *Monthly leadership and committee call*

3.2. Perform outreach to other sections within APHA

3.2.1. *For program planning, including joint scientific sessions, pre-conference activities, and social activities.*

3.2.2. *In the policy process, solicit input from members in the development of issue-specific resolutions and participation in advocacy and other policy-related activities.*

3.3. Perform outreach from the section to other organizations

3.3.1. *Develop strategic member recruiting and retaining practices.*

4. Build and support environmental health leadership

4.1. Create training opportunities for environmental health students within the section.

4.1.1. *Student awards*

4.1.2. *Direct mentoring*

4.1.3. *Scholarships*

- 4.2. Provide a venue within the section to exercise leadership
- 4.3. Improve continuity of section leadership by systematizing orientation packets and by leader to leader mentoring