



**HOW ABOUT A CARBON TAX?
OR, A COOKIE. NO... A CARBON TAX.
AND A COOKIE!**

**THE LANCET CALLS CLIMATE CHANGE THE
"BIGGEST GLOBAL HEALTH THREAT OF THE 21ST CENTURY."**

A child born in 2013 could be facing a world 2.2 to 4.8 degrees °C warmer by the time they retire, with consequent risks of malnutrition, extreme weather, respiratory disease and conflict.

Or not.

*Every voice inspires the next. Ask for clean energy
and a healthy climate.*



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CODE GREEN: Climate Change

CLIMATE CHANGE IS THE BIGGEST GLOBAL HEALTH THREAT OF THE 21ST CENTURY (LANCET, 2009)

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KNOW THIS

Dx: We are NOT on track to meet the internationally-agreed upon target of a maximum of 2 degrees of surface warming worldwide (IPCC 2013, IEA 2013).

No more than 1/3 of proven reserves of fossil fuels can be consumed prior to 2050 if the world is to achieve the 2 °C (IEA 2012).

Climate change is a health problem:

A child born in 2013 could be facing a world 2.2 to 4.8 degrees C warmer by the time they retire (IPCC 2013) with consequent risks of food insecurity, vector-borne disease, extreme weather, respiratory disease and conflict (BMJ).

By 2030, the direct cost to health is expected to be between US\$2 and US\$4 billion per year worldwide (WHO).

Many changes that decrease greenhouse gases have health co-benefits:

- cardio-commuting decreases CV disease and obesity compared to driving
- wind/solar/hydro power have less CV and respiratory impacts than coal-powered electricity (Haines BMJ 2012)
- filling unmet contraception needs reduces population growth and improves maternal and neonatal mortality.

A low-carbon economy IS possible:

BC's carbon tax has reduced emissions while its economy has slightly outperformed the rest of Canada (Elgie, Can Pub Policy).

Research at Stanford has concluded that it is possible to convert the world's energy supplies to clean and sustainable sources within 20-40 years with today's technology at costs roughly comparable to conventional energy (Delucchi 2011).

DO THIS

Activate your MD community:

Present rounds on climate change and health to your physician group or med school THIS YEAR.

Contact CAPE for powerpoint materials/handouts if desired.

Translate the Science for Society: Advocacy is part of an MD's role (CANMEDS, CCFP, RCPSC).

Find new teammates: Framing climate change as a health issue has been shown to be the best way to motivate a population. Your job is to be the voice of health and intergenerational justice. Urban planners, economists, environmentalists, farmers, ordinary folk, and elected officials will then use their skill-sets to figure out the nuts and bolts of building bike lanes, developing carbon taxes and figuring out exactly where to put the community garden.

Your work in the back rooms is as important as your work on the front lines.

You count too:

Check your own carbon footprint.

Cardio-commute, staycation, trains>planes, wash in cold and hang to dry, divest from the fossil fuel industry.

Take stock of the physical and mental health impacts of climate change on your patients and yourself.

Replenish your energy stocks with time with friends and family, exercise, and afternoon dance parties with your kids.

CONTACT CAPE FOR FULL REFERENCES



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