



PHYSICIANS FOR
SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY
SAN FRANCISCO BAY CHAPTER

2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORT

San Francisco Bay Physicians for Social Responsibility

With your trust and investment, SF Bay PSR mobilizes healthcare professionals and advocates who tirelessly work toward policy solutions to the existential and intertwined threats of nuclear weapons, a climate crisis driven by fossil fuels, and vast and growing inequality and social injustice.

Together, our actions make a difference! THANK YOU to all of you who signed action alerts, made public comments, wrote letters, met with policymakers, volunteered time, and made generous DONATIONS!

We have been hard at work influencing policy makers by hosting educational events, giving dozens of talks and public comments/testimony, signing over 130 letters in support or opposition to legislation or regulations, mobilizing thousands of chapter members, meeting with policy makers and regulators, writing op-eds and contributing comments to major media articles, producing educational materials, and so much more.

Some highlights and selected examples include the following:

You helped us to protect communities from the many health harms of fossil fuels and advocate for policies and regulations to quickly phase out fossil fuel use and phase in all electric buildings and vehicles. In 2023, we focused mostly on these areas, and hope to expand our efforts in 2024:

- We deepened our work in allyship with environmental justice organizations to protect our communities from the health harms of the oil industry in California by supporting efforts to maintain health-protective zones around oil wells, stop new oil permits, force the industry to clean up old oil wells, prevent new pipelines and dangerous carbon capture projects, and strengthen California's referendum process to prevent Big Oil from exploiting our democracy to continue poisoning our communities.
- Our white coats were on the frontlines of the Bay Area building electrification movement, and we had a big VICTORY this year! The Bay Area Air District passed the *first-in-the-nation*, zero-emissions appliance standards for furnaces and water heaters, effectively phasing out gas appliances, phasing *in* healthier electric appliances, toward improving Bay Area air quality—saving up to 85 lives and avoiding 110 new asthma cases each year.
- We advocated with the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to request that it follow the Bay Area example and adopt state-wide, zero-appliance rules and implement indoor air quality standards.
- SF Bay PSR provided public testimony to 13 Bay Area cities for ending gas hook-up to new buildings and phasing out gas completely. Now 10 cities require all new construction to be all electric.
- In addition, our Building Electrification program created and distributed health- and equity- focused information to educate the public, policy makers, and health professionals about the benefits of electrification. We hosted an event on “Extreme Heat: The Deadliest Climate-Related Health Hazard: How can we advocate for health and equity protections?”; participated in 11 events hosted by other organizations, including electric cooking demonstrations and community center talks; and shared resources with numerous health professionals including those working with the Western States Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit and University of California, San Francisco's Environmental Research and Translation for Health program.
- We advocated with the California Energy Commission (CEC) to ensure its Equitable Building Decarbonization Program maximizes health and equity benefits for lower-income people and communities of color.
- Our members also opposed coal transport through Oakland and expansion of its polluting port, supported solar rooftops for homes, schools, hospitals, and farms, the electrification of schools and school buses, equitable EV

charging, and other proposals to protect community health from fossil fuels and create a just and equitable transition to all-electric.

You helped to support Bay Area community-led environmental justice organizations working to protect their residents who are living near toxic sites threatened by bay waters rising from global warming.

- Our ongoing partnership with **Bayview Hunters Point Community Advocates** has been deepened by our first joint government grant which will help them jump start a community-centered education site for heat-cooling pumps and induction cooktops.
- Our fiscal sponsorship of **Richmond Shoreline Alliance** continues to support their work to mobilize and educate Richmond residents about the impacts of sea level rise that will exacerbate harms of the hazardous waste from the AstraZeneca Superfund site on Richmond's southwest shoreline.
- We will also continue to support **Marin City Climate Resilience and Health Justice**, an African-American-led environmental justice organization advocating for equitable inclusion in planning and community disaster preparedness, as well as the equitable allocation of resources.

You helped to nurture our future health-activist leaders through awards, internships, mentoring, aiding curriculum development, and project micro-grants. Below are some examples!

- At our Gala, we honored four young health professionals: Herbert Castillo Valladares, MD; Alison Chang, UCSF medical student; Valerie Kahkejian, UCSF medical student; and Daniel Woolridge, MD, MPH, MS, CAPM. These young activists' outstanding achievements give us hope and uplift our entire diverse community.
- Our 2023 interns made outstanding contributions. Lilah Blalock, UCSF medical student, contributed a bookmark and high school curriculum to help educate youth about the health harms of gas stoves; and Sienna Marley, UCLA public health graduate student, worked with Western States Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit (WS PEHSU) at UCSF to complete a High School Climate Justice Curricula.
- We continued to help promote the work of our past Project Micro-Grant recipient Dr. Katie Lichter who is leading efforts to build online tools and advance models for how medical conferences can reduce their carbon footprints.
- Past SF Bay PSR Emerging Health-Activist Awardees continue to contribute to our work through presentations and other engagement with ongoing PSR projects.

You helped to counter the fossil fuel industries' well-funded influence over policy makers and the media.

- SF Bay PSR was asked to be expert witness for the proposed Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty, which California, the fifth largest global economy, recently endorsed!
- Our members published op-eds and letters to the editor, contributed to press releases and conferences, and were quoted in many news sources including the *New York Times*, *Guardian*, *Washington Post*, and *SF Chronicle*, to name a few.
- Our members advocated for SB253, SB261, and SB252 – state pension divestment from fossil fuels – which constitute the California Climate Corporate Accountability Bill Package. In 2024, SF Bay PSR's Divestment Task Force will redouble our efforts for SB 252 as it again moves through the legislature.
- In September, marches to end fossil fuels took place in 65 countries! PSR PA and the Global Climate Health Alliance led the health professional contingent in New York, and our SF Bay and Sacramento PSR members likewise led in Sacramento, California.

You helped us to support Environmental Health Committee members who work on many individual projects and continue to advocate for climate health and pollution reduction initiatives within their institutions and medical societies including University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), Stanford, Kaiser, and more.

You helped to educate the public about the intertwined threats of nuclear weapons, climate, and justice.

- SF Bay PSR continues to support the Back from the Brink Campaign, a coalition working together on a multi-year campaign to enact a set of U.S. nuclear weapons abolition policies that will make the world safer, healthier, and more just.
- A highlight of our year was members attending the Twenty-Third World Congress of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) held in Mombasa, Kenya, where IPPNW approved the *Mombasa Appeal for Peace and Prevention of Nuclear War* calling for a ceasefire in Ukraine and negotiations for a peaceful solution to a war that risks escalation to a nuclear catastrophe.
- This conference also sparked SF Bay PSR to co-produce with PSR National, *Invisible Devastation: The Global Legacy of Uranium*, a discussion on neocolonialism and racial inequity in the nuclear enterprise.
- We participated in a coalition call with staff of CA Senator Padilla in support of Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) extension to help New Mexico “downwinders” suffering the health harms caused by the Trinity test and subsequent nuclear detonations.
- SF Bay PSR has continued its outreach to organized medicine about the dangers of nuclear weapons, exemplified by the recent publication of “Let’s Heed *Oppenheimer* and End the Threat of Nuclear Weapons,” in *SF-Marin Medicine*.
- Last but not least, SF Bay PSR leaders have for decades been leaders in the Peace Caucus in affiliation with the American Public Health Association, bringing PSR’s work on eliminating nuclear weapons to the forefront of the public health community, most recently at the annual meeting in Atlanta. SF Bay PSR is now helping strengthen the outreach capacity of the Peace Caucus by incorporating it into our fiscal sponsorship program.

Together—we achieved a lot in 2023! To do all this, we need your help. Our staff and consultants ensure that you have what you need to effectively advocate, speak and write, organize and lead on our many critical issues. Your financial support will help us do more to support you.

Please [DONATE HERE](#) or at the QR code below.

Thank you!

