

How can dermatology take action against climate change?

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A commentary in the *International Journal of Dermatology* stresses the need for dermatologists to engage more meaningfully on key climate issues and to move beyond discussions of the skin-related impacts of climate change.

The authors note that they and other dermatologists are professionally charged with diagnosing, treating, researching, and mitigating the [health harms](#) from [climate change](#) but also must consider that healthcare is

among the most carbon-intensive service sectors worldwide.

They point out that significant reductions in carbon emissions are readily achieved in dermatology by increased use of telehealth services and virtual medical meetings and residency interviews. Also, dermatologists should prioritize funding for climate-health research to improve healthcare sustainability and decarbonize the profession.

"Our research, advocacy, and policies must be ambitious in scope, reaching beyond cutaneous disease to integrate the impact of climate change on social determinants of health and support resiliency and [social justice](#) invulnerable populations," the authors wrote. "We have an ethical imperative to act. The time is now for dermatologists and our medical societies to collectively rise to meet this crisis."

More information: Dermatology's call to emergency action on climate change, *International Journal of Dermatology* (2022). [DOI: 10.1111/ijd.16301](#)

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