



**For Immediate Release:** February 8, 2018

**MEDIA RELEASE: Pathways to Protecting the Climate Will Improve Your - and Your Neighbor's – Health. Ten New Case Studies Show How Leaders are “Multisolving”**

Climate Interactive released a report shedding light on initiatives worldwide that successfully reduced greenhouse gas emissions while also improving people's health and saving money. From individual doctors to large corporations to local and national governments working in multiple sectors, *Multisolving at the Intersection of Health and Climate* offers examples and advice for creating and sustaining these win-win projects and policies.

Based on an analysis of projects from around the world where health and climate goals were addressed together, the report, which was supported by a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, finds that deep, sustained, cross-sectoral collaboration between health and climate advocates is possible and can improve local health outcomes while also advancing long-term global climate goals, often with significant savings.

The case studies in the report include:

- a company in Japan that began growing vegetative "curtains" on the walls of its buildings,
- a charity organization in England that encouraged students to walk to school,
- a hospital in Malaysia that serves only vegetarian meals,
- a program in New Zealand that insulated the homes of residents at risk for health impacts from cold, drafty housing,
- and many more examples of individuals, businesses, and communities forging initiatives that improve public health or patient outcomes while also protecting the climate.

The study results suggest that a promising, yet under-utilized, strategy for increasing global climate success may lie in fostering local collaborations between those working on health and those focused on climate and clean energy. The report identifies a set of common, easily adoptable practices and approaches that were observed across the diverse examples that were studied.

**Elizabeth Sawin, Co-Director of Climate Interactive, said:**

“Some solutions to protect the climate may be hiding in plain sight, such as programs to encourage walking or cycling, bring vegetation into the city, or save money for a hospital. The joy, sense of well-being, vitality, and financial benefit that these projects can bring provide huge motivations to action, even before people think about protecting the global climate.

The biggest barrier to these projects is that they can rarely be implemented by a single actor. People taking the time to chat with a colleague in another city department or grab a coffee with the expert

across town who works in a different sector can be the magic that makes these projects take off. In that sense, reaching out and collaborating can actually be a radical step toward protecting the climate.”

**Michael Painter, senior program officer at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, said:**

“This report demonstrates that we have much to learn from other countries about smart, inclusive ways to simultaneously and explicitly address climate change and improve health at the same time. Further, many of these proactive multisolving approaches that Climate Interactive identifies also positively impact the local economy and address health equity. Now more than ever we need win-win-win solutions that address the complex intertwining challenges we all face. This multisolving thinking couldn’t come at a better time.”

CASE STUDIES OF MULTISOLVING FOR CLIMATE AND HEALTH				
	Country	Scale	Sector	Description
Ciclovia Bogotá	Colombia	City	Transport	Closes over 75 miles of roadways to cars on Sundays and holidays
Espigoladors Gleaning Movement	Spain	Community	Food, Waste	Volunteers glean, distribute through food banks, and process food into jams, sauces, and soups
Green Curtains	Japan	Business	Nature, Buildings, Food, Energy	Grows edible or decorative climbing plants on exterior of buildings
Healthy Meals for Patients and the Environment	Malaysia	Business	Food, Waste	Dialysis center serves vegetarian food and recycles all forms of waste
Healthy Streets for London	England	City	Transport	Improves air quality, reduces congestion, and makes London healthier and more attractive
Operation TLC	England	Business	Energy, Buildings	Encourages behaviors such as turning off equipment, closing doors, and allocating patient quiet time
ProAire	Mexico	City	Transport, Energy	Unites multiple organizations to reach air quality goals
Smarter Anesthetic Gases	Australia	Business	Waste	Hospitals switch to anesthetic gases that lower costs and emissions
Walk to School	England	Country	Transport	Encourages parents, teachers, and students to walk to school
Warm Up New Zealand	New Zealand	Country	Energy, Buildings	Retrofits houses to reduce cold-related illnesses, energy costs, and carbon emissions

**Background:**

**Climate Interactive** is a think-do tank that creates interactive, scientifically rigorous tools and research projects that help people see connections, play out scenarios, and find what works to address climate change and related challenges such as food, water, energy, equity, and well-being.

**Multisolving** is a strategic approach to solving the interconnected problems facing the climate and human society. By focusing on interventions that generate multiple benefits in climate change, health, equity, the economy, disaster resilience, and more, decision makers can save on costs, win over diverse

constituencies, and improve metrics in more than one sector all at once. *Multisolving at the Intersection of Health and Climate* focuses on several promising examples of multisolving for climate and health and details strategies to overcome obstacles and facilitate successful multisolving efforts.

More information on the report can be found at [www.climateinteractive.org/hci](http://www.climateinteractive.org/hci).

To arrange an interview with one of the project leads please contact:

- Elizabeth Sawin, Climate Interactive, [esawin@climateinteractive.org](mailto:esawin@climateinteractive.org), +1-802-436-1129
- Stephanie McCauley, Climate Interactive, [scmccauley@climateinteractive.org](mailto:scmccauley@climateinteractive.org), +1-828-423-0219

###