



Teaming on Public Health Issues: Public Works can Impact Rates of Chronic Diseases

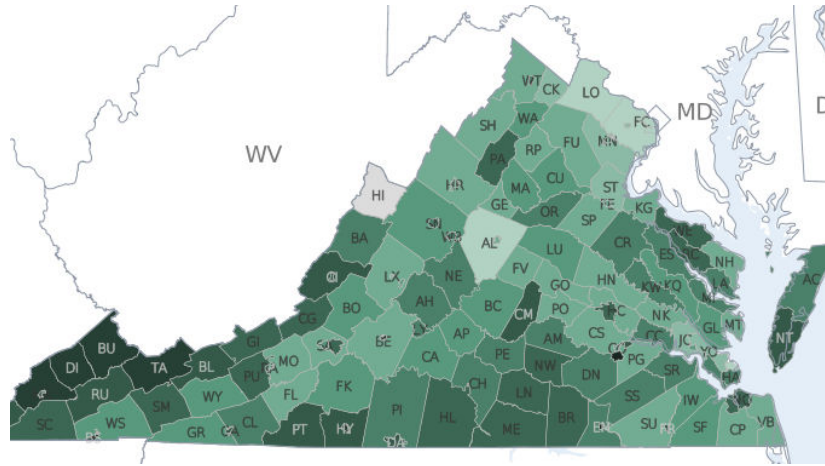
DENISE NELSON, PE, ENV SP, LEED AP

MAY 11, 2017

Agenda

- The Built Environment Impacts Health
- Promote Health Communities
 - Call to Action
 - Strategy
 - Supporters
- What It Means For Us

The Built Environment Impacts Health



The Imperative For Healthier Places

**Promote Healthy Communities
Joint Call to Action**



The Strategy

1. Build Relationships
2. Establish Health Goals
3. Implement Strategies to Improve Health
4. Share Your Expertise

The Press Release

Promote Healthy Communities

Joint Call to Action



For members of the American Institute of Architects, American Planning Association, American Public Health Association, American Society of Civil Engineers, American Society of Landscape Architects, National Recreation and Park Association, U.S. Green Building Council, and Urban Land Institute.

THE IMPERATIVE FOR HEALTHIER PLACES

When we live, work, and play has a major role in shaping our health. Rates of chronic disease attributable to the design of the built environment including obesity, diabetes, heart disease, and asthma are on the rise. The built environment also has direct and indirect impacts on mental health, including depression and anxiety. This is true for everyone, but is felt even more among vulnerable populations, who are less likely to have access to resources, affordable food and opportunities for physical activity and are more likely to be exposed to environmental pollutants and circumstances that increase stress.

Addressing ongoing health challenges and navigating complex new partnerships and collaboration between built environment and public health practitioners, and a health-focused approach to land uses, buildings, and infrastructure. As signatory organizations to the Joint Call to Action, we encourage our combined 495,000 individual members to enhance collaboration across professions to promote healthier, more equitable communities. When professionals in the fields of the built environment and public health work together, we multiply our potential to improve health.

Who, the signatory organizations, challenge our members—connecting architects, urban planners, landscape architects, engineers, engineers, and professionals from public health, parks, and green building—to do the following:

PARTNERING TO IMPLEMENT THE JOINT CALL TO ACTION

The organizations involved in the Joint Call to Action represent many, but not all, of the individual practitioners who contribute to creating healthy communities. We encourage our members to partner with members of other organizations to facilitate the creation of healthier environments and to make health a primary consideration in land use, design, and development practice.

BUILD RELATIONSHIPS: CREATE AND FOSTER PARTNERSHIPS THAT ADVANCE HEALTH

- Establish integrated project development teams that include partners from the Joint Call to Action signatory organizations to focus on health.
- Engage with community members, form coalitions, and collaborate with organizations to understand health challenges and devise strategies to address them.
- Engage with government officials at the local, regional, state, and federal levels to encourage policy makers to prioritize community health and inclusion of chronic disease through investments in the built environment.
- Seek opportunities to build relationships through events and training education sessions hosted by the signatory organizations and other professional organizations.

ESTABLISH HEALTH GOALS: ENGAGE ON UNDERSTANDING OF HEALTH DATA AND ESTABLISH MEASURABLE HEALTH OBJECTIVES FOR PLANS AND PROJECTS


- Use health evidence and community input to understand public health challenges and opportunities.
- Anticipate the short- and long-term impacts of decisions regarding the built environment on the health of residents, visitors, and the community at large by establishing required health as a primary project to plan goal.
- Establish metrics for health and well-being concurrently with other project goals and measure health impacts and outcomes after projects are completed.
- Create measures to improve health during the entire life cycle of project planning, design, construction, operation and maintenance, and programming through cross-disciplinary project teams.

IMPLEMENT STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE HEALTH: ADVANCE POLICES, PROGRAMS, AND SYSTEMS THAT PROMOTE COMMUNITY HEALTH, WELL-BEING, AND EQUITY



- Advocate for and adopt voluntary codes, policies, and practices that promote physical and mental health for people of all ages, abilities, and incomes.
- Implement planning and development solutions that improve opportunities for physical activity, access to healthy food, healthy indoor and outdoor environments, and social connections.
- Establish internal organizational policies that promote health within workplaces, including workplace safety and workplace wellness programs.
- Work with other national organizations to integrate health into certification programs and industry standards for the design and operation of buildings and communities.


SHARE EXPERTISE: COMMUNICATE THE IMPORTANCE OF HEALTH

- Share stories about successful health promotion efforts and emphasize health as part of project marketing campaigns.
- Advocate opportunities to improve health and social equity as it relates to your profession when engaging with colleagues, clients, and the public.
- Participate in and collaborate on public awareness and education campaigns to promote healthy communities, including campaigns related to sustainability and community resilience.
- Join local advisory boards and nonprofit organizations to support efforts to build or establish health promoting coalitions, including those in parks, schools, and libraries.







The Supporters



American Public Health Association

American Institute of
Architects

American Planning
Association

American Society of Civil Engineers

American Society of Landscape Architects

National Recreation
and Parks Association

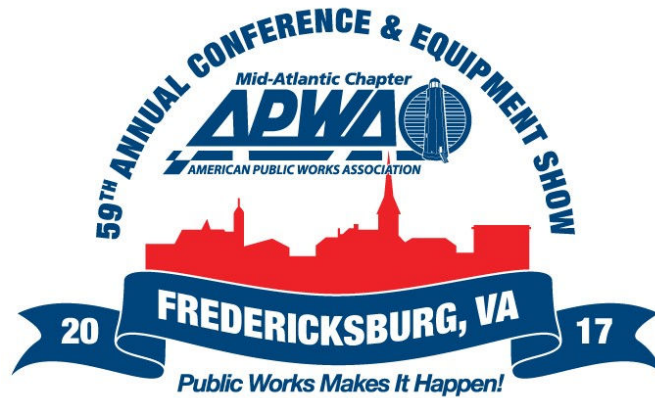
U.S. Green Building
Council

Urban Land Institute

The Supporters



What It Means For Us



Teaming on Public Health Issues: Public Works can Impact Rates of Chronic Diseases

DENISE NELSON, PE, ENV SP, LEED AP

DeniseNelson2014@gmail.com