

AN IMPACTFUL MANIFESTO:

The Executive Committee of the International Joint Policy Committee of the Societies of Epidemiology (IJPC-SE) is calling on interested parties to reflect on a Manifesto entitled “From Public to Planetary Health”, recently published in *The Lancet*. The IJPC-SE has been considering the importance of planetary health in human health as a major theme—not only for the future of epidemiology, but also for the global welfare of populations. We were therefore encouraged, as committee members representing the different societies of epidemiology, to learn about the recent Manifesto by *The Lancet*, “[From Public to Planetary Health](#)”. We believe this manifesto is timely and deserves the full endorsement of all public health professionals, both individually and organizationally.

Our planet’s deteriorating condition—resulting from the continued excessive and inappropriate use of natural resources, technology, growing global population, and from global warming—is having negative public health consequences. Many of these health effects may be subtle or indirect—such as widening disparities in socioeconomic status, higher prices for staple foods with lower agricultural productivity, melting glaciers, or the acidification of oceans—while others are more dramatic—such as extreme heat, wildfires, and frequent hurricanes. On the other hand, air pollution and smoggy megacities, or the spread of dengue fever and malaria from higher-latitude colonization of vector species (because of warming trends in regional climate patterns) are more visible effects that have a clearer, more direct link to health. The IJPC-SE Executive Committee believes that we need to take action and raise awareness about the health consequences of declining planetary health.

The Lancet launched a Planetary Health Commission and has extended its initiative with “[Planetary health: a call for papers](#)”. A Lancet–Rockefeller Foundation Commission on Planetary Health has been set up to assess the potential implications for health of multiple changes in the Earth’s “essential life support systems” with the aim of publishing its assessment in mid-2015. We bring this important initiative to attention.

(P.S.: The above statement does not necessarily represent the opinion and decision of the IJPC-SE member societies because their formal endorsement was not sought by the IJPC-SE Executive Committee.)