

First Annual Climate Summit
April 21, 2014
3:30 – 5:00 pm

**Presentation on Human Health Impacts of Climate Change by Health Instructor,
Susie Cousar**

Ms. Cousar presented about health impacts that are linked to our changing climate. Organizations like the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are reporting that asthma and respiratory allergies are on the rise. There are more molds and aerosolized marine toxins in the air. We are seeing increases in wildfires. The resultant air pollution disproportionately affects infants and the elderly. It also disproportionately affects people of low income because they tend to live in areas with more chemical contamination. Also, incidences of skin cancer are expected to result from increased sun radiation.

The good news is that health agencies are researching and developing prevention strategies and putting systems into place so that we can help each other. For example, the CDC has a Climate-Ready States & Cities Initiative that is helping city and state health departments investigate, prepare for, and respond to the health effects that climate change may bring.

Lastly, Ms. Cousar discussed solutions which include instituting a no growth economy and using the precautionary principle.

References:

- Center for the Advancement of the Steady State Economy. (2014). <http://steadystate.org/>
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2014). Climate and Health.
<http://www.cdc.gov/climateandhealth/>
Science and Environmental Health Network. (2014). Precautionary Principle.
<http://www.sehn.org/precaution.html>