

# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

**CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH NETWORK**

*Fiscal Year 2024: July 2023-December 2024*



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# CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH NETWORK

## ANNUAL REPORT

*Fiscal Year 2024: July 2023-December 2024*



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## A MESSAGE FROM NSEDU OBOT WITHERSPOON

CEHN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends and Supporters,

I hope this message finds you well and in good spirits. As we reflect on the past year, I am deeply proud to share with you the highlights of 2024 in the Children's Environmental Health Network's Annual Report.

This year has been one of growth and action, thanks to your unwavering commitment to our mission. Whether through advocacy, research, education, or collaboration, your support has empowered us to continue creating healthier, safer environments for all children. Together, we have strengthened our advocacy for child-protective policies, developed new educational tools for communities, and amplified the voices of those most vulnerable to environmental health threats.

Our work addressing the disproportionate impact of climate change on children has become even more urgent. With children bearing 88% of the global burden of climate-related disease, particularly those in underserved communities, CEHN has expanded our climate equity and global children's environmental health efforts. We've continued to advance solutions that prioritize environmental justice and equitable access to clean air, water, and safe spaces where children can thrive.

Through our Eco-Healthy Child Care® program, we've also provided critical support for early childhood care providers, ensuring that childcare environments are free from harmful toxins. Our work to drive systems change within the field of child care reflects our commitment to addressing environmental injustices that threaten children's health.

As we continue this journey, I remain deeply grateful for the passion and energy you bring to our cause. Our collective impact is evident, and together, we are building a future where every child, regardless of their zip code, can grow up in a safe and healthy environment.

Thank you for standing with us. With your continued partnership, we look forward to another year of progress and positive change.

Warm regards,

*Nsedu Obot Witherspoon*

# GOALS OF THE CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH NETWORK



To stimulate prevention-oriented research



To educate health professionals, policy makers, and community members in preventative strategies



To elevate public awareness of environmental hazards to children



To promote development of sound public health and child-focused national policy



# CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND CLIMATE JUSTICE

CEHN is a leading voice working at the intersection of climate change, children's health, and justice. Our staff provides leadership, technical assistance, speaking and writing engagements, educational materials, and digital communications to, for, and with diverse audiences, strategic partner organizations, and across all levels of government. Our expertise includes climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resilience, through the intentional double lenses of children's health and health equity.

CEHN holds leadership positions in key systems-approach collaborative efforts, both nationally and internationally, that are working to advance equitable climate solutions that also further additional social, economic, and sustainability goals to support holistic community wellbeing.



## COP 28

CEHN's Executive Director attended the 28th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28), in Egypt in November 2023, ensuring that programming included the needs of children.

## Climate Week

CEHN's Executive Director, Nsedu Obot Witherspoon, attended the 2023 Climate Week in New York and was invited to participate in the "Too Young to Fail" panel presentation at the Clinton Global Initiative in NYC on September 19, 2023. The panel was titled, "Our Changing Climate and Young Children's Healthy Development: How to Promote Climate Resiliency", and Nse was joined on the panel by Dr. Chelsea Clinton, First Partner of California-Jennifer Siebel Newsom, Peter Laugharn, CEO of the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, Mark DelMonte, President of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Arizona Mayor Kate Gallego, and Dr. Renee Boynton-Jarett, Director of Vital Village and Pediatrician at Boston Medical. While in NYC that week, Nsedu also participated in the Global Partnerships Forum Roundtable at the United Nations and served as a panel moderator at the Kaiser Permanente and World Economic Forum on Climate and Health event.

## Advisory Role

CEHN's Deputy Director, Kristie Trousedale, served on the workgroup that drafted the Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee (CHPAC) and submitted recommendations to the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on how to protect children in its agency-wide efforts around climate change adaptation, as well as specific recommendations to Office of Child Health Protection for its climate change adaptation implementation plan. Kristie is currently co-chair of the work group that is drafting recommendations to the EPA on lead and community engagement and cumulative exposures.

## America's Climate Equity Collaborative

CEHN is the co-founder and primary leader of a large systems effort, America's Climate Equity Collaborative. This multisector, robust collaboration between NGOs, government, community organizations, and the private sector launched to the public in the fall of 2022. This framework is designed to transform the way communities co-create, engage, and act on critical climate issues while disrupting disparities in environment-related health risks for children.

## Break the Cycle of Climate Change

CEHN is a founding partner and co-leader of Break the Cycle of Climate Change. This is a new mentor program among Historically Black Universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions, and Tribal Colleges, with projects that benefit communities, children, and the environment. CEHN is also leading the growth of the Global Children's Environmental Health Network. This initiative has the potential to align various individual children's environmental health-focused efforts with positive community, health, and environmental impacts across the globe. Nothing like this has been accomplished before, and CEHN is the long-standing children's environmental health-focused organization leading the administration.

CEHN's Executive Director serves as an Advisor to Break the Cycle of Children's Environmental Health Disparities in Africa programs. On July 17-18, 2024, the first Break the Cycle Africa virtual program was held.

## Global Children's Environmental Health Network

Taproot Earth was founded to create connections and power across issues, movements, and geographies. Launched in 2022, building on the legacy of the Gulf Coast Center for Law & Policy. Their approach is multi-pronged: Invest in and create paths for repair and building alternative models; divest in policies rooted in U.S. and Global North extraction, including all fossil fuels; and, transforming the systems that govern our land, energy, and water. The aim is to support a life journey where all can live, rest, and thrive. CEHN was invited to partner with Taproot Earth on their climate reparations meeting and Governance Assembly that was held in Nairobi, Kenya in August 2024. CEHN was provided travel for Executive Director to attend the preliminary meetings as part of planning in June. CEHN was also offered space and travel support for up to 10 out of 40 invited participants to hold a strategy meeting of the Global Children's Environmental Health Network.

*Scenes from Taproot Earth climate reparations meeting in Kenya*





## Collaboration Between Environment and Maternal & Child Health

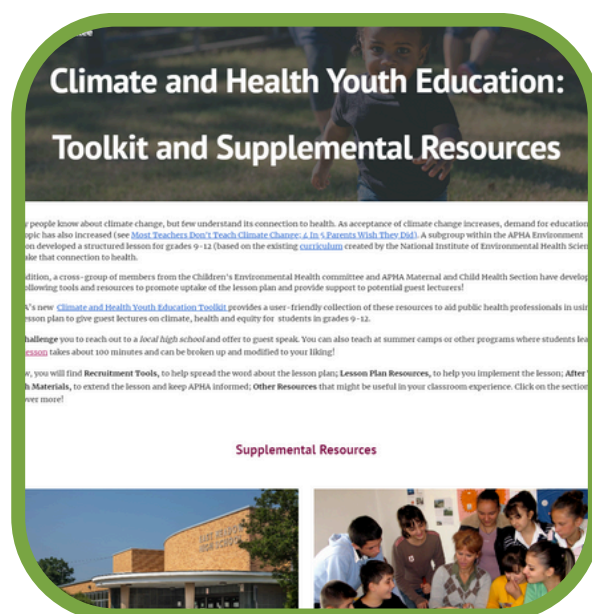
In the American Public Health Association, CEHN staff have been instrumental in organizing a cross-section workgroup focused on children's health and climate change between the Environment Section and the Maternal and Child Health Section. This work group has focused on two projects:

- Developing and disseminating resources to expand high school education around the human health impacts of climate change
- Creating and distributing action-oriented resources to educate child care and health about the topic and empower them toward climate action and advocacy.

*Read more in this article  
by Kristie Trousdale, Leyla  
McCurdy, Nsedu Obot  
Witherspoon, and Abbey Alkon.*



**Read now**



*Work Group Resource for Youth  
Climate Education*

## CHILDHOOD CANCER PREVENTION

### Cancer Free Economy Network

CEHN continued to serve as the co-lead for the Health/Science Node of the Cancer Free Economy Network, along with the Alliance for Nurses for a Healthy Environment and the Silent Spring Institute. CEHN staff are also active in Cancer Free Economy's communications and fundraising efforts, as well as their mentorship program and pesticides workgroup.

### Childhood Cancer Prevention Summits

CEHN partnered with Prep4Gold to organize the inaugural Childhood Cancer Prevention Summit in Washington, DC on October 25-26, 2023. This successful summit brought together cancer researchers, patients, families, and health advocates in a first-of-its-kind event focused on childhood cancer prevention, including a focus on environmental health hazards.

Planning is underway for the second Summit, to be held February 10-13, 2025 at Texas Children's Hospital.



*CEHN's Executive Director speaks at the 2023  
Childhood Cancer Prevention Summit*

## Childhood Cancer & the Environment Collaboration

In November 2023, CEHN began working with Western States Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit (WSPEHSU) on their Childhood Cancer & the Environment Program. This program was developed to help pediatric health care providers answer questions from parents and caregivers about environmental influences on childhood cancers, including leukemia. CEHN provides administration support to the project, as well as designing two quarterly newsletters and maintaining associated email lists, developing social media for WSPEHSU, and assisting with regular meetings of PEHSU Champions who have participated in WSPEHSU's Pediatric Oncology Clinician Education Supplement (POCES) training.



*POCES Training co-lead by Nsedu Witherspoon*

## CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH MOVEMENT



CEHN continues to lead and grow the Children's Environmental Health Movement.

Children's Environmental Health (CEH) Day anchors the Movement, serving as a day of action to advance conversations, policy, and practice devoted to protecting children's health from environmental hazards. The Movement aims to take the momentum generated by CEH Day and carry it forward throughout the year through the pursuit of purposeful goals at all levels of government and community practices. Specifically, CEHN empowers communities with tools to leverage their city and state CEH Day proclamations to achieve progress in their children's environmental health-

related campaigns and initiatives. We also encourage our many CEH Day partners to use these tools to showcase their work in environmental health, environmental justice, and climate action in terms of how it protects children. This serves as a critical reminder to these partners about the value of adopting a child-health lens throughout the year by which to evaluate their efforts.

The other important function of the CEH Movement is galvanizing and activating advocates through collective actions. CEHN launched The Patron, a monthly policy e-newsletter with a CEH lens, in June 2022. This curated, nonpartisan policy roundup provides the CEH Movement with federal policy, regulatory, and administrative landscape updates, reports on CEHN's leadership in the policy/advocacy space, and relevant calls to action. This effort continues to support strategic CEH advocacy and movement-building, especially during the critical time of increased federal investments in infrastructure, early childhood, climate, and clean energy during 2023-2024. The Patron newsletter has a higher-than-average open rate for our organization, showing keen interest in the subject from our audience.



In March 2024, CEHN launched The 365. This monthly newsletter goes out to Children's Environmental Health Day Partners, event hosts and supporters. This newsletter was created based on feedback from partners who wanted to feel more connected to the movement throughout the year, and wanted an outlet to lift up their stories, events, resources, and publications to others in our community. The newsletter also includes a Partner spotlight and recommended reading each month.



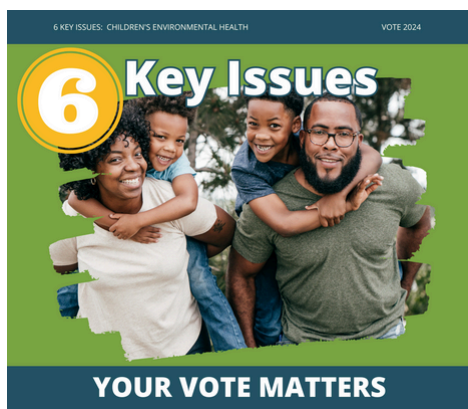
*365 Promotional material*



*Voter Guide promotional material*

## 2024 Voter Guide for Children's Environmental Health

In 2024, CEHN released an updated Voter Guide for Children's Environmental Health. This resource provides an easy guide to assessing local, state, and federal candidates on how well they keep the health of children and their environments at the center of policy-making decisions. It is now available in English, Spanish, and French. CEHN disseminated the guide through our own communications channels and with the help of trusted Partners and coalitions.



The guide focuses on **6 key issues** that keenly impact children's environmental health:

1. Everyone's right to vote.
2. Children's health and equity.
3. Climate action.
4. Clean air.
5. Clean water.
6. Toxic-free environments and products.

## The Eighth Annual Children's Environmental Health Day

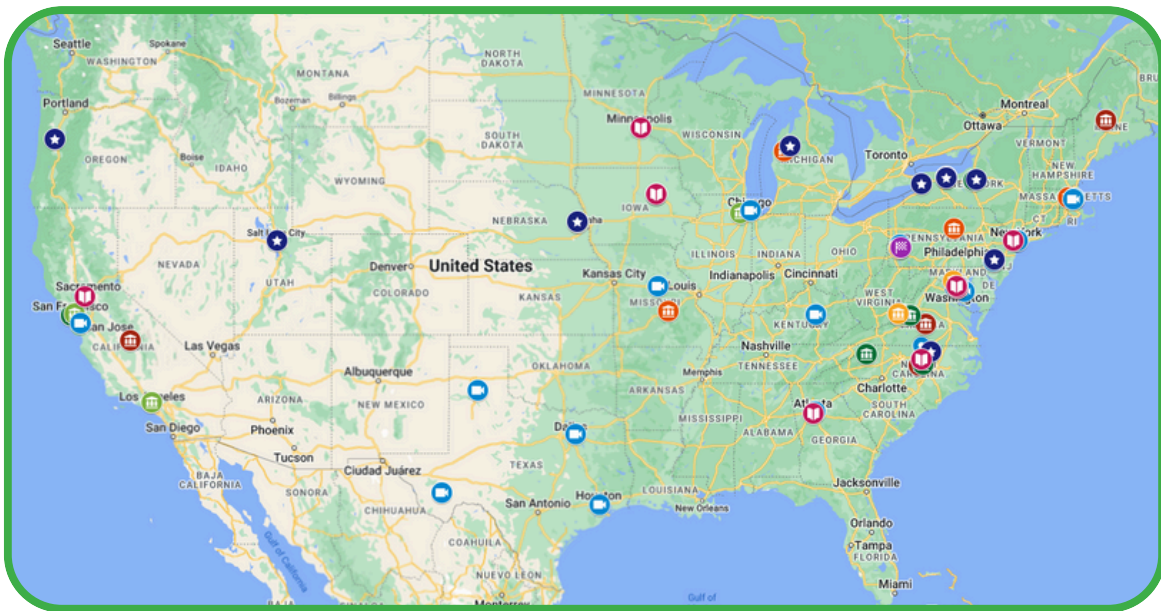
Thursday, October 12, 2023 was the 8th annual Children's Environmental Health (CEH) Day. CEH Day increases the visibility of children's' environmental health issues and empowers individuals and organizations to take action on behalf of children nationwide. We continue to see more and more of our partners making use of the platform by hosting activities and events, launching projects, releasing/announcing resources, and raising awareness on children's environmental health.



*CEH Day promotional material*

## Children's Environmental Health Day 2023 by the Numbers

- **157 official CEH Day partners**, our highest number yet, including 38 new partners
- **81 activities and events** undertaken throughout the US, Ethiopia, Bangladesh, and Japan.
- **48 organizations and individuals** RSVP'd to participate in the #CEHchat. This year we held #CEHchat across X/Twitter, Instagram, and Threads for the first time. The theme of the chat was research translation & science communication for building trust to create a healthier, safer, more equitable future for all children.
- **33 state, city, and county proclamations** were requested this year, and 18 were obtained



*Map of 2023 CEH Day Activities in the US*

## The Annual Child Health Advocate Awards

These awards honor outstanding children's environmental health leaders in Policy, Science, Community Advocacy, Business, and Arts/Media. These child health champions have devoted themselves to a vision of a cleaner, healthier environment for children. The Nsedu Obot Witherspoon (NOW) Youth Leadership Award was created as part of CEHN's 20th-anniversary celebration in 2012, in honor of Executive Director Nsedu Obot Witherspoon. This award honors a young person who has demonstrated exceptional environmental health leadership focused on protecting human health, especially of our most vulnerable populations.



## The Eighteenth Annual Awards- 2023

CEHN held a virtual discussion with the 2023 Child Health Advocate and NOW Youth Leadership Awardees on October 2, moderated by CEHN's Executive Director. This conversation with leaders in children's environmental health, equity, and climate action and justice was insightful and inspiring. Awardees shared their experiences and weighed in on ongoing challenges in the children's environmental health field.



CEHN also hosted an in-person awards celebration on Children's Environmental Health Day (October 12). The evening began with a networking and community-building focused reception with food and drink, followed by a ceremony honoring these incredible child health advocates. The celebration took place in the Washington, DC offices of long-time CEHN partners, Pew Charitable Trust.

### 2023 Child Health Advocate Awardees:

#### Policy Award

Nathaniel Smith

*Founder and Chief Equity Officer, Partnership for Southern Equity*

#### Science Award:

*Brenda Eskenazi, MA, PhD Professor Emeritus, UC Berkeley School of Public Health & Director, Center for Environmental Research and Community Health (CERCH)*

#### Arts & Media Award:

Kristina Marusic, MFA

*Award-winning journalist, Environmental Health News, and Author of New War on Cancer*

#### Community Award:

Donele Wilkins

*CEO, Green Door Initiative*

### NOW Youth Leadership Awardee:

Manu Onteeru

*Student, Dartmouth College & Founder, Project Mislead*

*2023 awardees and attendees at the in-person celebration*



## The Ninth Annual Children's Environmental Health Day

Thursday, October 10, 2024 was the 9th annual Children's Environmental Health (CEH) Day. The 2024 celebration yet again brought together new and nontraditional partners in the name of a healthier, safer, more equitable world for all children. The day of action Continued to grow, with more local, state, national, and international activities happening and partners represented.

CEHN developed and implemented creative new CEH Day visual branding and resources, ncluding a new website pages, restructured Partner info sessions, and a plug-and-play media pitch kit. CEHN also piloted Action Guides and targeted asks for Schools, Child Care, and Libraries. This included a nation-wide read-in, art contest, and eco-healthy book giveaway.

*Check out the  
reading list and  
action guides*

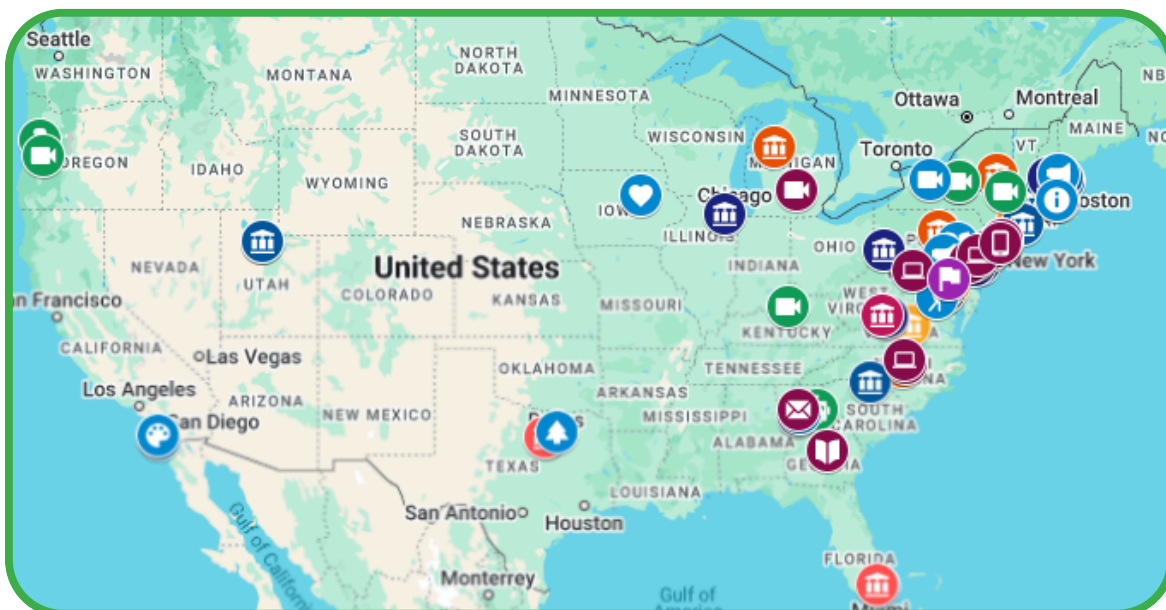
[Visit now](#)



*Art contest submission by Mandil, age 5*

## Children's Environmental Health Day 2024 by the Numbers

- **176 official CEH Day partners**, our highest number yet. 25 new partners , including some Federal agencies, sustainable businesses, and international organizations
- **90 activities and events**, Including blogs, webinars, podcasts, art shows, eco-healthy read-alongs, and even a Roblox party
- **40 organizations and individuals** RSVP'd to participate in the #CEHchat. This year we partnered with EHCC and the Climate Mental Health Network to hold #CEHchat across X/Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn. Theme: the environment, children, and youth mental health
- **36 state, city, and county proclamations** were requested this year, and 21 were obtained



*Map of 2024 CEH Day Activities in the US*

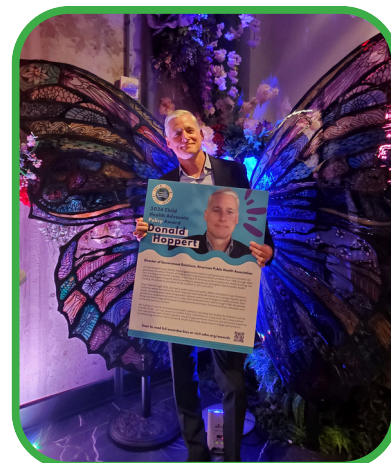


## Nineteenth Children's Environmental Health Advocate Awards- 2024

In 2024, CEHN yet again honored outstanding advocates for children's environmental health. CEHN held a virtual panel discussion with awardees on September 19, 2024. Co-moderated by CEHN's Executive Director, Nsedu Obot Witherspoon, MPH, and CEHN's Marketing, Communications, and Design Intern, Safina Theard-Lewis, the webinar offered a unique opportunity to hear from leaders who are at the forefront of the fight for a healthier, more equitable future for all children.



CEHN also celebrated awardees in person at a festive and high-energy event held in the Penthouse and rooftop terrace of La Vie in the Washington, DC Wharf. The soiree was designed to honor our celebrants while encouraging cross-pollination and collaboration within the field, especially for early-career professionals, students, and youth. The evening began with ample networking time, cocktails, and hors d'oeuvres. The subsequent award presentation and brief inspiring remarks re-energized attendees to continue their work to protect children's health and the environment. We finished the night off with dancing and a cheers to the awardees' hard work!



Scenes from the awards celebration

## 2024 Child Health Advocate Awardees:

### Science Award:

Sacoby Wilson, PhD

*Director, Community Engagement, Environmental Justice, and Health; Professor, Maryland Institute for Applied Environmental Health University of Maryland School of Public Health; Co-Director, US EPA Region III Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Center (TCTAC); Director, Mid-Atlantic Environmental Justice Fund*

### Community Award:

Ruth Santiago, JD, LLM

*Environmental health advocate and lawyer*

### Policy Award:

Donald Hoppert

*Director of Government Relation  
American Public Health Association*

### Arts & Media Award:

Mary Annaïse Heglar

*Writer, editor, teacher, and podcast host*

### Business Award

Barry A. Cik, PE, CP, BCEE, QEP, CHMM, REM

*Founder and Technical Director, Naturepedic*

## NOW Youth Leadership Awardees:

Valencia Bednar

*Student; Volunteer, Moms Clean Air Force*

Vinav Shah

*Student; Founder, AirAwareSchools;*

*Creator, Climate Crisis Card Game*



Science & Arts Awardees with CEHN's Executive Director

## NIEHS COLLABORATIVE CENTERS IN CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH RESEARCH AND TRANSLATION

In 2022, CEHN was awarded the role of leading the first National Coordinating Center (NCC) for the network of six Children's Environmental Health Research and Translation (CEHRT) Centers funded by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), part of the National Institutes of Health. These Centers are located across the United States and develop practical solutions to protect children's health, acting as resources for researchers, federal and state agencies, healthcare professionals, and community members.



CEHRT Network logo



The academic institutions awarded as CEHRT Centers during the five-year grant period include Johns Hopkins University, Oregon State University, the University of Pennsylvania, New York University, the University of Southern California, and a joint Emory University and University of Georgia team.

Researchers in each of the six CEHRT Centers work with community partners and translate key children's environmental health research findings into tools, strategies, and interventions that can be used or adapted by those working to protect children's health, such as healthcare practitioners, policymakers, child care providers, community leaders, and families. Each center also manages a pilot awards program to fund new projects in children's environmental health research and translation.

## 2023 Annual Meeting:

CEHN coordinated and hosted the CEHRT Network's 2nd Annual Meeting September 27-29, 2023. The meeting was held in Washington, DC. The first day of the meeting was spent on Capitol Hill. CEHN organized a Congressional briefing sponsored by Senator Van Hollen. CEHN's Executive Director, Nsedu Obot Witherspoon, moderated the briefing, which included presentations from CEHRT Centers at Johns Hopkins University and NYU, community partner organizations of CEHRT Centers at Emory University and Oregon State University, and Dr. Woychik, the Director of National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) and the National Toxicology Program (NTP).



*CEHRT Members at the 2023 Working meeting*

In addition to congressional staffers, key federal partners attended the briefing, including the Director of EPA's Office of Children's Health Protection (OCHP), and opportunities to collaborate, especially with regard to CEH data sharing, were highlighted.



*CEHRT Congressional Briefing*

In addition, CEHRT members visited with their congressional representatives, visiting a total of 8 offices to introduce the policymakers to the CEHRT network and offering themselves as resources for CEH expertise in their respective states. CEHRT Center Directors identified opportunities to follow-up, including scheduling a Senator's planned site visit to a center and sharing research articles on topics of interest to congressional leaders.

On September 28 and 29, CEHRT members engaged in interactive and energizing sessions with a focus on developing and deepening interpersonal relationships within the Network.



*Members of CHARTER pose in front of the Supreme Court in between Hill visits*



*CEHN staff and members of the CEHRT Network collaborate at the working meeting*

## 2024 Annual Meeting:

The CEHRT Network's 3rd Annual Meeting was hosted by the Center for Children's Health Assessment, Research Translation, and Combating Environmental Risk (CHARTER), which is housed within Emory University and University of Georgia. The event was held September 16-17, 2024 at the Emory School of Nursing in Decatur, Georgia.

This was a collaboratively-themed working meeting. The first day's sessions were based on Centers' past and current work. They included translating research to policy, translating research to health care, and translating research to non-academic audiences. The second day was spent planning to elevate the impact of collaborative work in the final years of the grant.

## Meetings and Presentations:

CEHN is raising the profile of the CEHRT network within the field of public health. CEHN organized a CEHRT session for the American Public Health Association's (APHA) 2023 conference in Atlanta with the Emory/UGA CEHRT team and the UPenn CEHRT team. We also organized a session for the NIEHS Partnerships in Environmental Public Health on Feb 21, 2024 with the USC CEHRT team, the Emory/UGA team, and the UPenn team. Both sessions were very well received.



*CEHRT Centers awarded staff and community members with "Unsung Heroes" awards during the meeting*



*CEHRT members participate in discussions on translating research at the 2024 meeting*



# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT & MENTORSHIP

## Children's Environmental Health and Healthy Housing fellowship



*Deliverable from 2023 Fellow Jade Chan*

In 2023, CEHN hosted the second year of our joint Fellowship for Children's Environmental Health and Healthy Housing. This program was created and run in partnership with the National Center for Healthy Housing (NCHH) as a collaborative effort in honor of our 30th anniversaries and shared values. This paid summer fellowship program gives candidates with an interest in environmental health an opportunity to intern with two national organizations leading the fight for healthier environments.

Fellows contribute to or lead one or more projects related to healthy housing and children's environmental health. They also have ample opportunity to network with and receive mentorship from executive directors of both organizations. Fellows gain valuable insight into the role of national

nonprofits in the fields of environmental health and healthy housing, and contribute to concrete deliverables that both organizations can put into action.

This fellowship is set to resume and expand in Summer 2025 after taking a hiatus in 2024.

### CEHN Internships

CEHN was excited to host several talented and passionate cohorts of interns in the past year and a half. CEHN's work was enriched by:

- Communications, Marketing, and Design Interns
- Carol Strobel Policy & Health Education Interns
- Eco-Healthy Child Care® Interns
- Children's Environmental health Research and Translation (CEHRT) Interns
- General CEHN Interns

These students help design outreach tools, launch initiatives, build community, increase organizational capacity, and plan key events.



**Bottom, left:** Fall 2024 CEHRT Intern Axumawit dances at the 2024 Awards celebration;

**Bottom, right:** Spring 2024 Carol Strobel Policy & Health Education (Policy) Intern Hasini with her supervisor, CEHN Deputy Director, Kristie Trousdale, at the 2024 Awards celebration;

**Above, top:** Fall 2024 Marketing, Communications, and Design Intern Safina Theard-Lewis with CEHN staff at the 2024 CEHRT Meeting

**Above, bottom:** Fall 2023 Policy Intern Krishna with his supervisor, Kristie, and members of the CEHRT Network on their way to a Hill visit





## CEHN Volunteers

CEHN is fortunate that a cadre of passionate volunteers helps support our work. Our volunteers are most often students and young professionals, who are excited to get involved with a cause they care about. They assist with events, social media and blog creation, partner outreach, and other tasks that help expand CEHN staff capacity.

We appreciate our volunteers- thanks for all your help!

*CEHN volunteer Maria after helping at the 2024 Child Health Advocate Awards*



## ECO-HEALTHY CHILD CARE®

### Eco-Healthy Child Care® (EHCC) by the Numbers

- **42 States** with EHCC endorsements (June 2024)
- **606 facilities** endorsed June 2023-December 2024
- **73,366 children** protected by EHCC endorsements June 2023-December 2024

### Protecting Children from Lead Exposures in Family & Center-Based Child Care Environments

EHCC and its partner, the National Center for Healthy Housing have continued collaborative efforts, with funding from The JPB Foundation, to help child care professionals identify and prevent childhood exposure to lead and other environmental hazards. EHCC in continued partnership with the Council for Professional Recognition (CPR)-- a leader in the credentialing of early childhood educators --worked to align eco-healthy best practices with their credential.

CPR also launched a new webpage on children's environmental health that features EHCC resources. Working with the National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Early Care and Education, EHCC helped update guidelines for cleaning, sanitizing, disinfecting and indoor air quality best practices that are now part of national child care health and safety standards.

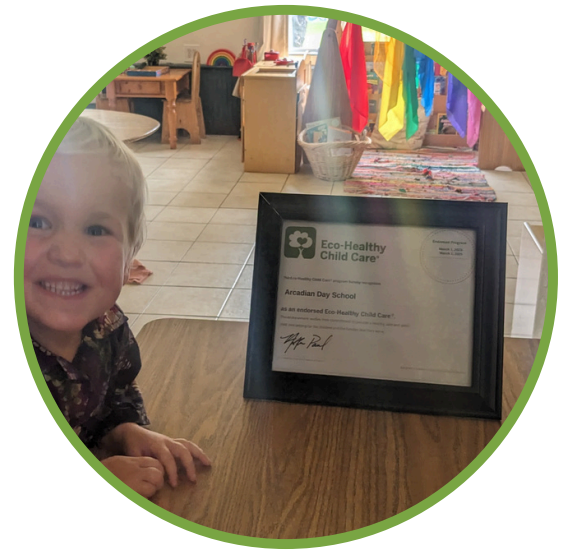


*EHCC endorsed providers and the kids they care for, top to bottom::  
ASP Early Childhood Academy Springdale, Play and Learn PreK, 10 Acre  
Wood Preschool*



The second Getting Ahead of Lead Network was launched targeting state leaders within the National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC). NAFCC, which brings together diverse family child care providers, is committed to protecting children's health from environmental hazards. NAFCC also added a Lead Resource Webpage to assist in the distribution of lead information from the Lead Toolkit to their members.

Lastly, to better understand what child are providers know about lead, EHCC added questions to the NAFCC conference survey. This will help the team understand the providers' knowledge and guide future outreach efforts.



*A Child at an Endorsed Facility*

## Exchange Press Magazine

EHCC formed a new partnership with Exchange Press and Nature Explore. Exchange Press is an online magazine that highlights the work of early childhood education and care professionals by sharing innovative ideas, practices, research, and strategies from inspiring practitioners. Nature Explore is a national nonprofit program of the Dimensions Educational Research Foundation that collaborates with organizations across the country. Through this partnership three blogs were released sharing information about environmental health in a child care setting, information about potential lead exposure in lead and water and introducing the Lead Safe Toolkit. The final blog features a child care professional's experience using resources to determine if there is lead in soil or drinking water at their child care facility. Through this blog EHCC will be able to share our Lead Toolkit to a readership of over 20,000 subscribers.

*Blog 1:  
Protecting Children's Play  
with the Lead Safe Toolkit*

[Read now](#)

*Blog 2:  
Lead Testing in an  
Outdoor Classroom*

[Read now](#)

*Blog 3:  
Evaluating Lead-Exposure in  
Paint and Water*

[Read now](#)



*Children at Little Blossoms  
Child Care with their  
provider's EHCC endorsement  
certificate*

## Eco-Healthy Child Care® Leadership

CEHN staff members chair the EHCC National Advisory Committee (NAC). Since 2008, the EHCC NAC has ensured the growth and rapid adoption of the EHCC program. Leaders of both state and national child care agencies and national children's environmental health organizations comprise this committee. Committee members advise effective strategies for embedding children's environmental health best practices and policies throughout the child care system. The NAC committee also reviews materials to ensure appropriate content, supports outreach to child care professionals, and ensures that the program is culturally sensitive.

## Child Care Aware

EHCC staff were invited to join the advisory body for Child Care Aware of America's new National Advisory Council on Health. The initial meeting occurred on May 22, 2024, in Arlington, Virginia, where plans for working together on healthy child care initiatives began.



## The Administration of Children and Families/Office of Head Start

EHCC staff presented information to Khari Gavin, the Director of Head Start, on Eco-Healthy Child Care®. In order to best engage dialogue a demonstration project concept was developed. EHCC staff recommended training Head Start and Early Head Start Regional Managers about identifying potential exposures to environmental hazards. Next, child care facilities should be assessed for environmental hazards. Then, directors could help conduct indoor air quality monitoring. Lastly, the Administration of Children and Families could provide mini-grants to help child care facilities to remediate environmental hazards.

## Online Curriculum

EHCC's Protecting Children's Environmental Health e-learning course launched in April of 2017 and is offered through ProSolutions Training and Emory's School of Nursing. The course explains how children are exposed to harmful chemicals, why this matters, and offers practical, affordable best practices to reduce these hazards. It is recommended for providers, parents/caregivers, school administrators, and child care licensing professionals. All states award three professional development credit hours for completing the course.



Working with Emory's School of Nursing, EHCC also offers the e-course to nurses and other health professionals to increase their environmental health knowledge. Participants can earn continuing education credits through Emory's platform. The course is available in English and Spanish from both ProSolutions Training and Emory.

State health departments in New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island and Tennessee have purchased the

Children and EHCC endorsed providers at The Baby Village



course in bulk to increase environmental health training for child care professionals. The National Center for Healthy Housing, Kids and Company, and Bright Horizons Family Solutions have also bought the course in bulk, or otherwise encouraged providers in their network to take the course.

## Growing Up Healthy

Working with the Helen Walton Children's Enrichment Center, EHCC fulfilled an EPA Region 6 grant by providing education and technical support on environmental health and indoor air quality to forty child care facilities in northwest Arkansas. This grant focused on children from low-income Black and brown communities. The Growing Up Healthy initiative expanded EHCC's reach in the child care and environmental health field. EHCC held webinars to improve indoor air quality and teach safer cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting practices at these facilities. In addition, every facility took part in EHCC's Protecting Children's Environmental e-course to build their environmental health knowledge. The final grant report for was released and approved in July 2024.



*EHCC endorsed provider  
Arcadian Day School*

## Minnesota Child Care Licensing

EHCC is working with its long-time partner National Association for Regulatory Administration to update Minnesota's child care licensing standards with environmental health best practices. EHCC developed and proposed more than thirty environmental health best practices covering topics such as pesticides, indoor air quality, ventilation, cleaning/sanitizing/disinfecting, lead, art



supplies, plastics, safe siting, mercury, and radon. Minnesota is now reviewing these environmental health guidelines with an anticipated release in 2026. Updating state child care licensing offers a chance to reach more home- and center-based child care providers with eco-healthy practices and policies. Unfortunately, many of the suggested environmental health standards were removed. Child care provider advocacy groups pushed back, arguing that these standards would be too expensive and burdensome. On the plus side, Minnesota regulators are now more aware of protective practices. In addition, these standards can guide future work by EHCC and NARA in other states if needed.

## Virtual Technical Assistance for Eco-Healthy Endorsed Child Care Providers

EHCC continues to offer a virtual technical assistance (TA) program for child care facilities that have our endorsement. Each session is a 45-minute Zoom call with an EHCC staff member, where providers receive resources, sample policies and best practice tips on environmental health. This virtual TA program helps EHCC reach more providers and gather valuable feedback on our endorsement process.

## EHCC Partner Page Created

EHCC created a web page that shows how our partners' work to create safer, eco-healthy child care settings. The page explains how partners help providers adopt eco-healthy best practices by offering training, sharing resources, and assisting with endorsements. Featured partners include: All Our Kin, Helen R. Walton Children's Enrichment Center, National Association for Family Child Care, National Association for Regulatory Administration, National Center for Healthy Housing, National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education, University of Maryland, and Women for a Healthy Environment.

## Improving EHCC Provider Outreach & Engagement

Between July 2023 and December 2024 EHCC awarded 606 endorsements to family and center-based child care providers. These providers used EHCC's best practices checklist to reduce environmental hazards like lead in water and unsafe plastics, creating healthier early learning environments for the children. The Provider Spotlight Series highlights endorsed child care programs that have exceeded the Eco-Healthy Child Care® Checklist suggestions. Each Spotlight is shared on social media and the EHCC webpage. The Eco-Healthy blog is published monthly and features the latest environmental health news and science, plus updates on how EHCC and CEHN protect children's health locally, statewide, and nationally. It is available in English and Spanish.

*Check out the Provider Spotlight Series on our website!*

Visit now



*EHCC endorsed provider Pinwheel Day Care and the kids cared for there*

## Esperanza College

After a successful partnership with Pennsylvania based Women for a Healthy Environment (WHE) and Esperanza College earlier in 2024, our collaboration continued. EHCC staff guest lectured in five college classes for early child care students. Our goal is to build knowledge among early child care providers and professors and include environmental health topics in early childhood education coursework.

## State Quality Rating Improvement Systems

In partnership with EHCC, Maryland, Utah, and Pennsylvania are taking action to help providers protect children from environmental hazards in their facilities. In Maryland, the EXCELS program recognizes the EHCC endorsement as one of four key environmental health certifications. In Utah's Child Care Quality System, providers earn 2 points for becoming EHCC-endorsed. In Pennsylvania's Keystone STARS program, providers can earn a bonus point by using the EHCC e-learning course and best practices to improve their facility's environmental health.



## Texas White Paper Approved

The Texas Groundwater Protection Committee officially approved the white paper “Children’s Health and Groundwater Quality at Child Care Operations Using Private Water Wells.” This paper offers several suggestions for how the Health and Human Services Child Care Regulations group and the Texas Department of State Health Services can fill regulatory gaps and take steps to protect infants and young children from groundwater contamination in child care settings.

[Read now](#)



*Children at an EHCC Endorsed Facility*

## EHCC Webinars, presentations, and conferences

Sharing information about environmental health in child care is key to EHCC’s mission of making early learning environments safer and healthier for ALL children. EHCC has presented at the below conferences:

- Strengthening Partnerships for Healthy, Climate Resilient and Thriving Communities  
*August 2023*
- University of Maryland Environmental Justice Symposium  
*September 2023*
- Maryland Public Health Association-Children’s Environmental Health Day  
*September 2023*
- Division of Environmental Health Epidemiology at the Pennsylvania Department of Health-  
Environmental Health in Schools and Child Care Facilities  
*October 2023*
- Council for Professional  
Recognition Annual Conference-  
Keynote Session  
*October 2023*
- National Association for Family  
Child Care  
*July 2024*
- Partnership for Southern Equity  
Conference  
*October 2024*
- American Public Health Association  
*November 2024*
- National Association for the  
Education of Young Children  
*November 2024*
- All Our Kin Conference  
*November 2024*



*EHCC Program manager, Jessica Price, presents on safer art supplies*

## AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL FOR ALL COALITION

CEHN, GreenLatinos, and The Wilderness Society continue to co-lead the America the Beautiful for All Coalition (ATB4A). ATB4A reflects the diversity of America and centers the voices of people of color working to conserve 30% of lands, waters, and oceans, by 2030. This coalition will continue to motivate urgent action by the Biden administration and other decision-makers in support of the coalition's twin goals of conserving at least 30% of land, water, and ocean by 2030 and implementing a Justice40 metric for the America the Beautiful Initiative to ensure at least 40% of investments are made in communities of color and frontline communities. It is essential that the most marginalized communities, that have historically seen little to no investment in conservation and equitable access to nature, take priority. CEHN specifically brings public health, vulnerable populations, and is part of the justice aim of this work.



*Members of the America the Beautiful for All Coalition*

### Webinars

In January 2024, the coalition hosted a webinar discussion on the 2023 policy agenda, focusing on both the progress made and setbacks encountered. Guest speaker, Stephenne Harding, Senior Director for Lands at White House Council on Environmental Quality, provided valuable insights into how decision-makers in Congress and the Administration have performed in advancing our shared 2023 policy priorities.

In February 2024, The National Congress of American Indians Foundation and the America the Beautiful for All Coalition recently hosted an important webinar. Esteemed Tribal Leaders and thought partners shared their insights and experiences on the progress and potential for growth in co-management and co-stewardship of lands and waters. Greg Masten, Priority, Projects, and Campaigns Workgroup Co-Lead and President of the National Congress of American Indians Foundation, facilitated an open dialogue with Tribal Leaders. The discussion covered co-management and co-stewardship, implications for Tribal sovereignty, specific co-management projects, lessons learned, and their connection to the 30x30 conservation goals of the America the Beautiful initiative. The webinar was particularly aimed at members and leaders of Tribal Nations, foundations, non-profit organizations, affinity groups, policy officials, and interested community members, and around 200 online participants were in attendance.



## 2024 Policy Agenda

The America the Beautiful for All Coalition (ATB4All) released its 2024 Policy Agenda, which includes priorities such as freshwater and ocean conservation, protection of public lands, development of urban parks, and wildlife protections. A notable highlight is the allocation of over \$141 million in America the Beautiful Challenge Grants, with a significant portion benefiting Tribal communities, emphasizing the coalition's commitment to Indigenous conservation efforts.

The agenda encompasses a broad range of policy priorities, including:

- Freshwater Protection: Enhancing the quality and quantity of freshwater resources to safeguard ecosystems and human health.
- Ocean Conservation: Protecting marine habitats such as salt marshes, seagrass beds, mangroves, and coral reefs, which are vital for coastal community resilience.
- Public Lands: Ensuring that public lands are protected and managed to enhance climate resilience and reflect the diversity of American communities.
- Urban Parks and Greenspaces: Promoting the development and maintenance of urban green spaces to improve public health, equity, and environmental quality.
- Wildlife Protections: Addressing the threats to North American wildlife from habitat loss, human activity, and climate change through strategic conservation efforts.

The agenda also calls for the creation of a National Biodiversity Strategy and the protection of environmental laws like the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). By integrating public health, justice, and conservation, the coalition aims to address biodiversity loss, climate change, and environmental justice comprehensively. The 2024 Policy Agenda envisions a sustainable and equitable future, ensuring that all communities, especially those historically excluded, benefit from conservation investments and policies.



*2024 Policy Agenda snapshot*

## D.C. Community Fly-in

On March 19th - 21, 2024 the America the Beautiful for All Coalition hosted its second annual DC Fly-in with around 110 attendees from multiple organizations. The conference commenced with an opening celebration reception at District Winery, featuring a welcome address from the co-chairs, Nsedu Obot Witherspoon, Executive Director of the Children's Environmental Health Network, and Mark Magaña, Founding President and CEO of GreenLatinos. Attendees also received insights from senior leaders of the White House Council on Environmental Quality,

including Matt Lee Ashley, Stephenne Harding, & Sara Gonzales-Rothi, regarding progress and future aspirations for initiatives like 30x30 and Justice40. Additionally, Raimundo Espinoza, Founder and CEO of Conservación Consciencia, shed light on significant developments in Puerto Rico, providing deeper contextual understanding for the 2024 Fall Conference in San Juan.



*Coalition members at fly-in*

Other highlights included a presentation by Will Fadely and Neil Kornze of Cassidy and Associates, delving into the political landscape in the upcoming election year and its implications for collective efforts. Attendees engaged in a video highlighting the history of D.C. and received opening remarks from National Park Service (NPS) Director Chuck Sams, emphasizing the importance of conveying the nation's story through NPS interpretation and staffing. Workgroups, new supporters, and coalition leaders convened with decision-makers to advocate for issues concerning land, water, ocean, and wildlife.

A panel led by Dr. Tracy Farrell and Swati Hingorani from the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) provided insights into 30x30, justice, and the convention on biological diversity in an international context, framing the coalition's work. Chair Brenda Mallory addressed the audience, highlighting the conservation successes of the Biden Administration, emphasizing the connection between public health and nature access for communities, and advocating for the protection of water resources, wetlands, and drinking water supplies in the face of climate change.



*Nsedu Witherspoon speaking at the fly-in*



*Chair Brenda Mallory speaking at the fly-in*



Breakout sessions explored the use of conservation as a tool for justice, and additional meetings with decision-makers were held. Representative Gabe Vasquez (NM-2), Nathaniel Smith, Founder and CEO of Partnership for Southern Equity, & Pat Gonzales Rogers, Yale School of Environmental Justice, participated in a panel discussion, stressing the importance of community input in shaping the largest environmental investment in history.

The Center for American Progress released a “Day in the Life of a Conservation Advocate” video highlighting Tess Hostetter, originally from the Village of Igiugig in the Bristol Bay region of Alaska, during the ATB4All March 2024 D.C. Community Fly-in to advocate on behalf of protecting these D-1 public lands.



## Workgroups

In April 2024, the Urban Parks and Green Space workgroup met with local partners in Chicago to hear from leaders in the community working to advance urban greening and discuss policy and non-policy solutions for greening. The group immersed themselves in the amazing work that Chicago is leading by seeing firsthand the progress being made in Chicago to close the nature gap.

In May 2024, ATB4All Freshwater Workgroup Co-leads, Martin Castro and Usman Mahmood presented at River Rally, hosted by River Network in Grand Rapids Michigan with hundreds of clean water advocates from around the nation.

In June, leaders of the Ocean Workgroup took part in and helped lead the Upwell Conference. This event prioritizes the experiences and voices of historically marginalized communities in ocean conservation discussions.



*Workgroup members in action!*

From October 1-3, 2024 ATB4All held its inaugural conference, *New Era, New Leaders: 5 Years to 30x30*, in San Juan, Puerto Rico. This gathering brought together diverse voices to address the urgent challenge of nature loss, which disproportionately impacts communities of color and frontline communities. With only five years left to achieve the 30x30 conservation goal, the conference aimed to forge an ethical and inclusive path forward, ensuring that the conservation movement truly reflects the diverse communities across America. More than 175 participants attended from Alaska, U.S. territories, Puerto Rico, Texas, and beyond.



*Scenes from the Conference*

The conference featured inspiring panel discussions, such as "Grounding in Place & Culture," where Puerto Rican-based conservation organizations emphasized the importance of representation from a U.S. territory perspective, and "Tribal Sovereignty and Self-Determination," highlighting Indigenous-led conservation initiatives. Vu Le brought a humorous perspective to the nonprofit sector's struggles, while "Shifting the Movement" explored tools for values-driven conservation in the face of challenging power dynamics. Breakout sessions included topics like equity-centered biodiversity conservation planning, legal empowerment of communities, equity in private land conservation, and effective conservation in ocean and coastal stewardship.

Participants also engaged in community speed talks during breakfast, where they shared efforts toward achieving the 30x30 and Justice40 goals. On the second day, Chair Brenda Mallory delivered a keynote address on the Biden Administration's progress, followed by a session on the importance of social and environmental health in conservation, moderated by CEHN Executive Director Nsedu Witherspoon. The conference concluded with discussions on Project 2025, election scenario planning, and a powerful storytelling panel on building authentic coalition power. Attendees also had the opportunity to explore Puerto Rico's natural wonders with excursions to El Yunque National Forest, Old San Juan, and the mangroves.



# NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK

CEHN continues to be heavily involved in the National Environmental Network (NEN). The NEN was created to embrace the multitude of strategies that are being deployed in the environmental movement at this moment, build synergies where they exist; identify and discuss conflict when they occur; and to accelerate our collective learning and lived experiences, so we can all rise to address the poly-crisis together. The relationships and trust that we build can help accelerate all our collective efforts to leave the world in a better place than when we started. We, as leaders, are confronted with the need to create more change at a faster rate than our predecessors and elders accomplished over the past 60 years. NEN provides a unique community-wide conversation that is rare and should be celebrated.



*Participants at the 2024 Working Meeting watch the sun set.*

The CEHN Executive Director and staff have been active in the steering committee- leaders of the NEN, which includes members from the “big green” environmental organizations as well as community-based environmental justice and faith-based organizations. CEHN has also been a paid contractor to organize NEN Annual Working Meetings, coordinate monthly virtual meetings, assist with funding applications, and cultivate Network infrastructure.



*Attendees at the 2024 Working Meeting*

CEHN continues to lead and facilitate the relationship-building and strengthening among the organizations, especially the need to address and reckon with past trauma to marginalized people and to build trust so that we can advance our common values and goals for urgent environmental and public health, and justice and liberation.

## Virtual Meetings

At the 2024 Annual Meeting, attendees agreed to begin monthly virtual meetings. CEHN has spearheaded the administration and facilitation of these meetings. Especially during times of change, these gatherings have remained safe spaces for movement building, resource sharing, and support for environmental leaders. Meetings have featured “boots-on-the-ground” speakers, like regenerative farmers in western North Carolina after Hurricane Helene, as well as high level talks from environmental leaders, and constructive open dialogue. Throughout the meetings, facilitators are intentionally weaving in healing, solidarity and grounding elements.

## MERCURY & DENTAL AMALGAM

CEHN joined partners from the National Medical Association, the Alliance of Nurses for a Health Environment, and the Coalition for Mercury Free Dentistry in a meeting with health equity leaders in the HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, EPA, and the White House Council on Environmental Quality at HHS headquarters on January 29, 2024. In addition, CEHN presented, along with the National Medical Association, about dental amalgam, at the February 15, 2024 meeting of the President's Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children.

In August 2024, CEHN, WE Act for Environmental Justice, and partners organized a convening--The Environmental Injustice of Mercury: Challenges & Opportunities for Addressing Mercury in Cosmetics and Dental Amalgam. CEHN helped organize the agenda on dental amalgam use across government agencies, disproportionate exposure to children of color and children in families with lower-incomes, and recommendations for phasing out use. While there are state bans on consumer products with mercury it remains a struggle at a federal level to enforce, especially while dental use is unregulated. The main audience of the gathering were federal offices. Outcomes of the meeting include a report to be released, coalition building, and targeted action items.

## PROTECTING CHILDREN THROUGH POLICY

Throughout the year, CEHN staff worked to promote strong policies in support of children's environmental health on issues such as climate change, environmental justice, clean air, and clean water – all central to CEHN's mission to protect children. In addition to these focus areas, CEHN continued to support the Biden Administration and the federal agencies and programs that protect children's health.

Several policy highlights of the year include the coordination of a Capitol Hill briefing and visits on the Collaborative Centers in Children's Environmental Health Research and Translation, participation in climate week events in New York, release of the America the Beautiful for All national policy agenda, and a big victory for public health advocates: the passing of a final rule on stronger more health protective national ambient air quality standards for particulate matter (NAAQS, PM).

As we approached the November 2024 election, CEHN continued to offer the voter guide as a resource on how to put the health of children and their environments at the center of the upcoming election. It is now available in English, Spanish, and French. This resource was advertised to help advocates assess candidates at the federal, state, and local levels.



*CEHRT Representatives on the way to give a Hill Briefing*



## Policy by the Numbers

- over 50 **sign-on letters**
  - Up to 20 in support of appropriations and funding for federal agencies and programs including CDC in general, CDC National Center for Environmental Health and ATSDR including environmental public tracking; HHS Office of Climate and Health; EPA and indoor air quality and schools, public health infrastructure, and Office of Children's Health Protection; and NIH and NIEHS programs including children's research centers and the Superfund research program
  - Over 15 on clean air and climate change such as oil and gas emissions, zero emissions in transit and charging stations, cleaner (electric) buses and cars, and limiting heavy trucks emissions, indoor air quality and schools, mercury and air toxics, ozone and particulate matter, and strong national ambient air quality standard
  - More than 12 related to clean water including drinking water protections, opposition to the dirty water rule, standards for PFAs, the lead and copper rule, and lead service line replacement
  - Numerous miscellaneous sign-ons on issues of national significance e.g., protection of public health infrastructure, addressing the gap and need for rural childcare, and energy efficiency in housing
- Numerous **comments submitted** to federal docket on, for example:
  - the Department of Interior's draft environmental justice strategic plan highlighting the need to consider and include the unique vulnerabilities of children
  - the lead and copper draft rule encouraging EPA to maintain positive provisions and improve inadequate provisions as they develop the final rule, and highlighting the importance of this rule to children (co-led with Earth Justice)
  - EPA's proposed national primary drinking water regulations: consumer confidence report rule revisions, which will make important public health information more accessible to residents and businesses across the country
  - the disposal of coal combustion residuals from electric utilities and legacy pollution (with Earth Justice and NRDC)
  - the environmental and climate justice block grant program
  - health protective emission standards for the oil and gas sector
- **2 bills and 1 Resolution** endorsed
  - Public Health Infrastructure Saves Lives Act
  - Lead Safe Housing for Kids Act
  - House Resolution on Extreme Weather and Children's Health
- Policy at the **state level**
  - a letter to DC against Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) from operating compressed natural gas buses in Ward 8
  - several letters to California, one in support of (AB 727) to 'Get PFAS out of Cleaning Products', one to urge Governor Newsome to sign AB 249 to protect kids from toxic lead in drinking water at K-12 schools, and one to prevent California public schools from serving food that contain synthetic food dyes that are linked to behavioral and learning problems in some children
  - 1 to Georgia to vote no on soot
- Up to 350 hours of **CEHN staff time on policy efforts**

## CEHN's Environmental Health Partners and Coalitions

CEHN collaborates with our public health and environmental partners through:  
Healthy Air Partners \* Clean Water for All \* Friends of National Environmental Health Institutes (FNIHIS) \* CDC Coalition \* National Environmental Health Partnership Council (NEHPC) \* Science Response Network

CEHN is a founding member and co-chair of the America the Beautiful for All Coalition and is a member the National Academy of Medicine's (NAM's) Action Collaborative on Decarbonizing the U.S. Health Sector (Climate Collaborative)



*CEHN working and celebrating with partners throughout the year!*



# ADDITIONAL NETWORK NEWS

## New staff

CEHN welcomed several new staff members to the team in 2023-2024:

- Rose Correa; Executive Assistant
- Jade Chan; Program Assistant
- Jessica Price, MS; Eco-Healthy Child Care® Program Manager
- Elisabeth Repp, MHS; Eco-Healthy Child Care® Program Assistant

## New Board members

We are also excited to have expanded our Board of Directors to feature additional perspectives fundamental to children's health and well-being:

- Anthony F. Jones, CFP®; Financial Adviser, CJM Wealth Advisers, Ltd.
- Alissa Mwenelupembe, Ed.D; Managing Director, Early Learning, National Association for the Education of Young Children
- Sheela Sathyanarayana, MD MPH; Professor, University of Washington & Attending Pediatrician, Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit
- Surili Sutaria Patel, MS; Vice President, Metropolitan Group
- Delia Gonçalves; Reporter/Anchor, WUSA9

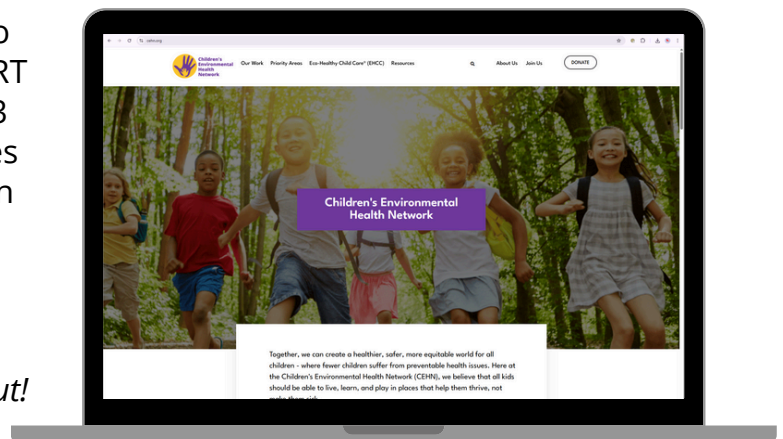


*CEHN staff and Board at the Spring 2024 Board meeting*

## New website

CEHN is thrilled to partner with 1909 Digital to develop a brand new CEHN website and CEHRT subdomain. The project began in August 2023 and is set to conclude in August 2024. Updates to the site's technical side, content, and design mean that it will be easier to navigate, more effectively tell the story of children's environmental health, and more clearly illustrate the impact of CEHN.

*Check it out!*



# CIRCLE OF CHAMPIONS

## Board of Directors



**James R. Roberts, MD, MPH**  
**Chair**

*Professor of Pediatrics; Director, South Carolina Pediatric Practice Research Network, Medical University of South Carolina*



**Dick Batchelor**  
**Vice Chair**  
*President, Dick Batchelor Management Group*



**Leyla Erk McCurdy, MPhil**  
**Treasurer**  
*Environmental Health Consultant*



**Maida Galvez, MD, MPH**  
**Secretary**  
*Professor & PEHSU Director  
Department of Preventative Medicine & Pediatrics; Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai*



**Leslie G. Fields, Esq.**  
*Chief Federal Officer,  
WE ACT for Environmental Justice*



**Mark Magaña**  
*Executive Director, GreenLatinos & Principal, Magaña Associates and Hispanic Strategy Group*



**Anthony F. Jones, CFP®**  
*Financial Adviser, CJM Wealth Advisers, Ltd.*



**Adam J. Spanier, MD, PhD, MPH**  
*Pediatric Environmental Health Specialist*



**Alissa Mwenelupembe, EdD**  
*Managing Director, Early Learning, National Association for the Education of Young Children*



**Sheela Sathyanarayana, MD MPH**  
*Professor, University of Washington & Attending Pediatrician, Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit*



**Surili Sutaria Patel, MS**  
*Vice President, Metropolitan Group*



**Delia Gonçalves**  
*Reporter/Anchor, WUSA9*



## Staff & Consultants



**Nsedu Obot Witherspoon, MPH**  
*Executive Director*



**Kristie Trousdale, MPH**  
*Deputy Director*



**Hester Paul, MS**  
*Eco-Healthy Child Care®  
National Director*



**Hannah Wilkerson**  
*External Relations and Creative  
Manager*



**Jessica Price, MS**  
*Eco-Healthy Child Care®  
Program Manager*



**Jade Chan**  
*Program Assistant*



**Elisabeth Repp, MHS**  
*Eco-Healthy Child Care®  
Program Assistant*



**Rose Correa**  
*Executive Assistant*



**Tracy Kolian, MPH**  
*Health Policy Consultant*

## Interns & Fellows

### Summer 2023

Jade Chan  
*CEH & Healthy Housing Fellow*

Ifunanya Ume-Ezeoke  
*CEH & Healthy Housing Fellow*

Corinne Evans  
*Carol Strobel Policy & Health Education Intern*

Emma Friese  
*Communications, Marketing, and Design Intern*

Adiaha Witherspoon  
*Eco-Healthy Child Care® Intern*

Ethan Jeremiah  
*CEHN Intern*

### Fall 2023

Krishna Chandrasekhara  
*Carol Strobel Policy & Health Education Intern*

Edidiong "Eddy" Daniel  
*Communications, Marketing, and Design Intern*

Robert Clarke  
*Eco-Healthy Child Care® Intern*

### Spring 2024

Hasini Jayawardena  
*Carol Strobel Policy & Health Education Intern*

Olivia Nelson  
*Communications, Marketing, and Design Intern*

### Summer 2024

Ruanna Small  
*Carol Strobel Policy & Health Education Intern*

Tehani Chandrasena Perera  
*Communications, Marketing, and Design Intern*

Arin Harkawat  
*Eco-Healthy Child Care® Intern*

Adiaha Witherspoon  
*CEHN Intern*

### Fall 2024

Darshini Babu Ganesh  
*Carol Strobel Policy & Health Education Intern*

Safina Theard-Lewis  
*Communications, Marketing, and Design Intern*

Amanda Driesse  
*Eco-Healthy Child Care® Intern*

## Volunteers

Daouda Adegboye

Ciza Bonne

Sarah Davis

Brianna Freeman

Maria Guerra

Manahill Imran

Abigail Jaglowski

Rosanna Jiang

Paris Kavousi

Chukwuma Nwoya

Hannah Oh

Julia Ross

Ava Clare Steed

Amanda Williams

## Advisory Council

Kourtney Whitehead, MA Ed HD  
*Vice President, Product and Client Solutions,  
accelHRate*

Joan Spyker Cranmer, PhD  
*Professor, Pediatrics and Toxicology University of  
Arkansas Medical School Arkansas Children's  
Hospital*

Lynn Goldman, MD, MPH  
*Dean, School of Public Health & Health Services  
The George Washington University*

Joel C. Hunter  
*Pastor, Community Benefit at Action Church*

Richard Jackson, MD, MPH  
*Professor, Environmental Health Science UCLA  
School of Public Health*



## Advisory Council, cont.

Philip J. Landrigan, MD, MSc  
*Professor, Boston University / Director of the Program for Global Public Health and the Common Good Director of the Global Observatory on Planetary Health*

John A. McLachlan, PhD  
*Director, Tulane-Xavier Center for Bioenvironmental Research Tulane University*

Cynthia F. Bearer, MD, PhD  
*Chief, Division of Neonatology at University Hospitals Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital*

Peggy Shepard  
*Executive Director, WE ACT for Environmental Justice*

Joy E. Carlson, MPH  
*Founding Executive Director, CEHN Principal, J. Carlson Consulting Oakland, CA*

J. Routt Reigart, MD  
*Professor Emeritus and former Director of the Division of General Pediatrics, Medical University of South Carolina*

Elise Miller, MEd  
*Executive Director, Goosefoot Community Fund*

Brenda Afzal RN, MS  
*Nurse Consultant*

Richard Finnell, PhD  
*Professor, Department of Nutritional Sciences and in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at the University of Texas at Austin*

## Policy Committee

Mark Magaña - **Chair**  
*Executive Director, GreenLatinos Principal, Magaña Associates and Hispanic Strategy Group*

Leslie G. Fields, Esq  
*WE Act for Environmental Justice*

## Policy Committee, cont.

Zachary Laris, MPH  
*Director, Federal Advocacy & Child Welfare Policy, American Academy of Pediatrics*

Maida Galvez, MD, MPH  
*Professor, Preventive Medicine & Pediatrics, Mount Sinai School of Medicine*

Don Hoppert  
*Director of Government Relations, American Public Health Association*

J. Routt Reigert, MD  
*Professor Emeritus of Pediatrics, Medical University of South Carolina*

Kristin Schafer  
*Director, Collaborative for Health & Environment*

Benjamin Gitterman, MD  
*Associate Professor of Pediatrics, George Washington University*

Leo Trasande, MD, MPP  
*Associate Professor in Pediatrics, Environmental Medicine, and Health Policy, New York University*

Nsedu Obot Witherspoon, MPH  
*Executive Director, CEHN*

## Science Committee

Adam Spanier, MD, PhD, MPH - **Chair**  
*Pediatric Environmental Health Specialist*

Luz Claudio, PhD  
*Professor, Neurotoxicology, Mount Sinai Medical Center*

Rebecca Dzubow, MPH, MEM  
*Division Director of the Regulatory Support and Science Policy Division at OCHP, EPA*

J. Brenda Eskenazi, PhD  
*Director of the Center for Environmental Research and Children's Health at Berkely Public Health*

Woodie Kessel, MD, MPH  
*Assistant Surgeon General (Ret.)*

## Science Committee, cont.

Philip Landrigan, MD, MSC  
*Chair, Dept. of Community Medicine, Mount Sinai Medical Center*

Jerome Paulson, MD  
*Emeritus Professor, Environmental and Occupational Health, George Washington University*

Lesliam Quirós-Alcalá, PhD  
*Assistant Professor, Environmental Health and Engineering, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health*

J Routt Reigart, MD  
*Professor Emeritus of Pediatrics, Medical University of South Carolina*

James Roberts, MD, MPH  
*Professor of Pediatrics, Medical University of South Carolina*

William Suk, PhD, MPH  
*Adjunct Professor in Environmental Sciences and Engineering (ESE) at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*

Babasaheb Sonawane, PhD  
*Chief, Effects Identification and Characterization Group, Environmental Protection Agency (Ret.)*

David C. Bellinger, PhD  
*Professor, Neurology and Psychology Harvard Medical School - Senior Research Associate in Neurology Boston Children's Hospital - Professor, Department of Environmental Health Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health*

Michael L. Weitzman, MD  
*Professor, Department of Pediatrics and Environmental Medicine at New York University School of Medicine and School of Global Public Health at New York University*

Cynthia F. Bearer, MD, PhD, FAAP  
*Chief, Division of Neonatology at University Hospitals Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital*

Linda McCauley, RN, PhD, FAAN, FAAOHN  
*Dean and Professor, Emory University Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing*

Somdat Mahabir, PhD, MPH  
*Program Director, Environmental Epidemiology Branch, Epidemiology and Genomics Research Program, National Cancer Institute*

José F. Cordero, MD, MPH  
*Gordhan and Jinx Patel Distinguished Professor of Public Health and head of the department of epidemiology and biostatistics in University of Georgia's College of Public Health*

## EHCC National Advisory Committee

All Our Kin

American Federation of Teachers

American Public Health Association

Agency for Toxic Substances & Disease Registry

Bright Horizons Family solutions

Child Care Aware of America

Child Care Resources Inc. (North Carolina)

University of California Merced

Early Childhood Council of Boulder County (Colorado)

Environmental Law Institute

General Services Administration

Helen R. Walton Children's Enrichment Center

Institute of Neurotoxicology and Neurological Disorders

National Association for the Education of Young Children

National Association for Family Child Care

National Association for Regulatory Administration

National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education

Region 2 Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit

Southern Adirondack Child Care Network (New York)

Women for a Healthy Environment



# FUNDERS, DONORS, AND SPONSORS

*With deep gratitude:*

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Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments  
America the Beautiful for All Coalition  
American Public Health Association  
CareFirmBlueCross BlueShield  
Cedar Tree Foundation  
Ceres Trust  
CJM Wealth Advisers, Ltd.  
Climate Action Campaign  
Consumers for Dental Choice  
Early Opportunities Fund  
Earthjustice  
Environmental Defense Fund  
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Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation  
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Passport Capital  
Plastic Pollution Coalition  
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Rachel's Network  
Sarfaty-Siegel Foundation for the Future  
Sierra Club  
Students Selling Stickers  
The Filtery  
The JPB Foundation  
The LEGO Creative Childcare Center  
The Partnership Project  
The Wilderness Society  
University of Maryland School of Public Health  
WE ACT for Environmental Justice  
Young Gifted & Green

## Individual Champions

Scott and Emily Afzal  
Brenda and Muhammad Afzal  
Abbey Alkon  
Vivienne Almeida  
Vanessa Amaya  
Roxana Amaya-Fuentes  
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Terri Wright



**A message for our workplace supporters,**  
CEHN thanks the thousands of people who support our programs each year through employee giving and EarthShare@Work. With your help we are continuing to protect the developing child from environmental health hazards and promote a healthier environment for all. Thank you for taking care of what matters to you by giving at work and through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). Learn more about EarthShare at [www.earthshare.org](http://www.earthshare.org)



*CEHN at the 2024 Staff Retreat*



# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

## Income

Federal Grants - \$282,302  
Foundation Grants - \$1,430,917  
Contributions - \$95,991  
Awards Reception/CEH Day - \$24,936  
Program Fees - \$34,330  
Program Income - \$74,508

**Total Income = \$1,866,655**

## Expenses

Personnel Labor - \$876,606  
Fringe Benefits - \$65,785  
Payroll Taxes - \$76,935  
Pension Expenses - \$47,281  
Professional/Consultant Fees - \$80,452  
Temp/Contract Labor - \$49,398  
Program Expenses - \$100,093  
Travel - \$63,443  
Insurance - \$6,632  
Utilities - \$52.13  
Rent - \$101,731  
Communications - \$18,189  
Dues and Subscriptions - \$1,644  
Registration Fees - \$4,338  
Equipment Rental - \$6,778  
Postage/Delivery - \$1,649  
Printing and Reproduction - \$6,012  
Computer/Web Services - \$43,949  
Meeting Expenses - \$96,852  
Office Supplies - \$6,978

**Total Expenses = \$1,655,174**

**Net Income= \$21,1481**



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- **The Patron monthly newsletter** focuses on federal children's environmental policy: from legislative, regulatory, and administrative updates, calls to action, and CEHN leadership updates.
- Sign up for **Special Events and News** to be the first to hear important CEHN notices and happenings.
- Sign up for the **CEH Day newsletter** to get updates, resources, and event notices that pertain to our Children's Environmental Health Day
- **Eco-Healthy Child Care® Eco Hot Tips-** monthly tips from Eco-Healthy Child Care® on ways to keep your home, child-care and/or learning environments environmentally healthy for children.

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