



2022 GBPSR End-of-Year Newsletter

Climate Program

Working alongside many of our grassroots allies, GBPSR advocated successfully to raise public awareness of the health harms of air pollution from burning fossil fuels and the importance of safeguarding the health of residents and protecting our indoor and outdoor air quality. We focused on the indoor air pollution from gas stoves and the health and climate impacts of alternative fuels like hydrogen. GBPSR supported efforts at the local and state levels to transition away from fossil fuels and invest in clean and safe renewable energy technologies and preservation of our natural environment, the greatest and most important carbon sink.

GBPSR's successful educational efforts this year included:

- A half day CME webinar, [Connecting The Dots: Air Pollution, Climate And Health](#), which drew over 300 participants. Speakers included GBPSR members Drs. Philip Landrigan, Gaurab Basu and other outstanding faculty. CME credit is [still available](#).
- Articles in the press, including "[Gas stoves are a risk to your health and emitters of dangerous pollutants](#);" and [Why do we accept asthma with our 'natural' gas](#) in Commonwealth Magazine.
- Successful resolutions adopted at the [Massachusetts Medical Society](#) and the AMA, co-authored by GBPSR members, committing both organizations to educate the public regarding the health harms of indoor air pollution from gas stoves and fossil fuel derived hydrogen.

Policy successes:

- GBPSR's Climate and Health Program Manager, Andee Krasner, in partnership with Rocky Mountain Institute and Florida Clinicians for Climate Action co-wrote an American Public Health Association (APHA) policy for addressing gas stove emissions, which passed in November, 2022 and will be available to the public in January.
- GBPSR members successfully advocated for the Building Energy Reporting and Disclosure Ordinance (BERDO) 2.0 in late 2021, which imposes emissions limits for large buildings to achieve zero emissions by 2050.
- GBPSR members wrote a white paper on the negative health and climate impacts of hydrogen that was shared with Massachusetts legislators ([link here to report](#)).

- GBPSR members advocated for the successful passage of the 2022 Climate Bill, *An Act driving clean energy and offshore wind*.*

Thanks to the generosity of GBPSR members, we were able to hire a summer intern to work on climate issues (first year medical student Eden Diamond) who worked on didactic curriculum; and a climate consultant (Sarah Griffith), to help with climate education and advocacy.

Nuclear Program

Members of our nuclear program committee have been working diligently to advocate for nuclear war prevention measures, as part of our “Back from the Brink” campaign:

- GBPSR members have spoken at numerous institutions and testified at statehouse hearings about the threats of nuclear weapons and war.
- We have been involved in the passage of resolutions regarding the abolition of nuclear weapons in 20 communities across Massachusetts (most recently Holyoke and Marshfield) and the development of a national resolution (H Res 1185 “Embracing the goals and provisions of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons”), which is sponsored by Congressman Jim McGovern and Congressman Richie Neal. We are now working on securing additional congressional sponsors in Massachusetts and would love your help! For more information, visit: www.preventnuclearwar.org
- GBPSR board member Dr. Joe Hodgkin gave a related Grand Rounds in May at the Massachusetts General Hospital on nuclear weapons and physician advocacy (MGH Center for the Environment and Health); his talk is titled, the "Effects of Nuclear Weapons and Avenues for Clinician Advocacy" (at **33:45**).
- The Nuclear Famine report, written by GBPSR board member Dr. Matt Bivens was published by IPPNW in August. It summarizes the latest scientific work, showing that a so-called “limited” or “regional” nuclear war would be neither limited nor regional."
- GBPSR member Dr. Vijai Bhola gave Ground Rounds at the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center on "The Ukraine Conflict: Responding to Humanitarian crises" in October. Dr. Bhola shared his personal experiences of responding to the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine, and explored the roots of the conflict and its effects on nuclear and global food insecurity.
- Our incredible and incredibly active board member Dr. Ira Helfand has spoken about nuclear war prevention at events across Massachusetts this year including Cooley Dickinson Hospital Grand Rounds, Milton Academy, Gonzaga High School, University of New Hampshire, the Rotary World Peace Conference in Houston, Milwaukee Rotary Club, Chilmark Public Library, Martha's Vineyard Film Festival, Rhode Island Senate hearing on BftB, Springfield Kiwanis Club, Springfield Rotary Club, Willamette University, Oregon State University, Brown University, University of Wisconsin, Whitefish Bay Public Library, Democracy Now, PBS's Online, RT, Canadian the ICAN Civil Society Forum at the 1st meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Vienna, the Non Proliferation Treaty Review Conference at the UN.... just to name a few!

- We recently connected with our friends at the Ikeda Center to encourage more youth engagement in nuclear war prevention. Some of our inspiring student members will be presenting to youth who are involved in the Ikeda Center work.
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2022 Events

In addition to our regularly held monthly meetings via Zoom, in 2022 — after a long Covid hiatus — we finally got together in-person! We had a wonderful potluck gathering at the Boston Nature Center in September. We also met up with some PSR National colleagues when they came to town for the American Public Health Association meeting in November. And of course, we held our 5th Annual Global Peace and Health Concert online in October, featuring Yo-Yo Ma's Silkroad Ensemble and honoring Professors Alan Robock, Brian Toon and Lili Xia who pioneered critical research on nuclear winter and the climatic consequences of a limited nuclear conflict. If you missed it, you can [view the event here](#).

Communications

Hanganh Vo, our Communications Intern, has been working hard behind the scenes to increase our social media following this year to help connect us to younger people. Since Hanganh joined us, we have created a LinkedIn page, are regularly engaging on Instagram, and have increased our followings on all platforms. Please connect with us on social media if you haven't already!

[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

**It includes a review of the Gas System Enhancement Program (GSEP), which could cost over \$40 billion to continue to transport natural gas and is at risk of becoming stranded assets. The bill allows GSEP funds to be spent replacing leaking natural gas pipes with non-fossil fuel heating systems like networked ground source heat pumps. It requires the DPU, The Future of Gas docket to hold an adjudicatory hearing and includes a provision that allows gas companies to sell heat (from geothermal resources) and not just gas. It expanded wind and solar and allows for 10 municipalities to implement all-electric building codes.*