What is Climate Change?
An increase in global temperature and extreme weather events, primarily a result of increased levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide.

What is the Evidence?
Many in the scientific community believe human activities such as fossil fuel combustion (that causes heat-trapping greenhouse gases) and deforestation are primary drivers of climate change.

Environmental degradation is decline in the quality of the natural environment, which can destroy ecosystems, natural resources, and habitats, causing:
- Exposure to toxic wastes
- Decline in quality foods
- Water scarcity

Increasing prices of agriculture may lead to challenges with:
- Nutritional issues
- Hunger, malnutrition, starvation
- Developmental delays

Increasing temperatures, frequent heavy rains, and run off from storms impact the quality of water causing:
- Waterborne pathogens (Cryptosporidium, Giardia, and cholera)
- Contaminated water bodies & intestinal issues

Rising global temperatures lengthen seasons, increasing the range of disease-carrying insects creating a more viable environment for vector breeding, like:
- Dengue
- Malaria
- West Nile virus

The frequency, intensity, and duration of extreme weather may lead to:
- Heat-related illness and deaths
- Exacerbation of chronic illnesses
- Injuries as a result of extreme weather
- Mental health impacts such as depression, anxiety, & PTSD

Increasing prices of agriculture may lead to challenges with:
- Nutritional issues
- Hunger, malnutrition, starvation
- Developmental delays

WHAT CAN THE ED NURSE DO TO HELP FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE?

In the Emergency Department:
- Upgrade and improve facilities to meet Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) standards
- Create a community garden for staff & patients to enjoy
- Recycle & be conscious of throwing away reusable medical supplies
- Advocate to eliminate items that cannot be recycled like Styrofoam

In Personal Life:
- Green your commute (e.g., carpool, bicycle to work, public transportation, etc.)
- Reduce, reuse & recycle
- Use energy wisely
- Invest in renewables
- Become an advocate & get involved

This information sheet is provided for informational purposes only. ENA is not providing medical advice. The instructions and information provided herein is not intended to replace judgment of a medical practitioner or healthcare provider based on clinical circumstances of a particular patient. ENA makes no warranty, guarantee or other representation, express or implied, with respect to the validity or sufficiency of any information provided and assumes no liability for any injury arising out of or relating to content or information contained herein. References available upon request contact@ena.org