

# NEHA NEWS

## Earth Day Twitter Chat

Climate change is one of the greatest threats to global health we currently face. It harms health by decreasing the quality of the air we breathe, increasing our exposure to more frequent and intense extreme weather events, increasing extremes of precipitation including flooding and drought, expanding the geographic distribution and number of disease-carrying vectors, and exacerbating health inequities. Around the world, these impacts increase the risk of chronic and infectious diseases, harm mental health and well-being, threaten the safety and security of communities, trigger food insecurity, and place a disproportionate burden on our most vulnerable populations. These populations include children, people of color, older adults, people with disabilities, and people living in low-income and poorly resourced communities.

The Earth Day Network's theme for Earth Day 2021 is "Restore Our Earth" and focuses on local communities that are disproportionately affected by climate change. The National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) recognizes the role of environmental health in addressing racism as an environmental health issue (<https://www.neha.org/NEHA-Racism-Position-Statement>) and is committed to addressing justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion.

In promotion of Earth Day, NEHA will host a Climate Justice Twitter Chat on April 22, 2021. This event will initiate conversations about how climate impacts health and address the reality of communities being disproportionately affected by climate change. To join the conversation, visit @nehaorg on Twitter or search the #EarthDayChat hashtag.

Georgia; Atlantic City, New Jersey; and Albuquerque, New

## NEHA Staff Profiles

As part of tradition, NEHA features new staff members in the Journal around the time of their 1-year anniversary. These profiles give you an opportunity to get to know the NEHA staff better and to learn more about the great programs and activities going on in your association. This month we are pleased to introduce you to two NEHA staff members. Contact information for all NEHA staff can be found on page 38.



### Doug Farquhar

I am an attorney with 30 years of experience working with policy makers on environmental health issues. I direct Government Affairs at NEHA, providing guidance on federal, state, and local governmental policies to our members and funders. I also work with policy makers, sharing policies that have been adopted by the NEHA Board of Directors.

I joined NEHA in April 2020 but have been involved with NEHA for many years. I have presented on environmental health policy at many NEHA Annual Educational Conference (AEC) & Exhibitions, including those held in Anchorage, Alaska; Atlanta,

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dedicated to making a lasting, positive impact on the environmental health community. I hope to continue evolving with NEHA by discovering creative, impactful ways to expand our reach.

Having lived in several different cities—Charlotte, North Carolina; Youngstown and Columbus, Ohio; Austin, Texas; and now, Denver, Colorado—I have always felt the unshakable urge to explore and experience. Since moving here in October 2019,

Colorado has kept my adventurous spirit well-fed. I love just about anything outdoors .91ikng, polilerbladng, pswimmng, pnaure