



Dear Members,

The World Heart Federation Air Pollution and Climate Change Expert Group is pleased to share with you this **2025 Air Pollution and Heart Health Toolkit**, a curated package of resources designed to support your efforts in addressing the urgent health challenge of air pollution, with a special focus on its manifold impacts on cardiovascular disease (CVD).

Why this Toolkit?

Air pollution is a leading environmental risk factor for CVD, responsible for millions of premature deaths each year. Yet, it remains under-recognized in cardiovascular prevention and health policy efforts globally. 2025 offers a critical window for change. With the UN High-Level Meeting on NCDs and renewed global commitments on air pollution and climate-related health risks, now is the time for the cardiovascular community to act.

The aim of this toolkit is to equip WHF Members and cardiovascular health advocates with the knowledge, tools, and messaging needed to drive policy change. Whether you're a practicing cardiologist, CVD researcher, heart health advocate, part of the team at a cardiac society or foundation, or simply someone who wants to raise their voice for cleaner air and healthier hearts, this resource will help you integrate air pollution into national cardiovascular and NCD agendas, engage in effective advocacy, and amplify the cardiovascular voice in air quality and climate policy. With materials to inform, campaign, and build capacity—tailored for diverse contexts—this toolkit reflects WHF's commitment to advancing heart health through evidence, action, and collaboration.

What's Inside?

This comprehensive toolkit includes materials to inform, advocate, and build capacity across sectors. Each document and module can be used in isolation or in combination to improve knowledge and provide multiple avenues for engagement in policymaking at the local, national, and global levels in 2025 and beyond:

- 01 WHF Policy Brief: A concise summary of the evidence linking air pollution to CVD, with clear policy recommendations
- 02 WHF Air Pollution Infographics (*available in English and Spanish*): Ideal for raising awareness among policymakers, stakeholders, and the broader public
- 03 WHF World Heart Report 2024: Highlights key global trends and the growing burden of environmental risk factors on cardiovascular health
- 04 WHO Capacity Building Toolkit – CVD Module: Offers practical training and tools for health professionals on identifying, managing, and communicating about air pollution-related CVD
- 05 WHO Academy Course on Air Pollution and Health: An interactive, accessible learning module to build understanding and engagement.
- 06 NCDA Air Pollution Advocacy Guide: A step-by-step guide to help civil society drive action in the run-up to and opportunities for engagement around the 2025 UN High-Level Meeting on NCDs
- 07 Draft Letter to Policymakers: For Members to adapt and use to demand urgent action on air pollution and health from their national policymakers, both ahead of

the UN High-Level Meeting on NCDs and at other key moments in the domestic policymaking calendar

- 08 External Resources List and Contact Information: For deeper engagement and collaboration with leading agencies and experts

How to use this toolkit?

We need your voice and your leadership to make clean air a priority in cardiovascular health policy. We encourage you to:

- **Read** through the toolkit, identify the most relevant materials for your work and use them to strengthen your work on air pollution and heart health.
- **Reach out** to your national decision-makers—health ministers, environment ministries, NCD focal points—and urge them to integrate air pollution into cardiovascular and NCD policy agendas. The Draft Letter to Policymakers is designed to help you do just that. Your voice is vital in this year of heightened political attention to air pollution and health.
- **Raise awareness** by sharing the toolkit visuals and key messages on social media, using #CleanAirForHeartHealth, and by presenting this topic in professional and public health forums.
- **Disseminate** these materials to your own members, networks, and partners
- **Integrate** the recommendations in the WHF Policy Brief and 2024 World Heart Report into your advocacy campaigns and awareness-raising initiatives
- **Share** the infographics widely on your social media platforms and display them at public events or conferences
- **Discuss the materials** with key stakeholders at congresses, summits, and other fora where cardiovascular and/or environmental health policy are on the agenda
- **Reach out** to the World Heart Federation with examples of how you are using the toolkit, and/or to share feedback on its content, format, and ease of use

Accessing the Toolkit

The materials are compiled in a single ZIP folder, available for download via the World Heart Federation website.

2025 is an extremely important year for air pollution on the global health agenda. Building on the commitments made at the WHO Second Global Meeting on Air Pollution and Health, renewed WHO Roadmap on Air Pollution, 2024 World Health Assembly Resolution on Climate Change and Health, and the newly adopted WHO Global Action Plan on Climate Change and Health (2025–2028), the cardiovascular community has a unique opportunity and imperative to advocate for immediate action. We hope this toolkit strengthens your work in protecting heart health through cleaner air. For any questions or support, please don't hesitate to reach out to advocacy@worldheart.org.

With appreciation for your continued commitment,

Dr Poornima Prabhakaran
Chair

On behalf of the WHF Air Pollution and Climate Change Expert Group:

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