

Denise Patel, MPH

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EDUCATION

Master of Public Health, Climate and Health Certificate, Environmental Health Science, Columbia University, May 2015
Bachelor of Science in Marine Science & Biology, Minors in Chemistry & Anthropology, University of Miami, May 2001

SUMMARY OF EXPERTISE

Leading research and advocacy for environmental and occupational health programs, including strategic planning, program development and management, government relations, technical and policy research, organization building, communications, and staff management.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives

Feb 2019 – Present

U.S. Program Director/Regional Coordinator

- Lead program development for U.S. program work on anti-incineration and zero waste campaigns.
- Tracked and disseminated information to ensure cross-fertilization, shared learning, and support among network members.
- Identified, recruited, and oriented new strategic partners to increase the strength of the Network and movement.
- Represent the U.S./Canada region in planning global organizational strategy.

Independent Consultant

Feb. 2018 – Feb. 2019

Campaign Coordination & Development for 350.org

Researcher & Writer for Natural Resources Defense Council, NJ Work Environment Council & Because Health
Communications & Organizational Development Consultant for GreenFaith

DivestInvest Network

New York, NY

Network Coordinator

June 2015 – Jan. 2018

- Led a network of 20+ organizations advancing programs to divest from fossil fuels and invest in climate solutions.
- Monitored, analyzed, and incorporated political, economic, social, and environmental policy developments for initiatives across the global movement to build the DIN narrative and connect to the broader climate movement.
- Conducted critical research and developed effective communications to ensure successful activism, public engagement, and social change, including *State of the Divestment Movement* reports and movement-wide newsletter.
- Drafted, submitted, and wrote grant proposals and reports and managed the Network and Coordinator budget.
- Hired and oversaw consultants to meet project needs.

Work Environment Council of New Jersey

Trenton, NJ

Project Coordinator, Chemical Safety & Security

May 2006 – June 2013

- Served as policy analyst focused on state and federal chemical regulations and policies.
 - Provided scientific and regulatory research to environmental justice communities and frontline workers to plan for and react to chemical disasters, including PFOA contamination, vinyl chloride release, and Superstorm Sandy.
 - Wrote policy reports evaluating industry alternatives for pollution prevention and green chemistry approaches based on information from federal and state databases, compliance reports, case studies, and phone surveys.
 - Prepared and presented information to diverse audiences from elected and government officials to the public.
- Developed, managed, and promoted the *Preventing Chemical Accidents Training Project (PCAT)*, an OSHA-funded health and safety training project on process safety management for workers in high-hazard facilities, including curriculum development, needs assessments, customized training courses, and project evaluation.
 - Led workshops and trainings to assist businesses to incorporate systems of safety into work practices.
 - Personally trained over 1,000 workers on their rights under OSHA regulations and guidelines.
- Wrote and edited policy and program reports for grant applications, position papers, fact sheets, press releases, issue editorials, action alerts, promotional materials and website content, and WEC@Work, the organizational newsletter.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Sierra Club – Environmental Voter Education Campaign

Regional Conservation Organizer

Red Bank, NJ

Sept. 2005 – Nov. 2005

- Worked on a team with regional and national staff to devise and recommend a strategic plan for grassroots mobilization efforts in Monmouth County, including campaign messaging training and recruitment of volunteers.

Fund for Public Interest Research (FFPIR)

Citizen Outreach Director

Princeton, NJ

May 2005 – Aug. 2005

- Recruited, hired, and managed a diverse staff and oversaw budget for the summer door-to-door fundraising office.

NJ Public Interest Research Group (NJPIRG) Student Chapters

Campus Organizer, Rutgers University

New Brunswick, NJ

Aug. 2004 – April 2005

- Hired and managed student interns at three colleges to build grassroots support for campaigns, including a five-week referendum to defend over \$1,500,000 in funding for NJPIRG Student Chapters and the Greater New Brunswick Hunger Cleanup which raised \$10,000 and involved over 100 volunteers in a single day of service.

New Jersey Community Water Watch

Campus Organizer, Princeton University

Princeton, NJ

Sept. 2003 – May 2004

- Led an internship program to engage college students and community members around local water quality issues through service and education, doubling the number of program interns from the previous year.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Master's Thesis**Dec. 2014 – May 2015**

- Developed input parameter distributions for a probabilistic model based on U.S. EPA's Adult Lead Methodology to predict blood lead levels in populations exposed to contaminated sites in low- and middle-income countries based on soil sample data collected by Pure Earth (formerly Blacksmith Institute).

Caribbean Landscape Conservation Cooperative, Research Intern**July 2014 – Aug. 2014**

- Designed an independent study project to identify populations vulnerable to health impacts from increased salinization in the South Coast Aquifer System of Puerto Rico due to climate change.
- Analyzed data from U.S. Census and Puerto Rico Department of Health for socioeconomic indicators of health vulnerability and displayed data using ArcGIS to show data and health trends among populations.

WRITING & PUBLICATIONS

- Climate & Health Topic Blog Posts, www.becausehealth.org, 2018.
- NJEA Reporter, Health & Safety Topics, www.njea.org, 2018.
- Divest-Invest News, E-Newsletter, July 2015 – December 2017.
- Patel, Denise & Debra Coyle McFadden. *Failure to Act*. www.njwec.org, October 10, 2013.
- Patel, Denise & Richard Engler. *Still At Risk*. www.njwec.org, December 2008.

VOLUNTEER WORK

- GreenFaith, Board Member Sept. 2018 - Present
- Peoples Climate Movement – New York, Coordinating Committee January 2018 - Present
- American Public Health Association, Climate Change & Health Topic Committee, Co-Chair Feb. 2018 – Dec. 2020
- Coalition to Prevent Chemical Disasters June 2013 – Present
- John D. Solomon Fellow for Public Service, American Red Cross Greater NY Chapter Sept. 2014 – May 2015
- Clean Water Action New Jersey, Board Member Jan. 2008 – June 2013
- AmeriCorps – National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC), Team Member Oct. 2001 – Aug. 2002

ADDITIONAL SKILLS:

Computer Programs: MS Office, Google Apps, STATA, ArcGIS, Windows and Apple operating systems.