



December 9, 2024

Shelley Mann-Lev
Founder and Executive Director
Healthy Climate New Mexico

Dear Ms. Mann-Lev,

The Climate Change Leadership Institute wishes to present Healthy Climate New Mexico with our 2024 Innovation Award for your organization's excellence in advocacy by engaging health care professionals in fostering solutions to the climate crisis and by dynamically integrating climate action with public health.

Throughout the history of the environmental movement public health has been at the forefront and instrumental to achieving vital and long lasting milestones as seen for example in the clean air and water acts as well as Rachel Carson's inspiring stance against pesticides. Compelling climate action and effective policies to combat the climate crisis likewise very much hinges on public health as Healthy Climate New Mexico wisely promulgates. The fossil fuel economy and the rise in greenhouse gases that cause the climate crises leads to an similarly intolerable health crisis in the form of asthma, heat stroke, malnutrition, food and water starvation and the unacceptable list goes on including from exposure to plastics - a byproduct of fossil fuels - infertility, obesity, diabetes, prostate or breast cancer, and many other dire health ramifications.

The point is that the mission of Healthy Climate New Mexico - *to mobilize NM healthcare and public health professionals to advocate for climate solutions that protect health and promote equity* - is right on target in terms of bringing forth the climate mitigation solutions that are so urgently needed. Also your message - *investing in climate in a way that benefits health, and health in a way that doesn't harm the climate* - supports the necessity of taking responsibility within civil society.

We want to congratulate the whole team for earning this climate leadership award and most of all we want to thank you for making a meaningful difference by the important work that you all do. You are definitely on to something transformational by connecting people to the climate movement through our health.

With deep appreciation,

Robb Hirsch
Founder & Executive Director