





**A**s our country and world have been battered with increasing frequency by wildfires, hurricanes, droughts and other extreme weather conditions, alarm about the connections between different forms of pollution and the dangers to our planet has skyrocketed. Climate change has become more prominent in national and international conversations, and the priority placed on doing more to address environmental challenges through federal legislation — regardless of the final details — indicates how pressing the issue has become.

It is because of this current social and political landscape — as well as the distressing physical realities of the moment — that this special issue of *h* magazine is focused on the environment, particularly climate change, environmental health and progress toward a climate-friendly economy. Some stories describe efforts in the Pittsburgh region to provide cleaner air and water and safer environments for children. Others examine grassroots advocacy and the work to democratize information and influence environmental initiatives.

Finally, looking ahead, this environmental edition of *h* explores what can be done to move beyond the fossil fuel industry to a more clean-energy economy and offers some resources for readers who want to learn more or find ways to get involved. We all have a role to play, and now is the time to step up. **h**