

End Date	How is our state doing now when it comes to delivering health and environmental services?	What are our state's greatest challenges to delivering effective, efficient, and accessible health and environmental services in the future?	If you could improve 1-3 things about our state's health and environmental services, what would they be and how do you recommend they be implemented to best serve our residents?
2021-08-04 10:05:33	Dismal to worse. Been here less than 3 yrs and pretty healthy and had 3 very disturbing visits. No. 1 Eye dr - put drops in eyes to dilate, then proceeded to say no change since last visit and I questioned my vision in left eye seemed worse. He started to walk me down the hall to exit and I asked him, "is anyone going to look in my eyes, now that the drops have completed the dilation?" He responded after telling me my eyes were the same as last time, that he didn't realize no one had checked??? No. 2 - fell on my hand and had sprain on wrist. Went to Joseph Chandler and explained had broken that wrist in 2005 during a fall. X rayed wrist and told me I needed immediate surgery with pins, had to wait until Monday for appointment. Research all weekend about different "Pin" surgery as we were planning a overseas trip in a few weeks. Dr. looked at Xray and explained the break on screen was the 2005 break, not a new issue and just wear a brace for 2 weeks. No. 3 - had some pain in knee and had MRI. Dr. at well known Bluffton Orthopedics group tell me two weeks before Christmas, that I need immediate surgery drilling small holes to inject "calcium sulfate toothpaste concrete substance' before end of year or my knee would collapse and all bets off, full knee replacement. He provided a sheet a paperwork on the procedure and I went in my car and googled it. Substance is calcium phosphate and I called a friend who works with knee replacement devices who referred me to surgeon in Charlotte. That doctor looked at MRI and examined my knee and said, "most likely I would never need knee replacement." Loose some weight and amend my daily 5 mile walk. Have been doing that and much better.	We need to attract the best talented doctors and not the ones who just want to live in a nice place with lower taxes.	Attract best doctors Get rid of the quacks who just want to do optional surgeries on retirees with Medicare and Advantage and Supplemental insurance. It is an outrage! Formalize stats on these people so we know the ones that are bad and institute state certifications to monitor them Better education on nutrition, issues specific to SC (snakes/alligators habitat safety), better cooking methods so not everything is FRIED, BBQ, and tastes disgusting,
2021-08-03 13:24:49 2021-08-03 10:07:23	some programs work well, some are terrible mediocre There continues to be a wide gap between communities of color/disabled and those with direct access. DHEC has implemented long-term goals which is better than simple fixes that may create larger divisions, but I think we should implement more community based decisions on issues.	regulations make the job ineffective or inefficient Our governor and the republicans in congress A website that is difficult for even staff to navigate.	strengthen regulations so that programs can effectively operate and do the job they are called to do More funding, greater control, reduced involvement from the governor 1. Allow Microsoft PowerApps to have external access to allow internal resources to be available externally. 2. Push for all forms to be filled out directly online instead of having fillable pdfs that then have to be emailed. 3. Think about long-term community engagement by being more present in K-12 schools.
2021-08-02 16:03:50	We are doing the best we can when individual rights (politics) have taken over public health work; there is not common interest in protecting the public.	It is hard to make decisions and enforce actions to protect the public when some state leadership have opposite beliefs of how we promote and protect the public. It feels like a no-win situation and makes it very hard for public health to do better in this type of climate. When a health issue impacts the PUBLIC, government should be able to what it needs to do to look out for the greater whole of people. This COVID-19 pandemic affects everyone, not just ONE person, so ONE person or an individual, should not make decisions on the health impacts of EVERYONE else. If we had this type of obstruction with smoking laws, seatbelt laws and other similar public health and safety issues, we would have many more people dead! The protocols put in place for FLU has, undoubtedly, saved a lot of sickness and potentially death because people took precautions to keep their hands clean, wear masks, and avoid crowds where people gather. I know it is why we had a very low FLU season thus far. More people decided to get their FLU vaccine earlier than normal, hoping that it would help protect them from COVID. If an INDIVIDUAL was able to keep the virus to themselves, then they can make the decision to wear a mask or not get vaccinated, but right now, they don't have that control and they have to access PUBLIC places. Until we figure this out, we will keep "spinning our wheels" and wasting money.	Have agency bureau meetings with region representatives present at least 4 times per year. This would allow dialogue to figure out how we can better work together across the agency to meet the needs of the public. We have learned through this pandemic that it takes both environmental and public health services to meet the public's needs. We learned that we could support businesses more with health guidance as opposed to it all being OSHA. We learned that we can partner with the schools to get the message out and we learned that our smaller communities have been neglected too long, yet are willing to work with us, one resident at a time to combat this pandemic.
2021-08-02 15:20:53	Unknown. Do not see in any media about this information Quite poorly compared to most other 50 states; but about average for the southeast in general due to the ridiculous cuts to state health/environmental agencies without restoration since the great recession.	Rural area(s) awareness 1. Staff are poorly paid therefore you have poorly trained staff throughout the agency. Many (most) of the best talent has left DHEC over the past decade. Offer better salaries and hire a PhD-trained person (or MD/PhD or MD/DrPH) to run the agency. You also need a PhD to run the environmental side if the enviro side remains within DHEC	Be on the front page of what State is doing.....various methods of media communication. 1. Convince the legislature to accept medicaid expansion. 2. Ramp up the inspection/oversight activities of the agency again. There is almost no oversight of restaurant hygiene/sanitation anymore. There is almost no monitoring or enforcement of environmental laws and regulations for air, water, soil; and little enforcement of natural lands protection. This is through little fault of the agency itself. It has been cut beyond belief given the mandate of it's mission for SC. Health services have been prioritized greatly over environmental protection. Greater balance is needed.
2021-08-02 14:11:08	As well as it can given that politicians puts public health last.	The greatest challenge would be separating DHEC. The environment is critical to public health. If the agency is divided much less emphasis would be put on environmental health.	1. Keep them joined. 2. Provide more public health training in Environmental Affairs or hire more people with an understanding of public health. 3. Ensure that the DHEC leader has and understanding of environmental health and does not work with polluters. We are very lucky right now.
2021-08-02 13:38:29	Fair	Not providing mental wellness programs to the marginalized communities	I recommend creating hybrid programs where marginalized women who are the head of their household meet to share and discuss menta challenges and anxieties. Training could be designed and provided to assist them with coping with the challenges of life.
2021-08-02 09:40:12	Below average	Our states greatest challenges are having resources in the form of funds and people to provide these services.	The state should create more paying jobs at a livable wage to provide these services.
2021-08-02 09:39:53	Below average	Our states greatest challenges are having resources in the form of funds and people to provide these services.	The state should create more paying jobs at a livable wage to provide these services.
2021-08-02 09:30:11	Not good. Medicaid was not expanded and the governor has been so confusing and opposed to science regarding the covid pandemic mitigation measures. Heath disparities as measured by life expectancy, chronic disease management, and Covid deaths would indicate we are doing poorly.	McMaster Lack of access to primary care and early screening for a large portion of the community; lack of insurance for many low income people, many of whom are working. Getting a job does not mean getting health insurance for many such as restaurant workers, performers, and gig economy workers. 16% of Charleston county adults under 65 lacked insurance in 2018 and the figure is likely higher now. Expanding access to Medicaid would help or subsidies for the marketplace.	1. Expand Medicaid 2. Offer clear and consistent covid messaging that aligns with CDC guidance. Implement using all forms of media and a dynamic web presence. I've heard that DHEC is considering splitting into two agencies so as to allow more focus on each mission and during the pandemic I can see how that would help. I don't know a lot about the environmental side of DHEC except that they recently approved a permit to develop the last tidal creek in Charleston which seems foolish as we struggle with sea level rise and associated nuisance flooding. Addressing the racial equity issues inherent in such permit applications must be a higher priority - poor neighborhoods are often more prone to flooding.
2021-08-02 09:02:55	So-so	Current governor, legislature and narrow minded constituents who hide behind rights and unfounded, ill informed beliefs.	Elect people who care about population health and our environment

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2021-08-01 22:14:36	fair. lots of room for improvement. Need better communications. Need to interact with the public and respond to real questions with real answers, not cut and paste from other agencies or the CDC.	communication, trust, conflict of interest (eg., hospital systems, pharmaceutical companies, food industry etc.). Put health first. Good health doesn't cost much. Sick care costs a lot. Put emphasis on real healthy guidance. Go to people and work with them to achieve health. Also, walk the walk. Healthy public health workers are better at judging and delivering healthy environments.	1. hire real health communicators and data scientists who are good thinkers. Regain the public trust. 2. advocate for healthy environments that include safe outdoor spaces, fun activities, healthy food that will be purchased (pay attention to demand), and promote healthy sexual and social behaviors. 3. build coalitions of ALL SC residents. Don't fall into partisan traps, vilification of racial, ethnic, religious, or political groups, or any "othering" behavior. Any effort that is partisan will fail.
2021-08-01 20:45:50	Unacceptable	Systemic racism, discriminatory practices including accessibility, quality services, and direct practices with marginalized communities.	1. Infrastructure-realignment with grassroots, community efforts. 2. Reduce administrative positions and expand positions for community health and grassroots efforts. Too top heavy 3. Increase efforts to all state populations, strength based focus versus deficit focus
2021-07-30 19:03:44	Inadequate. I am referring to efforts to stop the pollution of air in the counties of York, Lancaster SC as well as issues in our neighboring state of NC from the New Indy Containerboard	Lack of Government employees in various Departments. Lack of laws. Failure to monitor factories who discharge into the environment.	Hire more inspectors. Make laws stricter. No allow towns to enter deals with companies without oversight from appropriate state agency. New Indy for example received so many concessions when they bought the Resolute Paper Company they pay less than \$46,000. per year in taxes.
2021-07-30 18:03:38	Seems that the pandemic has shifted all the focus to the health side leaving the environmental services side lacking in both service and regulation.	As a retired university environmental health & safety manager, I have witnessed the huge migration of staff out of SCDHEC with limited replacements. Until SC starts to recognize and appreciate the folks that work in health and environmental services, the future seems rather bleak to me. You can't progress without boots on the ground!	I would add both service and regulatory staff to the agency and find a way to create stability at the top, so the message is not constantly changing as the political climate changes. Environmental issues especially impact all SC citizens and should not be in or out depending upon the political climate.
2021-07-30 15:13:37	Doing the best you can with the resources you have.	Staff retention and an aging vehicle fleet. The vehicle fleet looks bad. Don't know if they are mechanically sound, but peeling paint and rust does not portray a good agency imagine when inspectors pull up on site for an inspection, medical visit, sampling, etc. Knowledgeable staff are essential to properly maintain all DHEC programs.	1. Knowledgeable staff- this is accomplished by hiring the right person for the job and paying them enough to compete with other salaries, so they don't leave after they are trained.
2021-07-30 14:01:09	Poorly! New Indy plant is polluting the air in and around Lancaster county. Nothing is being done	Try to be responsible for the health of the states residents.	Work quickly and responsibly with the EPA to clean the air pollution in this state. Tired of hearing excuses. The health of the residents is not a political matter. Do your job!!!
2021-07-30 12:44:27	not very well	our leadership	I would put politics aside and treat our health (and environmental) issues in a rational and coherent manner.
2021-07-30 12:17:08	Poor	Antiquated laws	Update the laws so that family isn't "cut out" of the mental health care; engage with family members for a full picture of a patient's previous care, rather than throwing them in the facility with the first open bed; assign more judges to mental health cases so that proper evaluation can be accomplished
2021-07-30 10:06:27	Right now, we have a serious situation in Indian land, South Carolina with new Indy where they are spewing possibly toxic chemicals into the air every day. It is so bad, that we can smell a horrible odor in our homes and cannot use our outdoor spaces at all on days when it is particularly bad. So far, the state has not done anything to correct or remediate this problem.	You need to be closely monitoring new Indian Indian land, South Carolina. They are affecting our water and air quality and very negative ways, and a lot of people will leave the area if this is not some resolved.	One. Stop and windy from negatively impacting our environment. Two. Make them remediate For the damages they are doing to our area. Three; Tighten our environmental protections. People are getting sick from this in the state has done nothing yet to correct it.
2021-07-30 09:53:30	Eviornmental laws are too lax, allowing Company's like (New Indy Containerboard) to release poisoning amounts of Hydrogen Sulfide into the air. Ruining their neighbors health and well being. We can't go outside out homes most days due to this health hazard being allowed to run 24/7 without regard to the Govt agencies, Politicians or the people.	You have the agencies already, give them more power to issue cease and desist orders when were being POISONED.	Give them the power to fine the responsible Co's that are polluting our air and water. Should be easy to implement and use the funds for the enviornment.
2021-07-30 08:49:09	Not too good. The New Indy air pollution in northern corner of state is terrible. The pollutant is not responding to DHEC nor EPA and is spewing toxic chemicals to citizens on a daily basis, night and day.	Putting teeth in DHEC directives.	Enforce and strengthen environmental compliance.
2021-07-29 23:29:27	having lived in two very different parts of the state, health services to the disadvantaged still needs to step up I have a major concern on how SC is doing. It seems there are a lot of paper mills and factories here. Which is great for jobs but the laws around them are very concerning. Take New Indy for example. Currently they are allowed to emit over the normal per 1/2 to hour as long as the average per day does not go over 70bbp. So how it is safe for over 200 and what everyone forgets or choose to ignore is that the toxic air does not go away. It contiunes down the road where ever the wind blows. So that smell might not be at that monitored site for long, but now with the wind it has effected so many people. And the smell and toxic air stays around. It is very heavy and accumates in low lying areas. But yet all we do is file forms. Why is the DHEC not doing more. We are not asking to shut them down but their production needs to be reduced, All I keep seeing it the fact that one or another machine is out of service. If they are out of service then they should stop until all is back in service.	making those services available on a smaller scale in the small corners of the state - doesn't need to be impressive, only effective Lobbyist and politicians who are getting paid by the lobbyist	start with the smell being created in our (Lancaster/Indian Land) neck of the woods by a manufacturer who refuses to address the issue 1 - Air Quality laws need to be stronger, the South is not a dumbing ground for industries. For example is should not be over 24 hours for 70bbp. It should be per 1/2 hour and it should be less than 70. The H2S levels are toxic. And they harm people, animals and plants. 2- even though I am a transplant from NY a study needs to be done on the impact to the enviornment on all this building in the state. The roads / over crowding of schools etc. The stripping of the land until there is nothing left. This needs to slow down and the amount of houses needs to stop. In NY they put a law out that houses need to have over 1 acre. That might be a lot down here but that slows down houses and stops the congestion on the roads, More people equal more polution. They also have green space. Each town is allowed a certain amount of green space which no one is allowed to build on. It is just green lovely trees, no park or anything just green space. It's also good for the wild life. 3- Our water ways need to be protects as in the air polution. Again this comes to tigher laws on dumping and industry. There is a balance between production of an item and polluting all that is around you. There are so many areas around the US where these factories were allowed to do what they want. Now they are just waste lands. I do not want that for this beautiful state
2021-07-29 21:24:55	Very poorly. The New Indy issue is getting worse everyday. I am concerned about the lack of power that you have to force companies who are endangering the well being of South Carolinians to comply with Federal Regulations to clean up the air and correct deficiencies.	Use the power of our government to ensure clean air! Companies that have decided to "do business" here in the state but are a threat to the environment. Recycling efforts here in the State pall in comparison to other states.	Force New Indy to stop polluting on air and water 1. Listen to the complaints of a large number of people reporting bad air quality and toxic fumes and do something about it. It seems obvious that there are political undercurrents at work here. 2. Ramp up recycling efforts to include and glass and plastics. 3. Increase the communication you have with the public by sponsoring townhall meetings and surveys such as this.
2021-07-29 18:36:48	Terrible. How can you allow Indy to blatantly break the law while damaging the health of your citizens.	Make entities accountable. Act!!	Give the citizens a report on how you did against overall goals. Give us a pathway to making businesses like Indy accountable. Issuing orders without making a difference is pathetic.
2021-07-29 18:01:19	Ok. We have been bombarded with the fouls odor from New Indy Plant. SC seems to have taken actions to look into it.	To any state, the biggest challenges would be bureaucracy and self interests of the politicians.	The most pressing would the New Indy Plant foul odor emissions. I recommend that we shut it down. Our areas are growing rapidly, not a rural place anymore. A plant like that need to move further out with adequate investment to address the odor issues.
2021-07-29 17:09:09	Resident living in the area affected by the toxic emissions from New Indy. Believe it's your job to make them clean up the emissions or shut down. Health has deteriorated since moving here. Step to the plate and do something for the hundreds of thousands affected.	Ineptitude of those who have it within their power to right this horrible environmental disaster called New Indy.. you can fix it so stop taking bribes from this company to overlook.	The toxic cleanup of New Indy affecting the air we breathe and the water we drink before it becomes a cancer cluster.
2021-07-29 14:58:21	Very poorly. The air we breathe both outside and inside is contaminated by New Indy. Breathing hydrogen sulfide is dangerous to our health especially at the level they are being allowed to emit into the air.	Make New Indy comply with safe guidelines. Install the stripper for cleaner air. Clean up the sludge being emptied into the Catawba River. 10,000 complaints have been made by people getting really sick and nothing is being done.	Give us clean air to breathe as many are moving out of both SC and NC due to this situation. I had to install a whole house Air Purifier (\$725) in order to be able to sleep at night.

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2021-07-29 13:55:17	Very poorly, the New Indy plant pollutes our air daily & make it nearly impossible to enjoy the outdoors-headaches, nausea & overall feeling ill are just debilitating.	Hold New Indy accountable for correcting their emissions that permeate a 30 mile radius causing distress & serious illnesses to so many	Establish air quality laws & really vet & investigate paper plants & other businesses that are causing this life threatening pollution
2021-07-29 11:49:33	We live in Indian Land and we have a real problem with clean air. The nearby paper mill is polluting the air and nothing is being done. We could use some help!!!	It seems that the state is not doing anything to stop the air pollution. It has been going on since February. Your biggest challenge is to make the company accountable. Do something!	Concentrate on clean air and clean water. Recent sewage spills are polluting our waterways. Take these companies to court and shut them down if they do not voluntarily clean up.
2021-07-29 11:48:44	Not good.	We need stricter timelines and enforcement	Stricter timelines for correcting violations, more checks and balances when approving permits, and stricter enforcement of violations.
2021-07-29 11:30:50	not as well as we used to staffing issues and lack of funding have limited the services we can provide	lack of staff, lack of funding	increase salaries to retain staff, hire more staff to be able to provide better services,
2021-07-29 11:24:35	My husband and I live in treetops. We moved in in December... along with us, came to putrid smell from new Indy! People have contacted DHEC, EPA and FEMA, all are aware of this problem... As it is not a new problem!The answer to your question, the state of South Carolina is not doing anything to deliver environmental services!	Your greatest challenge right now is to solve this 12 year old problem of dumping 93,000,000 gallons of foul condensate into the Catawba River, and insisting that Indy conform to health full production And environmental cleanup!	All of you sitting there, in those seats, in those jobs, should know far better than any of us what has to be done! We need to be able to breathe our air and drink our water and live our lives in a safe, healthy, environment! This is not a Third World country!! Or is it?!
	Not great...but not sure that is the responsibility/fault of DHEC	On the environmental side, the problem is, as it always has been, twofold: sufficient funding to hire and retain good staff and legislative support for protection of the environment.	Funding increases to maintain staff, perhaps coupled with other incentives to make working at DHEC more attractive - flexibility, support for educational advancement...I don't know what would work, but there must be options out there. External support for staff decisions would also be helpful. I expect many of the complaints about slow response time are because staff is frozen, knowing they will get calls from legislators--perhaps no matter what they do. (To be fair, this is based on experiences I had working in another agency with many interactions with DHEC, many years ago, but I doubt much has changed. Finally, there needs to be a way to help legislators understand what DHEC does, is dealing with, and what the long term consequences of allowing our environment--so important for tourism--to deteriorate.
2021-07-29 09:29:43			Create new enforceable laws (not just a fine) to prevent the dispersion of chemical gas in the current amounts that are affecting the citizens; social media ads to help citizens find you (I didn't know about DHEC until this New Indy problem); keep an online reporting site available at all times; increased funding to hire any staff/training/outreach needed to the citizens.
	Poorly. The current situation with New Indy has really opened my eyes to the environment, exemptions provided for paper mills, and the lack of laws that protect the citizens agains toxic gases dispersed by different corporations and the effect it has on humans. I've been suffering symptoms since February, and now getting new symptoms (headaches, irritated eyes, irritated sinus, sinus infections, cough. On 2 occasions when the concentration was high I had numbness/heaviness in arms and tingling in my face.) I think there should be a task force to examine permit requests such as the ones approved for New Indy. I feel the problem could have been prevented if DHEC or whoever approved this, had input from experts, had dedicated staff to comb thru the details provided by New Indy in their request. I also believe DHEC should have the authority to not approve permits or temporarily shut down polluters until remediation is done. I believe SC should provide more funding for DHEC to hire experts and continue to have task force engagement and also have hearings where the public can express their concerns about things, such as the change of operations and augmented pollutants in our communities.	Lack of funding, lack of laws to be able to hold violators accountable and take swift action against them (not just fines). As a citizen I felt blindsided and dumbfounded about how New Indy was approved. It feels like nobody read their request and rubber stamped it. If not for this New Indy thing and being part of a Facebook Group that is trying to help fix the problem, I would have never known about this Task Force. I don't know if the state has a social media presence regarding these issues, my guess is it does, but is not reaching the people as effectively. I would say maybe there can be a link on County Government websites that link back to DHEC, I don't know if this is doable, but perhaps some commercials or short video ads on social media to educate, provide input opportunities (such as this one), stricter scrutiny of permits being approved; updated research on the various chemicals being dispersed in our communities; unannounced visits to corporations such as New Indy. You need the tools (money, expertise); power (stricter enforceable laws); communication (educate the citizens).	
	The best it can with the limited resources. The public expects more. We need to be more proactive. And DHEC needs to update all systems and bring them to current technology so that information can be collected and shared more efficiently.	Lack of adequate sustainable resources to support and retain a qualified workforce and develop needed systems.	Retain a qualified and well-trained workforce. Improve systems so they are more efficient for internal and external customers so data and information is provided more quickly. Ensure regulatory and health standards are protective, can be implemented, appropriate data is collected and let science and data drive decisions and priorities for action.
2021-07-28 23:03:45	At the moment, I feel as though the answer here is "poorly." There is a lot of company produced pollution going on in so many South Carolinians backyards; in particular, those who live near New Indy. Mediocre at best. There are way too many people that lack health insurance, putting a burden on emergency rooms. Interpreting healthcare bills is an exercise in futility. I don't feel confident that my food and water don't contain toxins. How much arsenic is in my rice? How much glyphosate is in my breakfast cereal? How much atrazine and PFAS are in my water? I'd like to know the answers to those questions and many more.	Partnering with corporations over the people who live in this area. Politicians in the pocket of big business.	1. Re-evaluate the way corporations are polluting our airways and waterways.
2021-07-28 21:23:26			Join the ACA and let federal money pay for most of the medical care of those uninsured. Outlaw use of pesticides for aesthetic purposes.
2021-07-28 20:11:20	Terrible! New Indy in Catawba is being allowed to poison everyone within a 30 mile radius by their increase in emissions. My family is about 9 miles from the plant and we are considering moving because of how sick we have felt. No one is helping.	It is obvious that you do not care about the environment. We cannot be outside of our homes due to New Indy contaminating our air, and the toxic fumes frequently seep into our homes as well. My family has health problems due to this (headaches, sinus issues, burning eyes, asthma flare ups) and no one at DHEC or in politics in SC cares.	Stop playing politics and getting paid off by corporations and do the right thing. Fix the problem at New Indy in Catawba now.
2021-07-28 16:40:21	The COVID-19 pandemic has shown that a lot of work is needed to improve public health in SC and that zoonotic spillover is a very serious threat. SC is ahead of most other states in recognizing the importance of "One Health" and having one agency that oversees both health and environmental control.	The most critical ethical document is the budget.	Politics needs to be removed from public health decisions and instead there needs to be reliance on carefully collected and integrated data across the disciplines.
2021-07-28 15:32:44	Very poorly.	One-party political leadership that does not seem to care about the health and well-being of all South Carolinians and the environment.	- Stronger covid protocols, in line with federal/CDC guidelines. - Separate environmental work into its own agency
2021-07-28 15:23:38	AWFUL!	Getting rid of the gop wing nuts running the state!	- Support healthcare by widening medicare/medicaid coverage, in line with rest of the country
2021-07-28 14:56:55		Retention of employees due to extremely low pay, attracting qualified candidates for jobs due to extremely low pay	Make dhec independent of the state government! Tell people the facts!
2021-07-28 14:34:01	Moderate - resources (staff/funding) are often too limited to fully complete this work. Also, these decisions should be made based on science, not politics.	Having the resources - staff and funding - to understand our current conditions, future projections, and to implement current laws/programs.	Stop telling employees you will study/look into/are surprised by the low salaries and adjust them to be competitive. The longer it takes, the more employees/knowledge will be walking out the door for good.
2021-07-28 13:50:43	It's doing okay but we have had this serious issue with New Indy in Catawba SC and it has not gotten better. My family as well as others are literally sick from the level of toxicity coming from the plant.	Maybe not enough laws to enforce health for the community.	1. Make recommendations based on science, not politics. (Ex: mask mandates). 2. Regulate to be protective, not just reactive after the damage has been done. Prevention is nearly always cheaper and more effective. 3. Provide necessary resources - both staff and funding (for research, etc.)
2021-07-28 13:12:58	Very poorly in relation to toxic fumes being emitted by the New Indy paper processing plant.	Establishing a means where reported issues are promptly addressed and appropriate action taken to remedy the issue(s).	I would do more with the order laws. The way they are now is very lenient and what New Indy is being allowed to put out is toxic and not right.
2021-07-28 12:38:22	Well but is under funded or supported in some cases.	This question is very broad - but a broad answer would be "asked to do a lot with a little".	1-Establish and provide a method of reporting issues. 2-Assign issues reported to persons or an agency with the authority and power to affect necessary changes in a timely fashion 3-Hold those responsible for creating the issues responsible including but not limited to taking criminal action.
2021-07-28 12:13:18	Failing miserably. Been dealing with 7 months of toxic trespass from the emissions New Indy is releasing into the air. How many people have to get sick before something is done.	Get the lobbyists out of the process	If agency was split as proposed, keep the environment programs together. Splitter water quality from groundwater, for example, doesn't make sense. 1)Shut New Indy down until they fix all of the emission problems. 2) be more responsive and transparent with the public.

End Date	How is our state doing now when it comes to delivering health and environmental services?	What are our state's greatest challenges to delivering effective, efficient, and accessible health and environmental services in the future?	If you could improve 1-3 things about our state's health and environmental services, what would they be and how do you recommend they be implemented to best serve our residents?
2021-07-28 12:04:10	Having worked in public health for 30 years & been involved with local, state, regional, & national health organizations, I've had the opportunity to learn about other state health organizations. By far, DHEC is ahead of the game in most areas Better then it was but still has a ways to go.	Access to care. Trust. Educating/Informing the public of available services & how to get them. Funds to hire professionals to deliver services & safe environments to for them to work in/public to access. Stable, knowledgeable Leaders, not political appointments! Lax & loose in handling pandemic issues.... quarantines, mask mana dates, seriousness of the consequences New Indy has been a constant source of foul toxic air which continues to impact our health and lifestyle in general. Needs to seriously be addressed	Legislature adequately fund services & facilities - statewide, not just the midlands. Recrute educated, knowledgeable people who are passinate to the many areas of health. Build on what is in place to improve/enhance currently available services. Address the issues of Covid and variants seriously. We are all susceptible to the consequences and the public needs to understand this is NOT a political issue. Lives are at stake. Please take the right stand on this! All healthcare workers, teachers and those eligible must be vaccinated and/or wear masks PROPERLY Step in and mandate New Indy clean up their air and water pollution...etc Increase funding support for DHEC. Elect a board that includes professionals in science and medicine to assist with understanding in decision-making by staff. Increase work and presence in under-resourced communities to gain better trust by community.
2021-07-28 11:24:20			
2021-07-28 11:22:35	I do not believe that SC legislature adequately funds the SC DHEC program to allow them to be effective in managing these services.	Funding from state government for public health and environmental services through DHEC, climate change, public infrastructure (internet) for all.	
2021-07-28 11:12:11	Terrible, especially with prescription drug coverage. There are people on SSD that do not qualify for the state's extra care program, yet can't afford the exorbent prices even with Part D coverage.	Making it more accessible, especially in rural areas. Also, most state health care is spread very thin. There needs to be more employees to handle the caseloads, and better pay to retain good, qualified physicians. There is a lot of turn over for state health employees, especially in mental health where building report and trust are crucial to help a client recover and maintain recovery.	1. Find the money through grants or other means to hire more qualified professionals to meet the demands of the caseloads, prevent burn out for current employees, and retain employees with competitive yearly salaries. 2. Revise stare medicaid laws 3. Better marketing and of current services. There are many programs that are available to the public, now, but are not well known.
2021-07-28 10:55:55	SCDHEC has been more responsive than I would have ever thought. Working on the Odor issue with the New Indy plant in Catawba and have found them to be very responsive and approachable.	The state's greatest challenges are the laws that are not helpful in many cases, especially environmental issues. They can't go further or do more in many instances because of the way laws are written.	Have stricter guidelines and double and triple check all plants and factories before they are permitted to do business in our state. Lots of research needs to go into the companies and what materials and chemicals they use. Our natural resources, human population and animal population should always be more important than a new business.
2021-07-28 09:59:06	COVID vaccine rollout seemed at least a little better compared to Georgia in terms of accessibility.	It seems that in order to save money, underqualified individuals are being hired to hold positions (at least at the county level) within the state. For example, people who are not engineers are being hired to hold Engineering Associate positions. The individuals I have encountered in these positions do not have the expertise to critically review and interpret complex documents in the same way that an engineer does.	The water quality buffer requirements that will are now putting pressure on counties to require buffers surrounding lakes and lake-front properties to remain undisturbed even when owned by a residential homeowner within a common development seem overly restrictive. This requires private property to be maintained in a way that is unkempt, unsafe for children (poor snake visibility), and undesirable for lake-front home ownership. Allowance of lawns with some restrictions for tree removal seems like a much more reasonable approach for a home owner than being requiring to leave a lake-front buffer owned by a residential homeowner completely undisturbed with mulch rather than grass, uncontrolled underbrush growth, and poor visibility of the body of water. It seems the property values and tax revenue will be adversely impacted as a consequence as well.
2021-07-27 19:57:43	Citizens receive needed services to meet needs by caring professionals. It depends on exactly what services we are talking about, but I was really impressed with DHEC's roll out of the Covid-19 vaccine and how they handled distribution. I volunteered at some of the DHEC sponsored vaccination clinics and was so impressed by how quickly they got everyone vaccinated, how available it was, and how many people they got vaccinated each day. That was the only experience I've had really with a state regulated health service that I can think of. Environmental services such as recycling I think could be worked on more. I think that having a state wide recycling program like offering 10 cents back per can collected at certain locations would be a really great idea. There's a program like that already set up by the State of Michigan which has been going on for years. I also think that we need stronger recycling infrastructure and plants, I know that it's a struggle with demand for those recycled products but I think that it's necessary that we have something stronger in place than what we have now.	Challenges include financial, transportation, communication, education I think one of the major challenges we face as a state is that we are lacking a lot of infrastructure to start certain programs like recycling. I'm not too familiar with the health side of things but I volunteer a lot in the environmental field and can give some feedback to that. The state would have to make recycling programs much more accessible than they are right now and would have to add more products that they are able to recycle than what we have right now. Right now I think that there is so much confusion about what can and can't be recycled, not only by county, but by state and it would be nice to see it all the same so that way it was less confusing for everyone. And it would be great to see these programs being taught to people in lower income communities as well. I think that there is a great opportunity to get more people involved in recycling, they just don't know a lot of the rules or have access to places that recycle materials.	Develop additional grant resources and funding mechanisms; also, provide direct services via computer and on site delivery of services to communities. I would recommend 1. more access to recycling services 2. a paid program for recycling can's 3. less rules regarding recycling services and more products added to the list of things that can be recycled. We can accomplish this by adding a buyback program which could be put in the entrance of Walmart's or grocery stores where people receive change for bringing back their used cans. This program could not only increase people's chances of recycling, but make recycling more accessible to people who don't have recycling alternatives available in their communities.
2021-07-27 16:03:46	It depends on exactly what services we are talking about, but I was really impressed with DHEC's roll out of the Covid-19 vaccine and how they handled distribution. I volunteered at some of the DHEC sponsored vaccination clinics and was so impressed by how quickly they got everyone vaccinated, how available it was, and how many people they got vaccinated each day. That was the only experience I've had really with a state regulated health service that I can think of. Environmental services such as recycling I think could be worked on more. I think that having a state wide recycling program like offering 10 cents back per can collected at certain locations would be a really great idea. There's a program like that already set up by the State of Michigan which has been going on for years. I also think that we need stronger recycling infrastructure and plants, I know that it's a struggle with demand for those recycled products but I think that it's necessary that we have something stronger in place than what we have now.	I think one of the major challenges we face as a state is that we are lacking a lot of infrastructure to start certain programs like recycling. I'm not too familiar with the health side of things but I volunteer a lot in the environmental field and can give some feedback to that. The state would have to make recycling programs much more accessible than they are right now and would have to add more products that they are able to recycle than what we have right now. Right now I think that there is so much confusion about what can and can't be recycled, not only by county, but by state and it would be nice to see it all the same so that way it was less confusing for everyone. And it would be great to see these programs being taught to people in lower income communities as well. I think that there is a great opportunity to get more people involved in recycling, they just don't know a lot of the rules or have access to places that recycle materials.	I would recommend 1. more access to recycling services 2. a paid program for recycling can's 3. less rules regarding recycling services and more products added to the list of things that can be recycled. We can accomplish this by adding a buyback program which could be put in the entrance of Walmart's or grocery stores where people receive change for bringing back their used cans. This program could not only increase people's chances of recycling, but make recycling more accessible to people who don't have recycling alternatives available in their communities.
2021-07-27 16:03:34	Not enough convincing people to get vaccinated. We need more than signs and opportunities at this point. We need incentives and campaigns that will counteract the political malaise and outright attacks on science and the common good.	Reaching people in innovative and non-traditional ways.	Free state-wide wellness programs—implement at existing exercise and gym facilities; ensure clean and consistent drinking water for Denmark and everywhere in the state - fix infrastructure that services drinkable water; free mental health therapies for all - hire more social workers instead of more police
2021-07-27 13:48:52	Poorly - slow response time to questions, extremely slow permitting approval process	Response time, competency, lack of resources, abdication of responsibility when someone in an agency makes a mistake	1. Availability of Health Services in less urban areas of the state 2. Speed of response and action
2021-07-27 12:16:22	On a scale of 10, 5 stars for environmental, 8 stars for health	Political will to prioritize protection of environment for benefit of citizens' health & well-being over laissez-faire policies toward business impacts on environment	More funding/staffing for environmental stewardship; adoption of statewide Climate Action Plan with environmental aspects enforced/monitored by DHEC