

OUR COMMITMENTS



UK Health Alliance
on Climate Change

Our Commitments:

UKHACC's commitments provide a practical framework to help member organisations demonstrate leadership on climate change and health.

We recognise that every organisation is different, and will be at a different stage of its sustainability journey. Members are therefore encouraged to work towards their commitments in ways that are appropriate to their organisation, priorities and circumstances.



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on Climate Change**

Overview:

#1 Declare the climate emergency as a health emergency.

#2 Switch to greener banking & investments.

#3 Move to 100% renewable power & heating, where possible.

#4 Make catering sustainable.

#5 Change transport.

#6 Support all individuals to take the same action.

#7 Use the professional, political and public voice to support action on climate change.

#1 Declare that the climate emergency is a health emergency.

Make a public declaration that your organisation agrees that the climate emergency is a health emergency that requires urgent action.

How?

- Seek the endorsement of the organisation's leadership.
- Decide on the wording of your statement.
- Decide how to promote news of the statement to staff and beneficiaries.



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Find out more:

#2 Switch to greener banking and investments.

The problem:

Every major high-street bank funds further fossil fuel extraction. The top 25 banks provided nearly \$1Tn in funding last year alone. Most investment portfolios fund climate change.

The solution:

Cooperative Bank and **Triodos Bank** do not fund fossil fuel extraction and use. For those organisations needing international bank transfers and financing, **Handelsbanken** is a large international bank which has this capacity. We can make C-Suite introductions if needed. It is possible to move investments to 'clean' fund, yet obtain good returns. We can provide detail of how **this has been done by other organisations such as the UK Intensive Care Society.**



[Find out more:](#)

#3 Move to 100% renewable power and heating, where possible.

The problem:

(i) The carbon footprint of electricity generation (ii) Moving money to a clean grid is needed.

The solution:

If having control over the power supply, move to a company such as **GoodEnergy**, **Octopus** or **Ecotricity**. If funds and space are available; install solar panels and air source heat pumps; replace gas cooker and boiler with electric.



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[Find out more:](#)

#4 Make catering sustainable.

The problem:

Nearly 38% of greenhouse gas emissions come from the food supply chain, much from meat and dairy production.

The solution:

For your organisation:

- Commit to a plant-rich menu (ideally- but less important- local, seasonal) for all internal meetings, dinners and conferences.
- Supply only tap water; 1 litre of bottled water uses 340ml oil for manufacture and distribution
- Move from dairy milk to oat milk – this has a much lower carbon, land and water footprint.
- Read the '[How to prioritise plant-based and sustainably sourced food](#)' guide

[Find out more:](#)

HOW-TO...

Prioritise Plant-Based &
Sustainably Sourced Food



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#4 Make catering sustainable.

The solution:

For members:

- Encourage all to do the same.
- For those who want to eat meat occasionally, suggest that they eliminate red meat (beef, lamb), reduce portion sizes and move to local poultry and pork instead.
- Further information, recipes and a free app are available from [Forkranger](#).

[Find out more:](#)



#5 Change transport.

The problem:

Emissions from powered transport.

The solution:

For your organisation:

- Ensure places of work can be commuted to using public transport.
- Minimise face-to-face board meetings which involve travel.
- When booking venues for conferences or meetings, ensure that they are accessible for attendees via public transport.
- Ban the use of internal UK flights.
- Encourage the use of Eurostar/rail for continental meetings.
- Support **bike-to-work schemes**.
- Ensure that flying is only used where there are no other options. Where flights are taken, ensure these are economy class as these have a lower carbon footprint.
- Support work from home (particularly where power and heating is from 100% renewable resources).

For members:

- Encourage members to prioritise active transport and low carbon travel for every aspect of their lives.

[Find out more:](#)



#6 Support all individuals to take the same actions.

The problem:

Lack of leadership and action on issues that can make a big difference.

The solution:

These are the **7 Acts** that we ask individuals to take:

1. Move your money away from banks that finance the fossil industry
2. Move your energy to a 100% energy source – electrify!
3. More plant-rich food, seasonal and local where possible
4. More green travel walking and cycling, more trains, fewer planes
5. Monitor your CO2 footprint and cut where you can
6. Mobilise! Use your vote to demand action from your representatives
7. Motivate seven other people to perform their 7 acts

[Find out more:](#)



#6 Support all individuals to take the same actions.

The solution:

1. **Deliver a communications campaign** (website, newsletters, emails, conference sessions) to all individual members.
2. **Promote greater awareness about the links between climate and health:**
 - Share UKHACC resources and Climate and Health Emergency Bulletins with your Members.
 - Educate members on the links between climate and health using our '**How to guide.**'
 - Share incentives with staff to move banks, switch to renewable energy and access subsidised efficiency schemes that they can benefit from.
 - Offer meat alternatives and locally-sourced, seasonal options in the workplace or local producers.
 - Promote car-sharing, cycle-to-work schemes or invest in EV charging capacity.
3. **Commit to communicate the urgency and actions:**
 - On your website
 - In every bulletin and newsletter
 - At every conference and meeting

[Find out more:](#)



#7 Use the professional, political and public voice to support action on climate change.

The problem:

No politician will make unelectable choices.

The solution:

Public communication over the need for climate action. Making the public health case. Support government ambition.



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[Find out more:](#)

We ask that all member organisations take these actions as soon as possible.

If not now, then when? If not us, then who?



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