

UKHACC COMMITMENTS

Reporting on members' progress

This report was written by Dr Amelia Cussans and Dr Eleanor Cooke. The data was collected as part of the Climate and Health Scorecard Initiative and is accurate to 31st December 2023.

Report published: 21/03/2023



CLIMATE & HEALTH SCORECARD INITIATIVE

AIMS

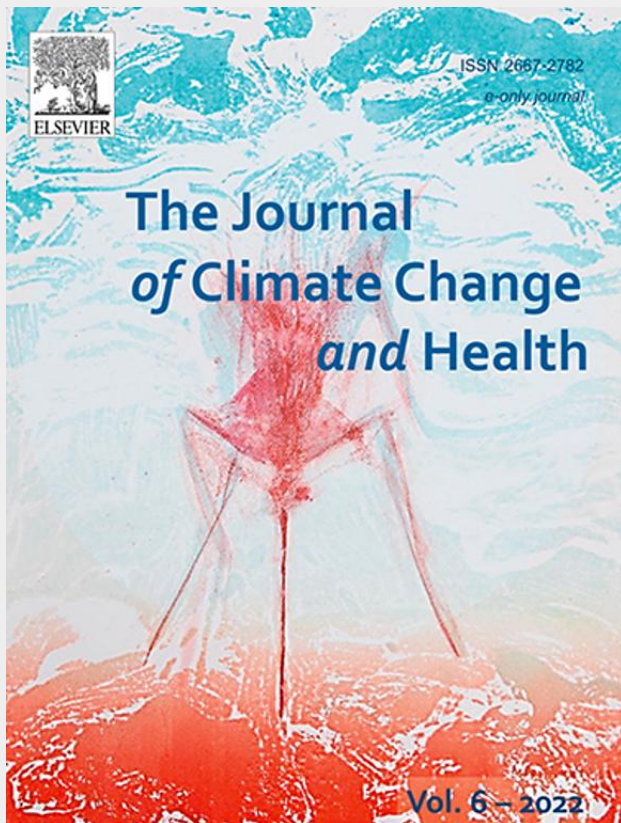
- To support health organisations in climate action
- Enable health professionals to know what climate action has been taken by their organisations

STRATEGY

- Survey health organisations using a questionnaire of achievable yet ambitious climate actions
- Share findings



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Research article

Climate change and health scorecard: What are UK professional and regulatory health organizations doing to tackle the climate and ecological emergency?

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Royal College

ABSTRACT

Introduction: Climate change is a health emergency. Health organizations have a responsibility to engage with this crisis via advocacy, education, research, divestment and by rapidly reducing their carbon emissions. This report aims to establish what progress has been made by UK health organizations and identify areas requiring further action.

Methodology: A cross-sectional survey examined four domains: internal operations; education and training; divestment; and advocacy. Scores were presented according to rank in scorecard format.

Results: 28 UK health organizations were asked to participate, with a 30% response rate. Total scores ranged from 13 to 41.75 out of 64 points. The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health achieved the highest score (41.75) followed by the Royal College of Psychiatrists (39.5) and the Royal College of General Practitioners (28.5).

Discussion: Health organizations are well-placed to: educate their members on the health impacts of climate change; advocate for legal and political change; lead by example by enacting their own decarbonization plans and minimizing their carbon emissions; and by divesting financially from fossil fuels. Organizations showed varying levels of action, with many not participating or scoring poorly. However, there was evidence of some excellent work and growing levels of engagement.

Conclusion: This report identifies positive climate action alongside opportunities for growth among UK health organizations. Although considerable advances are being made, these are not to the scale or speed required to secure a livable future for all. We hope that this work will support organizations in taking further action.

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1. Introduction

The climate crisis is the greatest health threat of the 21st century [1,2]. The burning of fossil fuels has led to a global temperature rise of 1.1°C since 1850 [3], with far reaching physical and mental health consequences. Extreme weather and drought lead to crop failure, malnutrition, forced displacement of people and physical and mental trauma, while air pollution increases morbidity and mortality including from heart disease, asthma and dementia [1,2]. Societal actions in the next decade will determine the extent to which we can limit temperature rises and their resultant health impacts. Progress has been made, but not to the scale nor speed required [4]. Research is needed on climate change health impacts and solutions; planetary health should be integrated into our education and training [5]; and our health organizations should lead by example by enacting green plans to reduce their carbon emissions and waste production; by divesting financially from fossil fuels [6] and by advocating climate-friendly policy and legislation.

Furthermore, as healthcare itself is responsible for significant carbon emissions and waste production [7], we must decarbonize and streamline health services so that they are sustainable for future generations.

Abbreviations: NHS, National Health Service; CoP, College of Paramedics; FPH, Faculty of Public Health; CMC, General Medical Council; RCoA, Royal College of Anaesthetists; RCER, Royal College of Emergency Medicine; RCGP, Royal College of General Practitioners; RCOG, Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists; RCPCH, Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health; RCP, Royal College of Physicians; RCPsych, Royal College of Psychiatrists; RCS England, Royal College of Surgeons in England; UHACC, UK Health Alliance on Climate Change; CPD, Continuing Professional Development; COP26, 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference; WHO, World Health Organization

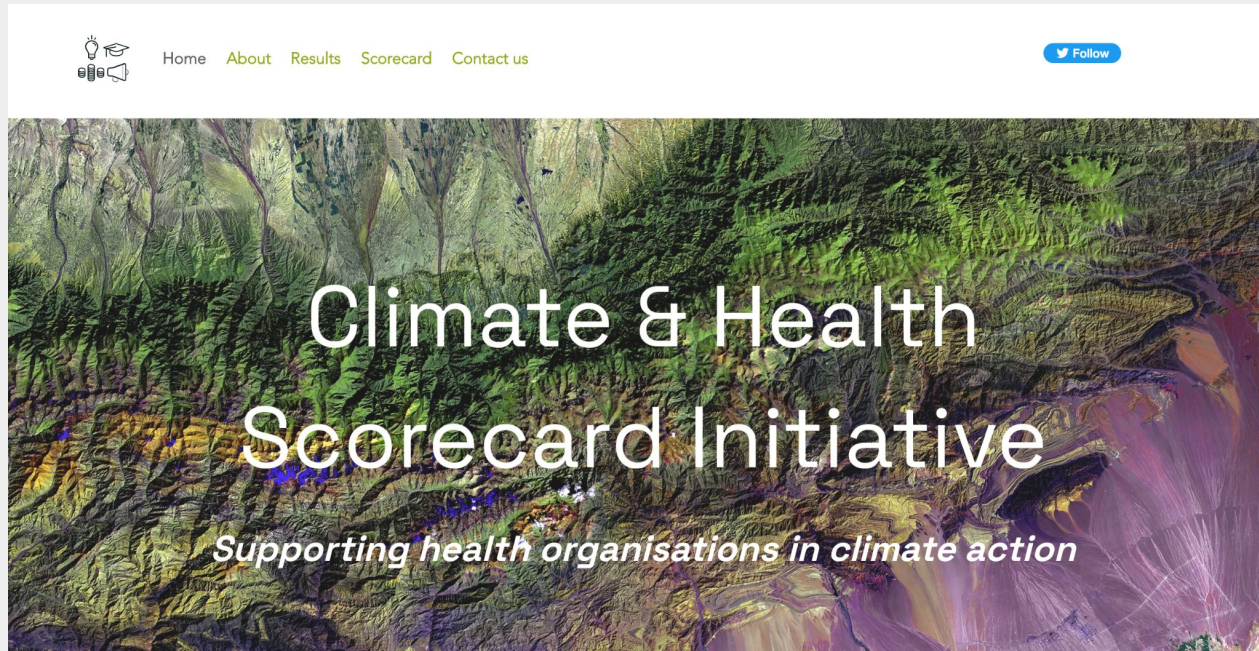
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RESULTS

www.climatehealthscorecard.com/results



PARTICIPANTS



The following UKHACC members were not invited to participate in the scorecard, as very few aspects of the questionnaire were considered applicable to their organisation: Planetary Health Report Card; Students for Global Health; Climate and Health Council.

UKHACC Commitments



Declare



Plan



Campaign



Embed



Specialise



Educate



Divest



Improve



Travel smart



Plant-based



www.ukhealthalliance.org/Our-Commitments



UK Health Alliance
on Climate Change

**Declare that
the climate
emergency
is a health
emergency**



Declare that the climate emergency is a health emergency



How the scorecard assessed this commitment:

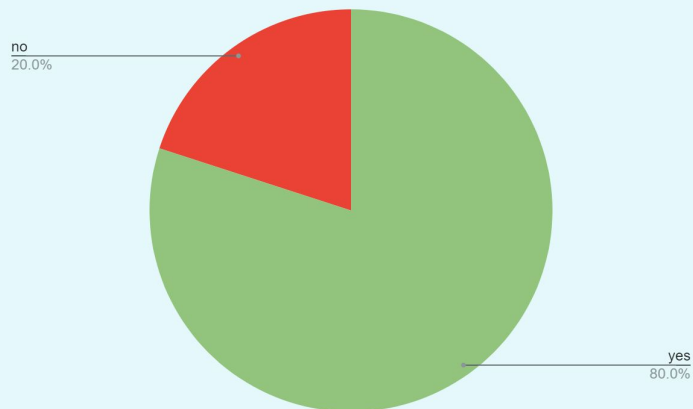
Q47. Has your organisation publicly declared a climate and ecological emergency? *1 point*

Declaration made	Green
Declaration not made	Red

Declare that the climate emergency is a health emergency



This commitment was met by 12/15 (80%)



Whilst three organisations had not made a formal declaration, it is noted that they had all acknowledged the climate emergency through their advocacy work, and/or had referenced the climate emergency on social media.

Organisation	Declaration Status
Association of Clinical Psychologists	Yes
British Association for Critical Care Nursing	Yes
British Society of Gastroenterology	Yes
College of Paramedics	No
Faculty of Public Health	Yes
Plant Based Health Professionals	Yes
Royal College of Anaesthetists	No
Royal College of Emergency Medicine	Yes
Royal College of General Practitioners	Yes
Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists	No
Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health	Yes
Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow	Yes
Royal College of Psychiatrists	Yes
Royal College of Surgeons of England	Yes
Royal Pharmaceutical Society	Yes

Declare that the climate emergency is a health emergency



FPH declares climate emergency

RCPsych declares a climate and ecological emergency

Online news

05 May 2021

RCEM declares Climate Emergency

14 November 2019

Tri-Collegiate Announcement of Green Theatre Initiative and Climate Emergency Declaration

**Publish a
plan for your
organisation
to get to net
zero**



Publish a plan for your organisation to get to net zero



How the scorecard assessed this commitment:

1. Has your organisation measured its present-day carbon footprint? *0.5 points*
2. For emissions you directly control (scope 1 emissions), by what date does your organisation plan to reach net zero? *1 point*
3. For emissions which you can influence, but not control directly (scopes 2 and 3 emissions), by what date does your organisation plan to reach net zero? *1 point*
4. Does your plan involve short-term, medium term and long-term targets? *0.5 points*
5. Do you publish a publicly available report annually on whether climate/nature targets are being met? *0.5 points*

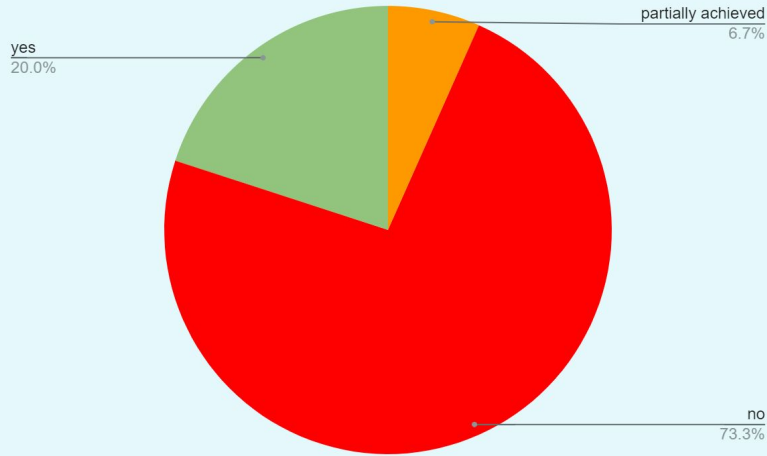
Total points for this commitment: 3.5

≥3	Green
1.5-2.5	Orange
≤1.5	Red

Publish a plan for your organisation to get to net zero



This commitment was met by 3/15 (20%)



Organisation	Response
Association of Clinical Psychologists	no
British Association for Critical Care Nursing	no
British Society of Gastroenterology	no
College of Paramedics	no
Faculty of Public Health	no
Plant Based Health Professionals	no
Royal College of Anaesthetists	no
Royal College of Emergency Medicine	partially achieved
Royal College of General Practitioners	no
Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists	no
Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health	yes
Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow	yes
Royal College of Psychiatrists	yes
Royal College of Surgeons of England	no
Royal Pharmaceutical Society	no

**Campaign
on mitigating
and adapting
to the
planetary
crisis**



Campaign on mitigating and adapting to the planetary crisis

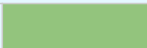




How the scorecard assessed this commitment:

51. Between October 10th 2021 - 31st December 2023, has your organisation sought to influence legislation relating to climate and health? Please state if these actions were via UKHACC.

Examples might include working with other organisations who are UKHACC members to form working groups or promoting the work of UKHACC with the goal of engaging with policymakers on issues such as: the health impacts of climate change; air pollution; ecological degradation; COP26 and COP27; Green New Deal; green jobs; airport expansion; the opening of new coal mines/fracking/oil and gas exploration; ending the subsidising of fossil fuels and improving access to green/blue space; and the social justice issues associated with all of the above?

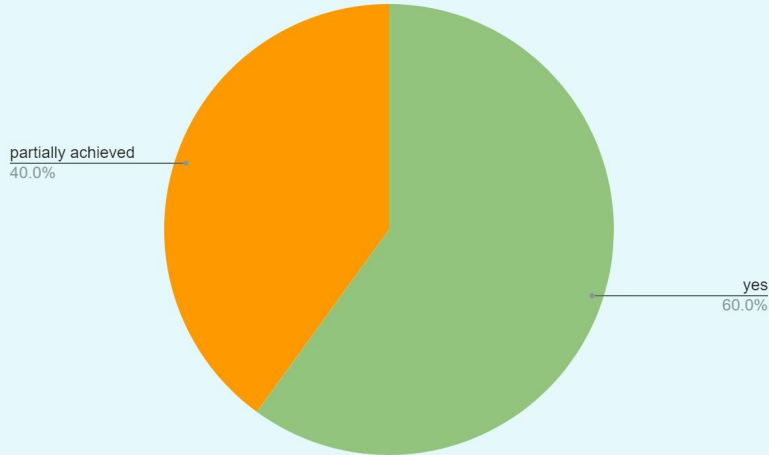
2 points per example with a maximum of two examples counted from work done via UKHACC. Total points for this commitment: 3.5

≥7	
3-6	
≤2	

Campaign on mitigating and adapting to the planetary crisis



This commitment was met by 9/15 (60%)



Organisation	Response
Association of Clinical Psychologists	yes
British Association for Critical Care Nursing	partially achieved
British Society of Gastroenterology	partially achieved
College of Paramedics	partially achieved
Faculty of Public Health	yes
Plant Based Health Professionals	yes
Royal College of Anaesthetists	partially achieved
Royal College of Emergency Medicine	partially achieved
Royal College of General Practitioners	yes
Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists	yes
Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health	yes
Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow	yes
Royal College of Psychiatrists	yes
Royal College of Surgeons of England	partially achieved
Royal Pharmaceutical Society	yes

Campaign on mitigating and adapting to the planetary crisis



Nature For Everyone Campaign



College of Paramedics @ParamedicsUK · Oct 4, 2023

Health is adversely impacted by **climate** & ecological crises. Action from the UK Government is needed.



Opinion » Open Letter

New licenses for oil and gas drilling will exacerbate climate crisis—an open letter to the PM

BMJ 2023 ; 382 doi: <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.p1794> (Published 02 August 2023)

Cite this as: BMJ 2023;382:p1794



Royal College of
Obstetricians &
Gynaecologists

Summary: RCOG and RCPCH parliamentary roundtable “The air we breathe: putting women and children at the heart of the debate on air quality in the UK” – May 2022

Campaign on mitigating and adapting to the planetary crisis



ACP-UK Supports Climate Activists Engaging in Non-violent Direct Action and Encourages Members to Support the Cause

 ACP-UK Climate Action Network & ACP-UK Board

 April 20, 2022

UK doctors involved in climate protests face threat of being struck off

GPs with convictions over protests face tribunals to determine whether they can keep licence to practise



 Sarah Benn, a GP who is now retired, once glued her hand to the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy in protest at government climate inaction. Photograph: Antonio Olmos/The Guardian

**Embed
sustainability
in governance,
structure and
culture**



Embed sustainability in governance, structure and culture



How the scorecard assessed this commitment:




7. Does your organisation employ a climate lead with time AND funding made available for the role?

2 points

8. Does your organisation have a policy whereby decisions made by the senior management team must consider the impact on climate change and the environment? *1 point*

9. Does your organisation have a climate/nature committee and/or working group? *1 point*

Total points for this commitment: 4 points

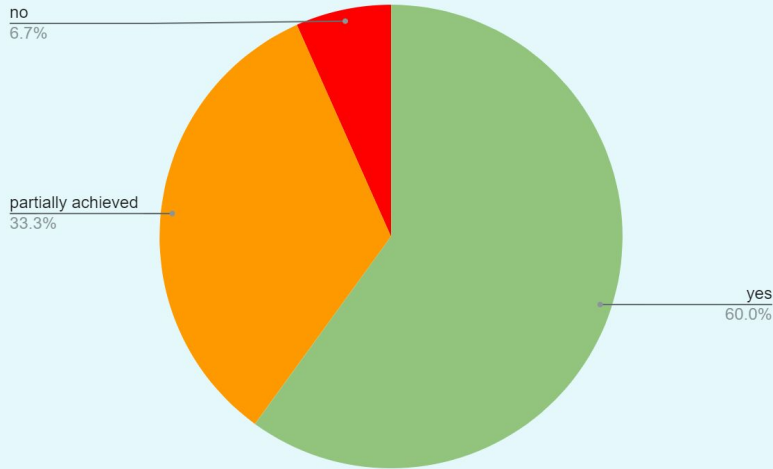
≥3	
2	
≤1	

The assessing questions (designed for health colleges) were felt to be not applicable to PBHP. Their achievement of this commitment was evidenced in that that sustainability is embedded in everything they do, including their governance, structure and culture.

Embed sustainability in governance, structure and culture



This commitment was met by 9/15 (60%)



Organisation	Response
Association of Clinical Psychologists	partially achieved
British Association for Critical Care Nursing	no
British Society of Gastroenterology	partially achieved
College of Paramedics	partially achieved
Faculty of Public Health	yes
Plant Based Health Professionals	yes
Royal College of Anaesthetists	partially achieved
Royal College of Emergency Medicine	yes
Royal College of General Practitioners	yes
Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists	partially achieved
Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health	yes
Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow	yes
Royal College of Psychiatrists	yes
Royal College of Surgeons of England	yes
Royal Pharmaceutical Society	yes

**Develop a
plan for
sustainability
in your
specialist
area**





Develop a plan for sustainability in your specialist area



How the scorecard assessed this commitment:

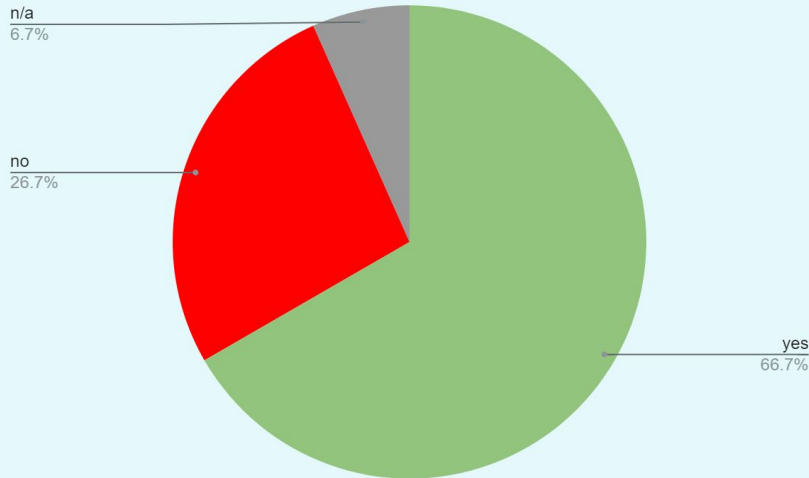
6. Have you developed a plan for sustainability in your specialist area, working with health systems (NHS/Greener NHS) to implement the plan? *2 points*

Yes	
No	

Develop a plan for sustainability in your specialist area



This commitment was met by 10 organisations out of the 14 for whom it was applicable (71%).

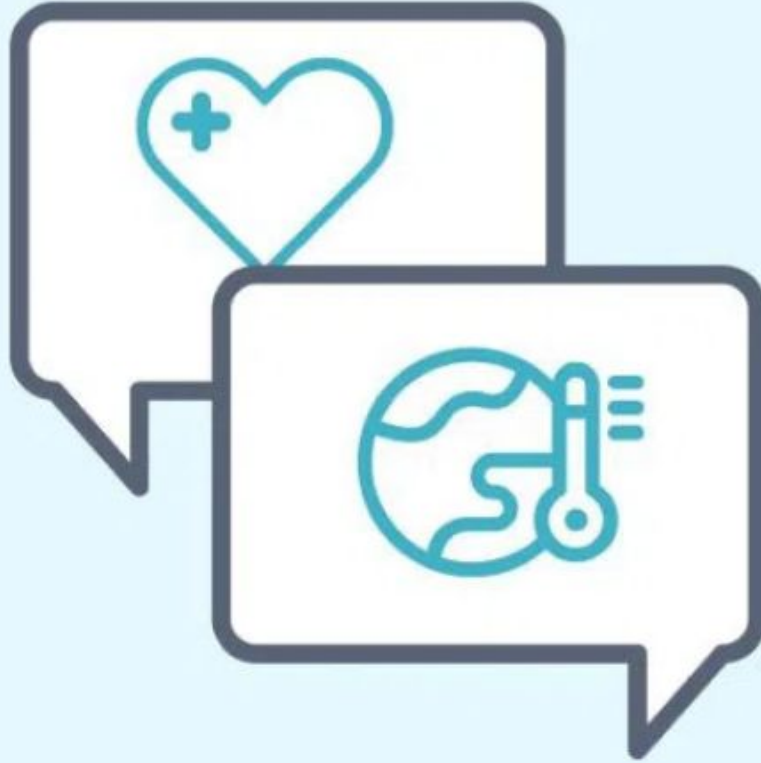


Organisation	Response
Association of Clinical Psychologists	no
British Association for Critical Care Nursing	no
British Society of Gastroenterology	yes
College of Paramedics	no
Faculty of Public Health	yes
Plant Based Health Professionals	n/a
Royal College of Anaesthetists	yes
Royal College of Emergency Medicine	yes
Royal College of General Practitioners	yes
Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists	yes
Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health	no
Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow	yes
Royal College of Psychiatrists	yes
Royal College of Surgeons of England	yes
Royal Pharmaceutical Society	yes

Develop a plan for sustainability in your specialist area



**Educate
members on
the links
between
climate and
health**



Educate members on the links between climate and health



How the scorecard assessed this commitment:



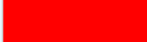
29. Are the health impacts of climate change embedded in your (specialist exam) curriculum e.g. membership exams? *2.5 points*

31. Does your organisation have a strategy to promote climate, nature and health literacy amongst all members e.g via e-learning or similar? *1 point*

33. Between October 10th 2021 - 31st December 2023, has your organisation run one or more educational events on the topics of climate change, ecological degradation and pollution? *1 point*

38. Does your organisation promote education that highlights the role of health professionals in decarbonising the care they deliver? *1 point*

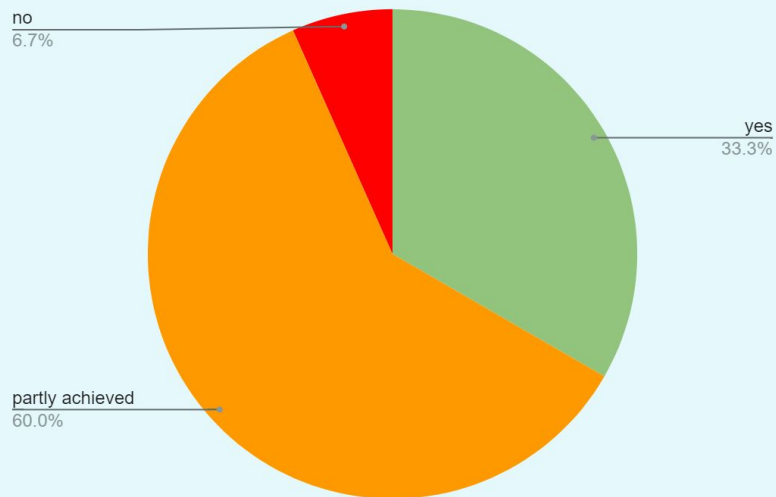
Total points for this commitment: 5.5

≥4	
2-3.5	
≤1.5	

Educate members on the links between climate and health



This commitment was met by 5/15 (33%)



Organisation	
Association of Clinical Psychologists	orange
British Association for Critical Care Nursing	orange
British Society of Gastroenterology	orange
College of Paramedics	red
Faculty of Public Health	green
Plant Based Health Professionals	green
Royal College of Anaesthetists	green
Royal College of Emergency Medicine	orange
Royal College of General Practitioners	green
Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists	orange
Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health	orange
Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow	orange
Royal College of Psychiatrists	orange
Royal College of Surgeons of England	orange
Royal Pharmaceutical Society	green

**Disinvest from
fossil fuels
and
sign the
fossil fuel
non-proliferation
treaty**



Disinvest from fossil fuels



How the scorecard assessed this commitment:

39. Divestment: Has your organisation publicly divested all direct investments in fossil fuels? *3 points*

40. Divestment: Has your organisation divested all indirect investments in fossil fuels? *3 points*

41. Divestment of pension funds? *4 points*

42. Does your endowment have investments in climate solutions that consider local communities and align with climate justice goals? *1 point*

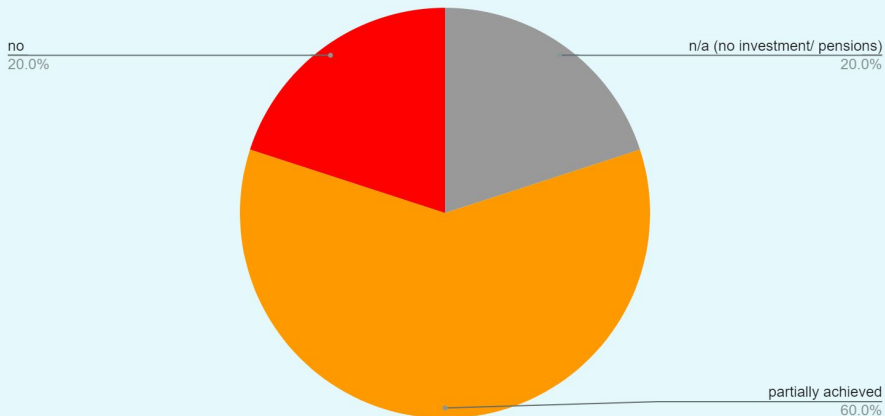
43. Transparency: has your organisation published a full list of endowment holdings (including in sub funds) which is available to the public? *1 point*

44. Transparency: has your organisation published a full list of pension holdings (including in sub funds) which is available to the public? *1 point*

Total points for this commitment: 13

≥	9
	5-8
≤	4

Disinvest from fossil fuels



The divestment aspect of this commitment was not fully met by any of the participating members. We note that many organisations had divested their investments both directly and indirectly, but had not directed their pensions, nor scored points for financial transparency or positive reinvestment in climate solutions, contributing to overall low scores in this area.

Organisation	Score
Association of Clinical Psychologists	Grey
British Association for Critical Care Nursing	Grey
British Society of Gastroenterology	Orange
College of Paramedics	Red *
Faculty of Public Health	Orange
Plant Based Health Professionals	Grey
Royal College of Anaesthetists	Orange
Royal College of Emergency Medicine	Orange
Royal College of General Practitioners	Orange
Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists	Red
Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health	Orange
Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow	Red
Royal College of Psychiatrists	Orange
Royal College of Surgeons of England	Orange
Royal Pharmaceutical Society	Orange

*CoP do not have investments, so were assessed on Q41 (pensions) and Q44 (financial transparency).

Sign the fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty



How the scorecard assessed this commitment:

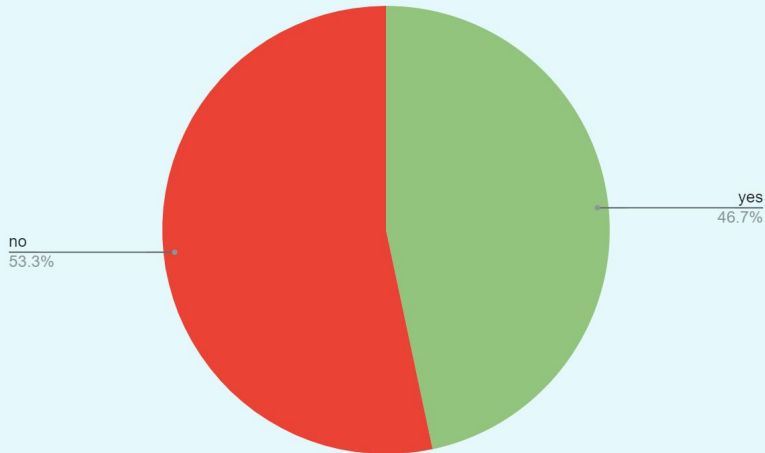
49. Has your organisation signed the fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty letter (independently of UKHACC)? *1 point*

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

Sign the fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty

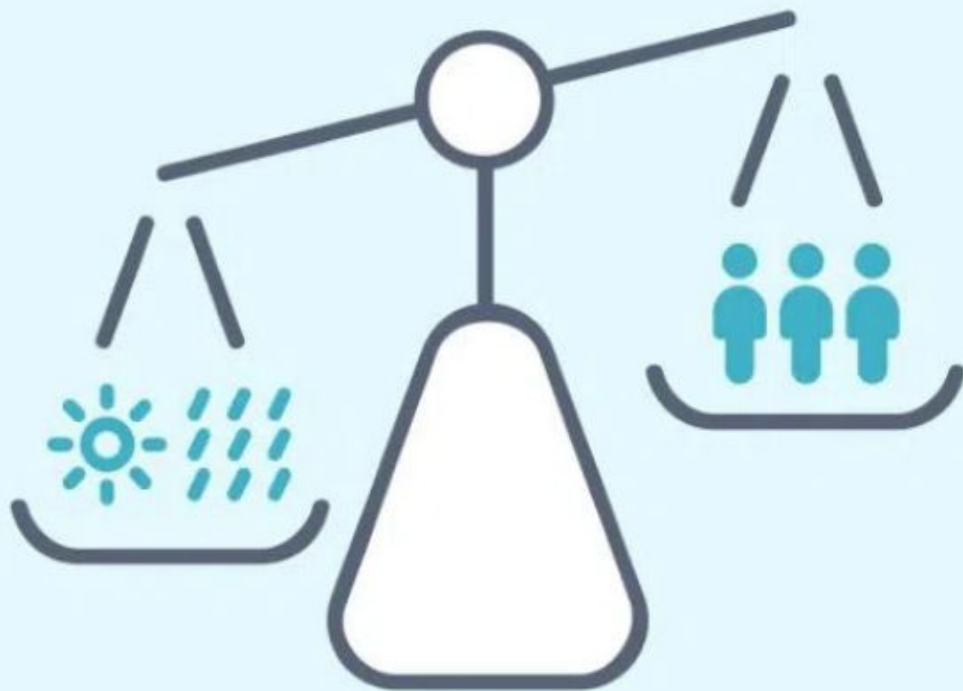


This was signed by 7/15 (47%)



Organisation	Response
Association of Clinical Psychologists	yes
British Association for Critical Care Nursing	no
British Society of Gastroenterology	no
College of Paramedics	no
Faculty of Public Health	yes
Plant Based Health Professionals	no
Royal College of Anaesthetists	no
Royal College of Emergency Medicine	no
Royal College of General Practitioners	yes
Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists	no
Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health	yes
Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow	yes
Royal College of Psychiatrists	yes
Royal College of Surgeons of England	no
Royal Pharmaceutical Society	yes

**Acknowledge
the link
between
climate
change and
inequalities**



Acknowledge the link between climate change and inequalities



How the scorecard assessed this commitment:

28. Does your organisation have an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion action plan? *0.5 points*

34. Between October 10th 2021 - 31st December 2023, has your organisation run one or more events or promoted learning resources that specifically focus on the justice issues surrounding climate change, ecological degradation and pollution? *1 point*

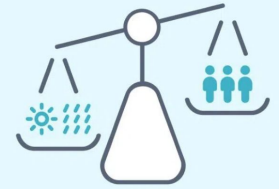
35. Does your organisation actively promote strategies and/or policies that have a positive impact on planetary health whilst having the co-benefit of improving population health and/or reducing health inequalities? *4 points*

48. Does your organisation consult communities disproportionately impacted by climate change, ecological degradation and pollution to aid decision-making on climate action? *1 point*

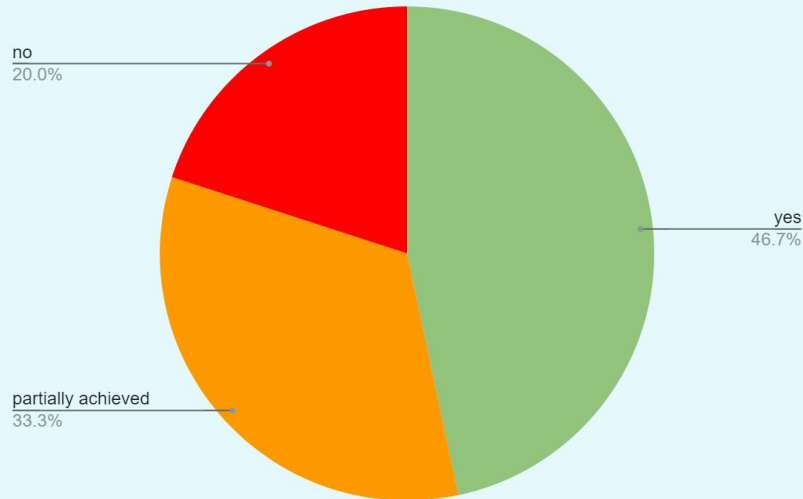
Total points for this commitment: 6.5

≥	Green
	Orange
≤	Red

Acknowledge the link between climate change and inequalities

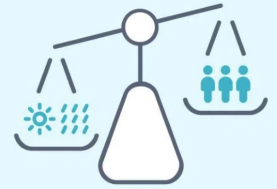


This commitment was met by
7/15 (47%)



Organisation	Response
Association of Clinical Psychologists	partially achieved
British Association for Critical Care Nursing	no
British Society of Gastroenterology	partially achieved
College of Paramedics	no
Faculty of Public Health	yes
Plant Based Health Professionals	yes
Royal College of Anaesthetists	partially achieved
Royal College of Emergency Medicine	partially achieved
Royal College of General Practitioners	partially achieved
Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists	yes
Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health	yes
Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow	yes
Royal College of Psychiatrists	yes
Royal College of Surgeons of England	no
Royal Pharmaceutical Society	yes

Acknowledge the link between climate change and inequalities



[Home](#) | [Key topics](#)

Child health inequalities and climate change

Climate change poses an existential threat to the health and wellbeing of children and young people. But it is not experienced equally. We look at unequal exposure to its effects, capacity to adapt, food security and eco distress. It's time again to #ShiftTheDial

**Develop and
implement a
travel policy
for members
and staff**



Develop and implement a travel policy for members and staff



How the scorecard assessed this commitment:

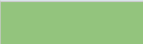


16. Does your organisation have bike storage that is locked and covered, AND changing facilities including showers, for all your workplaces? *0.5 points*

17. Does your organisation participate in the Cycle to Work scheme? *0.5 points*

18. Has your organisation stopped reimbursing or booking short-haul flights for business travel? This may include all flights which could be replaced by trains with a journey time of under 6 hours. *0.5 points*

19. Does your organisation incentivise the use of low carbon travel by reimbursing travel that uses active or public transport (walk/cycle/train/bus) at higher rates than for journeys using cars? *0.5 points*

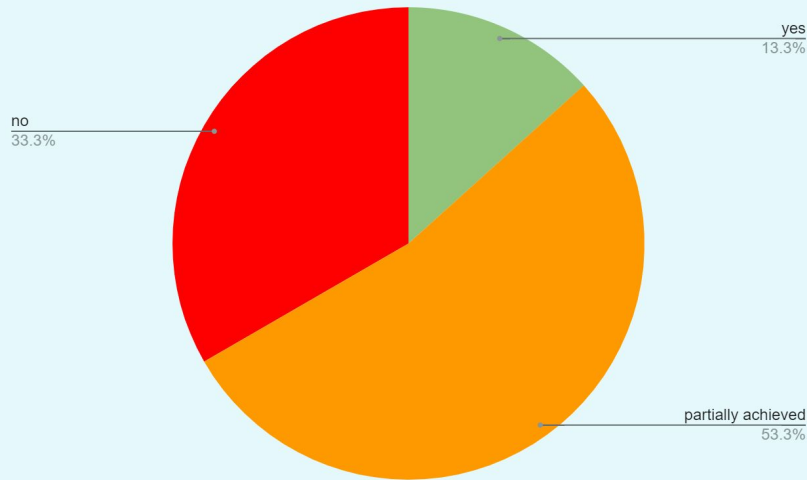
Total points for this commitment: 2 points

≥1.5	
1	
≤0.5	

Develop and implement a travel policy for members and staff



This commitment was met by 2/15 (13%)



Organisation	Response
Association of Clinical Psychologists	no
British Association for Critical Care Nursing	no
British Society of Gastroenterology	partially achieved
College of Paramedics	no
Faculty of Public Health	partially achieved
Plant Based Health Professionals	no
Royal College of Anaesthetists	partially achieved
Royal College of Emergency Medicine	partially achieved
Royal College of General Practitioners	partially achieved
Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists	partially achieved
Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health	partially achieved
Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow	no
Royal College of Psychiatrists	partially achieved
Royal College of Surgeons of England	partially achieved
Royal Pharmaceutical Society	partially achieved

Develop and implement a travel policy for members and staff



RCoA Branded Lycra Shorts



**Prioritise
plant-based
and
sustainably
sourced
food**



Prioritise plant-based and sustainably sourced food



How the scorecard assessed this commitment:

20. Does your organisation have a target for increasing the proportion of the food that it serves that is plant-based and locally-sourced? *0.5 points*
21. Does your organisation always offer a plant-based option on site and at conferences/meetings? *0.5 points*
22. Has your organisation removed red meat from your menus, both in house and at catered events? *0.5 points*
23. Does your organisation display carbon and environmental impact labels on your food and menus? *0.5 points*

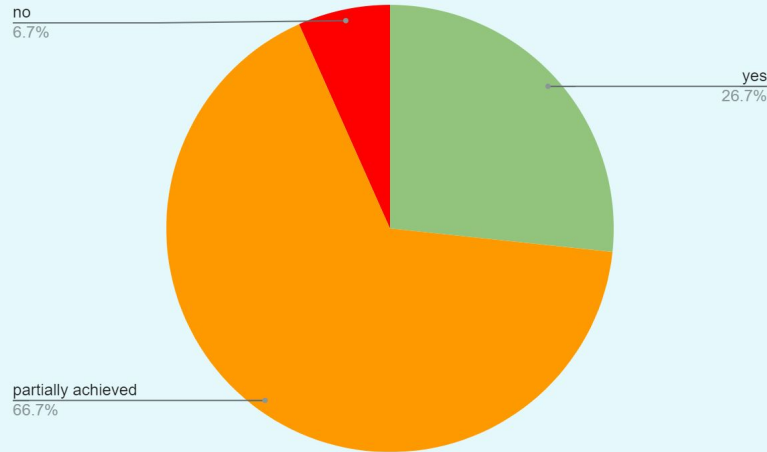
Total points for this commitment: 2 points

≥ 1.5	
1	
≤ 0.5	

Prioritise plant-based and sustainably sourced food



Commitment met by 4/15
(27%)



Organisation	Response
Association of Clinical Psychologists	partially achieved
British Association for Critical Care Nursing	partially achieved
British Society of Gastroenterology	partially achieved
College of Paramedics	partially achieved
Faculty of Public Health	yes
Plant Based Health Professionals	yes
Royal College of Anaesthetists	partially achieved
Royal College of Emergency Medicine	yes
Royal College of General Practitioners	partially achieved
Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists	partially achieved
Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health	partially achieved
Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow	no
Royal College of Psychiatrists	partially achieved
Royal College of Surgeons of England	partially achieved
Royal Pharmaceutical Society	yes

Prioritise plant-based and sustainably sourced food



Banking

The 11th commitment!



Banking



How the scorecard assessed this commitment:

45. Does your organisation bank with a bank that itself has an ethical investment policy and does not finance companies opening new fossil fuel reserves? *1 point*

Total points for this commitment: 1

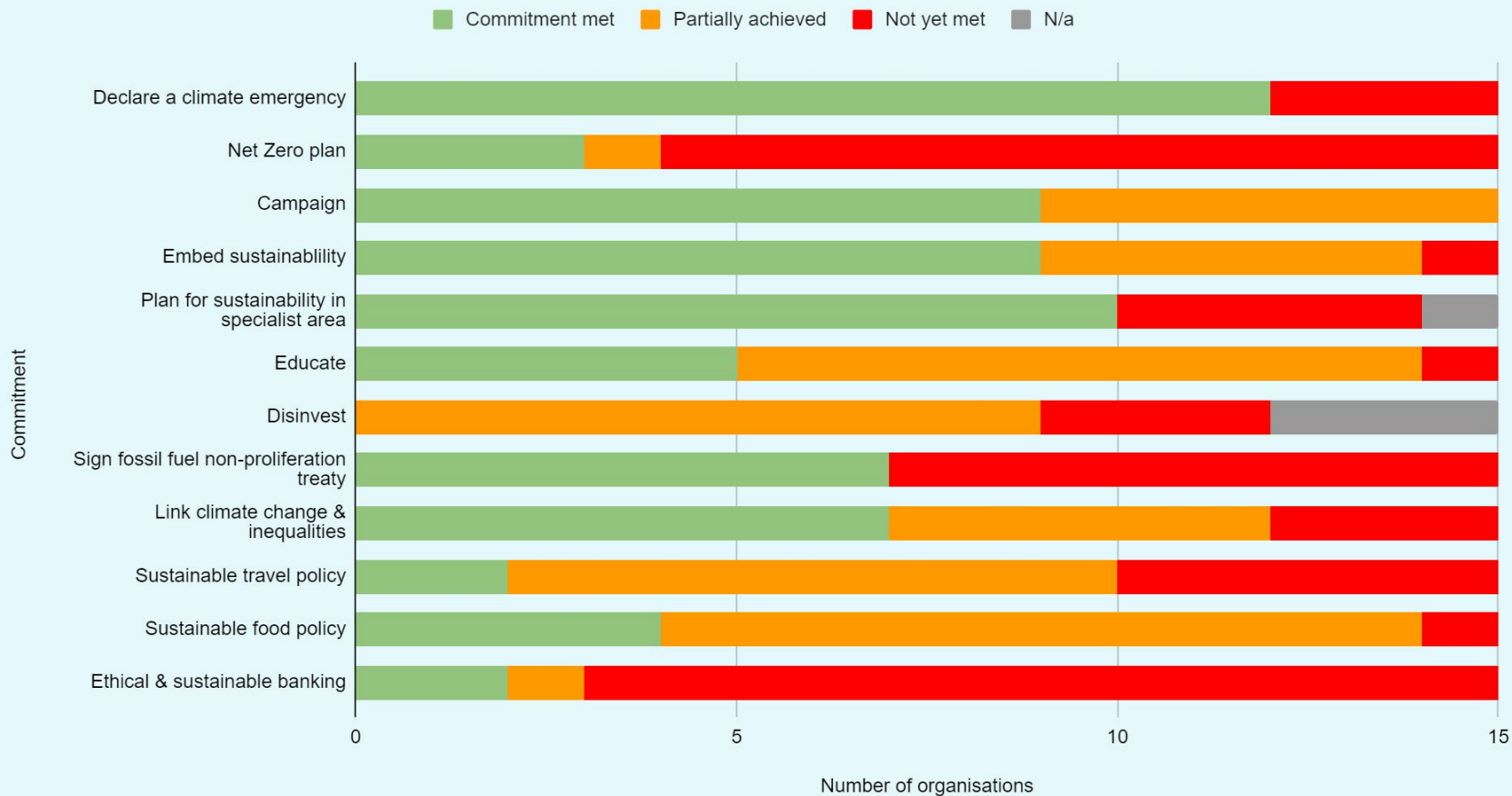
Sustainable and ethical bank	Green
Bank has poor sustainable/ethical credentials	Red

Banking



Organisation	Bank	
Association of Clinical Psychologists	Co-operative	
British Association for Critical Care Nursing	Barclays	
British Society of Gastroenterology	NatWest	
College of Paramedics	Santander	
Faculty of Public Health	NatWest	
Plant Based Health Professionals	Co-operative	
Royal College of Anaesthetists	Royal Bank of Scotland	
Royal College of Emergency Medicine	Handelsbanken	
Royal College of General Practitioners	Barclays	
Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists	Barclays	
Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health	RBS/NatWest	
Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow	Santander	
Royal College of Psychiatrists	Barclays	
Royal College of Surgeons of England	Lloyds	
Royal Pharmaceutical Society	NatWest	

Summary of results: Extent to which UKHACC commitments have been met by participating member organisations 2022-23



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