



UK Health Alliance on Climate Change

Minute

UKHACC AGM and Council Meeting

Thursday 27 March 2025, 14.00-17.00

Held in person at BMA House, London

Attendance: 16 in person and 31 online. The meeting was recorded [[Unedited recording](#)]
The meeting was chaired by: Richard Smith (RS), UK Health Alliance on Climate Change

1. Introduction and welcome

Richard Smith welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the BMA for hosting. In his opening remarks, RS highlighted the continual increase of greenhouse gas emissions, with levels rising higher than ever before in 2024, and rising global temperatures which exceeded 1.5C above pre-industrial levels in 2024. RS also shared evidence from the Lancet Countdown on Climate Change and Health that shows there is greater engagement with health and climate change than with other issues that intersect with climate change (e.g. the economy and security).

[The slides can be viewed here.](#)

RS welcomed Jim Skea to the meeting.

2. Presentation by Jim Skea, Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change followed by Q&A

Key points noted:

- The IPCC assesses the scientific, technical and socio-economic information to understand the scientific basis for climate change, its potential impacts, and options for mitigation and adaptation
- The IPCC does not conduct research and is neutral with respect to policy
- The sixth assessment cycle provided evidence that:
 - global emissions make it likely warming will exceed 1.5C,
 - emissions are distributed unevenly,
 - extremes get more pronounced with heating,
 - adaptation affects levels of climate-related risks.
- The seventh assessment cycle has commenced and will include:
 - Special report on climate change and cities (early 2027)
 - Methodology report on short lived climate enforcers (late 2027)
 - Three working group reports: WG I - The physical science basis | WG II - Impacts, adaptation and vulnerability | WG III - Mitigation of climate change
 - The synthesis report of WG outcomes will be published late 2029

- WG II report will be supported by update to 1994 IPCC technical guidelines on impacts and adaptation
- WG II report will include a thematic chapter on health and wellbeing

[The presentation slides can be accessed here](#)

Questions and points noted:

- IPCC is consensus based, which can be hard won as they are constantly needed to explore flexibility to reach consensus
- Treatment of fossil fuels and language around tipping points have been difficult areas to reach agreement on
- WG II and III reports have finance chapters. Movement of money to developed countries is a key factor of both. Costs of mitigation versus avoided impact are also considered and evidence suggests that for most levels of warming, the cost of mitigation is less than the avoided impact.
- IPCC has gotten better at linking mitigation and adaptation - co-benefits of mitigation actions in terms of adaptation were included in recent reports. Systematically pulling out synergies between mitigation and adaptation.
- Health professionals doing a good job. Wellcome has applied to become an observer of IPCC.
- AMOC and ocean circulation will be covered in WG I report (abrupt changes).
- It is still possible to stay within 2C but needs a big step up in effort
- People from the oil and gas sector have been involved as reviewers in reports. When reports are reviewed every comment is published afterwards. It is very transparent.
- IPCC research atlas can go down to a local levels. IPCC doesn't do the research, it synthesises what others have done
- Women and children are covered in WG II analysis - gender related aspects of climate change
- IPCC has been trying to share more optimistic messages. There is speculation that emphasising adaptation more may be more impactful, but no evidence at this stage
- It is easier to measure outputs to outcomes. E.g Commitment to net zero is an output but delivery is the outcome. 5-10% of global emissions have been avoided over the last 10-20 years, but whether this has been attributed to IPCC or other factors is more difficult to measure.
- Timing of reports seems a long way away (2027, 2029). The Intergovernmental process does take time, but its unique role is that once it has been published it has authority of governments.
- What's the effect of Americans withdrawing? Membership of IPCC means you're a member of WMA. The question is whether you participate or not. The US did not participate in the last session of IPCC. US have one of the co-chairs of WG III and have disbanded one of the nodes of their tech support unit, a lot of work going on to try to constitute that. It will not undermine the process.
- We've had information for 30-40 years but it hasn't had the impact. How do we translate evidence into reality and get people to behave in a different way? WG III includes a chapter on consumption and human behaviour. IPCC would welcome more social scientists to get involved.

RS thanked JS for his insights and open discussion

3. End of Year report

EM presented an overview of highlights from the previous year and first quarter of 2025. The End of Year report was shared prior to the meeting.

Key points noted:

- Eight organisations have joined since September 2024. Our total membership is now 53 organisations.
- Since our last meeting, we have published a policy report on food systems transition and the UK policy brief for the Lancet Countdown
- We have established a working group to develop a policy report on adaptation and resilience of the health sector
- We have called for action across a range of areas include energy, travel, food, NHS, and international commitments
- Our members told us they benefit from being members
- A letter from the Prime Minister's Office congratulated our dedication and commitment

The [report can be viewed here](#).

The [presentation slides](#) can be accessed here.

Points noted:

- RS congratulated EM and AP on work delivered over the year
- RS noted tension between how much we work with members and how much we think about the broader world. Our existence is about the wider world. e.g. The Climate Coalition has over 100 members and we are the only health group. It is important that UKHACC represents the health voice in the wider climate movement.

4. Financial report

An overview of the [2025 income and expenditure](#) was shared prior to the meeting and presented.

Points noted were:

- It would be helpful to complete exit interviews with organisations that choose to leave UKHACC to better understand their motivations for leaving
- Feedback from organisations that have left indicated that prioritisation of finances and specific aspects of UKHACC work (support for doctors convicted of non-violent action and specific asks in the election manifesto) were reasons for leaving.
- It was confirmed that UKHACC would accept financial support from philanthropists

5. Operational plan

The [2025 Operational Plan](#) was shared prior to the meeting. An overview of the workplan for the year was presented.

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Lancet Countdown UK policy brief													
Food strategy				?	?	?							
Commitments supporting material													
Scorecard data collection													
Council/AGM meetings													
Chair recruitment and appointment													

6. Recruitment of a Chair for UKHACC

Members were reminded that UKHACC is currently in the process of seeking a new Chair to take over when RS term comes to an end in September 2025.

An [advert for the role can be viewed here](#).

- The deadline for applications is 24 April 2025. Interviews will be held in May.
- Members were encouraged to share the advertisement with any individuals they feel could make a good chair.
- Interested candidates are welcome to contact EM for an information conversation prior to application.

7. Proposal to add a new membership category

A proposal to add a new category of membership for organisations wishing to join UKHACC was shared prior to the meeting and discussed.

Points noted were:

- Recruitment of new membership organisations will be conducted in a phased approach with a target of recruiting two-three new members in the non-profit/charity sector over the next year
- The subscription fee structure for the new membership category of non-profits and charities will be based on turnover (the same format as used for journal members)

There were no objections to the proposal. Trustees will progress to formalise the process.

8. Our Commitments

EM presented an update on the delivery of our commitments project. A paper was also shared prior to the meeting. Key points presented were:

- The development of 'How To' guides, information sessions and collation of case studies for five Commitments will take place during April - October 2025.
- We encourage members to provide case studies to support share learning across UKHACC members. A template has been developed to support this process
- An update on the number of members that have endorsed the commitments will be included in the monthly Director's Update email and members are encouraged to add

their name to the endorsement when they feel able. Our aim is to have the majority of members confirming their endorsement by September 2026

- Collation of data for the Climate and Health Scorecard is scheduled to commence in June 2025 and complete in December 2025. A progress report will be presented to UKHACC council in March 2026.
- Members who have completed the scorecard previously had mixed views - concerns regarding presentation of lack of progress in some areas resulted in some organisations not wishing to have the results published, others indicated value in the publication and ease of completing the survey.
- It was agreed that UKHACC trustees should review the questions prior to the call for responses.
- Members broke into groups to update on work they had completed in their own organisations regarding delivery of the commitments.

Next meeting: 18 September 2025, 14.00-17.00
Royal College of Psychiatrists