



# UK Health Alliance on Climate Change

End Of Year Report 2024



# Our members

At the end of December 2024, **50 UK-based health organisations** are members of the UK Health Alliance on Climate Change.

The total membership of our members is **1,036,192 health professionals**.

Five organisations joined in 2024:

- British Geriatrics Society
- Faculty of Medical Leadership and Management
- Healthcare Infection Society
- Real Zero
- Association of Dental Hospitals



## Our members told us

**100%**

Believe acting on climate change and nature is important

**96%**

Benefit from being a member of UKHACC

**Being part of a network of health organisations with a common aim is seen as the main benefit of membership of UKHACC**

– 2024 Membership survey

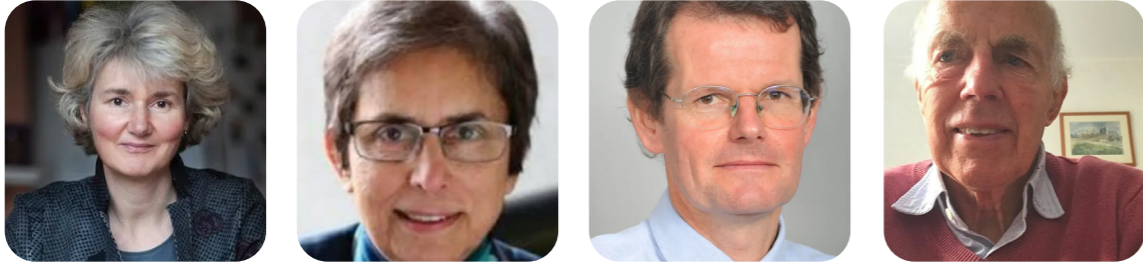
## Priorities for UKHACC focus in the three years ahead are:

- 1.** Delivering our commitments;
- 2.** Engaging with the new government to influence policy
- 3.** Delivering a project on decarbonising clinical care
- 4.** Producing policy briefs and reports

# Governance, structure and partnerships

## Ambassadors

We are extremely grateful to our ambassadors, who have raised the profile of the UK Health Alliance on Climate Change by convening meetings, writing articles and speaking at events.



Fiona Godlee      Parveen Kumar      David Pencheon      Robin Stot

## Council of Members

Our council of members are senior representatives from each of our membership organisations who steer the strategic direction of our work. In 2024, the Council met in March and September. Discussions focused on establishing priority areas for policy development and advocacy and taking forward our Commitments project.

In March, we welcomed the Chair of the Climate Change Adaptation Committee, Mike Davies to update members on the work of the Committee in better integrating health to CCC reports.

In September, we welcomed the Chief Sustainability Officer for NHS England, Chris Gormley who presented and updated and answered questions on sustainability within NHS England.

## Comms/policy group

Our comms/policy group includes representatives from each of our membership organisations who meet monthly to coordinate policy and campaigns and identify opportunities for joint working. Attendance at these meetings ranged from 15–22 participants.

We have welcomed a number of guest speakers to the meetings to provide further insight on key policy areas of interest to our members. These have included:

<b>Mar</b>	Zero Hour campaign on the Climate and Nature Bill
<b>May</b>	Shape History Social Impact Communications Agency on “Building a cultural climate movement to unlock mass behaviour change
<b>Jun</b>	Global Action Plan on Clean Air Day 2024
<b>Aug</b>	Greener NHS on the NHS Green Plan refresh Uplift on the Stop Rosebank Campaign
<b>Sep</b>	Greener NHS on climate adaptation open call for evidence
<b>Oct</b>	Centre for Sustainable Healthcare on resources available to support our Commitments
<b>Nov</b>	Greener NHS on the ten year health plan for England consultation
<b>Dec</b>	Global Action Plan on Clean Air Night 2025



## Trustees (Executive Committee)

Richard Smith (Chair)

Jill Belch, Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh

Juliet Dobson, BMJ

Rose Gallagher, Royal College of Nursing

Jacob Kranowski, Royal College of Psychiatrists

Sandy Mather, Intensive Care Society

Rodney Morton, Florence Nightingale Foundation

Emma Radcliffe, Greener Practice

Eleanor Roaf, Faculty of Public Health

Ranee Thakar, Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists

**Throughout the year, the Executive Committee has met monthly to ensure ongoing operational delivery of our work. The [minutes of these meetings](#) are available on our website. Trustees have participated in strategic planning workshops and have completed a skills audit.**

## Staff

Director, Elaine Mulcahy, has ensured UKHACC has delivered its objectives and maintained engagement with our ambassadors, trustees, partners and members throughout 2024.

Policy Officer, Anandita Pattnaik, has led the production of policy reports, coordinated working groups, delivered our newsletter, and developed our social media profile.

University of Melbourne medical student Ludmilla Pillay completed a four week placement with us in August. During this time, she supported Our Commitments project.

<https://ukhealthalliance.org>

## Fundraising Committee

A fundraising committee was established in September 2024.

Members of the committee are:

Rachel Armitage (RCNi) – Chair

Jackie Gordon (RCOT)

Jacob Kranowski (RCPsych)

Richard Smith (UKHACC)

Elaine Mulcahy (UKHACC)

Anandita Pattnaik (UKHACC)

**In the three months of operation, the committee has:**

- Developed a funding proposal for Our Commitments project
- Developed a funding proposal for implementing our food policy recommendations
- Met with philanthropist Dale Vince's Chief of Staff
- Presented to the network of Allied Health Professional organisations about joining UKHACC
- Improved our membership renewal email developed to support subscriptions renewal requests

## Climate and Health spokesperson network

Our spokesperson network is made up of nominated individuals from our membership organisations to deliver advocacy within their areas of influence. Throughout 2024, monthly check in meetings have been held as an opportunity for the network to share updates. A whats app group is used for sharing information, resources, and support.



## Alliances and coalitions

We are a member of and get involved with the work of other coalitions and alliances by contributing to steering groups and supporting campaigns.

Groups we are members of are:



## Health organisations coordination group

We facilitate a monthly meeting of health organisations in order to forge and develop relationships, identify opportunities for collaboration, and to support each other's work.

Members of this group are:



RIDE FOR THEIR LIVES



## Global Climate and Health Alliance (GCHA)

The Global Climate and Health Alliance is an alliance of more than 150 health NGOs, health professional organisations, and health and environment alliances from around the world. UKHACC Director, Elaine Mulcahy, sits on the board of GCHA and is a member of the GCHA membership engagement committee.

In 2024, GCHA has sought to improve its engagement with its members through the introduction of successful bi-monthly huddles for sharing knowledge and getting to know one another. GCHA has also led the global health community policy work to ensure better health needs are better integrated into international policies including, at the World Health Organisation, UNFCCC and COP meetings.





# Education and events

## In Conversation

We delivered two In Conversation webinars:

- 8 May, In Conversation with Lord Stevens, architect of the Greener NHS plan (40 in person and 91 online participants)
- 14 February, Oil and gas companies, energy and the climate and nature crisis with Tony Meggs (35 online participants)

## Net Zero Clinical Care conference and webinar programme in 2024

We supported BMJ in seeking [thought leadership partners](#) for their new collaborative community BMJ Net Zero Clinical Care, which has evolved from the conference in 2023. The new community aims to build on the success of the conference by bringing together multiple partners to drive positive change in healthcare sustainability. BMJ Net Zero Clinical Care will produce a range of activities and content, including webinars, videos, podcasts, roundtables hosted on a content hub which can be accessed by healthcare professionals.

## Environmental Sustainability in Healthcare

We endorsed a Future Learn MOOC (massive open online course) on [environmental sustainability in healthcare](#).

## CPD Match

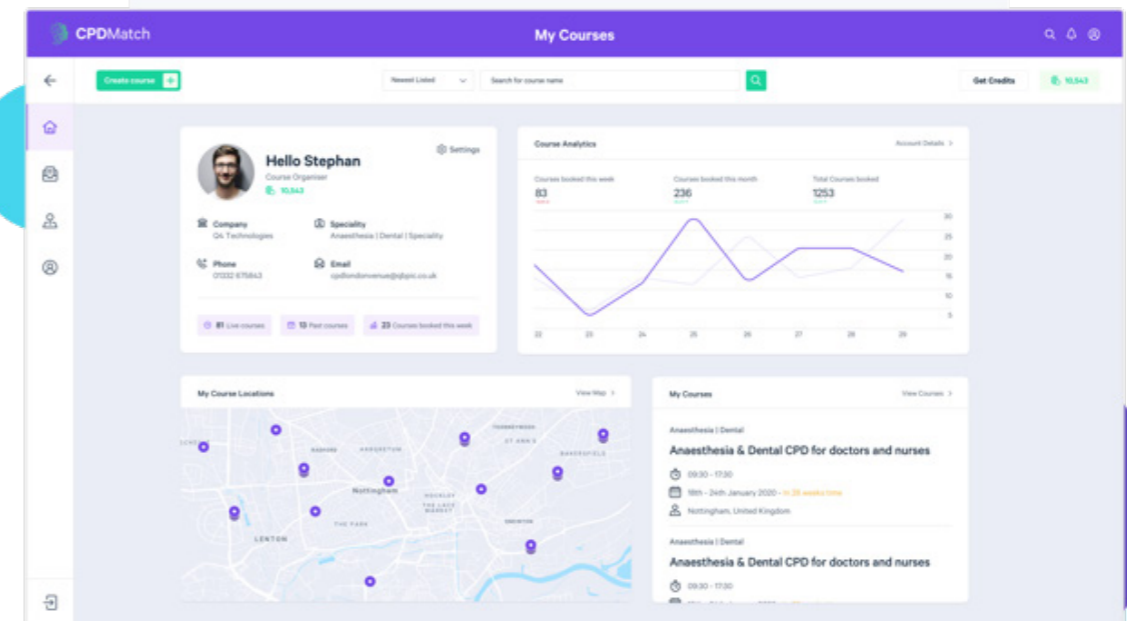
We endorsed a website called [CPDmatch](#) which signposts users to useful education resources about delivering net zero healthcare. The aim is to raise awareness of the climate emergency and help healthcare professionals learn more about how to change their practice..

## Opportunities for members

Through our partnerships we have provided opportunities for members.

This has included:

- Health Foundation installation and workshop
- Complimentary registration at Institute of Public Policy and Governance sustainable healthcare conference
- Working dinner hosted by Hugh Montgomery, Real Zero at Royal College of Physicians
- Hope for the Future political engagement workshop for spokesperson network



# Public affairs and policy

## General election

Our strategy and planned activity for the UK general election was approved in January and guided our work over the six months of the campaign.

## Our manifesto for the new government outlined our five priorities for the next government

- 1 End fossil-fuel dependency
- 2 Ensure a healthy environment
- 3 Transform the food system
- 4 Meet international commitments
- 5 Transform health and care services

**737**

people interacted with the election pages of our website

**134**

people used our e-action to write to their local candidates

**33**

representatives from UKHACC membership organisation signed a letter to candidates; **143 candidates responded**

- We participated in Great Big Green Week with 40 people joining our Ride for their Lives cycle to raise awareness about clean air and access to green space in urban environments
- We supported the Clean Air Day petition, which was signed by 3,500 people and delivered to the new government on 10 July.
- We delivered a House of Lords briefing on the links between health, climate change and nature in partnership with the Lancet Countdown, RCGP and BMA.
- We joined the health block of the Restore Nature Now demonstration and campaigned on the Climate and Nature Bill as a priority for the campaign.
- Partnered with Hope for the Future to deliver a political engagement workshop for trustees and climate and health spokesperson network members





## Engaging with the new government

Following the election on 5 July, we developed our strategy for engaging with the new Government with the aim to:

Improve awareness of UKHACC with government ministers

Engage with parliamentarians on key policy issues

Be proactive in preparing asks and responses to announcements

### Since the new government was elected we have:

- Published a statement welcoming the new government
- Commented on the King's Speech outlining key points including positive steps and missed opportunities
- Added our signature to a letter calling on the new government to back the Climate and Nature Bill (which was missing from the King's Speech)
- We wrote a Letter to PM welcoming opportunities to provide expertise and guidance to the government
- We wrote to the secretaries of state for health, environment and net zero (or equivalents) congratulating them on their appointments and outlining relevant areas from our manifesto for their attention
- We wrote to the Foreign Secretary, David Lammy, congratulating a speech he made at Kew Gardens in which he said the climate and nature crisis defines our time. In the letter we shared our editorials and manifesto with an offer of support.

We received a response from Louise Haigh, Secretary of State for Transport in which she committed to greener transport and air quality targets. She indicated that an announcement on plans for active travel would be forthcoming in 2025 and invited our input once proposals are published.

We received a response from Karin Smyth, Minister of State for Health and Social Care in which she highlighted a commitment for decarbonising the NHS estate and welcomed UKHACC supporting the department in delivering environmental ambitions.



# A just energy transition for the good of health

We published a policy report **A just energy transition for the good of health** with recommendations for the UK governments to protect and promote health by ensuring a rapid, just transition to clean energy production and policies that reduce energy demand.

The report outlines six recommendations for the governments of the UK:

1. End UK dependency on oil and gas
2. Revise and strengthen the 2050 net zero strategy
3. Invest in people to meet the demand for green jobs
4. Improve infrastructure and access for active travel and clean transport
5. Enable a low-carbon, climate-resilient health service
6. Demonstrate leadership by delivering domestically and meeting international obligations

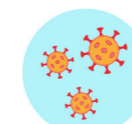
## Health benefits of a clean energy system



Improved physical fitness



Better mental health



Less disease risk



Food and water security



Reduced hospital admissions

Cleaner air

Energy security

Active travel

Green job creation

Accessible public transport

## Members of the working group that developed this report were:





## Calling for action on a green energy transition

- In January we wrote a Letter on Offshore Petroleum Licensing Bill to all MPs encouraging them not to support the bill. 172 individuals also used our Write to your MP platform to call on them not to support the bill.
- We received a response from Keir Starmer to a letter asking for review of Rosebank, which resulted in a follow up meeting with the then Shadow Climate Change Minister Kerry McCarthy
- We are an official supporter of the Stop Rosebank campaign
- We were co-signatories on an open letter, coordinated by Medact and Warm This Winter, that calls for quality energy efficient homes, energy justice, and a transition away from fossil fuels.
- We were co-signatories on a call from experts for climate and health labels on gas pumps.
- We were co-signatories on an open letter signed by over 400 health and social care workers across the UK calling on the government to ensure everyone has access to basic energy needs through measures including a mass retrofitting programme and a rapid transition away from fossil fuels.

### Health harms of fossil fuel dependency



Non-communicable diseases



Infectious diseases



Poor mental health



Food and water insecurity

Heat and extreme weather

Climate change

Air pollution

Energy poverty

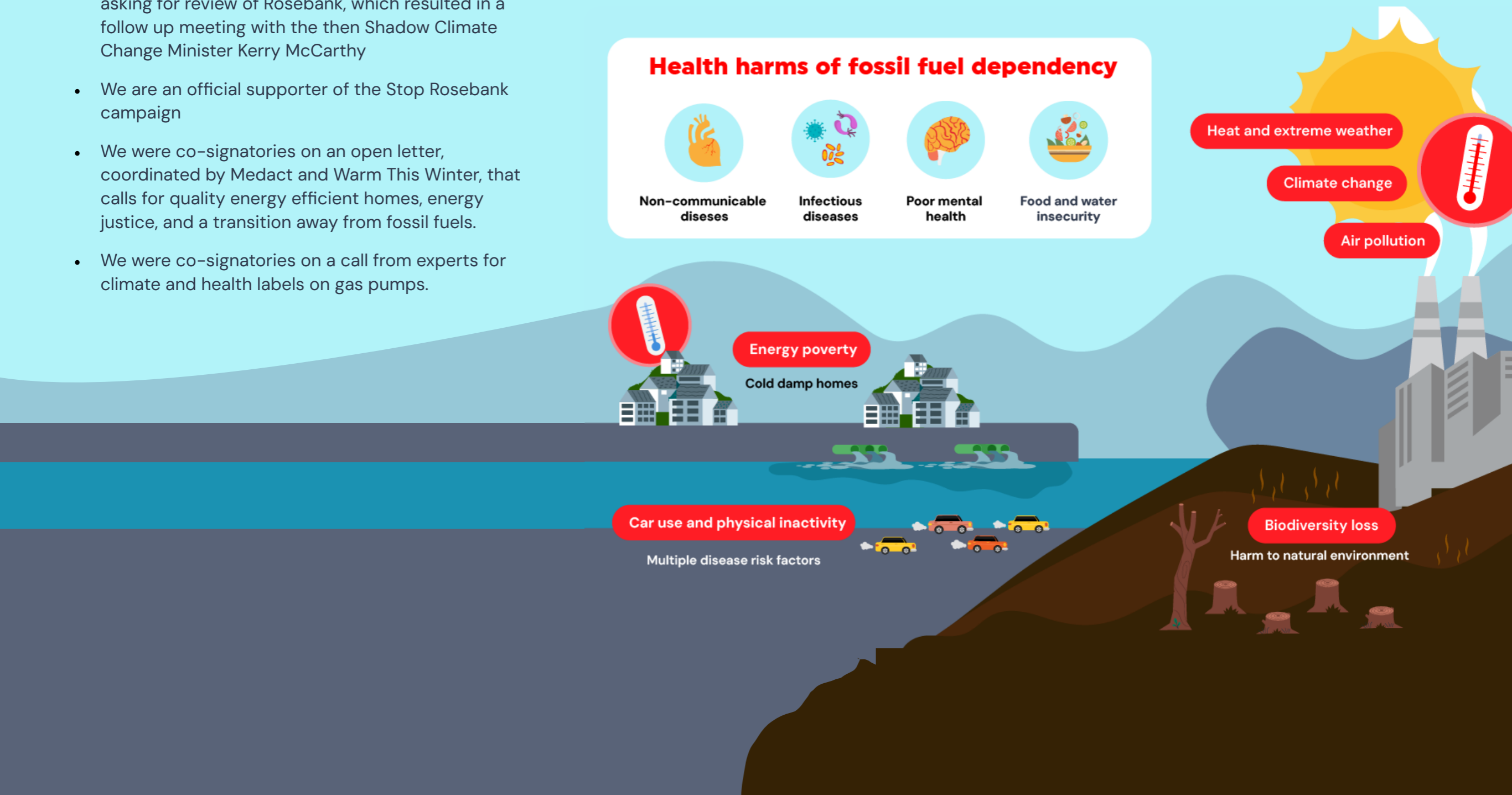
Cold damp homes

Car use and physical inactivity

Multiple disease risk factors

Biodiversity loss

Harm to natural environment





## Plant-powered planet: Building a sustainable and healthy food system



We published a policy report **Plant-powered planet: Building a sustainable and healthy food system** that outlines recommendations for both the UK governments and the health sector.

### The report outlines six recommendations for the governments:

1. Drive sustainable agricultural transformation
2. Cut food waste by half by 2030
3. Fuel innovation by investing in a sustainable plant-powered food future
4. Develop a new national food strategy with plant-based food at the core
5. Revolutionise school meals by promoting health and sustainability with plant-based choices for the next generation
6. Subsidise and incentivise plant-based choices and cut red meat and dairy by 30% by 2030

### It also outlines five recommendations for the health sector:

1. Make plant-based choices the new norm and phase out processed meat in hospitals by 2030
2. Commit to promoting healthy and sustainable diets
3. Cut NHS food waste by 50% by 2030
4. Empower health professionals by boosting plant-based nutrition knowledge
5. End financial support to industrial livestock companies


The launch coincided with the delivery of an open letter coordinated by the Plant First Healthcare Campaign calling for the adoption of a 'plant-based by default' food menu by NHS Trusts, Integrated Care Boards, and all other health organisations across the UK.

### Members of the working group that developed this report were:



## Calling for action on healthy, sustainable diets

- We were signatories to an open letter coordinated by a coalition of NHS health professionals calling on all NHS hospitals and organisations across the UK to adopt a 'plant-based by default' food menu to improve health outcomes, cut carbon emissions, reduce pandemic risk, limit antibiotic resistance and decrease food costs, without restricting choice.
- We were signatories to a letter calling on the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) to urgently retract a report on 'Pathways towards lower emissions' because it contains serious errors, which significantly underestimate the emissions-savings potential of shifts to lower meat diets and uses inappropriate sources of evidence.
- We were signatories to a letter coordinated by World Animal Protection calling for humane and sustainable food systems to be included within the UK's next Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).
- We wrote to the Mayor of London calling on him to lead a transformation in London by advocating for the city to adopt a predominantly plant-based food policy.
- We submitted a response to the Scottish government consultation on restricting promotions of food and drink high in fat, sugar or salt, with a call for greater restrictions of promotion of processed meats due to their negative health and environmental impacts. We supported promotion of meal deals that encourage foods that are nutritious and less harmful to the environment.



The infographic features a central illustration of eight diverse NHS staff members in blue scrubs standing around a large bowl of fresh vegetables. Above them is a large blue Euro symbol (£) with an equals sign and a crossed-out meat icon. Two curved arrows point from the Euro symbol towards the staff. In the top left corner is the UKHACC logo, a shield with 'H A' and 'C C' and a caduceus.

**Meat-free lunch  
five days a week**

would save the NHS **£2.2 billion per year**  
and could fund the annual salaries of  
**59,805 resident doctors\***

\*As of June, 2024

## UN climate and biodiversity conferences

### Letter from health leaders to UK delegation

On 6 November, we wrote to the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, to call on him to place health and the centre of negotiations at COP29. The letter, which was signed by 30 health leaders from across UKHACC organisations, called for progress on fossil fuel phase out and international financial commitments and cycling from £308 million to just £100 million for the next two years.

### A COP for people and the planet

In a report produced by the Global Climate and Health Alliance, we joined with the global health community to call on the parties at COP29 to deliver ambitious climate action sufficient to protect and promote the health of people and the planet.



<https://ukhealthalliance.org>

### A comment on the outcome of COP29

On 26 November, we published a commentary on the outcome of COP29, which fell far short of what is needed.

### Letter calling for phase out of fossil fuels

We were co-signatories on an open letter coordinated by the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty to world leaders attending COP29 that calls for a global plan to phase out fossil fuels.

### COP29 editorial/comment: COP29 must move from stalling to action

Before COP29, we published a comment/editorial in The Lancet and the BMJ which said COP29 must move from stalling to action with meaningful progress on the phase out of fossil fuels and finance for vulnerable countries.

### COP16 letter to the Minister for Nature

We wrote to the Minister for Nature, Mary Creagh, before UN Biodiversity Conference COP16 calling on the UK to turn promises into action by setting out a timeframe for delivering the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and re-emphasising its commitment to deliver £3bn in climate finance for nature by 2026.

### Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health

We submitted a response to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity draft global action plan on biodiversity and health, calling for the links between climate change, biodiversity loss and health to be strengthened in the action plan. The draft action plan was produced following the COP15 on Biodiversity with an aim to mainstream biodiversity and health linkages into national policies, strategies, programs and accounts.



# Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change

We led production of the 2024 Lancet Countdown UK policy brief, which outlines three priorities for the UK:

1. Invest and fund rapid decarbonisation and climate resilience in the NHS by transitioning to renewable sources of energy, upgrading infrastructure, adopting a predominantly plant-based dietary approach, electrifying transport fleets, and improving active travel and public transport access.
2. Mandate a new Clean Air Act to legislate clean air as a human right and meet the WHO recommended limits of air pollutants by 2030. In addition, the UK should develop a framework to implement a just transition away from wood burning to clean fuels in urban and rural areas.
3. Develop and implement a national green infrastructure strategy to prioritise local authority action and unlock funding, such as through public-private partnerships. The health cobenefits—reduced air pollution, cooling during heatwaves, and increased physical activity and mental well-being—will foster a healthier, thriving UK population.

The brief was published alongside the 8th annual report on health and climate change.

## Health and climate change in the UK

The *Lancet* Countdown on Health and Climate Change annually takes stock of the evolving links between health and climate change through 50+ peer-reviewed indicators. Since 2016, these indicators have provided regular, reliable global and regional stocktakes on climate change and health. Data in this year's report reveal that people all around the world are facing record-breaking threats to their wellbeing, health and survival from the rapidly changing climate. This document summarises key country-level findings from the 2024 report of the *Lancet* Countdown\* and the 2024 Europe report of the *Lancet* Countdown\*\* for the UK, which reveal that:



People are increasingly exposed to **health-threatening extreme heat**, with associated increases in heat-related illness and mortality.



**Air pollution** is harming peoples' health, with a high burden of disease and deaths that could be avoided by transitioning to zero emission, clean energy sources.



Unhealthy, **unsustainable diets** are contributing to GHG emissions and undermining health and wellbeing, with deaths that could be reduced through balanced, low-emission diets.

These findings underline the urgency of redirecting finance away from health-harming fossil fuels; and towards strengthening local health systems, adapting to climate change, and pursuing efforts to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through interventions that simultaneously deliver health co-benefits.

Members of the working group that developed this report were:





## Nature

We have supported calls for a Climate and Nature Bill, which will have its second reading on Friday 24 January 2025

We were signatories on a Joint letter to Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs calling for policies to protect nature and health (with Earth Trust, Intelligent Health, Centre for Sustainable Healthcare, Wildlife Trust, Wildlife and Countryside Links)

We joined with over 300 organisations to call on Member States of the Council of Europe to protect the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment through an additional protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights.

We joined with over 100 nature, health, planning and climate organisations to support the Nature 2030 campaign, calling on all political parties to commit to the ambitious action needed to halt the decline of wildlife by 2030.

We co-hosted (with Wildlife Trusts, Natural England and Kew Gardens) a meeting of leaders across health, environment and policy to discuss the future of health and nature recoveries, including strategies and opportunities for progress on protecting nature and maximising health co-benefits. A follow up online roundtable was held in December to further develop discussions.

We wrote with the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh to the Scottish Government to raise concerns about funding allocated for nature restoration being redirected to cover local authority pay agreements. We received a response from Alasdair Allan, Minister for Climate Action, with a reassurance that while capital funding of £5 million from this year's fund has been redirected, it will be restored in 2025-26.





## **WHO call for climate and nature to be declared a public health emergency**

Following the call from the editors of 300 health journals we coordinated before COP28 for the climate and nature crisis to be recognised as a global public health emergency, along with years of calls for greater action by civil society organisations, in May, WHO passed a resolution stating that climate change is a major threat to global health. The landmark climate and health resolution sets out a framework to promote health and build climate-resilient and sustainable health systems. Action on climate change and health was also named as one of six strategic priorities, which will form a major focus of work for the WHO over the next four years.

## **Urban green spaces inquiry findings**

In October last year, we submitted a response to the call for evidence by the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee's inquiry on the ecological, environmental and human benefits of green space, and effective solutions to making cities greener and nature rich. We were subsequently invited to provide evidence at the Urban Green Spaces Oral Evidence session at Houses of Parliament on 5 December. The transcript of the sessions can be accessed [here](#).

In March, the Committee wrote to the DEFRA secretary setting out the findings of the inquiry. They argue that green spaces should be a much higher priority and call for reforms and greater government leadership to encourage more investment into and facilitation of green infrastructure.

## **Adaptation**

### **Call for inquiry into health system preparedness**

In a letter to the Health and Social Care Committee we have called for an inquiry into the preparedness of health and care services to the threat of climate change.

### **Scottish government climate change adaptation plan**

We submitted a response to the Scottish Government's Climate Change Adaptation Plan. In our response, we highlight the need to achieve climate resilience and maximise health co-benefits through:

- Investments in green and blue infrastructure
- Ensuring everyone lives in healthy homes
- Delivering a climate-resilient health service

### **Roadmap for Global Heat Health**

We were partners on the Roadmap for Global Heat Health, which was launched at the Houses of Parliament in June. The work, which was led by The Physiological Society, urges leaders across the world to adopt a human centred approach to tackling the health threat of climate change by coordinating efforts across the sector to improve preparedness to heat.

### **Policy report on climate and health adaptation**

A working group of UKHACC membership organisations was established in July 2024 with the aim of producing a policy report and recommendations for health sector resilience to the impacts of climate change. The report will be published in Spring 2025. Members of the working group are: British Thoracic Society, British Geriatrics Society, Academy of Medical Sciences, UK Kidney Association, Royal College of GPs.



## Clean Air and a healthy environment

We wrote to the Local Government, Planning and Housing Committee of the Scottish Government to call on them to reconsider its decision to halt the ban on wood-burning stoves, multi-fuel stoves and pellet stoves in urban new builds.

We were co-signatories on a letter coordinated by Wildlife and Countryside Link that calls on the UK government to champion the adoption of an additional protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms recognising the right to a healthy environment

UKHACC Chair, Richard Smith participated in the Ride for Ella on International Day of Clean Air. The cycle in London in memory of Ella sought to highlight progress on air pollution since her death and what still needs to be done. Richard published a BMJ article and blog about the event.



## Pollution

We were signatories to an open letter to the International Delegation Committee on the Plastics Treaty calling on delegates to commit to a just and equitable treaty that ends plastic pollution.

The Global Climate and Health Alliance endorsed a report on a 'Climate Damages Tax' underpinned by the polluter pays principle and the no harm principle.

## Travel and transport

We responded to the All Parliamentary Group for Cycling and Walking inquiry into active travel and social justice, highlighting the critical need for equitable active travel policies and infrastructure.

As members of the Low Traffic Future Alliance, we supported a briefing for the House of Lords debate on Failings of the Transport system

Supporting the 'Transport Choices Challenge' for England's Local Transport Authorities (LTAs).

We were co-signatories on a letter coordinated by Cycling UK and signed by multiple organisations and academics calling on the Chancellor to invest 10% of the overall transport budget in walking and cycling to alleviate mounting pressure on the NHS, grow the economy and address the climate crisis.

We are supporting a campaign led by the Low Traffic Future Alliance that calls for support for close-knit communities which would provide huge benefits for people including cleaner air and safer and less congested streets.



# Health sector

## The 10 year health plan for England

Our response to the ten year health plan for NHS England, outlined how the health sector can be a major force in the government's ambitions to deliver a green economy and NHS fit for the future by delivering the following:

1. Embed sustainability across the health and care system
2. Ensure the health service is resilient to the changing external environment
3. Provide the capital investment needed to deliver the net zero target by 2040 for all the NHS directly controls and 2045 for all it consumes.
4. Use the NHS as an anchor institution to improve the determinants of health
5. Support the NHS workforce and promote better value patient care
6. Promote digital care, emphasising giving more control to patients
7. Coordinate and integrate data systems to minimise disruption
8. Focus on promoting health, maximising the co-benefits of interventions that also create a healthy environment by:
  - Improving infrastructure to enable active travel
  - Enabling and encouraging healthier food choices
  - Increasing access to green space and encouraging nature-basedprescribing
  - Delivering affordable, energy efficient homes
  - Enforcing clean air
  - Ending fossil fuel dependency

We also submitted a joint submission with the Centre for Sustainable Healthcare and Sustainable Healthcare Coalition.



## **Support for doctors arrested, charged or convicted for climate protests**

We produced a template letter to support health professionals arrested, charged and convicted for protesting against the severe harm being done to nature, the climate, and health and the inadequacy of the political response.

We published a detailed statement in response to the decision calling on the GMC to recognise the predicament of doctors protesting on climate and nature action out of concern for patient safety and to seek all possible ways to avoid removing the livelihood of doctors driven to illegal action under these circumstances. We have also emailed the Chair of the GMC with an invitation to meet.

Following the outcome of a trial in which the jury refused to convict six climate-protesting medics who damaged JP Morgan Bank, we published an in-depth interview with Dr Juliette Brown, a psychiatrist, climate activist and one of the accused in the trial that explains the health professionals' rationale for their actions in detail.

## **Engaging with NICE**

We coordinated a letter to NICE calling on them to increase the emphasis they place on environmental issues, particularly in providing guidance to the NHS on environmental issues and assessing technologies available in the NHS. The letter was co-signed by members of the health organisation coordination group including Centre for Sustainable Healthcare, Sustainable Healthcare Coalition, Medact, Green Health Wales, Climate Psychology Alliance, Ride for their Lives, and BMJ. We received a response to our letter and met with senior representatives from NICE in December to discuss the need for action. The correspondence can be found [here](https://ukhealthalliance.org).

## **BMJ Future hospital commission**

As part of the BMJ Future Hospital Commission, UKHACC director was named as a senior co-author on a paper on "Sustainability is critical for future proofing the NHS", which was published on 11 April. The paper argues that interventions that consider climate change, environmental sustainability, and nature should be integral to health system functioning.

## **Endorsement of Greener Palliative Care Award**

We backed a new award scheme designed by a multi-professional group that supports palliative care teams to deliver sustainable care. Both NHS and charitable organisations can apply. The award consists of bronze, silver, and gold levels. Awards are assessed by submitting measurements of emissions, plans for and evidence of reductions, and engagement with staff, service users, and volunteers. A pilot of 10 organisations will be chosen to take part initially. More details can be found [here](#).

## **Green Surgery e-Learning modules**

Progress in developing the elearning module to support outcomes from the Green Surgery project have been progressing. An author review group has been established involving Centre for Sustainable Healthcare, Mood Bhutta (Green Surgery oversight committee chair), Chantelle Rizan (academic advisor), Peter May (Greener NHS) and representatives of different professions working in theatres. [`](#)

## **NHS England constitution response**

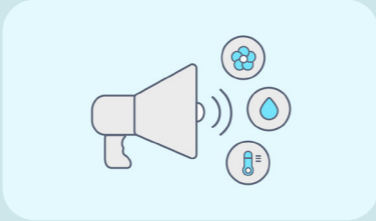
We submitted a response to the 10 year review on the NHS Constitution in which we welcomed the proposal to add a value on environmental sustainability, but highlighted the need for better wording.



# Our Commitments

Our Commitments' is the most important and influential of UKHACC projects and members would like more support to implement the commitments.

– 2024 Membership survey



Declare that the climate emergency is a health emergency



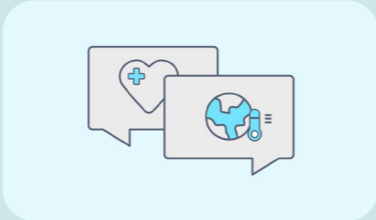
Prioritise plant-based and sustainably sourced food



Campaign on mitigating and adapting to the planetary crisis



Acknowledge the link between climate change and inequalities



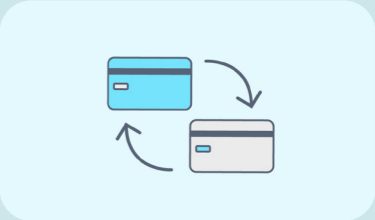
Educate members on the links between climate and health



Develop and implement a travel policy for members and staff



Disinvest in fossil fuels and sign the fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty



Switch to a green bank and encourage members to switch



Publish a plan for your organisation to get to net zero



Develop a plan for sustainability in your specialist area



Embed sustainability in governance, structure and culture

# Our Commitments

We worked with our members to develop and support delivery of Our Commitments.

## Outcomes delivered were:

### Member insights

Following a survey of our members, we found that:

**Members believe the commitments is a core priority project for UKHACC, but only 31% are currently able to endorse**

**Members would like UKHACC to provide more support to members to deliver the commitments**

**Members would like annual progress reporting of delivery of the commitments**

### Monitoring progress

We commissioned the Climate and Health Scorecard to produce a progress report for UKHACC members' delivery of our Commitments. The report was presented at the council meeting in March. The scorecard will be repeated in 2025 with the next report due to council in March 2026.

### Supporting delivery

We partnered with the Centre for Sustainable Healthcare to signpost resources to support delivery of our commitments. These are:

- Publish a plan to get to net zero: carbon footprinting
- Embed sustainability in governance, structure and culture: Bespoke leadership workshops
- Develop a plan for sustainability in your specialist area: Green Specialty Challenge, Specialty Fellowships, Carbon footprinting
- Educate members on the links between climate change and health: SusQI Academy

### Developing

Following consultation with members, an eleventh commitment on switching bank with guidance and resources on how to switch was added to our Commitments.

### Case studies

We published case studies from membership organisations to share learning:

British Thoracic Society on how they developed their position statement on environment, climate change and sustainability to address sustainability in their specialist area

Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health on how they developed their policy work to focus on the connection between health inequalities and climate change

Royal College of Physicians on how they went about developing the Green Physicians Toolkit to support educating members on the links between climate change and health

# Communications and engagement

## Raising our profile and raising awareness of our work

**Our ambassadors, trustees and staff have presented and participated in multiple events with member and partner organisations.**

ADEPT/Natural England webinar on healthier communities in towns and cities

BMJ Paediatrics webinar on child health and the climate crisis

Hairmyres Hospital Grand Round, Glasgow

Wales Climate Week health day conference

European Association of Cardiothoracic Surgery conference

BMA Scotland conference

FMLM new fellows meeting

CALF UK conference hosted by the Jeremy Coller Foundation

Climate guide for parliamentarians launch

Natural England parliamentary reception

ILC global alliance webinar on 'the nexus of longevity and climate action'

UK dental schools (Dental Schools Council meeting)

Healthcare Infection Society planetary health meeting

London climate and health network meeting

Nuffield Council on Bioethics' Environment and Health workshop

FMLM Clinical Fellows graduation

RCP Sustainability in health: Improving Clinical Practice' private roundtable

RCEM GreenED study day talk on sustainability in the NHS

Mythbusting video series, Westminster Council

Climate Innovation Forum, London Climate Action Week

Healthy Futures Meeting, London Climate Action Week

India Global Forum: Pathways to a Limitless Future

Oxford Global Health Society Annual Conference: Building Health System Resilience for the Impacts of Climate Change

Better Transport conference panel on 'better transport for better health'

Clean Air Day GOSH event

Environment Time Capsule 30th anniversary, Kew gardens

Toxic Air: The disproportionate impact of air pollution, Peers for the Planet

FMLM World Health Leaders Summit

2024 Diabetes Scotland Conference

RSM Annual Sustainable Healthcare Conference

BGS Spring conference on green initiatives in healthcare

Planetary health leadership research interview, Sheffield Hallam University

AMS Networking dinner

BAPIO Workshop on climate and health policy

Epilepsy Society Rare and Hot Symposium

RCGP Planetary Health Summit

Presentation to the Danish Regions Delegation on Climate and Sustainability





## Website

46% increase in visitors to our website (14,000 in 2024 compared to 9,600 in 2023) and 51,000 page views



## Newsletter

Our newsletter has been issued monthly. The average open rate is 58%. Subscribers increased by 16% from January to December (2957 to 3432).



## Bluesky

We set up a BlueSky account in November. By the end of December, we had 922 followers.



## Instagram

In June, we set up an Instagram account as another channel to share our messages, particularly video content.



## Twitter / X

Followers on Twitter/X have decreased by 2% since January to 6,260. There was a downturn in followers since August as people started to leave Twitter/X for other platforms.



## Most visited pages

- Homepage
- Green Surgery Report
- Our team
- Our members
- Blog and news



## LinkedIn

We activated our previously dormant LinkedIn account in April and started using this to share messages and campaign information. Since April, followers on this platform have increased by 72% (391 to 674)



## Communicating Climate programme

Following a competitive process, we were selected on the April–September cohort for the Communicating Climate Programme, which is delivered by Media Trust and MG OMD. The programme incorporates a series of workshops, support in developing briefings and campaign messaging, media engagement and social media strategy.