



UK Health Alliance
on Climate Change

End Of Year Report 2025



“

The important work of the UK Health Alliance on Climate Change in the medical sector should rightly be recognised and praised. On behalf of the Prime Minister, I would like to unreservedly thank all those at UKHACC for your tremendous dedication and commitment to better our society. You all should be very proud of the incredible impact you have made, and will continue to make, in all our lives

Letter from the Office of the Prime Minister, January 2025

Our members

At the end of December 2025, 54 UK-based health organisations are members of the UK Health Alliance on Climate Change.

The total membership of our members is 1,005,699 health professionals.



Six

organisations joined
in 2025:



Governance, structure and partnerships

Appointed co-Chairs



Hugh Montgomery



Sandy Mather

Professor of Intensive Care Medicine, Hugh Montgomery, and former CEO of the Intensive Care Society, Sandy Mather, took on the role of co-Chairs at the AGM in September when former chair Richard Smith's term of office came to an end.

Speaking on their appointment, Hugh and Sandy said: "As the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has warned, further inaction means that we may soon 'miss a brief and rapidly closing window to secure a livable future' ... We must now accelerate real action, recognising and responding to this life-threatening emergency, and doing what is both necessary and efficient to be effective.

Inaction doesn't just threaten health, lives, healthcare systems or the economy which allows us to do our jobs. It threatens our own survival and that of life on earth. Beyond all others, we healthcare professionals are clever enough to diagnose a problem, moral enough to recognise the imperative to act, and experienced enough to understand what emergency action looks like. Now is the time to take such action – for the sake of our patients, our children, and ourselves. If not us, then who? If not now, then when?

Richard Smith named as ambassador

Former Chair Richard Smith became an ambassador in October. During Richard's term as Chair from 2019–2025, he oversaw the establishment of UKHACC becoming an independent registered charity and more than doubled the membership to 50 health organisations representing over one million health professionals across the UK.

Richard joined existing ambassadors Fiona Godlee, Parveen Kumar, David Pencheon, and Robin Stott in supporting the core aims of the alliance to increase knowledge and understanding of the links between climate change and health, empower health professionals to advocate for better responses to the climate and ecological crisis, and influence change by encouraging decision makers to strengthen policies that protect the public from the impacts of climate change and nature loss.

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 2025, the Council met twice – in March and September. Discussions focused on establishing priority areas for policy development and advocacy and taking forward our Commitments project.

In March, we were delighted to welcome Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Jim Skea to present an update from the IPCC, the timeline of their reports, and the integration of health, with an opportunity for senior leaders from our membership organisations to question and engage directly with this important work.

In September, we were joined by clinical sustainability leaders working across different areas of healthcare – emergency medicine, primary care, and palliative care – to demonstrate systems that have been implemented and could be replicated across different specialist areas.

Our trustees

Hugh Montgomery (co-chair)

Sandy Mather (co-chair)

Jill Belch, Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh

Juliet Dobson, BMJ (until Sep 2025)

Rose Gallagher, Royal College of Nursing

Jacob Kranowski, Royal College of Psychiatrists (until Sep 2025)

Andrew Mackenzie, The Physiological Society (since Sep 2025)

Rodney Morton, Florence Nightingale Foundation

Emma Radcliffe, Greener Practice

Eleanor Roaf, Faculty of Public Health

Sandy Robertston, Royal College of Emergency Medicine (since Sep 2025)

Ranee Thakar, Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists

Throughout the year, trustees have met regularly to ensure ongoing delivery of our work. The [minutes of these meetings](#) are available on our website.

New appointments to our Board of Trustees

Three individuals were co-opted or elected to our Board of Trustees. In May, chartered accountant Chris Banks was co-opted to a newly created role of Treasurer. Chris brings significant experience working in various roles including as CEO and finance director in healthcare organisations.

At the September AGM, Andrew Mackenzie and Sandy Robertson were elected as trustees. Andrew is Associate Director of Strategy & External Relations at The Physiological Society where he leads the organisation's engagement, policy and partnership agenda. Sandy is an Emergency Medicine consultant at NHS Fife and a passionate advocate for sustainable healthcare who has co-led the Royal College of Emergency Medicine's flagship GreenED sustainability programme.

We are grateful to all of our trustees for the time and energy they give to our work, and to the trustees who retired from their roles this year – Juliet Dobson (BMJ) and Jacob Kranowski (Royal College of Psychiatrists).

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. Subject-focused working groups were established from this wider network to inform policy development throughout the year (see below).

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

Feb	Suzi Shingler, Stop Rosebank campaign
Apr	Meg O'Neill, The Climate Coalition (on the mass lobby)
May	Sarah Johnstone, Global Action Plan on Clean Air Day 2025
Oct	Simon Oldrige, National Emergency Briefing Laura Burgess, Global Action Plan on Clean Air Night 2026

Staff

Director, Elaine Mulcahy, has ensured UKHACC has delivered its objectives and maintained engagement with our ambassadors, trustees, partners and members throughout 2025.

Policy Officer, Anandita Pattnaik, led the production of our policy report on Building a Climate Resilient Health System in the UK.

Commitments Project Officer, Shashank Kumar, supported the development of How To Guides for our Commitments project.

Over the course of a six week internship, University of East Anglia Environmental Science student, Petra Todd, helped to produce our newsletter, blog posts and social media content

Fundraising Committee

Work supported by the Fundraising Committee included:

- Funding proposals for Our Commitments and food policy projects
- Creating a list of potential funders
- Reviewing and updating the pitch to potential members
- Presentation and follow up to Allied Health Professions to encourage joining
- Informing a UKHACC financial strategy
- Members of the fundraising committee were: Rachel Armitage (RCNi, Chair); Richard Smith (UKHACC Chair); Elaine Mulcahy (Director); Jacob Kranowski (Trustee); Jackie Gordon (AHPs).

Building a Climate-Resilient Health System in the UK

In June, we published a report on Building a Climate-Resilient Health System in the UK which called on the UK and devolved governments to urgently put measures in place that enable the UK's health services to adapt to climate change.

It was produced with a working group involving UKHACC membership organisations: British Geriatrics Society, British Thoracic Society, Royal College of GPs, Royal College of Nursing, Royal College of Emergency Medicine, Royal College of Physicians, Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, Royal College of Anaesthetists, and UK Kidney Association.

The report highlights how the increasing frequency and intensity of climate-related events, such as heatwaves, floods, and new disease patterns, are already disrupting healthcare services across the UK. It draws on the WHO health system building blocks and identifies concrete actions for the UK and devolved governments, the NHS, public health bodies, and local authorities.

The implications of the report were discussed at a roundtable meeting at the Royal College of Physicians involving individuals representing a number of organisations including GMC, Greener NHS, Chief Nursing Office, Chief Allied Health Professionals Office, Climate Change Committee, and Grantham Institute. Areas identified as opportunities to take forward were:

1. Making the case with a focus on financial savings
2. Health sector leadership
3. More cross sectoral engagement and collaboration
4. Learning from other countries

Building a Climate-Resilient Health System



Invest in NHS climate adaptation initiatives to prepare and protect the health service



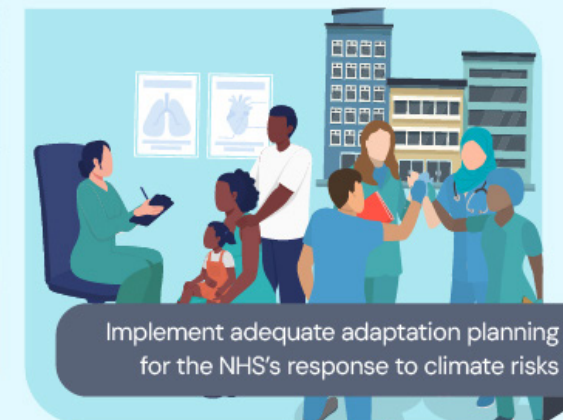
Integrate climate adaptation strategies into health policies



Improve workforce preparedness for extreme weather events



Implement adequate adaptation planning for the NHS's response to climate risks



<https://ukhealthalliance.org>

This report, Building a Climate-Resilient Health System in the UK, is a timely and important contribution to the national discourse on climate change and health. I commend the UK Health Alliance on Climate Change for producing a report that is as actionable as it is urgent. It calls for policymakers, healthcare leaders, and communities to work together in safeguarding our health against the realities of a changing climate.

Professor Mike Davies, former chair of the Climate Change Committee Adaptation Committee [Report Foreword]

POLICY WIN

10 year health plan for England

We called for ...

During the government [consultation](#) on the 10 year health plan for England, we said “for the NHS to deliver on its core purpose – to improve health and care, now and for future generations – it must continue to recognise the impact of climate change on its patients, communities and services, reduce its own climate impact and build resilience for the future. We call on the government to commit to NHS England’s legislative commitments to environmental sustainability and net zero targets to be referenced in the plan”

Policy win ...

The 10 year health plan was published in July with a commitment to: “prioritise the NHS’ existing commitments set out in Delivering a Net Zero Health Service – including achieving net zero by 2040 for the emissions the NHS controls and by 2045 for the emissions it can influence. It will continue to partner with Great British Energy on solar energy for public sector buildings. All NHS bodies will be expected to decarbonise, reduce environmental impact and increase resilience to climate risks in line with the climate change duties set out in the Health and Care Act 2022”

We highlighted that achieving the commitment to achieve net zero and build resilience will need to be considered in every aspect of implementation as the project moves forward. This will require dedicated leadership and oversight to ensure understanding, consistency and coordination across the system, with net zero targets and adaptation requirements featuring prominently in national policy documents and accountability frameworks to ensure a sense of shared ownership.

We also welcomed core elements of the plan to move from a hospital-centric approach to healthcare to one more focused in the community; to improve patient access to and control of their data through the NHS App; and improve healthy life expectancy through more coordinated efforts on prevention – all measures that can build on opportunities to maximise interventions that bring co-benefits for health and the environment.

Pushing for progress on environmental sustainability

Over the course of the year, we have established lines of communication with the National Institutes of Care Excellence (NICE) and the Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Authority (MHRA). This included both open and private correspondence which has resulted in improved dialogue between UKHACC and these organisations, both of which have stated their commitment to environmental sustainability. We continue to keep working with NICE and MHRA to support progress.

A just transition to clean energy for the good of health

Throughout 2025, we built on the policy report we published in 2024 which outlined recommendations to deliver a just energy transition to clean energy for the good of health. This included providing evidence and calls for action regarding the UK's future energy mix and the protection of human health. Specific areas of work are outlined below.

The need to phase out oil and gas in the North Sea

There have been multiple points during the year when we have written to the government to raise objections to approval of any new licences for oil and gas extraction in the North Sea due to the significant climate and health risks.

- In November, we wrote to the Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero in a [letter signed by 23 leaders](#) from across UKHACC membership organisations that called for a rejection of the application from Equinor to drill the Rosebank field. The letter coincided with a submission to a government consultation regarding the application.
- Earlier in the year, in anticipation of the application from Equinor being submitted to the government, we also wrote to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care with a [letter signed by 30+ health leaders](#) that called on him to speak out about the potential health harms associated with the Jackdaw and Rosebank fields in the North Sea and to openly support rejection of the fields.

- We also wrote to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care and the Cabinet Secretary for Energy and Net Zero in the Scottish Government. We received a [response](#) which reinforced the Scottish Government's commitment to climate obligations; highlighted that failing to tackle climate change would have far reaching consequences for our health, wellbeing and health and care systems; and said that in climate action lies a great opportunity to improve the health of our population.
- In April, we submitted a [response to the government consultation](#) on the Future of the North Sea which addresses the need to support individuals, communities and workers in the transition to protect health and livelihoods and maximise the opportunities of the transition. Following the subsequent publication of the government's updated Environmental Impact Assessments for oil and gas, in July we [wrote to the Prime Minister](#) to reassert concerns of the health community regarding the significant health risks associated with the burning of oil and gas. The letter welcomed the new guidance for oil and gas companies that requires scope 3 emissions to be considered in EIAs and calls for any application for the Rosebank oilfield to be rejected on the basis of incompatibility with safe climate limits.

“Granting access to exploit the Rosebank Field would fly in the face of the Government’s ambition to shift our health service from sickness to prevention, to save our NHS budget, to drive growth in the green economy, and to address climate change at pace and scale. It would be an abandonment of UK climate commitments..”

UKHACC letter to the PM

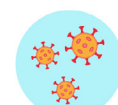
Health benefits of a clean energy system



Improved physical fitness



Better mental health



Less disease risk



Food and water security



Reduced hospital admissions

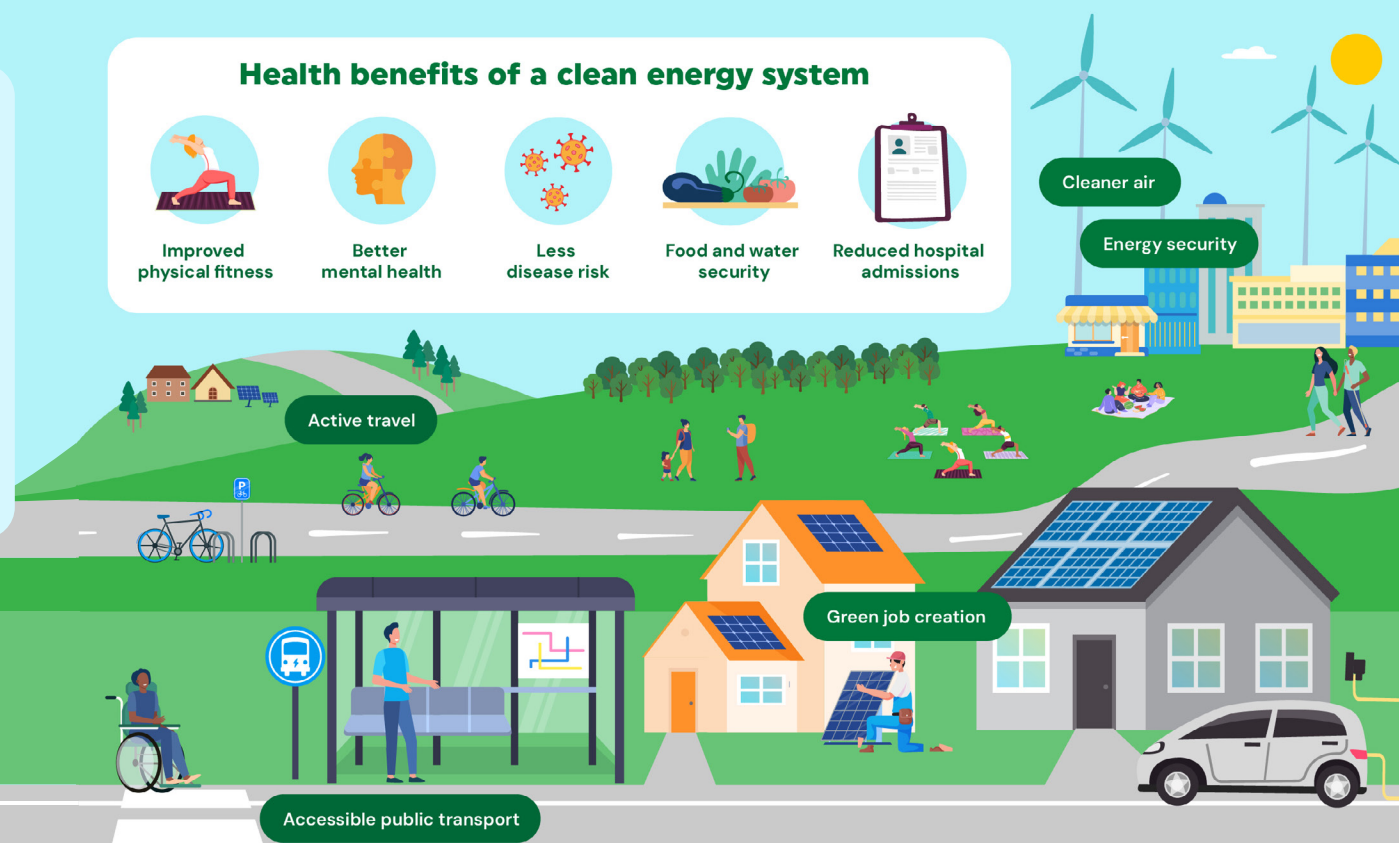
Cleaner air

Energy security

Active travel

Green job creation

Accessible public transport



POLICY WIN

No new licences for oil and gas exploration

We called for ...

In April we submitted a response to the government consultation on the [future of North Sea oil and gas](#) in which we called for an end to no new licences for oil and gas

Policy win ...

In November, the government published its North Sea Future Plan with the announcement that a: "ban on new licences will end new exploration for offshore oil and gas fields"

POLICY WIN

Invest in people to meet the demand for green jobs

We called for ...

In our Energy Transition for the Good of Health policy report, we called on the government to:

"Establish clear public targets for green skills creation, with a particular focus on those regions and groups most at risk of job loss with support for the industry to develop green skills through investments and incentives for training and apprenticeships."

Policy win ...

In October, the government published its first national Clean Energy Jobs Plan with commitments to:

- Recruit workers into 400,000 clean energy jobs by 2030, supported by a new North Sea Jobs Service to link up workforces
- Establish five new clean energy technical colleges to train workers
- Set out measures for companies to receive public grants and contracts to deliver green jobs

POLICY WIN

Solar power installations on NHS sites

We called for ...

In our 2024 [A Clean Energy Transition for the Good of Health](#) we noted that NHS organisations consumed about 75% of their energy from fossil fuels. We called for capital investment to decarbonise the NHS through efforts such as the installation of rooftop solar panels and heat pumps.

Policy win ...

In March, Great British Energy (GB Energy) announced investment of £200 million to install solar panels on around 200 schools and 200 NHS sites, with comparable proportional funding provided to the devolved nations to deliver similar initiatives there. Since the initial announcement in March, GB Energy has committed a further £55 million investment, taking the total number of NHS Sites to be installed with solar panels to 270 in England.

UK Policy Priorities from the 2025 Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change

In October, we partnered with the Lancet Countdown on the publication of the UK policy priorities drawn from evidence in their 2025 report. The data revealed current and growing threats to the UK that need urgent action:

Rising temperatures are amplifying health and productivity risks, as heatwaves increasingly affect vulnerable populations and workers across multiple sectors

Climate extremes are intensifying, with wildfires, drought, and air quality impacts emerging as growing threats even in a temperate climate.

Decarbonisation is advancing but uneven, as the UK phases out coal and reduces pollution, while overall emissions and the health sector's footprint remain substantial.

A working group of UKHACC members including colleagues from the British Medical Association, Royal College of Nursing and Plant Based Health Professionals UK helped to produce the UK policy priorities and the call for action in the UK to protect health from climate change through measures including:

- Phasing out fossil fuels and scaling up renewable energy to cut air pollution, reduce heat risks, and lower energy costs
- Promoting healthier, plant rich diets to improve health, cut emissions and reduce food insecurity
- Significantly increasing protected adaptation funding to protect health and ensure health system resilience



Manifestos for the Scottish and Welsh elections

In preparation of the Scottish and Welsh Government elections in 2026, we produced manifestos outlining commitments needed from the new governments.

Both manifestos called for commitments to:

1. An accelerated transition to clean energy
2. Low-carbon, energy efficient homes
3. Clean ways to travel
4. A nutritious, sustainable food system
5. A healthy natural environment
6. Resilient health and care services

We shared the manifesto with the leaders of all parties in Scotland with a call for them to commit to strong action to keep Scotland on track to achieve its legally binding emissions reduction targets alongside actions to improve the health of the nation and establish the long-term resilience of the health and care system.

OUR MANIFESTO FOR THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS >

We share the Welsh manifesto with the leaders of all parties in Wales with all call for them to commit to strong action to deliver a healthier, resilient and more equal Wales through maximising the co-benefits to health of addressing the climate and nature crisis.

OUR MANIFESTO FOR THE WELSH GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS >

Working with Partners

Throughout the year we have participated and supported the work of partner alliances and coalitions including:

Act Now, Change Forever mass lobby

We supported the mass lobby coordinated by The Climate Coalition through membership on their political working group, to ensure the health message rang through the policy asks behind the event. Over 5,000 people came together at Westminster for the event to call on MPs to act now for a healthier, fairer, safer future, in what was the largest mass lobby of the decade. In response to the lobby, PM Keir Starmer shared a statement recognising the strength of the movement and outlining the Government's commitments to clean energy, warmer homes and nature protection. During the lobby week that followed in Scotland, First Minister John Swinney joined hundreds of people outside the Scottish parliament and reaffirmed the Scottish Government's commitment to reach net zero by 2045. While in Wales, hundreds met at the Senedd to press for bold climate action.



Credit: Richard Dawson PA Media

Break the fossil influence campaign

We were signatories to the [Fossil Free Communications Pledge](#) and supported the Global Climate and Health Alliance-led campaign to 'Break the fossil influence'. The campaign is a global initiative asking health organisations to cut ties with public relations and advertising agencies that work with the fossil fuel industry to prevent the industry from using communications firms to influence public perception. In the first six months of its launch, the campaign had gained the support of 75 organisations representing the voices of over 12 million health professionals in every region of the world. The campaign has been covered in [PR Week](#) and [Health Policy Watch](#), spotlighting the health sector's leadership in challenging fossil fuel spin.

A Blueprint for Cleaner Air

We joined with 30 members of the Healthy Air Coalition to produce a report on action for cleaner air. The [Blueprint for Cleaner Air](#), which brought together expertise from across the health, environment, and transport sectors, examines the key sources of air pollution and outlines the practical solutions needed to reduce harmful emissions. At its core is a call for stronger science-based air quality targets and a robust legislative framework to drive real policy change.

We were also co-signatories on a [letter](#) coordinated by the Healthy Air Coalition which called for a reversal of the decision regarding wood burning stoves in new builds due to the significant health risks associated with their use and co-signatories on a [joint letter to the Council of Europe](#) calling for the adoption of an additional protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights that recognises the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment.

Advertising fossil fuels is incompatible with public health. Just as we once banned tobacco ads to protect people from a deadly product, we must now do the same with fossil fuels, which are driving a global health crisis through air pollution, climate change, and environmental degradation. As a supporter of the Break the Fossil Influence campaign, UKHACC is encouraging health organisations to cut ties with PR and advertising agencies that work to greenwash fossil fuel companies. This is about protecting lives and restoring integrity to public messaging.

Dr Elaine Mulcahy, Director, UK Health Alliance on Climate Change

POLICY PROGRESS

Air pollution targets to meet WHO interim targets

We called for ...

Through policy documents, UKHACC letters and joint letters over the last years we have called for England's air pollution targets to fall in line with World Health Organization guidance with the aim of: "achieving the WHO interim target of 10ug/m³ of PM_{2.5} pollution by 2030 as the absolute minimum, with a longer term aim to achieve the WHO's recommended guideline of 5ug/m³.

Policy progress ...

In the 2025 Environmental Improvement Plan, the government committed to: "Deliver air quality targets for PM_{2.5} concentration of 10 micrograms per cubic metre by 2030", bringing England in line with the EU and Scotland. The EIP also included a border package of measures to cut emissions across transport, industry, and shipping.

POLICY PROGRESS

Ban domestic burners in new builds

We called for ...

Following a government decision to allow domestic wood burning stoves to be permitted in new houses as a secondary heating source in the Future Home and Building Standards, we wrote to the Minister for Housing and Planning calling for: "a ban on wood burners with exemptions for rural areas to protect public health and reduce the inner-city health inequalities we see with air pollution related disease."

Policy progress ...

We received a response from Baroness Taylor, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Housing and Local Government, which acknowledged the concerns around wood stoves and pointed to the revised Environmental Improvement Plan expected to be published by the end of the year. In November, the government announced a consultation on new measures to reduce domestic burning emissions, particularly from wood-burning stoves and bonfires as part of the EIP and shipping.



A strong message to government for action on air pollution

On Clean Air Day in June, UKHACC chair and trustees joined with 75 health professionals, patients and campaigners in a walk from Great Ormonde Street Hospital to Parliament Square to deliver an open letter calling on the UK Government to bring air quality targets in line with World Health Organization guidelines. The walk was joined by the Deputy Mayor of London Mete Coban and was met by a number of MPs. It was covered live by Women's Hour and BBC London.

Transforming the food environment

We joined with alliances representing 200 organisations across health, farming, environment and animal welfare [calling](#) for mandatory reporting by food retailers and manufacturers to report on plant and animal protein, fruit and vegetable sales and climate emissions. The call followed publication of a report by the Eating Better Alliance on [the clear case for mandatory action](#) to shift the dial when it comes to the transformation in food.

We were also signatories on a [policy paper](#) developed by **Plant-Based Health Professionals UK** that lays out ten policy measures the government can enact to increase production and consumption of plant-rich diets in the UK in order to meet the goals outlined in the Good Food Cycle food strategy published by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Warm Homes

In May we were co-signatories on a letter to Wes Streeting calling for the Government to honour its election promise to reduce energy bills and allocate at least £13.2 billion to a nationwide Warm Homes Plan in the spending review. The letter, which was coordinated by **Medact**, highlighted the health impacts of cold, damp homes and was supported by an action involving health workers outside the Houses of Parliament on 28 May.

National Emergency Briefing

UKHACC Co-Chair Hugh Montgomery was one of ten leading experts that briefed an invitation-only audience of politicians and leaders from business, culture, sport, faith, and the media on the latest implications for health, food, national security and the economy. The event was preceded by a letter signed by 1000+ scientists calling on MPs to attend the [national emergency briefing](#) to ensure they are properly equipped with the information needed to act proportionately to the crisis.



Consultation responses

In February, we [responded to the UK Government consultation on the phase out of petrol and diesel vehicles](#). The response highlighted the health harms of fossil fuel-emitting vehicles and called for the 2030 target for phasing them out to be retained, noting the significant health and economic benefits this would bring.

In our response to the [HCPC survey on corporate strategy](#) we called for prioritisation of actions around decarbonisation, environmental sustainability and resilience to climate threats.

In our [response to GMC Medical Licencing Assessment consultation](#) we called for sustainable healthcare to be included in the MLA content map, highlighting the importance for foundation doctors to be prepared for climate threats and the requirements for sustainable healthcare delivery.

Our Commitments

In March, we made a commitment to UKHACC members to support them in delivering 'Our Commitments' – a list of eleven actions for health organisations to take to demonstrate leadership and progress in mitigating and adapting to climate change. This included agreement to develop a series of 'How To' guides, information sessions and case studies for members.

Building on the publication of our policy report: Plant-Powered Planet – Building a healthy and sustainable food system in the UK in 2024, which called for health organisations to build knowledge and normalise plant-based diets in healthcare settings, we worked with Plant Based Health Professionals UK to produce the first How To Guide on Prioritise plant-based and sustainably sourced food.

The How To Guide was launched in October at an event attended by about 40 people involved in food production and delivery in our membership organisations. Already we are hearing the impact, with organisations adopting more plant-based choices at their conferences and events.

[HOW TO PRIORITISE PLANT-BASED AND SUSTAINABLY SOURCED FOOD >](#)



HOW-TO...

Prioritise Plant-Based & Sustainably Sourced Food



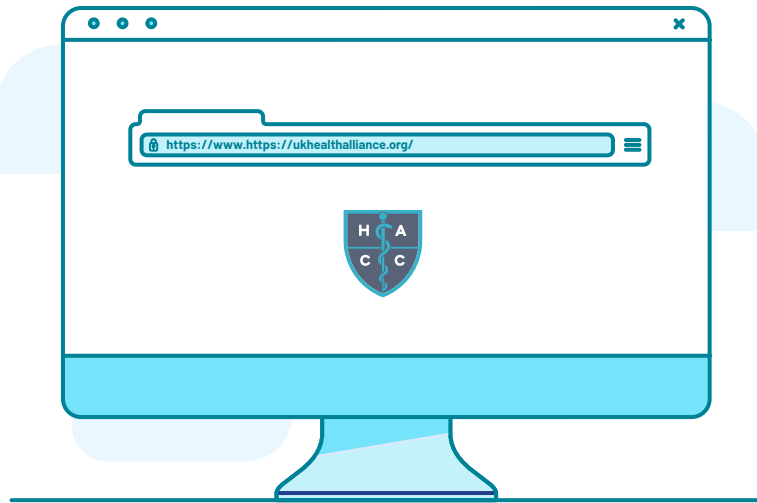
**UK Health Alliance
on Climate Change**

Communications and engagement

There were

8.5k visitors

to our website and 30,000 page views



The most visited pages were:

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



Our newsletter has been issued monthly to

3500+ subscribers

with an average open rate of 46%



Followers on Twitter/X have decreased by

3% since January

to 5972 as more people turn away from X to other platforms



Our BlueSky account has grown by

23% to 2k+ followers

by the end of 2025



Our followers on LinkedIn have grown by 60%

60% in the last year to 1130