Combining Health, Climate and Sustainable Development

Diarmid Campbell-Lendrum, WHO
Three tasks for public health in the face of climate change

Help reduce carbon emissions, while promoting health (e.g. ↓ air pollution)

Protect health from full range of rising climate risks

Make health systems more sustainable
Universal Health Coverage and Climate Resilience Can be Fully Aligned

WHO Framework for Building Climate Resilient Health Systems

- Health access to climate finance
- Resilient, sustainable health facilities
- Climate informed surveillance systems
- Health workers trained, engaged on climate
Positive arguments for climate change mitigation
Global climate mitigation costs are more than repaid by direct health benefits

Markandya et al, Lancet Planetary Health, 2018
Pricing carbon in line with health and other impacts would cut ~ 50% of AP deaths, ~ 20% of CO\textsubscript{2} emissions, and generate ~ 3% of GDP in tax revenues.

Rational and equitable energy policy should value health benefits.
Renewing our commitment to “the most important health agreement of the 21st century”

Updated national climate plans are needed to reach the 1.5° goal Enhanced Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement are needed to reach our collective climate commitment, and a growing number of countries have announced net zero GHG emission targets for 2050.

Health action is an integral part of national climate plans 70% of current NDCs already include public health considerations, such as health adaptation measures or added health benefits from climate action. New plans are likely to increase the focus on health benefits by placing climate targets in the context of Covid-19 recovery.

The level of ambition will determine the fate of planet and people and how many lives we can save from improved air quality, more sustainable and healthy diets, liveable cities, and an environment free of pollution.
Health is High on Climate Agenda of Most Countries:
Nationally Determined Contributions to the Paris Agreement (pre-2020)
10 components to build climate-resilient health systems

WHO/UNFCCC country survey
Coverage of health strategies/plans

100 countries

50.0% With health strategy/plan
50.0% Without health strategy/plan
WHO/UNFCCC Country Survey: Funding for health plans

45 countries

- 91.0% not fully available
- 9.0% fully available
Healthy components to build climate-resilient health systems.
The COP26 campaign goals are underpinned by health arguments

<table>
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<tr>
<th>COP campaign aim</th>
<th>Adaptation and resilience</th>
<th>Energy transition</th>
<th>Clean transport</th>
<th>Nature</th>
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<tr>
<td>Support to adapt to the impacts of climate change via funding and expertise for the most vulnerable</td>
<td>Seize the opportunity of rapidly falling renewables and storage costs to accelerate zero-carbon transition</td>
<td>Accelerate the transition to zero carbon road transport by phasing out petrol and diesel engines</td>
<td>Protect and restore our natural habitats and ecosystems on which our climate, air, water and way of life depend</td>
<td>Invest in climate-resilient health systems. Value health gains from carbon mitigation policies, fossil fuel-subsidy reform and carbon pricing</td>
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| Health aim | Build climate resilient health systems, and support adaptation in food systems, water and sanitation | Guide a rapid transition to clean renewable energy, to save lives from air pollution, particularly from coal combustion | Promote sustainable, healthy urban transport systems, including active and public transport, and the rapid phase out of petrol and diesel engines | Protect and restore nature and ecosystems, the foundations for healthy lives and sustainable livelihoods | UK COP26 Presidency |

Action on finance underpins all other COP campaigns
WHO Manifesto for a healthy recovery from COVID-19

Protect and preserve the source of human health: Nature.
WHO Manifesto for a healthy recovery from COVID-19

Invest in essential services, from water and sanitation to clean energy in healthcare facilities.
WHO Manifesto for a healthy recovery from COVID-19

Ensure a quick healthy energy transition.
Promote healthy, sustainable food systems.
WHO Manifesto for a healthy recovery from COVID-19

Build healthy, liveable cities.
WHO Manifesto for a healthy recovery from COVID-19

Stop using taxpayers money to fund pollution.
HEALTH MESSAGES ARE MOTIVATING, HEALTH PROFESSIONALS ARE TRUSTED

Net trust = % trust to tell the truth - % do not trust to tell the truth

- Nurses: 89
- Doctors: 84
- Teachers: 76
- Professors: 76
- Scientists: 70
- Judges: 66
- Weather Forecasters: 54
- The Police: 51
- TV News Readers: 38
- Clergy/Priests: 35
- Person in the street: 34
- Civil Servants: 24
- Lawyers: 13
- Pollsters: 7
- Charity and Chief Execs: 5

- Trade Union officials: -4
- Local councillors: -14
- Bankers: -21
- Business Leaders: -24
- Professional Footballers: -41
- Journalists: -42
- Estate Agents: -43
- Govt. Ministers: -59
- Politicians: -63
Thank you!

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