



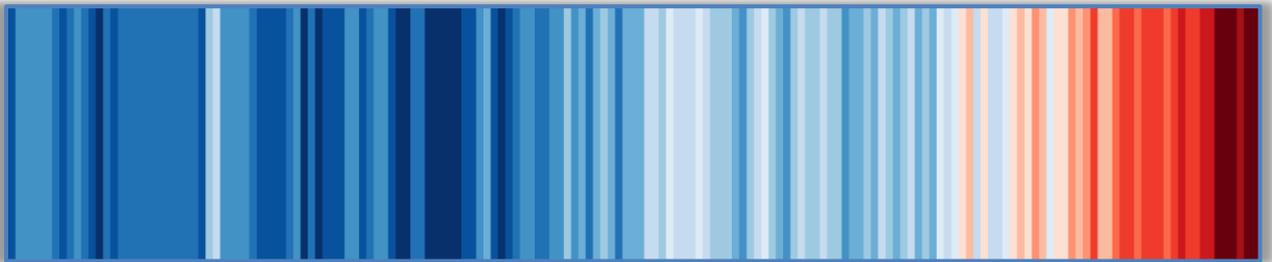
**FACULTY OF  
PUBLIC HEALTH**

Protecting and improving the health of the public  
through the organised efforts of our members

# Faculty of Public Health

## Climate and Health Strategy

### 2021-25



Visual representation of the global change in temperature 1850-2020. Each stripe represents the average yearly temperature. Credit: Professor Ed Hawkins (Reading University). For further details visit [showyourstripes](https://www.showyourstripes.com/).

# FPH Climate and Health Strategy 2021-25: Executive summary

## Our vision for climate and health

### Better health for all – leaving no one behind, now and for future generations

The Faculty of Public Health becomes a credible and respected voice on climate, environment and health impacts, and supports the public health workforce to lead on strategies to protect health and wellbeing for current and future generations.

### Our mission for climate and health

As the professional membership body for public health, we will work to promote and protect health for everyone and will:

- Ensure that the public health workforce has the knowledge, skills and capability to work on mitigation and adaptation to the climate emergency and environmental breakdown, including access to resources and the confidence to make the case for the health co-benefits of action on climate change
- Advocate for inequalities to be essential to all work on climate, the environment and health, recognising that climate injustice creates health inequalities locally and globally
- Demonstrate leadership by becoming a net-zero organisation

### Why is this important?

- Climate change is the greatest public health threat of the 21st century and is a core responsibility for the public health workforce.
- COVID-19 has reminded us that we cannot tackle global health threats in isolation.
- The public health workforce is a key asset in society's response to the climate emergency.
- We are already witnessing the impacts of climate change and without significant actions then there will be further avoidable increases in morbidity and mortality from the effects of climate change.

## Key areas of the strategy

Overarching priorities	
Ensure the public health workforce has the knowledge, skills and capability to work on the climate emergency	
Advocate for inequalities to be central to all work on climate, the environment and health	
Demonstrate leadership by becoming a net zero organisation	
Key areas	Priorities
Membership	Organise events, provide resources and develop networks for peer learning
	Recognise members' contributions to the field
Workforce	Organise events, provide resources and develop networks for peer learning
	Embed climate change into job roles
Standards	Review the registrar curriculum and examinations
	Review Continuing Professional Development requirements
Knowledge	Understand knowledge gaps in the workforce
	Summarise latest evidence for members, support members to gather new evidence
Advocacy	Collaborate and coordinate with partners, prioritising high impact actions
	Develop a theory of change to inform advocacy and upskill members to advocate
Global	Strengthen collaboration with international members
	Support members to consider global issues, and highlight structural inequalities
Organisation	Aim to become net zero
	Support the staff sustainability group
Partnerships	Develop new partnerships
	Strengthen existing partnerships

## Delivering the strategy

The engagement and support of all our members will be essential in ensuring the success of this strategy. The development of work plans will be an iterative process for the duration of the strategy (2021-25), with continuous reflection which recognises the inter-related nature of the statements and aligns with the development of existing and new strategies within the FPH and partners.

Want to know more or want to be involved?

Visit [www.fph.org.uk](http://www.fph.org.uk) or email [climateandhealth@fph.org.uk](mailto:climateandhealth@fph.org.uk)

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## Foreword

The FPH and the wider health community made clear demands at COP26 in Glasgow this year on issues critical to protecting people's health and social equity, yet COP26 has only delivered on a few of them. Until there is the required urgent action to protect our global ecosystem it is both human and planetary health that will suffer the very worst consequences. In vulnerable countries and communities, lives are being lost and people's health is being harmed, now. FPH has already taken action on this agenda, divesting from fossil fuels, declaring a climate emergency, lobbying on a range of climate-related issues, and recently welcoming Greta Thunberg as an Honorary Member of the Faculty. We have also included climate change as a specific learning outcome within our curriculum and seek to broaden this as we undertake our curriculum review.

But we must do more.

We must do more to deliver the necessary mitigation and adaptation actions to keep alive the target of maintaining global average temperatures rises to below 1.5 degrees.

We must do more to speak on behalf of both current and future generations, knowing that this will be one of the greatest public health challenges we face in our careers.

We must do more to recognise the scale of climate injustice and our responsibilities to the communities in other countries (and those within) who suffer the most impact from climate change and who are the least responsible.

We must do more to act upon and enforce the protection of human rights, the right to health, Indigenous rights and intergenerational equity.

Delivering the necessary mitigation and adaptation actions to keep average global temperature rises to below 1.5 degrees will not only protect from further catastrophic health impacts and millions of deaths but will also result in improvements in current population health. A better, healthier, and fairer future is possible. We still have time to act to save millions of lives, communities, and our shared planet, but we must act now.

The FPH Climate and Health Strategy is a sign of our ambition to ensure that all members are encouraged and supported in leading and advocating for climate action at all levels of society. As a member-driven organisation, this strategy is for all our members. We will engage with our members throughout the cycle of the strategy and report on our progress through our Annual Report and other mediums. We welcome comments and engagement on the priorities and principles within the strategy and rely on our members' advice and support in implementing this strategy. We must continue to work with our partners in public health and beyond to place health and equity at the heart of climate change work and ensure that public health is part of the solution to the greatest challenge of our time.

**Professor Maggie Rae, FPH President**

## About the FPH

### *Protecting and improving the health of the public through the organised efforts of our members*

The UK Faculty of Public Health is the professional standards body for public health specialists and practitioners. The Faculty has around 4000 members, in the four nations of the United Kingdom and overseas.

We define public health as the science and art of preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting health and wellbeing, through the organised efforts of society.

## The FPH and its approach to climate and health

### *Our vision for climate and health*

Better health for all – leaving no one behind, now and for future generations

The Faculty of Public Health becomes a credible and respected voice on climate, environment and health impacts, and supports the public health workforce to lead on strategies to protect health and wellbeing for current and future generations.

### *Our mission for climate and health*

As the professional membership body for public health, we will work to promote and protect health for everyone and will:

- Ensure that the public health workforce has the knowledge, skills and capability to work on mitigation and adaptation to the climate emergency and environmental breakdown, including access to resources and the confidence to make the case for the health co-benefits of action on climate change
- Advocate for inequalities to be essential to all work on climate, the environment and health, recognising that climate injustice creates health inequalities locally and globally
- Demonstrate leadership by becoming a net-zero organisation

### **Key FPH activities on climate and health to date:**

- The Sustainable Development Special Interest Group has been an active and dynamic forum over many years raising awareness of sustainability issues and promoting change.
- The FPH has been a founder member of the UK Health Alliance on Climate Change (UKHACC) since its inception in 2016.
- The FPH developed and implemented a fossil fuel divestment policy and it was announced in December 2018 that the FPH had fully divested from oil, gas and coal companies.
- The FPH declared a climate emergency in November 2019 and considers climate change to be the greatest public health threat of the 21st century.
- The FPH Climate and Health Committee was set up in 2020, in recognition of the importance of climate change, health and the environment.
- Climate and health and sustainability content revised in the FPH Curriculum, 2021.
- An online learning event 'What is Public Health's Role in tackling the Climate Emergency?' was jointly hosted by the Sustainable Development Special Interest Group and the Climate and Health Committee in September 2021.
- A pre-COP26 member information meeting was held by the FPH in October 2021.

- For the first time, the FPH was awarded observer status at COP26 and led the submission of a health-focused statement to the UNFCCC secretariat to represent the health voice, working with other health observer organisations at COP who endorsed / were signatories to the statement.

Further details on the FPH's activities on climate and health can be found in Appendix A.

## Climate and health: why is it important?

'Climate change is the greatest global health threat facing the world in the 21st century'

*Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change*<sup>1</sup>

The effects of rising temperatures, rising sea levels and increased frequency and severity of extreme weather events are already causing a number of direct and indirect health impacts, including through heat exposure, impacts on water and food quality, the distribution of infectious diseases and wider social impacts including economic insecurity, conflict and forced migration.<sup>2 3 4 5</sup> The FPH recognises this current threat and the way in which it is rapidly escalating, and declared a climate emergency in November 2019.<sup>6</sup>

The evidence is clear – enough is not being done to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions in order to limit warming to less than 1.5C, with clear evidence that rises above this risk catastrophic health, environmental and social impacts. Recent estimates suggest that unless we take immediate action then we could expect a temperature rise of around 2.7C by the end of the century.<sup>7</sup> Additionally, governments are still not doing enough to prioritise health in their climate commitments,<sup>8</sup> and adaptation is often neglected.

Equity and justice are central issues in responding to the climate and health emergency. Both within and between countries, those experiencing the greatest impacts from climate change are often those that have contributed the least towards global greenhouse gas emissions.<sup>9</sup> In the UK, extreme weather events have a disproportionate impact on vulnerable groups such as older people, people with lower income and marginalised groups, who may live in areas with more pollution, less green space and more prone to flooding, whilst those in privately-rented homes are often more vulnerable than owner-occupiers as they may be less able to prepare for and recover from climate events.<sup>10</sup> Mitigation and adaptation strategies can also themselves lead to inequities if not carefully planned and implemented.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.thelancet.com/countdown-health-climate>

<sup>2</sup> [https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/climate-change/cop26-cc-\\_health-messaging\\_final-version-5nov20700766fe-35d5-44c8-a33a-88d972772920.pdf?sfvrsn=11c2ab1b\\_1&download=true](https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/climate-change/cop26-cc-_health-messaging_final-version-5nov20700766fe-35d5-44c8-a33a-88d972772920.pdf?sfvrsn=11c2ab1b_1&download=true)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMra1807873>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/cop26-special-report>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/environment-and-health/Climate-change/publications/2021/zero-regrets-scaling-up-action-on-climate-change-mitigation-and-adaptation-for-health-in-the-who-european-region.-key-messages-from-the-working-group-on-health-in-climate-change-2021>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.fph.org.uk/news-events/fph-news/fph-declares-climate-emergency/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://unfccc.int/news/full-ndc-synthesis-report-some-progress-but-still-a-big-concern>

<sup>8</sup> <https://climateandhealthalliance.org/press-releases/healthy-ndcs-scorecard-exposes-health-gaps-in-national-climate-policies-ahead-of-cop26/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10393-007-0141-1>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.health.org.uk/publications/reports/the-marmot-review-10-years-on>

<sup>11</sup> [https://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lanph/PIIS2542-5196\(20\)30270-9.pdf](https://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lanph/PIIS2542-5196(20)30270-9.pdf)

'The twin problems of social inequalities and climate change have to be tackled at the same time. Addressing each is vital to creating a society that is just, and sustainable for the current and future generations.'

*Health Equity in England: The Marmot Review 10 Years On*<sup>12</sup>

'World leaders must start to realise how the climate, ecological and health crises are interlinked. Right now, we are creating the perfect conditions for diseases like Covid-19 to spill over from other animals to us. Protecting our environment is protecting nature and all animals and protecting ourselves.'

*Greta Thunberg, Hon MFPH*<sup>13</sup>

This emergency must be tackled alongside other current and emerging threats, including COVID-19. COVID-19 has reminded us that we cannot tackle global health threats in isolation. A number of other health threats are also driven by how humans interact with animals, nature and the environment, including the inter-related issues of antimicrobial resistance, emerging infectious diseases and the biodiversity crisis. 'One Health' and 'Planetary Health' approaches are key to ensuring that this complexity is taken into account in our responses to these interlinked crises.<sup>14</sup> Key related global policy frameworks including the Paris Agreement, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction provide a foundation for a sustainable, low-carbon and resilient approach to development.<sup>15</sup>

Despite the UK's recent commitments to reaching net zero emissions by 2050, progress is not sufficient to reach Net Zero targets.<sup>16</sup> In the third UK Climate Risk Assessment (CRRA3), which assesses 61 risks and opportunities, more action is needed in over 30 of them, a pattern which is repeated across all four UK nations.<sup>17</sup>

'...but it [climate change] is also the greatest opportunity to redefine the social and environmental determinants of health'

*Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change*<sup>18</sup>

The case for addressing this gap at pace is further strengthened by the many health co-benefits of action, which can be realised through both mitigation and adaptation<sup>19 20</sup> if an inter-disciplinary, whole-system approach is adopted. Strategies such as decarbonising our energy system and switching to renewable energy, promoting active travel, more sustainable diets and climate-resilient housing adaptations will lead to a number of direct and indirect benefits to physical and mental

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.health.org.uk/publications/reports/the-marmot-review-10-years-on>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.fph.org.uk/news-events/fph-news/greta-thunberg-elected-as-an-honorary-member-of-the-uk-faculty-of-public-health/>

<sup>14</sup> [https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/climate-change/cop26-cc-health-messaging\\_final-version-5nov20700766fe-35d5-44c8-a33a-88d972772920.pdf?sfvrsn=11c2ab1b\\_1&download=true](https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/climate-change/cop26-cc-health-messaging_final-version-5nov20700766fe-35d5-44c8-a33a-88d972772920.pdf?sfvrsn=11c2ab1b_1&download=true)

<sup>15</sup> <https://unfccc.int/topics/action-on-climate-and-sdgs/action-on-climate-and-sdgs>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/2021-progress-report-to-parliament/>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.ukclimaterisk.org/independent-assessment-ccra3/national-summaries/>

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.thelancet.com/countdown-health-climate>

<sup>19</sup> Mitigation: decreasing the amount of emissions released into the atmosphere and in reducing the current concentration of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) by enhancing sinks (e.g. increasing the area of forests) Source: UNFCCC <https://unfccc.int/topics/mitigation/the-big-picture/introduction-to-mitigation>

<sup>20</sup> Adaptation: changes in processes, practices, and structures to moderate potential damages or to benefit from opportunities associated with climate change Source: UNFCCC <https://unfccc.int/topics/adaptation-and-resilience/the-big-picture/what-do-adaptation-to-climate-change-and-climate-resilience-mean>

health, including through improved air quality, higher levels of physical activity and fewer cold and heat-related illnesses and deaths.<sup>21 22</sup> The public already recognises this opportunity: in a 2020 survey of the UK public, not only did 75% of respondents either strongly or somewhat support the net-zero target, but over 75% of respondents believed there would be better health in a future where net-zero is reached.<sup>23</sup>

The multidisciplinary nature of public health enables an appreciation of the evidence and ways of working across multiple disciplines, including systems leadership, behavioural and communication science, and ethics. In the words of Sir Andy Haines, there are ‘special opportunities and responsibilities for health practitioners to *lead, facilitate, influence* and *act*’ on climate change<sup>24</sup>. The Faculty and its membership are positioned to contribute in all of these ways, such as to strengthen climate and environmental knowledge and skills across the public health workforce, and to lead on climate-aware policy development and advocacy within the UK, and for itself to become a more sustainable organisation that takes climate change into account in everything it does. The issues that need to be addressed in relation to climate change and sustainable development include energy, water, transport and travel, housing, spatial development, food, waste, as well as issues of the economy, environment, nature and biodiversity. All of these topics are key issues for public health.

The public health workforce is a key asset in society’s response to the climate emergency. Delivering an effective, evidence-based and just response will require the full diversity of expertise and disciplines, across all functions of the public health system (further details can be found in Appendix B):

- Health Protection
- Health Improvement
- Health Services
- Public Health Intelligence
- Academic Public Health
- Workforce Development

Public health has been at the heart of the COVID-19 response, and it now needs to be at the heart of the response to the climate crisis, working with partners to raise the importance of the health implications and co benefits to health of addressing climate change.

But the Faculty is not a lone actor. Many organisations and academic institutes are working on the intersection between climate and health locally, nationally, and globally and our identified priorities should complement and add value across the system. This includes sharing and extending existing good practice, particularly across and between the four nations.

Many members across all four nations of the UK and globally are already pursuing principles of environmental sustainability and resilience in their work to improve and protect health, and to reduce health inequalities. This strategy, led by the Climate and Health Committee and supported by

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<sup>21</sup> <https://www.bmj.com/content/368/bmj.l6758>

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.bmj.com/content/352/bmj.i1781/infographic>

<sup>23</sup>

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/996575/Climate\\_change\\_and\\_net\\_zero\\_public\\_awareness\\_and\\_perceptions\\_summary\\_report.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/996575/Climate_change_and_net_zero_public_awareness_and_perceptions_summary_report.pdf)

<sup>24</sup> Griffiths J, Rao M, Adshead F, Thorpe A (Eds). *The Health Practitioner’s Guide to Climate Change*. London: Earthscan; 2009

the Sustainable development Special Interest Group (SIG), on behalf of the FPH, builds on the vision and strategic priorities set out in the FPH Strategy 2020-25,<sup>25</sup> and seeks to support members to go further in their work on this important agenda. Further details on recent action and the development of this strategy can be found in the appendix.

We are already witnessing the impacts of climate change and without significant actions then there will be further avoidable increases in morbidity and mortality from the effects of climate change.<sup>26</sup> Given the scale of the crisis and the urgency required in order to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change, the FPH must rapidly build on the action to date with greater ambition and pace. The COP26 conference in Glasgow in November 2021 is a crucial moment for countries to come together to deliver goals that honour the goals in the Paris Agreement.<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> <https://www.fph.org.uk/about-fph/fph-governance-and-strategy/fph-strategy-2020-2025/>

<sup>26</sup> <https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/344733/WHO-EURO-2021-3198-42956-60023-eng.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

<sup>27</sup> <http://www.ukhealthalliance.org/emergency-action-on-climate-and-nature-crisis-cannot-wait-for-the-pandemic-says-unprecedented-joint-editorial-from-health-journals/>

## Developing the strategy

This strategy, led by the Climate and Health Committee on behalf of the FPH, builds on the vision and eight strategic priorities set out in the FPH Strategy 2020-25,<sup>28</sup> using this as a starting point for discussion and exploration on how all members can engage with the climate and health agenda. The strategy development involved engagement with members. The strategy has developed key priorities to 2025, with suggested examples for delivery. All key priorities are commitments by the FPH to make progress in this area. This process has enabled engagement with a broad range of FPH members, with all domains of public health represented and various levels of public health represented. These eight areas include a set of key statements, priorities and suggested examples of how we will deliver these priorities. This strategy is just the first step in this journey. A work plan will be produced by the committee, in partnership with members, by early 2022. The strategy will be reviewed and updated by 31 December 2022.

### Membership

We will enhance engagement with our members and provide them with increased support and opportunities to be able to work effectively on the climate and health agenda in their public health practice.

### Our priorities to 2025

- Develop and maintain an ongoing programme of events in order to continuously develop a membership with strong expertise in effective public health action in tackling the climate emergency, e.g. running events such as workshops / conferences for continuous professional development and sharing good practice
- Ensure that we produce resources on key topics and that there is clear visibility and communication of materials and resources, based on evidence, for all members in relation to climate change, the environment and health that are readily available and relevant to all areas of practice which our members represent, e.g. develop a green health impact assessment framework. produce regular position statements on issues as they arise, evidence-based resources on climate related topics
- Ensure that the public health workforce have access to support to be able to deliver the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to act, e.g. developing and supporting networks to facilitate peer learning and support for members regarding working on these topics
- Recognise the contribution of Faculty members to work in this field, e.g. highlighting the leadership and commitment of members in this area by creating an award

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<sup>28</sup> <https://www.fph.org.uk/about-fph/fph-governance-and-strategy/fph-strategy-2020-2025/>

## Workforce

We will ensure that we have a professional public health workforce that is able to meet the challenges of the climate and environment emergency.

### Our priorities to 2025

- Work with our partners across the system to ensure that the current and future health workforce are equipped with the right knowledge, skills and behaviours to be able to meet the challenges of the climate emergency, e.g. identify the competencies needed by the workforce to deliver this agenda, building on the *FPH Functions and Standards of a Public Health System* (Appendix B), *WHO-ASPHER Competency Framework for Public Health* (Appendix C) and *ASPHER Climate and Health Competencies for Public Health Professionals in Europe* (Appendix D).
- Ensure that employers are putting climate change into the workforce's job roles and to consult with the workforce on the skills needed to be able to deliver this, e.g. develop template job descriptions which include climate change

## Standards

We will maintain and continue to develop high quality standards to ensure effective delivery of public health practice around urgent climate and health action in line with the best science.

### Our priorities to 2025

- Review the speciality registrar curriculum and examinations to ensure that the public health workforce develops the knowledge and skills to act on this issue e.g. embed the climate emergency and environmental breakdown into the DFPH and MFPH examinations
- Ensure that climate change and health knowledge, skills and attitudes are a core part of Continuing Professional Development and strongly encourage climate and health to be a part of each revalidation cycle, e.g. further develop CPD resources on climate and health,<sup>29</sup> embed climate and health into revalidation processes and quality improvement activity
- Work with partners and networks to share learning and to lead the development of high quality standards in relation to climate and health action across the health workforce, e.g. ensure that future public health practitioner training incorporates climate change and health ensure that speciality registrars are offered training placements to develop skills to act on this issue, explore development of specific standards for particular PH roles

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<sup>29</sup> <https://www.fph.org.uk/policy-campaigns/special-interest-groups/special-interest-groups-list/sustainable-development-special-interest-group/>

## Knowledge

We will act as a network of public health expertise, knowledge and evidence and use this across all of our climate and health work.

### Our priorities to 2025

- Develop an understanding of knowledge gaps on these issues in the workforce, e.g. engage in discussion with members' representatives and use this intelligence to inform resource development to all roles and settings
- Promote existing resources and provide expert briefings on key topic areas, e.g. promoting and enhancing existing resources developed by the Sustainable Development Special Interest Group<sup>30</sup> and holding briefings on key topics, e.g. energy, transport, food, and health inequalities
- Champion the output of research and academic institutions including the Lancet Countdown and relevant discourses on sustainability
- Support members to gather new evidence on the public health approach to climate, environment and health, e.g. by holding regular events where people can share best practice
- Translate and summarise the latest evidence on climate change for members, so that they feel able to speak about the latest evidence and its implications with authority, and to cascade it to others, e.g. create a network of champions on climate and environment and empower members to act upon the evidence; using the champions network to reach out

## Advocacy

We will deliver an ambitious advocacy agenda with clear priorities and a strong evidence base to drive positive changes in addressing the climate, environment and health emergency at a global, national and local level

### Our priorities to 2025

- Coordinate and collaborate with other organisations on key advocacy messages, at global, national and local levels, e.g. collaborate with others to proactively advocate on issues which are related to climate, environment and health
- Ensure that our members have the skills for advocating on climate change, environment, and health, specifically ensuring that they are able to advocate for those most affected by climate change and environmental breakdown, e.g. develop an "advocates" or "spokesperson" scheme for members to be able to advocate on key issues
- Develop a theory of change in order to inform our advocacy on climate change, the environment and health, e.g. workshops to develop our theory of change and consider how best to influence action in this field, ensuring that this includes a review of how to effectively advocate and learn from historical mistakes
- Prioritise advocacy where the outcomes will have the most impact such as high impact topic areas or where the opportunity to influence is greatest.

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<sup>30</sup> <https://www.fph.org.uk/policy-campaigns/special-interest-groups/special-interest-groups-list/sustainable-development-special-interest-group/>

## Global

We will forge partnerships to facilitate global public health competency and capacity around the climate, nature and health agenda through education, training, standards and advocacy, working through our SIGs and Global committees, advocate for better global health taking climate change into account through our global public health networks.

### Our priorities to 2025

- Strengthen collaboration with international members in relation to the climate, environment and health emergency and harness their collective expertise, e.g. identify and mobilise existing capacity and expertise amongst international members and showcase this at events
- Support all members and partners to consider global issues in climate and health work, for example run educational events on how public health professionals contribute to the sustainable development goals
- Ensure that structural inequalities within and between countries, driven by power imbalances, and manifesting as health inequalities and unequal capabilities to respond to climate change, are highlighted in advocacy.

## Organisation

We will focus on a strategic approach within the organisation, through our ethical investments and policies, to support delivery of our objectives, ensuring that all actions are taken with a view to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of the climate emergency on health.

### Our priorities to 2025

- Aim to become a net zero organisation and support other organisations to become net zero e.g. scope requirements for net zero KEEP
- Continue to actively support the staff sustainability group to lead change within the Faculty

## Partnership

We will be seen as a key partner in the climate health emergency, actively engaging with and working in partnership with other organisations across the UK and internationally to enhance delivery of urgent climate action

### Our priorities to 2025

- Develop new partnerships and strengthen existing partnerships in order to facilitate local, national and international public health competency and capacity and to ensure global solidarity in this agenda, and to communicate to our members on the work that we undertake with partners, e.g. map out partnerships and scope work with new and existing partners in the climate, environment, and health field (e.g. with other Royal Colleges, FPH Treasurer will support them to disinvest from fossil fuels).

## Delivering the strategy

The engagement and support of all our members will be essential in ensuring the success of this strategy. The FPH board will expect that all relevant committees and SIGs ensure that their work plan contributes to the delivery of this strategy. Existing reporting arrangements will be used to report on the delivery of this strategy alongside the overarching FPH strategy, with an expectation that all committees report on their climate and health activity alongside their overall committee activity (for further details on FPH committees see Appendix E).

The Climate and Health Committee will provide advice and support to these groups in developing the work plans. The development of work plans will be an iterative process for the duration of the strategy (2021-25), with continuous reflection which recognises the inter-related nature of the statements and aligns with the development of existing and new strategies within the FPH and partners.

### Next steps:

- A work plan will be produced by the Committee and in partnership with members by early 2022.
- The strategy will be reviewed and updated by 31 December 2022.

## Acknowledgments

FPH would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in drafting and editing the content of this strategy. We acknowledge with gratitude the leadership provided by the Climate and Health Committee and the Sustainable Development SIG in developing this strategy, which was supported by significant contributions from a number of FPH members, colleagues, staff and partners. Your time and dedication is greatly appreciated.

# Appendices

## Appendix A: what the Faculty has already done

Here is a summary of some of the key developments of the FPH and our members in the last few years in relation to climate, health and environment and sustainable development:

**The Faculty strategy for 2020-25<sup>31</sup>** - this sets out a vision of ‘Better health for all – leaving no one behind’, with key principles to drive our work including ‘Effective systems leadership at home and abroad: Improve and protect health through sustainable development principles. Pursue the Sustainable Development Goals for human health, ecosystems, climate and planetary health upon which we rely.’

**FPH disinvestment policy** - The FPH Treasurer developed and implemented a disinvestment policy, and it was announced in December 2018 that the Faculty was fully disinvested from oil, gas and coal companies<sup>32</sup>. The FPH was a leader amongst health organisations in taking this stance and has encouraged other Royal Colleges to do likewise.

**FPH Climate and Health Committee** – building on the work of the Sustainable development SIG, this committee was established in February 2020. It is tasked with ensuring that the Faculty effectively ensures the issues of sustainable development and climate change and health are reflected throughout its activities. Committee activity to date include: a pairing system between Committee members and registrars, contributing to climate and health content in the FPH Curriculum, leading on the development of this strategy and jointly holding a webinar for FPH members, with the Sustainable Development Special Interest Group: “Public health’s response to the climate emergency.”

**FPH as a founding member of UKHACC** The FPH was a founder member of the UK Health Alliance on Climate Change since its inception in 2016. The Alliance<sup>33</sup> represents over 650,000 health professionals advocating for responses to climate change which protect and promote public health. They have three collaborative priorities:

- To empower the health profession to advocate for better responses to climate change;
- To engage decision makers to strengthen policies that protect public health from climate change;
- To raise awareness of the links between health and climate change

**Special Interest Groups** There are a number of other Special Interest Groups (SIGs) covering topics that relate to climate and environmental change. Here are just some examples:

- The Sustainable Development (SIG) has been an active and dynamic forum over many years raising awareness of sustainability issues and promoting change. One example of their output is that they have developed a suite of resources for the public health workforce<sup>34</sup>, which can also be used for continuing professional development. These have been welcomed nationally and internationally.

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<sup>31</sup> <https://www.fph.org.uk/media/2828/fph-strategy-2020-2025.pdf>

<sup>32</sup> <https://www.medact.org/2018/news/leading-uk-public-health-body-ends-investment-in-fossil-fuel-industry/>

<sup>33</sup> <http://www.ukhealthalliance.org/>

<sup>34</sup> <https://www.fph.org.uk/policy-campaigns/special-interest-groups/special-interest-groups-list/sustainable-development-special-interest-group/resources-on-sustainable-development-and-climate-change/>

- The Transport SIG develops and promotes evidence-based policies on transport and health, and a good example of this is congestion charge policies; the Faculty commented on the Transport for London congestion charge consultation in 2018<sup>35</sup>
- The Food SIG has collaborated with the Soil Association in a recent discussion paper emphasising the links between sustainable food systems and human health<sup>36</sup>
- The Healthy Spatial Planning SIG, linked with the West Midlands Health and Planning Group has collated many relevant resources on their website<sup>37</sup>

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<sup>35</sup> <https://www.fph.org.uk/news-events/media-centre/fph-press-releases/recent/tfl-congestion-charge-announcement/>

<sup>36</sup> <https://www.fph.org.uk/media/2420/sustainable-food-systems-for-a-healthier-uk-final2.pdf>

<sup>37</sup> <https://www.lfphwm.org.uk/our-networks/wm-handpg>

## Appendix B: FPH Functions and Standards of a Public Health System<sup>38</sup>

The public health functions are presented here within the three domains of public health practice – health protection, health improvement and health services – plus the underpinning functions of public health intelligence, academic public health and workforce development that are integral to each of the three domains.

### Health Protection

- Outbreak prevention and control
- Emergency planning
- Risk management
- Infection control
- Outbreak management
- Monitoring threats
- Immunisation

### Health Improvement

- Needs assessment
- Programme development
- Partnership working
- Community development
- Advocacy
- Sustainability
- Evidence and evaluation

### Health Services

- Health service commissioning
- Health and social care service prioritisation
- Equity
- Quality
- Evaluation
- Safety
- Healthcare development
- Leadership

### Public Health Intelligence

- Health needs
- Health outcomes
- Analysis
- Information sharing
- Quality

### Academic Public Health

- Advocacy
- Research
- Application of public health evidence

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<sup>38</sup> [https://www.fph.org.uk/media/3031/fph\\_systems\\_and\\_function-final-v2.pdf](https://www.fph.org.uk/media/3031/fph_systems_and_function-final-v2.pdf)



- Evaluation
- Teaching

### **Workforce Development**

- Leadership
- Capacity building
- Specialty training

## Appendix C: WHO-ASPHER Competency Framework for the Public Health<sup>39</sup>

This framework aims to outline the set of competencies required of a public health workforce, including the knowledge, skills and personal or professional attitudes required to undertake their role. The framework categories are as follows:

### Content and context

- Science and practice
- Promoting health
- Law, policies and ethics
- One Health and health security

### Relations and interactions

- Leadership and systems thinking
- Collaboration and partnerships
- Communication, culture and advocacy

### Performance and achievement

- Governance and resource management
- Professional development and reflective ethical practice
- Organizational literacy and adaptability

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<sup>39</sup> [https://www.euro.who.int/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0003/444576/WHO-ASPHER-Public-Health-Workforce-Europe-eng.pdf](https://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/444576/WHO-ASPHER-Public-Health-Workforce-Europe-eng.pdf)

## Appendix D: ASPHER Climate and Health Competencies for PH professionals in Europe<sup>40</sup>

### Domain 1: Knowledge and Analytical Skills

- 1.1 Knows and identifies the drivers of climate change (both natural and human-induced).
- 1.2 Identifies the health impacts of climate change and effective responses on the part of specific health services.
- 1.3 Understands the connection between habitat and biodiversity loss and infectious diseases.
- 1.4 Knows the different levels of prevention, climate mitigation and adaptation, and health co-benefits of actions.
- 1.5 Understands social and environmental determinants of health.
- 1.6 Understands emergency planning/preparedness.
- 1.7 Knows how to access and interpret relevant local, national, European and global information and accurate science about climate change effects on health.
- 1.8 Applies climate and health knowledge to improve decisions about public health services and adapt and improve population health.
- 1.9 Knows how to develop strategies for reducing the carbon footprint of health care delivery, from the hospital setting to the outpatient setting, based on “green health care” principles.
- 1.10 Knows the ethical, professional and legal obligations relevant to climate and health.

### Domain 2: Communication and advocacy

- 2.1 Demonstrates effective communication with stakeholders about climate and health topics by defining the target audience, listening and developing audience-appropriate messaging.
- 2.2 Understands the role of public health professionals in climate-health activism and policy engagement.

### Domain 3: Collaboration and partnerships

- 3.1 Works collaboratively and across sectors in local, national and European organisational structures on climate and health issues.

### Domain 4: Policy

- 4.1 Understands the role of national, European and global policy frameworks and governance structures to address health risks associated with climate change.

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<sup>40</sup> [https://www.aspher.org/download/882/25-10-2021-final\\_aspher-climate-and-health-competencies-for-public-health-professionals-in-europe.pdf](https://www.aspher.org/download/882/25-10-2021-final_aspher-climate-and-health-competencies-for-public-health-professionals-in-europe.pdf)

## Appendix E: FPH Board and Committees<sup>41</sup>

FPH is governed by a democratically elected Trustee Board, which is the ultimate decision-making body within the organisation. Much of its business is conducted through a series of committees and sub-committees. The standing committees report directly to the Board. The sub-committees report through their parent committees, and a detailed committee structure chart can be found on the [Faculty website](#).

FPH also has a network of [special interest groups](#) (SIGs)<sup>42</sup> which support and complement the work of its committees. New members are regularly recruited to join committees. If you are interested in joining a committee please contact the committee chair or the member of staff assigned to that committee to find how you can get involved.

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<sup>41</sup> <https://www.fph.org.uk/about-fph/board-and-committees/>

<sup>42</sup> <https://www.fph.org.uk/policy-campaigns/special-interest-groups/>