



UK Health
Security
Agency

Climate change is already here: What can health protection do?

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Session objectives

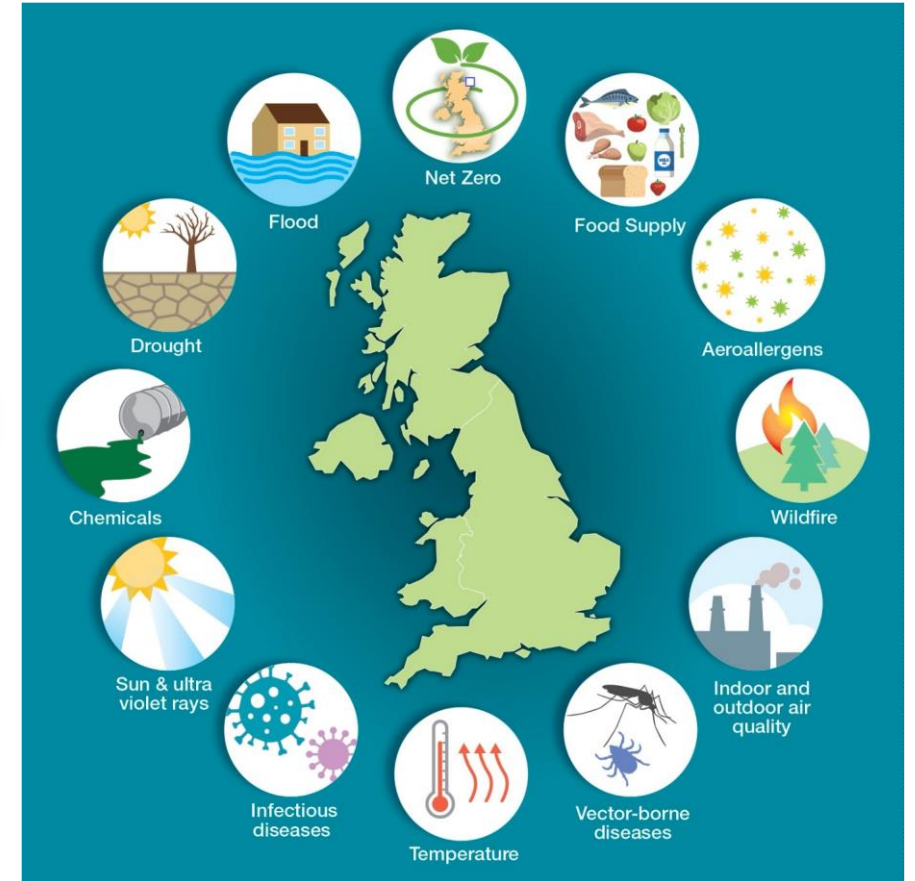
- Introduction to UKHSA Centre for Climate and Health Security
- Understand why climate change is relevant to health protection
- Recognise current challenges in PH practice
- Explore what support you want or need

UKHSA Centre for Climate and Health Security

- Launched in October 2022
- Led by Professor Lea Berrang Ford →
- 'Hub' of 5 teams:
 - Extreme Events and Health Protection (EEHP),
 - Climate Health and Assessment (CHAT),
 - Medical Entomology and Zoonoses (MEZE),
 - Mobilisation (MobT) and
 - Deputy Director's (DD) office



Working to ensure the health harms from climate change and adverse weather are minimised, and health is improved for all people, across current and future generations



Which of these is true about climate change?

It's too late
to take action.

Everything
will be fine.



The answer? Neither is true.



The climate has
already changed in
dangerous ways.



We're already
taking action.



But we need to
speed it up.



Every bit of climate
change costs lives.



But every bit of meaningful
action saves lives.

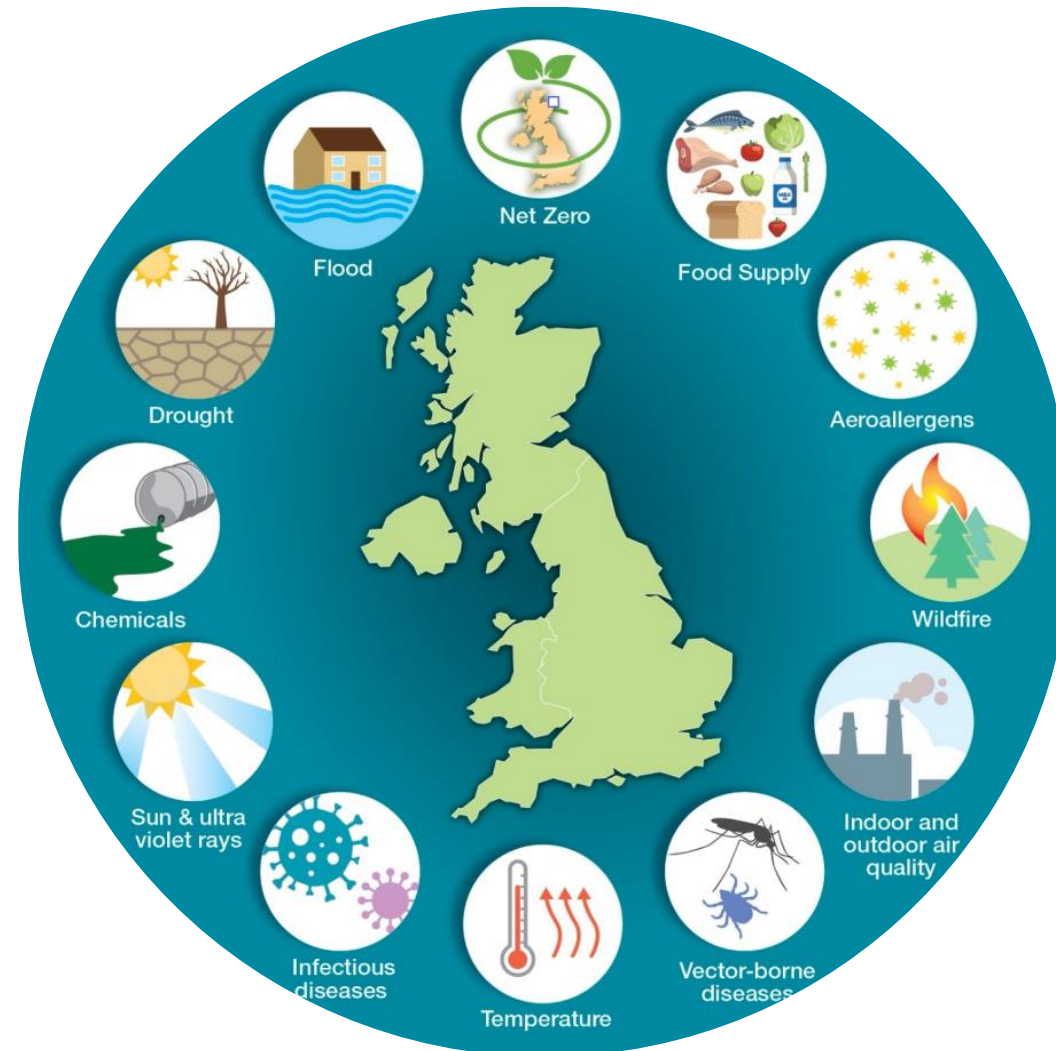


It's not too late. **It's not fine.**

It's exactly the time to demand a better world.

Health Effects of Climate Change in the UK (published Dec 2023, 15 chapters)

1. State of the past and future UK climate
2. Temperature
3. Flooding and coastal change
4. Outdoor air quality
5. Indoor air quality
6. Aeroallergens
7. Infectious diseases



8. Vectors and vector-borne diseases
9. Food supply
10. Wildfires
11. Drought
12. Human exposure to chemicals
13. Solar radiation
14. Co-benefits to health
15. Indicators and metrics

Health Protection opportunities to act

- **Advocate and raise awareness**
 - Health and care professionals
 - General public
- **Use evidence** >> risk assessments, strategies and plans
 - [Health Effects of Climate Change](#)
 - [Adverse Weather and Health Plan](#)
 - Various alerting systems
- **Build health protection capacity**
- **Consider simultaneous climate-related health risks**
 - Heat + air quality + healthcare demand...
 - Indoor air quality + heat /storm /wildfire
 - Biodiversity /flood /greenspace interventions + VBD systems
- **One Health approach**
- **Advocate for Co-benefits**
- **Test preparedness capabilities**

System changes which will protect health



Nature based solutions



Mainstreaming climate-health considerations across sectors



Targeted support for vulnerable populations and specific settings



Early action



Enhancing resilience by addressing existing health inequalities



Supporting behavioural transitions



Embedding climate education into health, care and public health practise

But... but... its not always easy to 'do'



- Wide portfolios
- Minimal time
- Translating evidence to your context
- Info overload: relevance / quality
- Metrics: drive action / monitor improvement
- Support: share experiences / lessons learnt / what works

What would help YOU to integrate climate change into your health protection work?

- how do we address **biodiversity loss**
- Helping to **maintain the focus on the bigger picture**, e.g. plastic use can often be justified on the basis of 'safety', with disregard to the climate and the unaccounted harms caused by this approach
- Set up a **peer support network** for practitioners working in this area
- Additional **training about making the case** for climate change within Public Health and the wider system in the face of multiple other urgent challenges
- **Facilitating links between sectors other than 'health'** and climate-health
- **Evidence of the impact that climate interventions have on health** e.g. how many lives saved by using public transport over cars, etc
- Resources, research especially when comes to **ppe usage**,
- **Easy access to more granular local data on data** on climate change impacts happening now, e.g. hospitalisation due to heatwave
- More **information and guidance** around how to approach this area
- Knowing **how health protection practice could / is already impacting on the climate** (and vice versa) so we know which actions we can take are relevant
- Resources on the **interplay between climate change and public health** to make my case for taking on more sustainability related projects
- Collaborations with the right team to **include it in our training programmes and courses**

Participant comments via text poll on Slido



More to come from CCHS



Improve knowledge mobilisation and use of evidence so you find it easier to find, digest, and apply to guide decision making



Develop and deliver a **programme of work within UKHSA to reduce the health impacts of climate change**, working with other government departments, academic partners and international organisations



Continue to build relationships and collaborate across regions, devolved nations and local authorities; responding to your needs and challenges



Refining our approach to assessing evidence; consulting on the **next UKHSA Health Effects of Climate Change** to maximise impact
