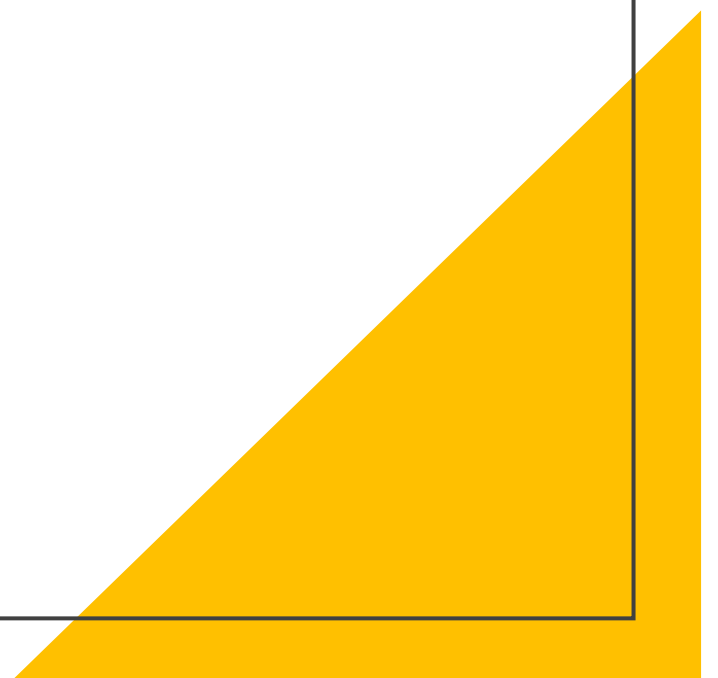


# UKHACC, the government, and policy

Richard Smith

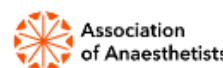
Chair, UKHACC

Former editor, BMJ



UK Health Alliance on Climate Change: 48 members; our members' members number over a million health professionals

- The planetary crisis is a health crisis
- We work to mitigate the effects of the planetary crisis, encourage adaptation, and emphasise the benefits to health of the changes we need to make
- Health professionals need to be more prominent in the debate
- We work as well to support the NHS reach net zero



# Broad thinking

We can achieve more by working together

At the same time our members (more resources, stronger brands) need to do a lot

We can do things that our members would support but are nervous about—for example, supporting ULEZ

We can have more impact by joining with organisations from other sectors, adding the health voice (Climate Coalition, Climate Majority, Campaign for Clean Air, etc)

## Our members

The Academy of Medical Sciences  
Association of British Neurologists  
Association of Surgeons of Great Britain  
Association of Anaesthetists  
Association of Clinical Psychologists  
Association of Paediatric Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland  
British Association of Critical Care Nurses  
British Association of Parental and Enteral Nutrition  
British Dental Association  
British Geriatrics Society  
BMA  
BMJ  
British and Irish Association of Stroke Physicians  
British Orthopaedic Association  
British Society of Gastroenterologists  
British Thoracic Society  
College of Paramedics  
Faculty of Medical Leadership and Management  
Faculty of Pharmaceutical Medicine  
Faculty of Public Health  
Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Health  
Florence Nightingale Foundation  
Greener Practice CIC  
Healthcare Infection Society  
Infection Prevention Society  
Intensive Care Society  
Nursing Standard Journal  
Paediatric Critical Care Society  
Planetary Health Report Card  
Plant Based Health Professionals  
The Lancet  
Royal College of Anaesthetists  
Royal College of Emergency Medicine  
Royal College of General Practitioners  
Royal College of Nursing  
Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists  
Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health  
Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow  
Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh  
Royal College of Physicians  
Royal College of Psychiatrists  
Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh  
Royal College of Surgeons of England  
Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons  
Royal Pharmaceutical Society  
Students for Global Health  
The Physiological Society  
UK Kidney Association

## Alliances we are part of

Global Climate and Health Alliance (Board of Directors)  
Eating Better Alliance  
Healthy Air Coalition  
Low Traffic Future Alliance  
Partnership for Active Travel and Transport for Health  
Faculty of Public Health health and climate committee  
The Climate Coalition  
Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate Change and Health (ATACH)

## Health organisations we collaborate with

Centre for Sustainable Healthcare  
Sustainable Healthcare Coalition  
Ride for their Lives  
Medact  
Climate Psychology Alliance  
Health Declares  
Greener NHS  
NHS Scotland  
Green Health Wales  
Institute of Public Health (Ireland)  
RealZero

## Partners we have worked with

Health Foundation  
Global Action Plan  
Zero Hour  
Wildlife and Countryside LINK  
Brighton and Sussex Medical School  
Lancet Countdown  
Healthcare Without Harm  
BMJ



UK Health Alliance  
on Climate Change

A response is  
needed at every  
level

Global

National

Regional/city

Health system/NHS

Organisation/members

Individual—professional and personal

A strategic question: at what level should UKHACC put most of its energy?



National (4 nations)—back to  
this in a moment



## Why an alliance representing over one million health professionals supports the expansion of ULEZ in London

The expansion of London's Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) comes into force today, bringing cleaner air and better health to five million people.



# Health system response: four figures

Globally, if healthcare were a country it would be the fifth largest emitter on the planet



Health care emits more greenhouse gases than aviation and shipping combined

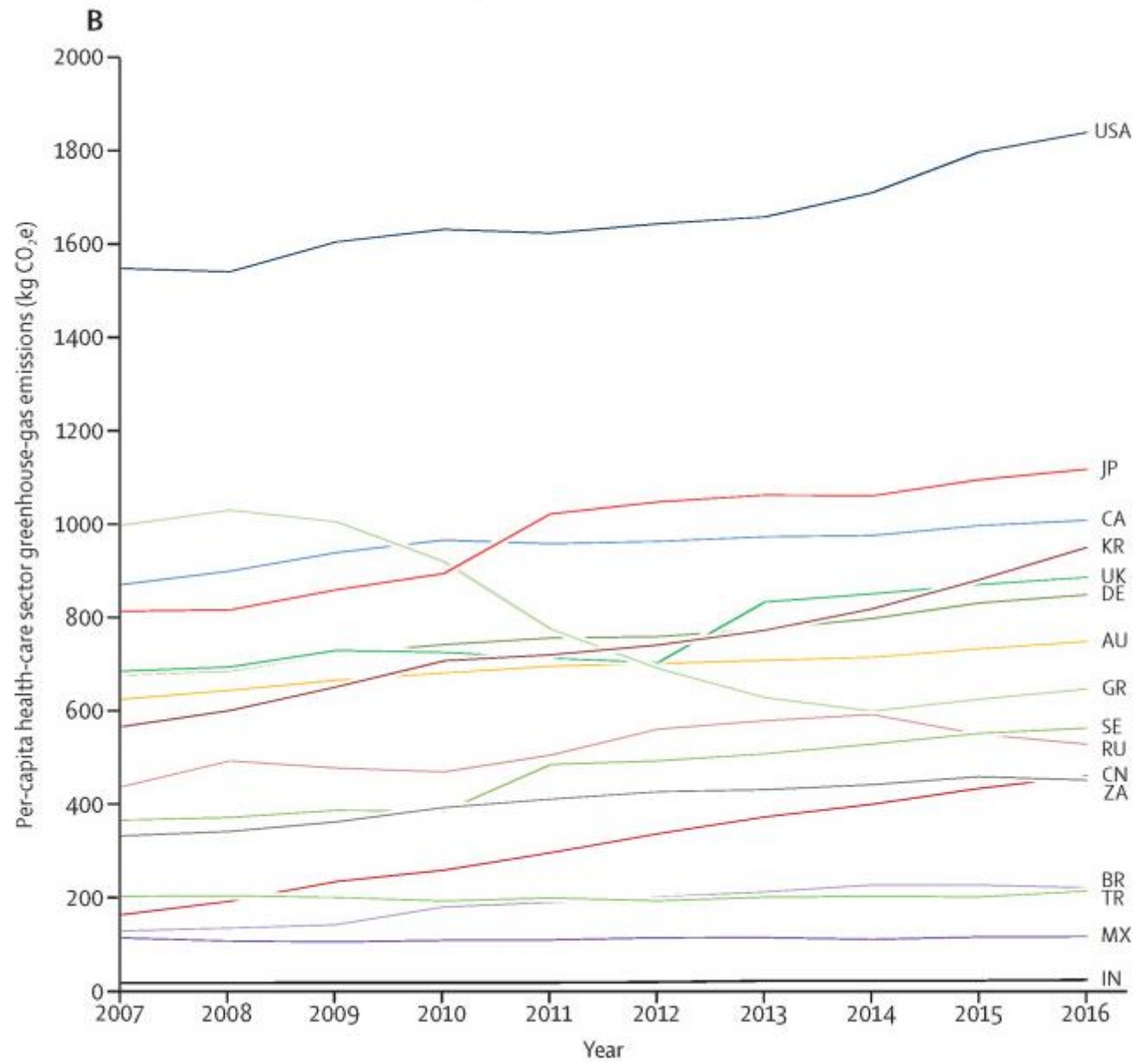


NHS accounts for 5% of UK carbon emissions



One in 20 vehicles on the road in the UK is related to the NHS

Carbon emissions from most health care systems are rising



# The 10 commitments of our members



**Declare**



**Plan**



**Campaign**



**Embed**



**Specialise**



**Educate**



**Divest**



**Improve**



**Travel smart**



**Plant-based**



[www.ukhealthalliance.org/Our-Commitments](http://www.ukhealthalliance.org/Our-Commitments)



UK Health Alliance  
on Climate Change

# Is your organisation serious about reaching net-zero? A checklist

- Carbon footprint measured
- Detailed, published plan with annual targets
- Annual audited public reporting of progress
- Commitment from the board with monthly review
- One of the priorities of the chief executive
- A chief sustainability officer
- Staff
- Funding

Plans from  
clinicians for  
reaching net-  
zero




 brighton and sussex  
medical school

 CENTRE for  
SUSTAINABLE  
HEALTHCARE


 UK Health Alliance  
on Climate Change

**RC PSYCH**  
ROYAL COLLEGE OF  
PSYCHIATRISTS

**CCQI**  
COLLEGE CENTRE  
FOR QUALITY  
IMPROVEMENT

**Net**   
Mental Health

**NATIONAL  
COLLABORATING  
CENTRE FOR  
MENTAL HEALTH**



**Delivering  
greener, more  
sustainable and  
net zero mental  
health care**

Guidance and  
recommendations

The poster has a dark teal background. On the left is a white silhouette of a human head in profile, facing right, with a green and blue globe inside. To the right of the head, the text 'Delivering greener, more sustainable and net zero mental health care' is in large white font, with 'Guidance and recommendations' below it. At the top, there are four logos: RC PSYCH, CCQI, Net Mental Health, and NATIONAL COLLABORATING CENTRE FOR MENTAL HEALTH.



**What brings  
you joy?**

Sources of satisfaction  
and delight

**Your  
climate  
action!**

**What are you  
good at?**

Your skills, resources,  
and networks

**What work  
needs doing?**

Climate and justice  
solutions

# National level— example of a succes

Playing a part in NHS England adopting a plan to get net zero (relationships, serendipity important)

Getting targets for the NHS to be net zero by 2040/45 written into the Health and Care Bill (national requirement 2050)

Important: programme almost hidden by last government, not a priority for Wes Streeting

Prompted by Greener NH Programme (Nick Watts)

Worked with Peers for the Planet

Lobbied ministers (Government didn't have a good argument for it not being there)





UK Health Alliance  
on Climate Change



## Five priorities to sustain our health, health and care services, and environment

The climate and nature crisis is a public health emergency that needs an urgent response. Our manifesto for the next general election presents five priorities for the new government to sustain our health, health and care services, and environment. We ask that parties incorporate these commitments into their manifestos.

**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

The UK Health Alliance on Climate Change is an alliance of 46 UK-based health organisations with a shared vision for a just, sustainable healthy world. Our members membership represents about one million health professionals. Collectively, we advocate for just responses to the climate and ecological crisis, promote the health benefits that flow from those responses, and empower health organisations and individuals to make changes to response to the crisis.

Find out more: <https://ukhealthalliance.org>

Contact us: [info@ukhealthalliance.org](mailto:info@ukhealthalliance.org)

# Thinking and actions behind manifesto

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Policies that will have big impact (ending fossil fuel dependency, housing, transform the food system)

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Heavy emphasis on putting our house in order and where we have most credibility (health system)

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Mostly about Britain but important that UK met its international commitments (self-interest as it's a global issue)

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Sent to all candidates, to leaders, and to relevant government ministers after the election with a request to meet and an offer to help

# End fossil fuel dependency

- A rapid, just transition to clean energy, meaning that everyone benefits from the transition
- Elimination of government subsidies, investments, and new licences for fossil fuel exploration, extraction, and sales
- Increased investment in and subsidies for renewable energy
- Policies that reduce energy demand, including insulation of homes and public buildings and improved public transport

# Transform the food system

- A public awareness campaign promoting healthy diets high in plant-based foods, reduced consumption of red and processed meat and dairy products, and a reduction in waste
- Support for farmers to transition to sustainable practices through subsidies and regulation of the local food sector
- Healthy food to be readily available and affordable

# Ensure a healthy environment

- Affordable, environmentally-friendly housing for all
- Improved, affordable public transport
- Planning that makes walking and cycling easy and safe
- Access to green spaces for everybody within a 15-minute walk of their home
- Protected waterways and improved access to safe blue space

# Meet international commitments

- The UK to meet existing financial commitments
- Develop innovative ways to increase financial investments to support climate and ecological action through public/private sector partnerships

# Transform health and care services I

- Significant investment in public health and integration with health and care services to benefit health, care, and the environment. Policies are needed to promote clean air, active travel, healthy diets, and easy access to green and blue spaces to prevent ill health and reduce pressures on health and care services
- Improved access and use of green space on the NHS estates
- Funding for green social prescribing
- Funding of and appointment of staff throughout health and social care to lead on decarbonisation

# Transform health and care services II

- Capital investment to decarbonise health and social care buildings and estates
- Acceleration of the zero-emissions ambulance fleet from the current goal of 2036 to 2030
- Plans to dramatically reduce waste from care services, including avoiding single-use items wherever possible
- Increased attention to adapting community health and care services to the effects of the climate and nature crisis



# Transform health and care services III

- Healthy largely plant-based foods for all patients and staff in care settings
- Annual audited public reporting of the carbon footprint of community health and care services
- Policies to drive the cultural and societal shift needed to secure a healthier, more sustainable way of life

Now...

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Reports on fossil fuels, food systems, and adaptation

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Alliances with peers and MPs

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Working with others—Climate Coalition etc

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Meet with Paul Corrigan (person prominent in devising plans for NHS)

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Encourage members to pursue aims in our manifesto

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Many tactical moves responding to opportunities—for example, letter to Ed Milliband about COP29

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**HELP US**