Health Professionals: COP26 Advocacy
COP26 Health Programme

29th September 2021

Alison Cox
Global Climate and Health Alliance

“Code Red for Humanity”

Rationale
To restrict temperature rise to 1.5°C by 2050, rapid and strong change needed this decade - starting right now
All parts of national and global society must engage to build momentum for the necessary change

Health Sector can - and must - play a vital role

Compelling Health and Climate Messages

Climate Crisis is a Health Emergency
Climate is the “Greatest global health threat of the 21st Century” (The Lancet)
Health impacts are happening now and will get far worse

Climate Action Benefits Health
Health co-benefits of climate action address major health challenges
Benefits are greater if health and equity explicitly embedded - ‘health in all policies’
Health cost savings from cleaner air, healthy sustainable diets, active transport can offsets costs of mitigation
#HealthyNDCs Scorecard

- Ranks 67 Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) covering 93 countries.
- Extent to which NDCs recognise and respond to the abundant linkages with health.
- Ensuring integration of health into climate policy:
  - protects populations,
  - maximises economic benefits
  - builds public backing for ambitious climate policies

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**Health & Climate Advocacy Drumbeat to COP26**

- **Clean Air Day** 07/09
- **Our Children’s Air Launch** 22/09
- **People’s Health Hearing** 07/11
- **Health & Climate Network Briefs** (tbc)
- **Global medical journal editorial** 06/09
- **Lancet Countdown** 21/10
- **Health & Climate Conference** 06/11
- **Ride for Their Lives 24-31 Oct**
- **#Care4Climate Webinars (fortnightly)**
- **#HealthyClimate Prescription open for sign on 5/09**
- **#HealthyClimate Prescription Public Launch**
- **#HealthyClimate Prescription Delivery to COP 26**

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**THE GLOBAL CLIMATE & HEALTH ALLIANCE**

- **Canada**
  - Health impacts
  - Health in adaptation
  - Health co-benefits
  - Economics and finance
  - Bonus points
  - Total score 7/15

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**THE GLOBAL CLIMATE & HEALTH ALLIANCE**

**Overall Ranking**

Further details of Scorecard available at: bit.ly/HealthyNDCs
Medical Journals Editorial
6th September

- Coordinated publication across 220+ international journals including
  - The Lancet,
  - East African Medical Journal,
  - Chinese Science Bulletin,
  - New England Journal of Medicine,
  - International Nursing Review,
  - National Medical Journal of India,
  - British Medical Journal, and many others.

- Significantly Global Media Coverage - over 700 articles including:
  - BBC, CNN, the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal,

- Social Media Support:
  - Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Greta Thunberg, UNFCCC

- Welcomed by AOSIS, LDC Group and CVF

Medical Journals Editorial
6th September

- Developed by a group of health professional organisations
- Addressed to heads of government and national delegations at COP26
- Sign-on from
  - Health professional organisations
  - Individual health professionals
- Press launch is planned 11th October
- Follow up comm to COP delegations
- Delivery in person by Health Professionals at COP26

#HealthyClimate Prescription
An urgent call for climate action from the health community ahead of COP26

The 2021 United Nations climate negotiations in November (COP26) are a critical moment and opportunity to put the world on a path that protects people from catastrophic climate change. The health community around the world is coming together to send a message to national leaders and country delegations, calling for real action to address the climate crisis.

bit.ly/3n9w8Dp

Main points:
- Health is already being harmed by the environmental crisis
- Emergency action is needed to transform societies and economies
- Vast health benefits could be realised
- Equity must be at the centre of the global response
  - High Income Countries must cut emissions further and faster
  - Meet and go beyond US$100 billion per year