

UKHCC Director's Update December 2022

Coordinated launch of our Members' Commitments

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to the development of our [list of ten priorities for members to do](#). Early next year, we plan to coordinate the launch of our members' commitment – we'll be discussing how we can work together to do this at the monthly comms/policy meeting next week, so please do ensure someone from your organisation is able to attend. At the meeting we'll discuss:

- What to call the list of commitments/pledge
 - When to launch
 - How to launch (e.g. with a coordinated announcement by all members, etc.)
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Clean Air and Environment Targets

On 7 November, we joined with Link, Greener UK and the Healthy Air Coalition in a [formal complaint](#) to DEFRA regarding the government's failure to meet the deadline to publish environment targets. A response from the Environment Targets team received later in November advised that the department would continue to work at pace to lay draft statutory instruments, but no specific timetable was provided. Greener UK, Healthy Air Coalition, and Wildlife and Countryside Link, have subsequently submitted a formal complaint to the Office for Environmental Protection on this legal breach and the lack of a specific timetable to remedy it.

On 8 November, we were co-signatories with the Healthy Air Campaign Coalition in a letter to the Secretary of State regarding a revised plan which proposes to remove the proven charging element of a Clean Air Zone for Manchester. The letter urged for a charging CAZ be implemented and called for the proposal not to be weakened.

We have welcomed the recent announcement by the Mayor of London to expand the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) to cover most of Greater London from August 2023. Earlier this year, we joined with 13 other organisations in a letter coordinated by Clean Cities, calling for the ULEZ expansion in delivering cleaner air in London. There is more work to be done, but this is a good step forward for London.

Sustainable healthcare conference

In partnership with BMJ, we have been successful in a proposal to NHS England, as part of their procurement on 'Clinical Insights for Net Zero Healthcare', to hold a conference on sustainable healthcare in 2023. The proposal outlined intention to deliver the following:

1. A call for abstracts and posters on NHS projects which are reducing the impact of healthcare on the environment
2. Host the Greener NHS inaugural conference (with the ambition to make this a self-sustaining annual event)
3. Produce a post-event report, which summarises themes and best practice highlighted at the conference and share the poster projects via an e-poster platform
4. Hold a free public webinar which summarises learning and highlights from the conference
5. Deliver a Greener NHS BMJ Award category on sustainability and climate impact
6. Create a landing page which links to e-poster abstracts and all other project outputs to provide ongoing content

A project team has been established to take this forward and we will keep you updated.

Editorial from Africa

The editorial we coordinated which called on climate justice for Africa has been referred to as an [unprecedented act of public speech](#). The editorial, which was co-authored by 16 editorials of leading biomedical journals across Africa, will be published in 260 journals, including 50 from the African continent. The editorial was published in Arabic, Croatian, Dutch, English, French, Portuguese and Spanish. It was reported in 130 news stories across dozens of countries, reaching an audience of about 800 million people. A further 300 million were reached through social media. In total, this translates into advertising value of almost \$8 million.

IN CONVERSATION LUNCHTIME SESSIONS

Mobilising health professionals on air pollution

On 1 December we hosted a lunchtime session with Clean Air Specialist Dr Malcolm White and the Director of Global Action Plan, Larissa Lockwood. The session provided insights into air pollution and the UK context, insights from the national GP project, and recommendations, followed by an excellent discussion.

Key messages from the session were:

- Health professionals have an important role in providing patients with information about air pollution
- Only basic training is required to help health professionals feel confident enough to advise patients how to protect their health from air pollution
- Resources have been developed by health professionals for health professionals to aid these conversations: [Clean Air Knowledge Hub for the Health Sector \(actionforcleanair.org.uk\)](https://actionforcleanair.org.uk)
- Having these conversations works – following GP advice patients changed their behaviour on air pollution
- **We now need these resources to be shared by all health organisations to enable health professionals to talk to patients about air pollution – *Action for all to do***
- Let's look for ways to embed air pollution into medical curricula and CPD

For those who we unable to attend, the recording of the session can be viewed [here](#). The presentation slides are available to access [here](#). Please email Malcolm if are interested in connecting with Global Action Plan and this work: malcolm.white@globalactionplan.org.uk

[Upcoming lunchtime sessions are listed below.](#)

14 December 2022

How the health community can lead in the transition to more sustainable diets

What role do health professionals play in the transition to more sustainable diets, with case studies and survey outcomes. The panel includes Laura Freeman and Shireen Kassam, Plant-Based Health Professionals; Kristin Bash, Faculty of Public Health; Laura-Jane Freeman, King's College Hospital. [Register here.](#)

18 January 2023

Progress towards a net zero health service in the UK

Health leaders from the England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales will provide an update on current plans and progress towards delivering a net zero health service. The panel includes Marc

Davies, Public Health Wales; Gregor Smith, CMO Scotland, Nick Watts, Greener NHS England. [Draft programme can be viewed here](#). Registration opening soon.

15 February 2023

Education for sustainable healthcare

The Medical Schools Council has published a curriculum for the UK on Education for Sustainable Healthcare. In this lunchtime session, we will discuss the challenges and opportunities for ensuring the new curriculum becomes a standard component of medical education, and how it can be adapted and expanded to other areas of practice and postgraduate training. [Programme can be viewed here](#). Registration opening soon.

The Commitment UK

We have established a working relationship with [The Commitment UK](#), which takes testimonials from voters to MPs and candidates to encourage action on climate policy, backed up by evidence from policy recommendations. Monthly meetings with The Commitment have been established to highlight opportunities for using their direct contacts with politicians and decision makers to share our policy recommendations. A dedicated area of the website is also under development to share this work.

BMJ Friends of the Journal party – change of date

Due to the rail strike on 14 December, the BMJ Friends of the Journal Party will now take place on Monday 12 December from 6-8pm. If you would like to join, please email Julia Burrell jburrell@bmj.com by 2 December.

Member Comms/Policy meeting

The December comms/policy meeting will take place on 6 December. At the meeting we will welcome Zero Hour Alliance to do a guest presentation on the United for Nature petition. Other items being discussed include the Member's Commitments and Ride For Their Lives videos. An agenda for the meeting can be viewed [here](#).

Promoting your events

Our monthly newsletter is usually issued on the third Friday of the month. Please use the members' calendar to provide dates and links to your event so that we can promote them in our newsletter. Please also tag @UKHealthClimate on Twitter and we can retweet.

Next Director's Update: Friday 3 February 2023