

# Our Health Our Planet

## 1. Background & Context

What is/was the challenge/opportunity you sought/are seeking to address?

Climate change is the greatest threat to human health, and it is therefore essential that healthcare professionals are educated in the science of climate change, how it impacts themselves and their patients, and what they can do to combat it.

As healthcare professionals are fundamentally science communicators, and are some of the most trusted professionals in the UK, they have significant potential to accelerate climate action. However, knowledge on what people can do can be lacking, and people may feel like they don't have the power to make a difference. "Our Health, Our Planet" aims to change that, with empowering individuals in their knowledge and fostering collective action.

## 2. Actions Taken

What have you been doing to respond and why? Who is involved?

Doctors' Association UK has voluntarily developed the online resource, "Our Health, Our Planet". This online resource aims to simplify and summarise the health effects of climate change on a specialty specific and profession specific basis. The format of each page is simple to understand and follow, but provides new information for everyone at every stage of their career and signposts to more in-depth resources for further reading and interest.

The resource is accessible via: <https://ourhealthourplanet.co.uk/>

The resource provides simple actions that individuals can take in their workplaces and in their personal lives that will reduce their own environmental impact and help accelerate the fight against climate change.

The resource is supported by multiple national and international organisations, including Green Health Wales, UK Health Alliance on Climate Change, the European Centre for Environment and Human Health and the Centre for Sustainable Healthcare, amongst others.

## 3. Impact & Outcomes

What progress/impact has been achieved so far?

To date the resource has been accessed by thousands of individuals from countries across the world. Verbal feedback already indicates people have engaged in some of the high impact actions, such as switching to a bank that doesn't invest in fossil fuels or gaining ideas on departmental quality improvement projects.

The posters and resource have been showcased at the NHS Wales Sustainability Conference, Wales Climate Week 2024, as well as other conferences across the UK.

Multiple GP surgeries, pharmacies, hospital wards and emergency departments have already adopted the QR code posters, with one of the earliest showcasing it being London Guys and St Thomas emergency department. Keep an eye out for future poster development with specialty specific information to make climate conversations even easier!

#### 4. Key Learnings & Reflections

What learnings or recommendations would you share with other organisations looking to take this approach or get involved?

To get involved, print off the QR code posters and place them in your departments. Share the link with colleagues and friends and use the prompts to start climate change discussions. There are 1.6 million NHS workers in the UK, having 600 million patient interactions each year. Imagine if those 1.6 million science communicators engaged in climate discourse and championed climate action. Together, we can make a difference

