

Climate change working group

Tackling climate change Our action plan

January 2022



Welcome statements

We hope you'll see from this report that our College-wide commitment to tackling climate change is genuine and underpinned by action. It started with a member-led motion to the AGM in May 2020; then in October 2020, we joined others in declaring a climate emergency. We have since started our three-year Climate Change programme, an identified priority in our [2021-2024 strategy](#), with dedicated resources in place and involvement from 80 of our members.

We have recently published a comprehensive [new position statement](#) on the impact of climate change on global child health, which sets out why it's so important for the College to be focusing on this issue. It also sets out the reality of why we need to do our bit as a College on environmental sustainability, and through our new strategy we have already committed to being a net-zero organisation by 2040. We will roll out our climate change activity in earnest over the next three years and are extremely pleased that so many of our members have volunteered to join us in this endeavour.

Jo Revill, RCPCH CEO

As a College, we are determined to play our part in tackling the climate emergency and specifically highlighting the impact on children and young people around the globe. Despite being at an early stage on our journey, we were privileged to be able to attend the WHO Health and Climate Change Conference in Glasgow as part of COP26 in November 2021. The resounding message from the conference was that climate change is a major global health issue and we need leadership from every country to consider ways of addressing this public health emergency.

Every one of us has a responsibility here – to consider personally what our response is, and also professionally, in terms of educating ourselves so we can advocate effectively and consider the impact of poor air quality and other consequences of climate changes on the lives of the patients we care for. We hope you will look at this report alongside the wide range of resources on climate change on our website and feel inspired to play your part.

Camilla Kingdon, RCPCH President

I am immensely proud to be responsible for chairing the RCPCH climate change oversight group. We are committed to using the collective voice and expertise of paediatricians to help focus the climate change agenda on the physical and mental health impacts faced by children and young people, in the UK and globally.

Over the next three years, we hope to amplify the voices of young people in their concerns about climate change and provide information and resources for paediatricians on how their own voices and actions can help reduce the impact of the climate crisis on children and young people's health. As a College we are in a unique position, with thousands of members around the world who care passionately about the health of children and young people and their future. We hope that through our work across the next three years we can put our strength of voice to good use.

Liz Marder, RCPCH Treasurer

Overview: climate change, paediatrics, and child health

“It is every child’s right to grow up in a safe environment. And we have to prioritise this for future generations of children to thrive.”

Dr Bernadette O’Hare, Chair CCWG International Workstream

Founded in 1996 and now with over 20,000 members in the UK and internationally, the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health plays a major role in postgraduate medical education, professional standards, research and policy. Our vision is to lead the way in children’s health and improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people (CYP) across the world.

As part of our commitment to improving child health, we recognise the threat that climate change poses to the health and wellbeing of children and young people, both now and in the future. Almost all children (>99%) worldwide are already exposed to one or more environmental risks to their health. Climate change has known impacts on the social and environmental determinants of health – affecting clean air, safe drinking water, sanitation, affordable and nutritious food, and shelter. Millions of children already do not have access to the critical resources required to meet their basic needs. These are fundamental rights as enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and climate change will further erode them¹.

Children are particularly vulnerable to the health risks resulting from climate change and will be exposed to the health consequences for longer. Globally, climate change is expected to cause approximately 250,000 additional deaths per year between 2030 and 2050². In addition, the mental health effects of climate change on children are significant and may be long lasting. Children exhibit high levels of concern over climate change and the mental health consequences, including post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, anxiety, phobias, sleep disorders, attachment disorders, and substance abuse, can lead to problems with learning, behaviour and academic performance³.

It is not only these direct effects of climate change that are most worrying for child health. The impacts of climate change will be compounded for some children – particularly those living through conflict, those most profoundly impacted by COVID-19 and those experiencing inequality and discrimination. The risks in the UK are going to be more significant for people who live in poor-quality housing, who live next to busy roads, whose families might not be as economically secure. Climate change is inextricably linked to wider issues of inequality and failures to uphold children’s basic rights⁴.

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1. Ali et al. The climate crisis is also a child rights crisis (editorial). Archives of Disease in Childhood, December 2021. Available from: <https://adc.bmj.com/content/early/2021/12/06/archdischild-2021-323027>
 2. RCPCH. Tackling climate change (webpage). Available from: <https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/resources/tackling-climate-change>
 3. RCPCH. The impact of climate change on global child health (webpage), November 2021. Available from: <https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/resources/impact-climate-change-global-child-health-position-statement>
 4. RCPCH Insight. The climate crisis is a child rights crisis. November 2021. Available from: <https://medium.com/rcpch-insight/the-climate-crisis-is-a-child-rights-crisis-485224fdaf3a>

“All children have the right to clean air, safe water, sanitation and affordable nutritious food and shelter. Yet millions of children in the UK and globally do not have access to these critical health determinants - a situation that will be worsened by climate change.”

RCPCH position statement on the impact of climate change on global child health

The World Health Organisation has described climate change as “the defining health challenge of our time”. The climate emergency poses an existential threat to population health in the UK and across the world, and its effects are especially detrimental to the health and wellbeing of children and young people.

As part of our role in advocating for children and young people and promoting their health and wellbeing, we have a responsibility to engage in activities to address climate change. We recognise the importance of using our collective voice as a College to support and encourage Government to take action.

In England alone, the NHS is responsible for around 22 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions annually. This carbon footprint is shaped not just by procured goods, energy use in buildings, and patient/staff travel, but also through our current models of care and clinical behaviours. Substantial changes in service models are therefore needed to reduce healthcare-related carbon emissions in line with national targets.

As a medical Royal College, we are focusing our efforts on placing the impact on health at the heart of climate change activity. We are strengthening our relationships with stakeholders who are collectively advocating on behalf of health institutions through our membership of the [UK Health Alliance on Climate Change \(UKHACC\)](#). Through coordinated action, we can maximise our impact to protect children’s health.

There is personal action that individuals can make to influence change, and we can all play our part. We recognise that collective action on climate change needs to be balanced against the current pressures we know our members face in driving forward improvements in child health. In addition, we recognise the need to investigate and reduce the impact of our own institution.

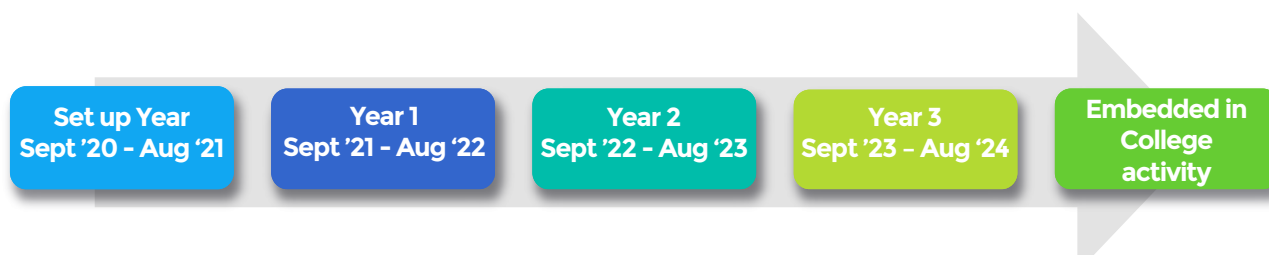
Our climate change working group (CCWG)

A member-submitted motion was passed at the 2020 College Annual General Meeting, which called on RCPCH to:

1. Publicly declare a climate and ecological emergency
2. Form a working group on environmental sustainability to allow a faster transition to a net zero carbon health care system.
3. Incorporate sustainability and climate change into teaching curricula.
4. Strengthen the College's current policy to divest from fossil fuels.

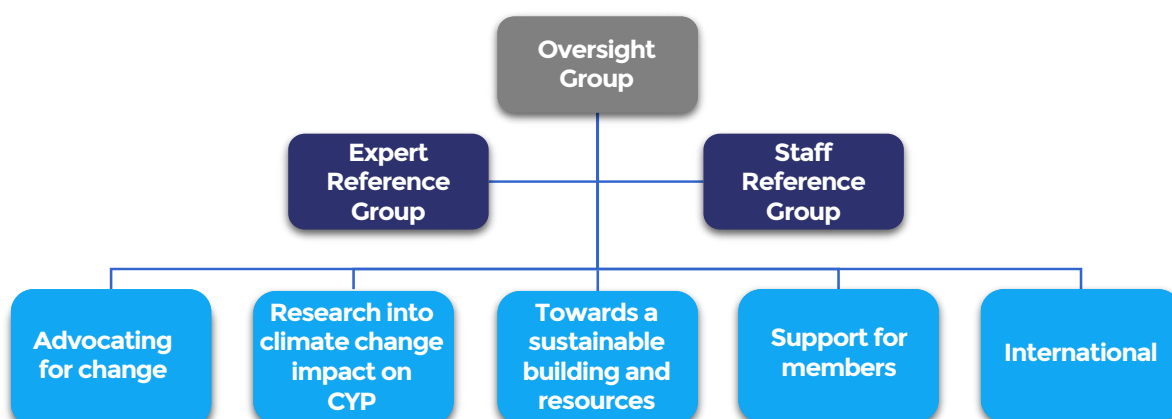
In October 2020, we formally [declared](#) a climate and ecological emergency. In March 2021, we formed a Climate Change Working Group to oversee our programme of activity to address the broader issues raised by this motion.

This programme has been prioritised under the RCPCH Strategy for 2021-2024. At the end of the three years, it is expected that the output will be embedded in ongoing activity across the College.



The programme is divided into five workstreams, each with a named lead who reports into the Oversight Group. Each workstream consists of around 15 member volunteers, from medical students through to retired consultant paediatricians.

Programme sponsor:	Jo Revill, RCPCH CEO
Programme manager:	Alison Firth, RCPCH Strategic Projects Manager
Clinical leads:	Dr Liz Marder, RCPCH Treasurer Dr Camilla Kingdon, RCPCH President



Our activity with RCPCH &Us

“Give us a chance to have an impact on climate change”

RCPCH &Us voicebank

Children and young people’s voice is at the heart of everything we do at RCPCH. Guided by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, we support children and young people to have their voices heard in decisions that affect them (Article 12) and work with them to help shape services, so they have the best healthcare possible (Article 24).

The [RCPCH &Us network](#) brings together children, young people up to the age of 25, their parents/carers and families to work with clinicians, decision makers and each other to educate, collaborate, engage and change to improve health services and child health outcomes.

To contribute to the RCPCH’s Climate Change Action Plan, in autumn 2021 we supported groups of young people to think about health services and what climate change looks like in the health service. They identified the following ambition statement:

“Our hope is to change the declining environment and improve life for all by helping the NHS become as sustainable and climate friendly as possible, keeping our future children, young people and adults safe, before it’s too late.

We will do this by creating environmentally sustainable paediatric healthcare through innovative carbon-neutral and patient-focussed solutions. Focussing on distributing medication in an environmentally friendly way to heal our patients and our planet.”

What we will be doing next:

- We will do more road shows across the four nations of the UK to collect the views of children and young people on climate change and sustainability in child health.
- We will continue to support the RCPCH &Us climate change project to help review this data and contribute to College workstreams relating to climate action.
- We will reach out to other organisations working on climate change action to establish how we can work together and support each other.

RCPCH &Us’s planned outputs, informed by children and young people include:

- Creating educational resource packs for children, young people and paediatricians to support discussions linked to eco-anxiety and climate action to help the NHS create a healthier planet now and in the future.
- Creating a campaign across the NHS to help both the workforce and patients understand the impact of climate change and how they can help – simple steps to healthy climate action to help the NHS and create a healthier planet now and in the future.
- Reviewing the CYP voice collected on climate change to create a final project report.

Later in this Action Plan report, you’ll see how our work with RCPCH &Us is going to feed into each of our five workstreams.

Our overall ambitions

We have identified six ambitions to guide our climate change work over the next three years.

Advocacy

To effectively use our collective voice and expertise as paediatricians to influence the national and international climate change agenda, focusing in particular on the health impacts faced by children and young people now and in the future

Research

To advance research on the effects of climate change on child health inequalities and on the impacts of the climate crisis on young people's physical and mental health

Our College

To reduce the carbon footprint associated with the College and develop an ambitious College plan for sustainability

Supporting members

To support members to advocate for improved sustainability in their clinical work and workplaces, supporting the health services across the four nations in their net zero ambitions

Education

To develop and promote training for our members on key aspects of sustainable healthcare and the climate crisis, including communication about this topic with patients and families

Supporting children and young people

To advance and support the narrative that the climate crisis is a child rights crisis, and promote children and young people's own advocacy on the climate crisis

Our five workstreams will support the delivery of these overarching ambitions. Since their establishment in 2021, each of our workstream groups has taken the plethora of ideas shared across our membership to identify their own overall aim for the next three years. Each of these aims is supported by four identified areas of focus, and their development has been very much led by our members. This work has enabled us to determine a number of specific actions for 2021/22, and these commitments are outlined at the end of this report.

Our five workstreams and their aims

Workstream 1: Advocating for Change

Our overall aim is for RCPCH to be at the forefront of taking action on climate change and promoting sustainability within healthcare and act as an example for other medical Royal Colleges.

Our areas of focus are as follows:

1. Strengthening our links with other organisations and within the paediatric community to share resources and empower greater advocacy

Other workstreams are focusing on sharing best practice resources relating to sustainable paediatric care around the UK. We will work closely with them to ensure we amplify these resources in our advocacy work. Longer term, we will seek to create a national network of RCPCH climate and sustainability champions in every hospital / region. We will invite experts in environment and sustainability to share their knowledge directly with this national network of paediatricians, so they are empowered in their advocacy.

2. Working with the RCPCH policy and public affairs teams to be vocal advocates on national climate and sustainability policy which affects children

We want policymakers, public and private sector service leaders, and individuals and families to have a better understanding of the current and future impact of climate change on the health and wellbeing of children and young people, and how we need to act at all levels to address that. Some of those actions will have immediate positive impacts on child health and wellbeing even before they have their longer-term impact on climate change.

3. Using our collective voice to support national campaigning on climate change and how it will affect children and young people's health

Much of the conversation around the environment is heavy and scary, and this can deter people from action. We (RCPCH) must be a prominent national media voice on climate change and how it will affect children and young people's health, now and in the future. Part of our work in this area must have a positive focus on ideas that join members together and create momentum around a movement. We will consider initiating and supporting a schedule of national sustainability campaigns. We will also link with existing campaigns, bringing child health expertise to them.

4. Amplifying youth voices in our advocacy work

RCPCH &Us is a network of young people with a strong voice on healthcare related issues. Our climate is affecting young peoples' health and our lack of action is affecting their mental health and hopes for the future. Through climate and sustainability work, we will partner with organisations such as Youth Parliaments (in four nations of the UK), and local Youth Assemblies in order to mutually share expertise. We will amplify youth voices and involve them in campaigns and lobbying, but not rely on them for our messaging.

Workstream 2: Research into the impact of climate change on children and young people

Our overall aim is to enable paediatricians to become agents of change, equipped with the right information about the impact of climate change on child health.

Our areas of focus are as follows:

1. Gathering the existing evidence base and highlighting research gaps

We recognise that there are still large gaps in our understanding of the impact of climate change on child health. Through dedicated journal clubs we will review the existing literature and summarise the key findings for paediatricians to digest and use in furthering their understanding. We will also identify and promote areas for future research.

2. Providing platforms to share current research into the impact of climate change on children and young people

As well as identifying previously published research, it is important to have ways for members of the paediatric community to share their own sustainability work. We will establish and run a dedicated abstract section at future RCPCH conferences, dedicated to research into the impact of climate change on children and young people and sustainable healthcare. We will also identify opportunities to run workshops at various paediatric events, sharing specific QI projects or research relating to climate change and sustainability. Longer term, we will look at partnering with other organisations to develop an online climate change and child health research hub.

3. Understanding how young people feel about climate change and what is important to them

Children and young people have long spoken out on the climate crisis. Working with our RCPCH &Us network, we want to collect views from children and young people in a structured way so that their voice can be recognised as an evidence-based source for advocacy.

4. Raising awareness of research into the impact of climate change on children and young people among our members and parents and families

We hope to create a report by the end of year 2 that summarises research into the impact of climate change on children and young people. Different versions will be created for different audiences, including paediatricians and families. It is important that paediatricians have the information they need to talk about the impacts of climate change on children and young people with families, and we will consider how best to support them to do this – through workshops and study sessions.

Workstream 3: College building and resources

Our overall aim is to lead the way in decarbonising the work of the college and to support the College in beginning its longer-term journey to becoming a net zero organisation by 2040.

Our areas of focus are as follows:

1. Making the RCPCH's use of its building and resources as sustainable and low-carbon as possible

The NHS has committed to reducing its carbon emissions to zero by 2040. As a healthcare organisation and a member of the UK Health Alliance on Climate Change, we join them in this pledge, and are committed to making RCPCH a net zero organisation by 2040. Starting with a carbon audit of our current activity, to establish a baseline, we will subsequently develop an action plan to begin our journey towards this ambition. In the shorter term we are seeking to develop a new environmental impact assessment tool under which all College activities can be assessed, and mitigations made appropriately.

2. Ensuring that RCPCH's conferences and publications are produced and managed with sustainability of all kinds in mind

As the College moves back toward offering face to face conferences and educational events, environmental sustainability considerations should be assessed as part of all decisions made. The same can be said for our publications as we increasingly move to a digital world. We have proposed a number of actions that can be implemented in the short term, and longer term we will work with the appropriate RCPCH teams on an environmental impact assessment that can be completed for every event or publication.

3. Monitoring and offsetting the carbon footprint incurred in undertaking RCPCH work, including work outside the UK

The College has a number of important activities that take place outside the UK. This includes overseas examinations, and our global child health programmes. It is important to consider our impact on the environment of undertaking this work. As part of our carbon audit an evaluation will be done of all our activity, including overseas, to appropriately balance the benefits of this work with the carbon cost, with alterations and offsetting taking place as appropriate. We will work with our RCPCH &Us network to achieve this and make sure our offsetting is meaningful for children, young people and the workforce, and in line with our charitable objectives.

4. Embedding sustainability and low-carbon thinking in RCPCH procurement processes

Our procurement process is an identified area for leading the way in how environmental sustainability could be included right from the start in new College activity, with metrics devised to track improvement. We will take this forward in Year 1 so that lessons can be learnt from this work to support better inclusion of environmental sustainability in other College activities in future years as part of the development of a new College-wide environmental sustainability policy.

Workstream 4: Support for Members

Our overall aim is to provide College members with appropriate support and resources to enable them to practice sustainable healthcare.

Our areas of focus are as follows:

1. Supporting paediatricians to share resources and collaborate on sustainability and sustainable healthcare

We have already created a resource listing on the RCPCH website, with a variety of resources under the headings of: Quality Improvement, Education & Training, Activism, Books & Podcasts, Organisational Changes, Resources for Children, Young People and Families and Talking to Children, Young People & Families about Climate Change. We have also worked with the Centre for Sustainable Healthcare to create a paediatric forum for sharing resources and networking with others on sustainability. Longer term, we will continue to identify and share useful resources on the RCPCH website.

2. Helping paediatric departments become more sustainable

We want all paediatricians and trainees to feel inspired, supported and equipped to practice paediatrics more sustainably. We would like paediatricians to be empowered to make changes within their departments, within trusts and in policies and procedures to work more sustainably. A green paediatrics framework will be developed, enabling members to make tried and tested changes to their practice and departments. As inhaler prescribing is one of the most environmentally damaging activities in paediatrics, we are looking in particular to link up with work going on in sustainable QI in this area and will involve the RCPCH &Us asthma group in our work.

3. Helping members to address/acknowledge climate change when talking to patients and their families

The main guiding principles for the work of this group is that children and young people are at the heart of what we do. Good clinical practice such as prevention, early intervention & empowerment of children and families is also in line with sustainable health care. In addition to sharing resources through our website, we will work with RCPCH &Us to consider the development of additional support for members on eco-anxiety and talking to patients and families about climate change (e.g., CPD courses, webinars).

4. Providing trainees with the competencies and skills they need to work as paediatricians within a carbon neutral NHS

As climate change will define the lives of future generations and is affecting lives now, paediatricians need to be equipped to practice in the context of our changing climate and its effects on children and young people. Trainees need to be supported to develop competencies and skills to be able to recognise the impact of climate change, to understand how climate change has a greater impact on the most vulnerable in society and to understand the impact of healthcare and the NHS on climate change. We will survey the training needs and seek to make changes to the paediatric curriculum where needed.

Workstream 5: International

Our overall aim is to effectively use our collective voice and expertise as paediatricians to influence the international climate change agenda, focusing in particular on the health impacts faced by children and young people now and in the future.

Our areas of focus are as follows:

1. Reviewing the available research on the impacts of climate change on global child health and illness

There is already a lot of information available about the impacts of climate change on children and young people around the world. We will review this evidence to identify the key messages and focus on making recommendations for action. In the first instance, this review has supported us to develop a position statement on the impacts of climate change on global child health, which we published ahead of COP26. In the longer term, we will seek to analyse the impact of UK policies on climate change on the health of children and young people in lower-income-countries.

2. Prioritising advocacy on policy recommendations according to those that will most impact child health globally, maximising our reach and impact by working in collaboration with other organisations

In collaboration with relevant partners, we will promote the key, evidence-based advocacy messages around climate change and the impact on global child health that are identified in our position statement. We will seek high-impact ways to do this, including through conferences, online events, social media and public affairs activity. We will reach out to other paediatric organisations with a significant international reach to discuss and agree common goals to take forwards.

3. Considering the education resources and support we can provide to support paediatric colleagues working internationally





We recognise our role in sharing knowledge with our paediatric colleagues around the world. We will establish a number of virtual events (e.g. podcasts and webinars) which have an international reach. Later, we will consider what we can do specifically to support colleagues working in the countries that have the highest global-climate risk index.








4. Working to advance the narrative that the climate crisis is a child rights crisis, amplifying children and young people's voices in the UK and internationally







We will work with children and young people in the UK, including through RCPCH &Us, to support them to amplify their views on climate change internationally. We will also support the amplification of voices shared by other youth organisations globally.





Our action plan for 2021/22






Below you can find a collated list of all actions across all five workstreams for Year 1 (2021/2022). This list is intended to provide a single point of reference for all work relating to climate change that the College will seek to achieve over the next year. We will provide an annual update to share our progress and refresh our actions to indicate what we will focus on for Year 2 and Year 3 of the programme.







Actions	Status and difficulty	Delivery date	Activity to date
Advocating for change			
Use existing national campaign days relating to climate change as an opportunity to amplify the voices of paediatricians and to advocate for change to improve child health	In progress Low difficulty 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean Air Day 2021 - blog - “This #CleanAirDay, how can we protect children and young people's health from air pollution?” Clean Air Day 2021 – RCPCH &Us social media sharing asthma experiences Pre COP26 - blog - “The climate crisis is a child right's crisis” Post COP26 - blog “What do the COP26 negotiations mean for children and young people's health?”
Offer to meet with identified key organisations and stakeholders to discuss the importance of working together in this area and to promote and share resources developed across the CCWG	In progress Medium difficulty 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letters sent to MPs following launch of our position statement RCPCH representative elected onto UKHACC Executive Committee
Work with the RCPCH &Us group to include young people's voices in our advocacy work, and amplify their voices wherever possible	In progress Medium difficulty 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sessions run in 2021 with 33 young people from three UK nations progress What matters to Young People and their Ambitions shared by young people at the Nov 21 event
Work with members, RCPCH teams and other Colleges on impactful national policy and public affairs activity relating to the impact of climate change on children and young people	In progress High difficulty 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lancet Countdown Policy Brief launched October 2021 Consultation responses supported on climate change strategies in Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland Briefings on air pollution sent to CMO and MPs for a debate Ongoing advocacy on the Environment Bill with UKHACC








Actions	Status and difficulty	Delivery date	Activity to date
Work with the RCPCH public affairs and media teams to develop a stakeholder matrix, including spheres of influence, for climate change advocacy	In progress Low difficulty 	By April 2022	• MP mapping completed for launch of position statement
Work with the support for members workstream to create materials to support paediatricians with: • talking about the impacts of climate change on child health and advocating for change in their Trust • sharing key climate change messages with CYP and families	Not started yet Low difficulty 	By April 2022	
Host a climate and sustainability engagement stand at RCPCH conference	In progress Medium difficulty 	By June 2022	
Work with the RCPCH Press Panel to recruit and train a group of expert members to be able to speak to media on climate and environmental issues	Not started yet Medium difficulty 	By end 2022	
Create resources to support regional climate advocacy, so that members are empowered to support action in their local area (e.g. schools, planning meetings, local MPs) and how to hold people at different levels to account	Not started yet Medium difficulty 	By end 2022	
Research into the impact of climate change on CYP			
Set up a journal club to identify and review existing relevant research resources, publishing summaries on the RCPCH website to benefit wider paediatric professionals	In progress Medium difficulty 	Ongoing	• Journal club subgroup created
Run educational events (podcasts, webinars) targeted at different audiences to share our research findings and enable both paediatricians and families to become agents of change	In progress Medium difficulty 	Ongoing	• Half day CPD event for members held in November 2021



Actions	Status and difficulty	Delivery date	Activity to date
Implement an "Environmental Sustainability projects" abstract section at RCPCH annual conference	In progress Low difficulty 	By June 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abstract category and workshop secured for RCPCH Conference 2022
Scope our own piece of research work which focuses on the solutions to some of the known impacts of climate change on children and young people's health	In progress High difficulty 	By end 2022	
Work with RCPCH &Us to scope a piece of research with children and young people using quantitative and qualitative research methods to capture their voice, with a view to publication	Not started yet High difficulty 	By end 2022	
Create a network of experts who can offer speak on the impact of climate change on child health at paediatric study days and dedicated workshops	Not started yet Medium difficulty 	By end 2022	
College building and resources			
Building: Implement immediate measures to improve the environmental impact of meetings that take place within our building, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> End the use of all single-use items in catering Offering and encouraging meat-free catering as the default option Continuing to promote recycling of all College waste, including reuse of items where appropriate (e.g. furniture) 	Complete Low difficulty 	By end 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% of College waste is recycled Our catering supplier uses seasonal and locally sourced produce as standard, and we offer and promote meat free options on all our menus No single-use plastic items are used at our venues
Publications: Implement immediate measures to improve the environmental impact of College publications, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offering access to Archives of Disease in Childhood (ADC) as electronic by default Expanding promotion of the option to receive other College publications (e.g. Milestones) in digital format 	In progress Low difficulty 	By April 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ADC was made digital by default from January 2022. Promotion of digital options for Milestones is ongoing via the RCPCH website

Actions	Status and difficulty	Delivery date	Activity to date
<p>Events: Implement immediate measures to improve the environmental impact of externally organised College events, courses and conferences, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion of sustainability criteria in venue selection (e.g. quality of public transport links) • Offering remote attendance options for both speakers and attendees • Requiring that venues cease using single-use cups/plates for catering • Moving to electronic rather than paper programme/abstract books as default • Developing inclusive and affordable access for international attendees to increase reach • Minimising other paper use and offers of disposable gifts • Offering virtual follow-up and online resources to supplement face to face events 	<p>In progress Medium difficulty </p>	<p>By June 2022</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remote attendance offer has been established for 2022 conference • Lack of single use items and meat-free catering is being discussed with the conference venue and with exhibitors • 2022 conference will be digital by default with a dedicated conference app
<p>Embed sustainability in our procurement policy/strategy, and devise metrics to track the sustainability of our procurement work</p>	<p>In progress Medium difficulty </p>	<p>By end 2022</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft of new policy already complete
<p>Undertake a carbon audit of all College activity, baselining against the most appropriate pre-COVID year. This will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The RCPCH building • Travel by College staff and members • External events and conferences in the UK • Our overseas activities • Publications • Our digital footprint 	<p>In progress High difficulty </p>	<p>By end 2022</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conversations held with other Colleges to share experiences and approach to this
<p>Consider options for appropriate offsetting of our activity, including investment in activities or countries linked to our charitable objectives, working with RCPCH &Us to build on the ideas they have already shared for this</p>	<p>In progress High difficulty </p>	<p>By end 2022</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCPCH &Us have developed a menu of ideas for offsetting

Actions	Status and difficulty	Delivery date	Activity to date
<p>Support the development of an environmental impact assessment policy to be used for assessing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • College conferences and events • Our international work • The establishment of new College projects <p>Similar to the privacy impact assessment, this would be a requirement for all staff to consider the environmental impact of their activity at an early stage in its development, taking a consistent approach</p>	<p>Not started yet Medium difficulty </p>	<p>By end 2022</p>	
Support for members			
<p>Set up a Sustainable Paediatrics Forum with Centre for Sustainable Healthcare to allow collaboration and networking</p>	<p>Complete</p>	<p>By end 2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Network established and promoted through RCPCH channel
<p>Establish and regularly update a page on the RCPCH website for sharing sustainability and sustainable healthcare resources with RCPCH members and the wider paediatric community</p>	<p>In progress Low difficulty </p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Webpage established and updated regularly
<p>Start a regular pattern of promoting the resources and support available for members through RCPCH publications such as Milestones magazine, RCPCH eBulletins, RCPCH Twitter and podcasts/videos</p>	<p>In progress Low difficulty </p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular items in RCPCH ebulletin and Milestones magazine
<p>Survey members thoughts on sustainable healthcare and climate change & how they would like to be supported in practicing more sustainably. This will be done through the RCPCH annual conference and through the RCPCH member survey. Feedback will help shape this group's work and will be shared back with members</p>	<p>In progress Low difficulty </p>	<p>By April 2022</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions included in RCPCH Member Survey 2021
<p>Seek funding to recruit a clinical fellowship post to help develop a green paediatric framework and green paediatrics competition</p>	<p>In progress High difficulty </p>	<p>By June 2022</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding opportunities being explored by Grants and Partnerships Team

Actions	Status and difficulty	Delivery date	Activity to date
Survey trainees' needs which will then be used to discuss the inclusion of competencies in sustainable health care and climate change to be added to the curriculum with training leads	In progress Medium difficulty 	By end 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey developed and circulated through trainee networks
Work with RCPCH &Us to find out what children & young people would like from paediatricians regarding climate change and use this to develop resources which can be used by paediatricians in consultations	In progress Medium difficulty 	By end 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sessions run in 2021 with 33 young people from three UK nations
Collaborate with adult respiratory care in promoting sustainable QI inhaler use	In progress Medium difficulty 	By end 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaboration started with appropriate NHS Teams (Greener NHS and Children and Young People Teams)
Develop support for members and CYP/families regarding anxieties about climate change (eco-anxiety), in collaboration with RCPCH &Us	Not started yet Medium difficulty 	By end 2022	
International			
Develop and publish an evidence-based position statement to influence COP26	Complete	By November 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Position statement published: "The impact of climate change on global child health" Editorial based on position statement published in ADC "The climate crisis is also a child rights crisis"
Seek opportunities to attend key networking events to share our ideas and key messages with international colleagues and key stakeholders we want to influence	In progress Medium difficulty 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation in two international ISSOP webinars Participation in WHO-led event at COP26
Contribute to the production of educational materials and resources on the RCPCH website, including podcasts, webinars and videos, focusing on resources of international use and interest	In progress Medium difficulty 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation in RCPCH podcast on COP26 and beyond Participation in RCPCH Climate Change Event speaking about the role and responsibilities of paediatricians in climate change and global child health Feature in RCPCH Milestones on climate crisis as a child rights crisis

Actions	Status and difficulty	Delivery date	Activity to date
Work with Research workstream to ensure the latest international research regarding climate change and child health is presented annually at RCPCH annual conferences	Not started yet Low difficulty 	By June 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop session secured at RCPCH conference for the Climate Change Working Group
Identify and connect with other key organisations working internationally in climate change and child health to discuss and agree common goals and statements to take forwards, including scoping and supporting the formation of an international paediatric alliance on climate change and child health	In progress High difficulty 	By end 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ISSOP/RCPCH initial meeting to scope possible alliance
Analyse the impact of UK policies on climate change on the health of children and young people in lower-income countries. Literature review of the adaptations being taken by health professionals to adapt to climate change and consider a CHIFA survey to find out what paediatricians are doing/ask colleagues in RCPCH Global to survey colleagues in partner countries	Not started yet Medium difficulty 	By end 2022	
Reach out to children and young people organisations working on international climate advocacy and ask what we can do to support their work, including sharing the views of RCPCH &Us internationally	Not started yet Low difficulty 	By end 2022	
RCPCH &Us climate action project			
Act as young reviewers to provide insight and input to the 5 College workstreams	Not started yet Medium difficulty 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting discussions on offsetting
Create educational resource packs for children, young people and paediatricians to support discussions linked to eco-anxiety and climate action to help the NHS create a healthier planet now and in the future	In progress Medium difficulty 	First resource by November 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young people's project established, first round of roadshows complete, priorities established
Create a campaign across the NHS to help both the workforce and patients understand the impact of climate change and how they can help – simple steps to healthy climate action to help the NHS and create a healthier planet now and in the future	In progress Medium difficulty 	First campaign assets by November 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young people's project established, first round of roadshows complete, priorities established Shared why it matters to children and young people at the Nov 21 event

Actions	Status and difficulty	Delivery date	Activity to date
Additional roadshows across the four nations to provide additional insight from children and young people	Not started yet Medium difficulty 	November 2022	
Reviewing the CYP voice collected on climate change to create a final project report	Not started yet Medium difficulty 	By end of project	

Climate change working group

Tackling climate change
Our action plan

January 2022



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 **RCPCH**

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