



UK HEALTH
ALLIANCE ON
CLIMATE CHANGE

Action on climate change is action to improve our health

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Change

12th October 2018

Agenda

1. The UK Health Alliance on Climate Change
2. The challenge
3. The opportunity
4. The action

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UK Health Alliance on Climate Change



THE
LANCET



UK Health Alliance on Climate Change

The UK Health Alliance on Climate Change is a coalition of leading health bodies that advocates for responses to climate change that protect and promote health.

We represent over

600,000

doctors, nurses and other
health professionals



We bring together the

**UK'S MAJOR HEALTH
INSTITUTIONS,**

including Royal Colleges,
medical journals,
faculties and societies



We lead the health
profession's efforts to

**COMBAT CLIMATE
CHANGE**



UK Health Alliance on Climate Change

Our vision is a world in which we improve health while solving climate change



UK Health Alliance on Climate Change

EMPOWER

the health profession to
advocate for better responses
to climate change



ENGAGE

decision makers to strengthen
policies that protect public health
from climate change



RAISE AWARENESS

of the links between health
and climate change

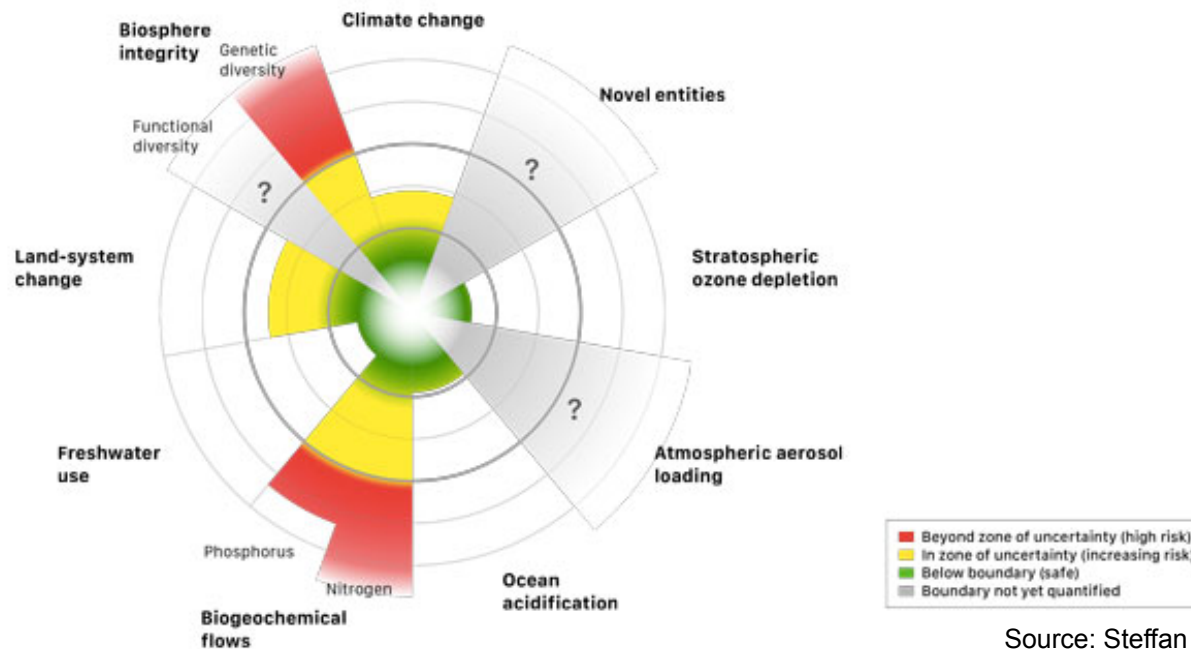


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The challenge

Human activity has pushed environmental systems into 'unsafe' operating spaces, threatening the preconditions upon which life can occur and societies flourish



Source: Steffan et al. 2015

The challenge

Environmental change and its drivers pose a profound risk to health. WHO: 2012, 12.6 million deaths (23%) attributable to modifiable environmental factors

Direct

- E.g. floods, heatwaves, air pollution

Indirect

- E.g. infectious diseases, food system

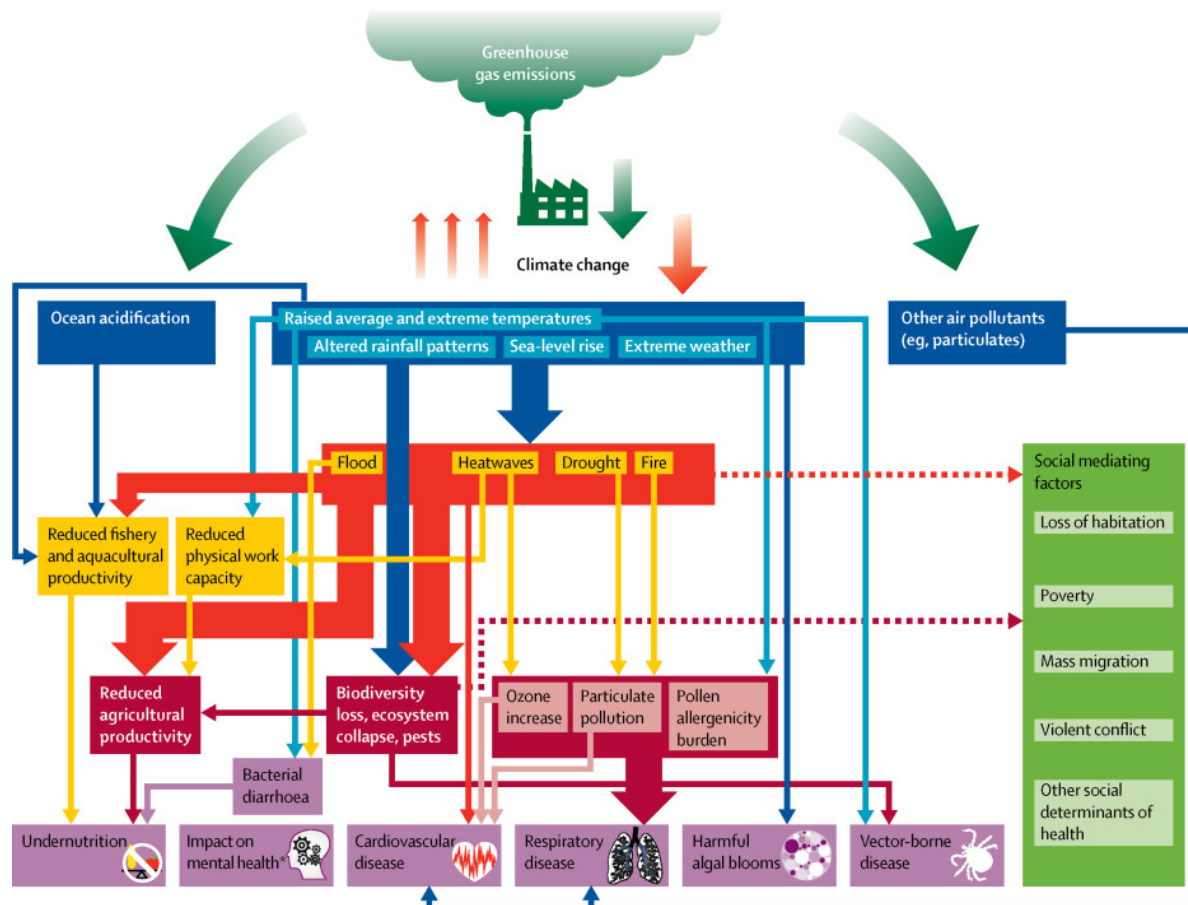
Wider disruption

- E.g. social collapse, war

Think: climate 'disruption' as a multiplier of threats in an interconnected world

The challenge

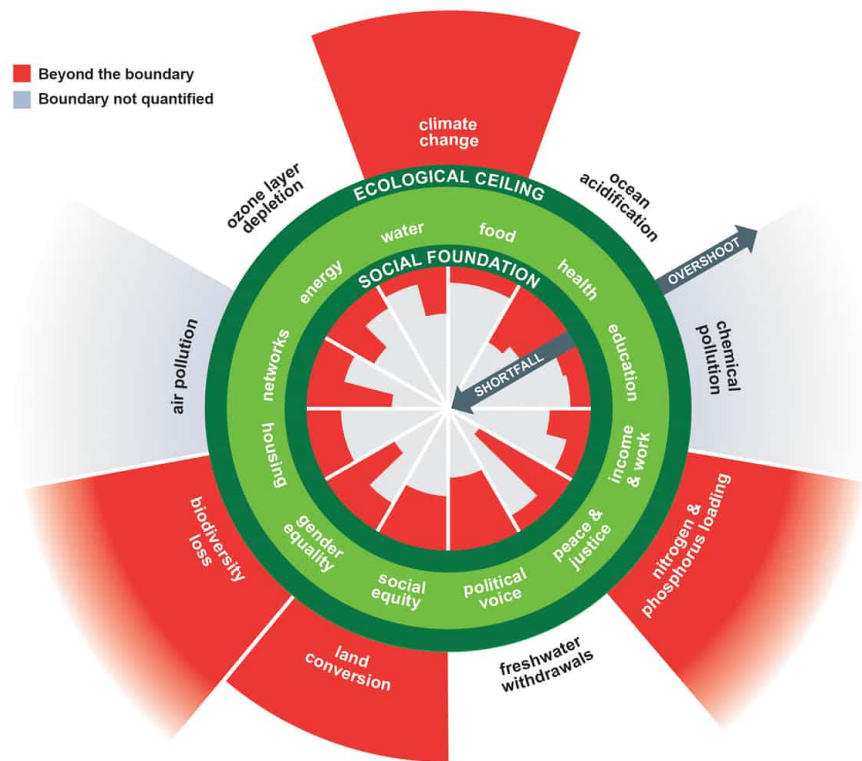
The health impacts of (just) climate change



*The mental health effects of climate change are complex and interact with many of the processes shown in the figure. Source: *Lancet* Commission, 2015

The challenge

Human and natural systems are intimately related



Source: Raworth 2017

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The opportunity

2015 Lancet Commission: “tackling climate change could be the greatest global health opportunity of the 21st century”

3: Health co-benefits of climate change mitigation

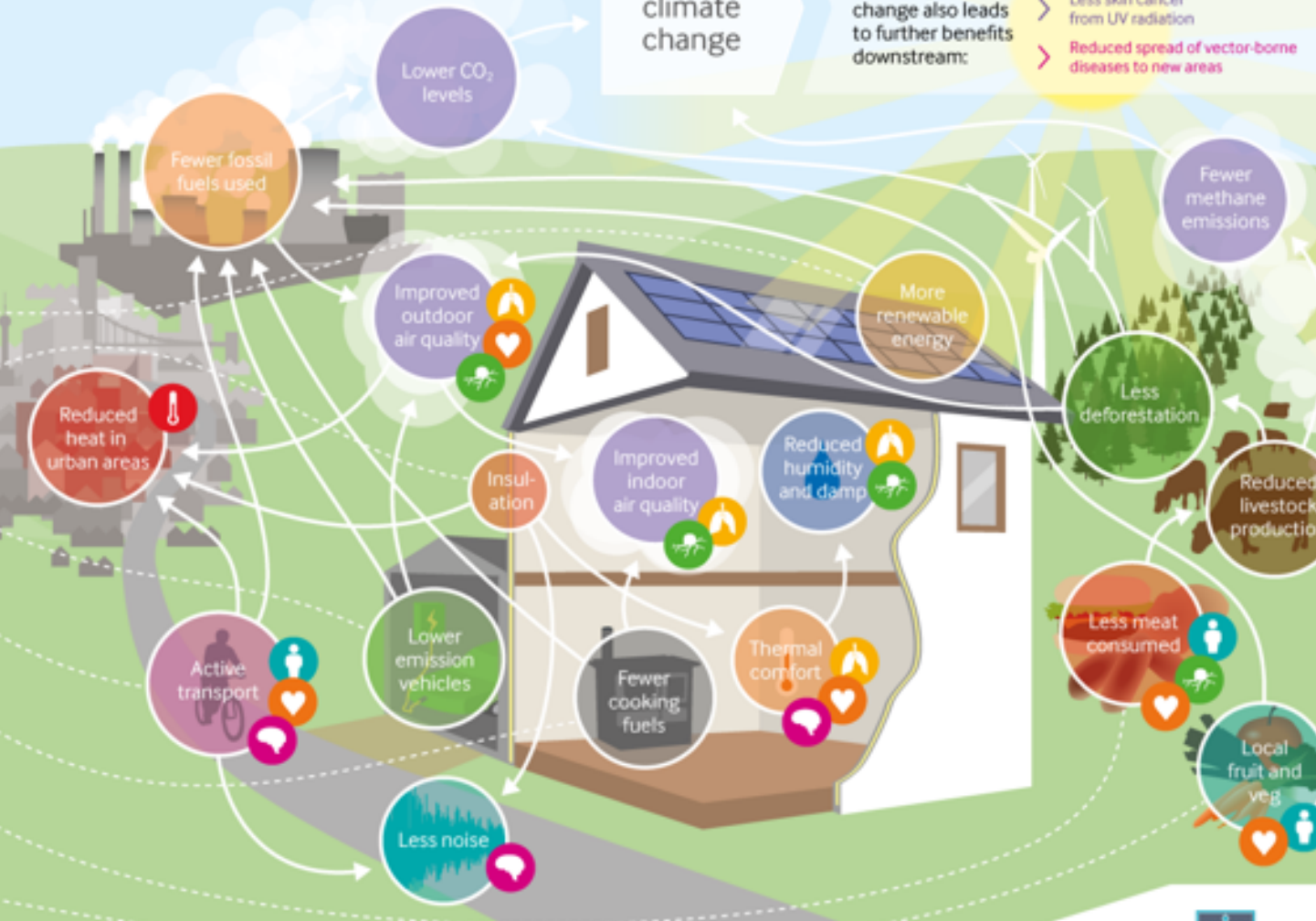
- 3.1 - Coal phase-out
- 3.2 - Growth in renewable energy
- 3.3 - Access to clean energy
- 3.4 - Energy access for health facilities
- 3.5 - Exposure to ambient air pollution
- 3.6 - Deployment of low-emission vehicles and access to public transport
- 3.7 - Active travel infrastructure and uptake
- 3.8 - Greenhouse gas emissions from the food system and healthy diets
- 3.9 - Greenhouse gas emissions of health-care systems

Health and climate: co-benefits

Example interventions

These interventions have benefits both for health and for reducing climate change (also known as *mitigation*)

- Produce more renewable energy
- Improve insulation in homes
- Encourage use of lower emission vehicles
- Promote active transport
- Reduce solid fuels used for cooking
- Less food from animal sources
- Encourage locally produced fruit and veg



Reduced climate change

- Indirect benefits**
- Reducing climate change also leads to further benefits downstream:
 - > Fewer deaths and injuries from extreme weather events
 - > Less skin cancer from UV radiation
 - > Reduced spread of vector-borne diseases to new areas

Health benefits	Better mental health	Fewer deaths from extreme heat	Less cardiovascular disease	Less respiratory disease	Lower rates of cancer	Lower rates of obesity
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Designed by: Will Stahl-Timmins
 Content: Nick Watts
 Thanks to: Soledad Cuevas, Duncan Jarvies, John Waring

The opportunity

Co-benefits link to social determinants of health

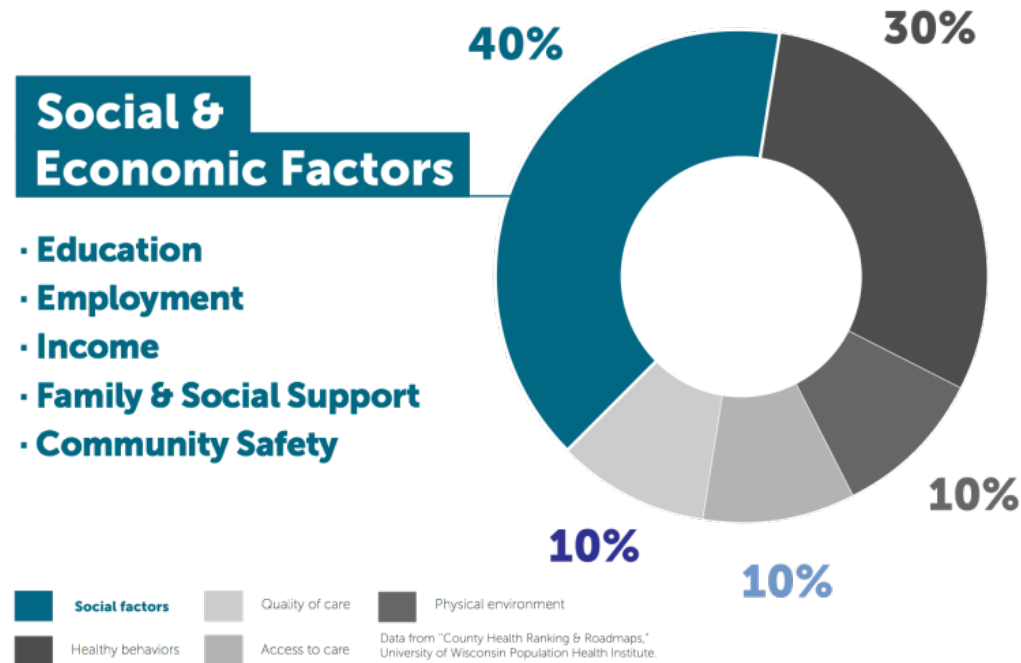
What drives health outcomes?

The Social Determinants of Health

To address health inequalities, **you must address social and economic inequalities.**

Social & Economic Factors

- Education
- Employment
- Income
- Family & Social Support
- Community Safety





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The action

Four areas of work:

1. Prevent climate change in order to protect health.
2. Promote health in the process, through maximising the health co-benefits of action to prevent climate change.
3. Ensure resilience to the health impacts of ongoing climate change.
4. Be aware of other environmental change and their impacts on health.

The action

Dimensions of action across the NHS:

- Energy and carbon management
- Procurement and food
- Travel, transport and access
- Water
- Waste
- Buildings
- Organisational and workforce
- Partnerships and networks
- Governance
- Finance
- Technology and care models
- Adaptation and risk management

The action

Latest assessment of NHS resource footprint:

- Reducing carbon emissions by 18.5% between 2007 and 2017
- Reducing the water footprint by 21% between 2010 and 2017
- Ensuring 85% of NHS provider waste is avoiding going directly to landfill

Clinical growth of 27.5% over the last ten years – so emissions have ‘decoupled’, in the same way that the UK economy has grown while its emissions have fallen.

The action

The benefits of sustainability can spill over into communities and local economies

- An **'anchor organisation'** is a place based institution that can play a key role on building and benefitting from thriving local economics.
- An **'anchor mission'** is a commitment to intentionally apply an institution's long-term, place-based economic power and human capital in partnership with the community to mutual long term benefit.





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Thank you

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