Climate Change and Health

“Tackling climate change could be the greatest health opportunity of the 21st century” The Lancet, 2015.

This document has been curated by Fellows of the RACP to help you find high quality CPD resources about climate change. Resources are categorised by type:

1. Key organisations & websites
2. Webcasts
3. Courses
4. Tools
5. Key journals
6. Recommended reading

Professional development in Climate Change

As climate change alters the environment it exposes people to higher risks of disease, has significant social impacts and puts enormous pressure on economies and health systems worldwide. Some of the risks identified include:

- Temperature - severe heat waves can cause deaths and reduce ability to exercise outdoors
- Air quality - worsening pollution might cause respiratory infections and aggravation of asthma
- Extreme weather events - flooding, droughts and wildfires may have severe impacts on mental and physical health
- Spread of infectious diseases - Outbreaks of food and water borne diseases are expected to occur more often and more widely, partially due to the spread of vectors such as mosquitoes

This collection includes resources on the effects of climate change, adaptation strategies, and support for advocacy. It aims to support Fellows and Trainees in educating themselves, improving their practice and advocating for change as a public health priority.

Short on time? Try this:

- Read this fact sheet from WHO
- Listen to this short podcast episode, interviewing Dr Margaret Chan and other experts
- Watch this talk by A/Prof Brian Owler (President of the AMA)

SEND US YOUR FEEDBACK:

RACP curated collections are managed by the Learning Support Unit, based on the contributions and peer review of Fellows of the College and other experts.

We thank Prof Richard Heller, Dr Karen Kiang, Dr George Laking and A/Prof Linda Selvey for their contributions to this page.

Tell us what you think about this page and make suggestions for improvement by emailing myresources@racp.edu.au.
Key organisations & websites
Useful as a starting point and overview of current work in this area

CPD TIP: Keep notes on your activities on these sites to claim CPD points in Category 6 (1 credit/hr)

The Lancet Commission
In 2009, the University College of London and the Lancet Commission jointly launched a ground-breaking report delineating the human health effects of climate change. The Lancet Commission released its second major report in 2015 which builds upon the issues raised in the first report.

World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF
WHO publishes articles, education programs, podcasts and videos on climate change and human health. UNICEF has a variety of publications focusing on the impacts on child health.

Climate and Health Alliance
This Australian organisation has membership from across the health sector. Their website offers an array of resources to understand and manage the challenges of climate change and their impacts on health.

Doctors for the Environment Australia
The DEA has news updates, reports and advocacy resources on their website. Two particularly useful resources are their position statement and a video entitled 'What can I do for the Environment?'.

National Institute of Environmental Health Science
This website provides fact sheets and publications on the health impacts of climate change from an environmental health perspective.

NHS Sustainable Development Unit
The NHS SDU helps organisations across the health and care sectors promote sustainable development, thereby reducing emissions, saving money and improving health.

Webcasts
Useful for brief overviews of topics and recent developments

CPD TIP: Keep notes on the activities you watch to claim CPD points in Category 6 (1 credit/hr)

Australian Science Communicators - Climate Change and Health Impacts
This is an edited podcast on communicating health and climate change.

ANU - Climate Change and Public Health
In this video, a panel of experts at the ANU discuss the effects of climate change on public health in the wake of the Lancet Commission’s second report (2015) on these issues.

BMJ - The Health Impacts of Climate Change
In this video, a panel of experts provides a snapshot of the changes affecting planet patterns.

Global Climate and Health Alliance – Climate Change: Health Impacts, Opportunities and Policy Responses
This webinar draws on the knowledge of 3 renowned experts in climate change and public health, all of whom were key contributors to the Intergovernmental Panel and Climate Change AR5 report.

Harvard University - Climate Change Health and Disease Threats
In this Forum, public health and policy experts picked up where COP21 left off, taking on the critical piece of health within the climate change conversation.
Healthy Planet Healthy People
In this video, some of the positive impacts of the natural world on human health are explored.

University of Otago - The Importance of Climate Change on Occupational Health
Professor Tord Kjellstrom, a prominent expert in this field, discusses how climate change and occupational health.

3 Courses
Useful for in depth, structured learning
CPD TIP: Keep certificates and notes from courses to claim CPD points in Category 4 (3 credits/hr)

NextGenU - Climate Change and Health
This online course teaches about the effects of climate change and gives a chance to practice techniques to reduce those effects. This is a free course but requires a login.

Peoples-Uni- Climate Change and Public Health
This self-study course aims to inform about the dangers of climate change to public health. This is a free course but requires a login.

WHO - Climate Change and Public Health
Training courses offered by the WHO for public health professionals include:
- Learning on climate change and human health
- Training course for public health professionals on protecting our health from climate change

4 Tools
Useful for implementing what you have learned in your daily practice
CPD TIP: Keep documentation from audits to claim CPD points in Category 5 (3 credits/hr)

Centre for Sustainable Healthcare (CSH)
The Sustainable Specialties Programme is designed to mainstream sustainability within clinical areas. It is supported by the work of CSH in medical education and in carbon modelling of clinical care.

Centres for Disease Control - Success Stories from the Climate and Health Program
This report explains the BRACE framework to assist healthcare workers in preparing for climate change, and includes lessons from successful implementations.

Global Green and Healthy Hospitals
Health Care Without Harm promotes the implementation of safe and environmentally healthy practices, processes and products. Their website includes strategies that can be implemented in your workplace.

Public Health and Climate Change
This guidebook supports climate planning within health departments and agencies. Although it focuses on the US, there are lessons and strategies that can be used by Australasian public health practitioners.

US Climate and Health Alliance Tools
The tools and resources listed on this website could help you implement practical actions to adapt to or combat the impacts of climate change.
Key journals

*Useful for keeping up to date with research and finding out more on specific topics*

**CPD TIP:** Keep notes on what you read to claim CPD points in Category 6 (1 credit/hr)

The Medical Journal of Australia has a variety of articles on climate change and health.

**Recommended reading**

*Useful for keeping up to date with research and finding out more on specific topics*

**CPD TIP:** Keep notes on what you read to claim CPD points in Category 6 (1 credit/hr)

Australian Academy of Science - Climate Change Challenges to Health
This report (2015) outlines recommendations resulting from the 2014 Theo Murphy High Flyers Think Tank on climate change challenges to health.

Climate Change and Children’ Health: A Call for Research on What Works to Protect Children
This article focuses on the impact of climate change on children’ health and suggests mitigation and adaptation strategies to address some of the challenges.

Climate Change and the Potential Effects on Maternal and Pregnancy Outcomes
This article looks at the potential effects of climate change on pregnant women, the developing foetus, and young children in the context of their social and physical vulnerability.

Climate Change and Respiratory Disease
This article gives an overview of how climate change affects respiratory diseases and allergies.

Climate Change and Global Health: Quantifying a Growing Ethical Crisis
This article analyses how climate change poses a unique and “involuntary exposure” to many societies, and therefore represents possibly the largest health inequity of our time.

The Critical Decade Climate Change and Health
In this report (2010) the Climate Change Commission examines the effects of climate change on Australian health and the economy, as well as what actions we can take.

Diabetes and Climate Change
This report outlines the interconnections between climate change and diabetes and argues for combating these two global risks in an integrated policy agenda.

The Effects of Climate Change on Cardiac Health
This article evaluates the evidence base for the cardiac health consequences of climate conditions, with particular reference to increasing heat exposure.

Global Climate Change and Child Health: A Review of Pathways, Impacts and Measure to Improve the Evidence Base
This discussion paper reviews the published evidence of pathways and impacts of global climate change on child health.

Impact of Climate Change on Water Borne Diseases
This paper highlights environmental changes and critical situations caused by floods, drought and warmer temperature leading to an increase of water related pathogens, chemical hazards and cyanotoxins.
Impacts of Climate Change on Public Health in Australia: Recommendations for new policies and practices for adaptation with the public health sector
This brief from the Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association focuses on the impacts of climate change on public health in Australia and how decision-makers can manage its impacts.

Older People and Climate Change: Vulnerability and Health Effects
This short article assesses the vulnerability of older people due to climate change.

Planetary Health
Planetary Health is one of the latest reports published by The Rockefeller Foundation - The Lancet Commission on the interdependencies of human and natural systems.

WHO - Protecting Health from Climate Change
This document provides guidance on conducting an assessment of vulnerability to the health risks of climate change, and of policies and programmes to increases resilience.