



Improving Health, Protecting the Planet

Our Climate and Health Narrative October 2023

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Who are the ADPH Yorkshire and Humber?

The Association of Directors of Public Health (ADPH) has operated as a self-governing professional network since its inception in 2007

In 2013 the ADsPH proposed to bring together public health networks across England under a common set of general principles and protocols. Formal affiliation of the Y&H network to commenced in 2014.

Purpose: To support the delivery of better public health outcomes in Yorkshire and Humber.

How we work:

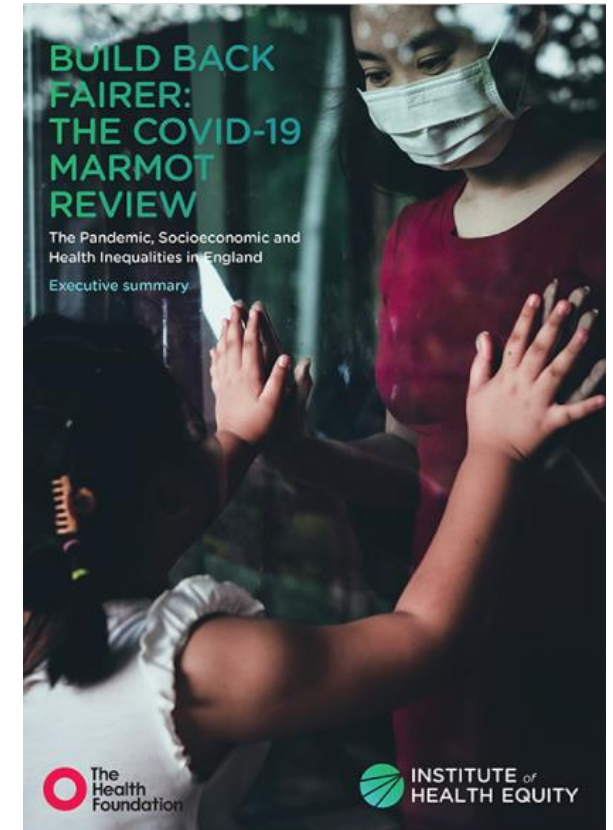
- **Leadership:** Provide public health leadership in the region and speak with a collective voice for public health in Yorkshire & Humber.
- **Influence:** Generate influence and impact on key stakeholders and create alignment with other regional and national networks.
- **Public Health Development:** Professional development support, oversee public health training and development processes and create and use a sector led improvement process to identify standards and develop best practice.
- **Collaboration:** Agree direction and work programmes for areas where collaboration has benefit/greater impact and undertake collective advocacy work for key PH priorities in the region

Our Regional Priorities

Taking forward the recommendations in the [Build Back Fairer Review](#), in Summer 2021, the Yorkshire and Humber Directors of Public Health agreed on three key priority areas, where working together across the region can add significant value.

The three priorities for the ADPH YH network are:

1. Improving life chances for Children and Young People
2. Inclusive Wellbeing Economies
3. Climate and Sustainability





SUN SAVE WORLD

HEATWAVE PEAKS

BRITAIN IS MELTING

How Portugal's quirky look is back in fashion

The Guardian

Johnson accused of 'checking out' as Britain swelters in searing heat

The heatwave has driven us all mad

Michael Deacon: The headcasters seem to think Britons are helpless slaves

The Daily Telegraph

Record highs, travel chaos, schools close ... and it's going to get hotter

Daily Mail

Sunny day snowflake Britain had a meltdown

Schools close, workers stay home and shops shut ++ Trains, tubes and flights cancelled ++ And 'extreme heat' will be worse today

But it's not so hot for a bearskin...

...and Charles didn't even take his jacket and tie off!

70p

i

Day of reckoning for Truss and Mordaunt

Earth sends a warning

The Heart of Britain

Mirror

BLOWTORCH BRITAIN

43

Record baker



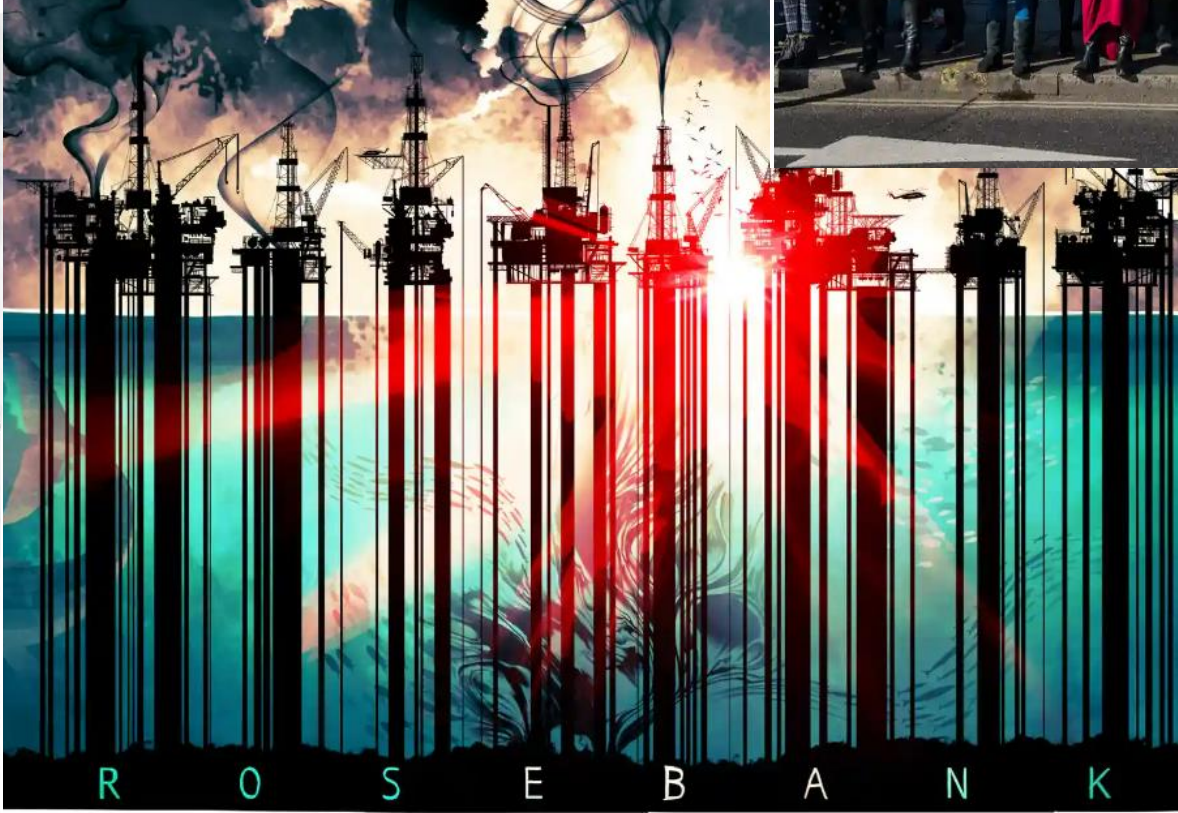
Daily Mail Money Mail

Arthritis, an eye tumour, a mystery divorce – how Claire Foy overcame it all to be crowned ...

Our Hollywood Queen

TOXIC AIR 'TO BLAME FOR 60,000 CASES OF DEMENTIA'

Diesel fumes a major cause, warn experts



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How families going to Chessington can dodge Ulez: Visitors share tips on how to park in nearby Surrey for free and get the bus to attraction in bid to avoid £20 charges

- Mayor of London Sadiq Khan's hated Ulez scheme was expanded on August 29
- Motorists are coming up with ways to avoid paying the £12.50 a day charges
- Chessington and the theme park sticks out somewhat like a Ulez peninsula

By MARK DUELL and ARTHUR PARASHAR

UPDATED: 21:00, 1 September 2023

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Families visiting Chessington World of Adventures Resort can avoid Sadiq Khan's hated Ultra Low Emission Zone (Ulez) by parking nearby for free and getting a bus - as visitors share tips on how to dodge £20 charges.



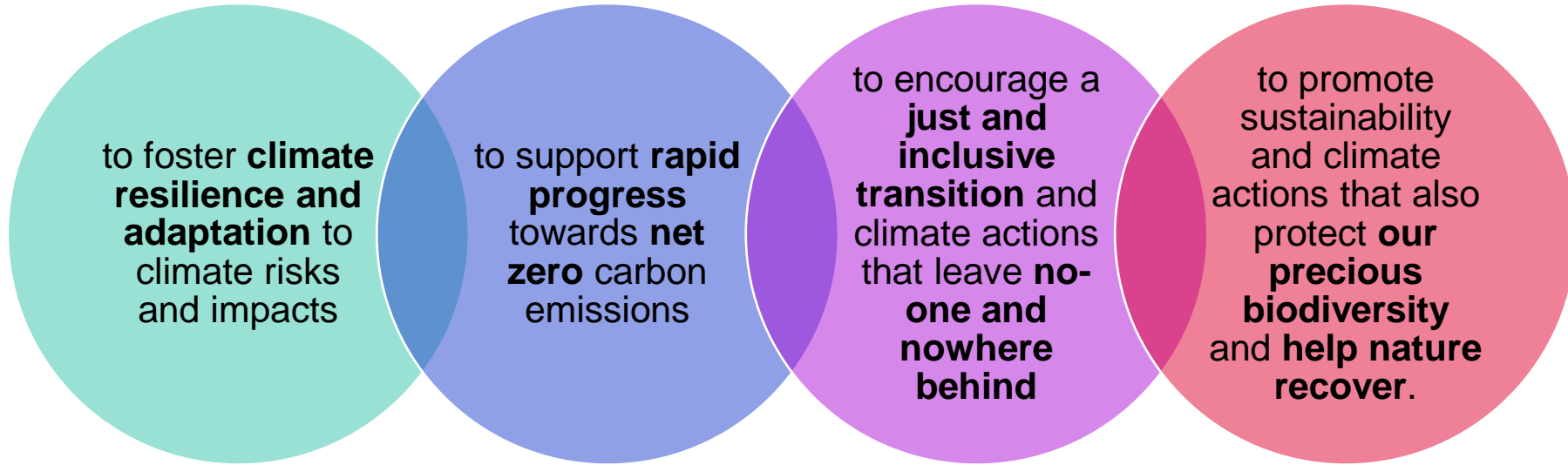
THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS

The Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission

An independent advisory body set up to bring actors from the public, private and third sectors together to support and guide ambitious climate actions across the region.

Actively building collaborations and networks across the region to facilitate and accelerate holistic climate action.

THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS



FUNDERS OF THE COMMISSION



EXAMPLES OF SUPPORTERS OF THE COMMISSION



THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS



Collaboration with ADPH – Together we will:

- Demonstrate clear leadership on net zero
- Create adaptive capacities
- Ensure local/regional climate policies will not have adverse effects on health
- Ensure local/regional policies will improve the health of our communities and decrease health-related inequalities.



THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS



Climate Resilience: Health & Wellbeing

Challenges identified

1. It's difficult to track connections between climate change and health
2. Some policies to improve health, risk exacerbating inequality
3. There are complex, structural root causes of the issues
4. Climate action is not yet integral to health-related roles

Proposed actions at a regional scale (a selection)

1. Support ICBs and ICSs to integrate adaptation plans/pathways in the regional health system
2. Define the key people and/or roles, and the ideal action(s) they need to take
3. Give power to the voice of young people
4. Work with existing community organisations and primary care practitioners, engaging people and taking an asset-led community development approach
5. Support senior leaders to prioritise adaptation and health inequalities, e.g. incorporate all four priority areas of action into job descriptions.

Live consultation online:

Please have a look & [Have Your Say Today](https://www.commonplace.is/consultation/yorkshire-and-humber-climate-action-plan) - [Climate Resilience: Health and Wellbeing - Yorkshire And Humber Climate Action Plan \(commonplace.is\)](https://www.commonplace.is/consultation/yorkshire-and-humber-climate-action-plan)

Our Public Health Narrative on Climate and Health

Narrative is intended for use by Directors of Public Health and their teams in Yorkshire and the Humber and describes the links between climate change, health and health inequalities.

The narrative can be used to support local conversations and action in tackling the climate crisis by highlighting the co-benefits of action on both health and climate, as well as highlighting the future risks to health that we need to prepare for.

We know this is a large and urgent topic and therefore developed to dip in and out of key issues that is supported by an evidence base.

Focus on **system solutions** rather than **individual behaviour change**.

Balanced so everyone can use it – with that brings challenges

Health inequalities and community-based approaches runs throughout narrative.



Climate Change is a Public Health Issue

The actions that are good for health are good for the planet.

The effects of climate change are bad for health.

The effects of climate change will and are already disproportionately impacting on our most disadvantaged communities, widening inequalities.

Poor health increases demand on our health and care services – delivering that care comes at a financial cost as well as an environmental cost, creating more carbon emissions.

Climate policies can help us to achieve major health and wellbeing co-benefits, strengthening the case for action on climate change.

The health benefits of climate policies resonate strongly with the public and policy makers due to the direct nature of some of the health effects, with benefits evident over shorter timescales, strengthening the case for action on climate change.

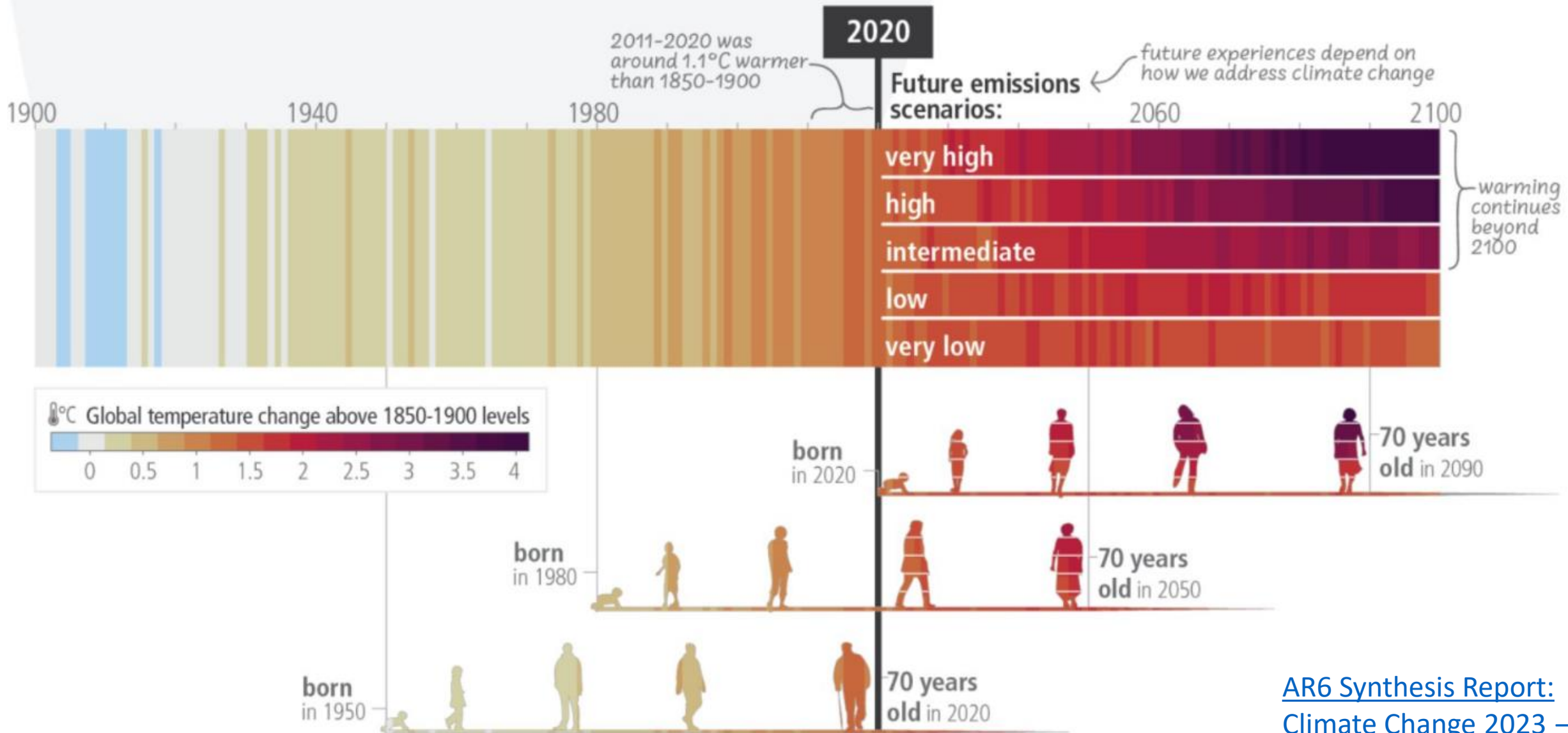
The effects of climate change are impacting on our health now

The consequences of climate change are bad for health. The UK's 3rd [Climate Change risk assessment](#) independent report by the Climate Change Committee sets out the direct, and indirect ways in which climate change can negatively affect our health.

A warming climate affects health in 3 main ways:

1. Effects of extreme weather, such as heatwaves, flooding, wildfires, storms and drought on physical and mental health (for example injuries and trauma, heat-related illness).
2. Effects on the planet's life-support systems, such as rising sea levels and safe water availability, changing patterns of zoonotic and vector-borne disease (for example malaria, dengue fever), reduced pollination and crop failure leading to food shortages.
3. Effects mediated by social systems, such as livelihood loss, rising prices of food and fuel, supply chain disruption, pressure on health and care services, conflict or forced migration.

c) The extent to which current and future generations will experience a hotter and different world depends on choices now and in the near-term



The effects of climate change are widening health inequalities

‘Despite being the least likely to cause climate change, disadvantaged populations are more likely to be exposed to its health threats’ The Sustainable Development Commission, 2010

Health inequalities are a matter of social justice – addressing inequalities is about fairness and equality. Equality in the distribution of wealth and opportunities in society. Often climate change policy is viewed and developed separately to policies that aim to tackle social vulnerability, poverty and disadvantage. However, climate justice and social justice are inextricably linked.

[Social inequalities](#) in resource use drives climate change; more affluent communities and economies have a much larger environmental footprint than the most deprived. The communities that have contributed the least to the climate crisis are also the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, worsening health and socioeconomic inequalities within the UK and also globally.

Climate justice goes further than the drivers of climate change. There is the injustice in the way the costs and benefits of climate change policy are distributed.

For example, lower-income groups may potentially pay proportionally more for policy and benefit less from some carbon reduction measures.

The health impacts of climate change are also not evenly distributed. Health inequalities due to the impact climate change will increase for those most vulnerable including older people, those socially disadvantaged, people with long term health issues (physical and mental) and those with disabilities.

[Research from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation](#) highlights how vulnerability to the effects of climate change is determined by a combination of personal, social and environmental factors, alongside institutional practices such as planning rules, consultation processes and the distribution of the costs and benefits of policy measures.

[The Institute for Health Equity](#) highlights that actions to combat climate change, done in the right way, could improve health and health equity. Further, actions to improve health and health equity have the potential to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Adaptation and Mitigation

Mitigation means making the impacts of climate change less severe by preventing or reducing the emission of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

Mitigation is achieved by:

- reducing the sources of these gases
- enhancing the storage of greenhouse gases

Mitigation is a human intervention that reduces the sources of greenhouse gas emissions and/or enhances the sinks.

Adaptation means anticipating and preparing communities for the adverse effects of climate change, and taking appropriate action to prevent or minimise the damage they can cause, or taking advantage of opportunities that may arise. Protecting people now saves more lives and reduces risks moving forward. It makes financial sense. The longer we wait, the more the costs will escalate. In short, adaptation can be seen as the process of adjusting to the current and future effects of climate change.

We must do both – mitigate and adapt - at the same time.

Adaptation and Mitigation

Mitigation

- We need to rapidly phase our fossil fuels
- We need a greener and fairer approach to transport
- We need affordable, safe and energy efficient homes
- We need access to affordable, healthy and sustainably produced food
- We need to value biodiversity to protect health

Adaptation

- We need to prepare for increased temperatures and more heatwaves
- We need to prepare for periods of extreme rainfall and more flooding
- We need to prepare for disrupted food supplies and food insecurity
- We need to prepare for changing vector patterns and infectious disease
- We need to prepare for changing the way in which we deliver our services

Community centred and equity in all policies

Mitigation

Phase out fossil fuels

Call out unfair tactics

Highlight costs of inaction

Protect our essential energy needs and reduce bills means renewable, affordable clean power.

Greener & Fairer Transport

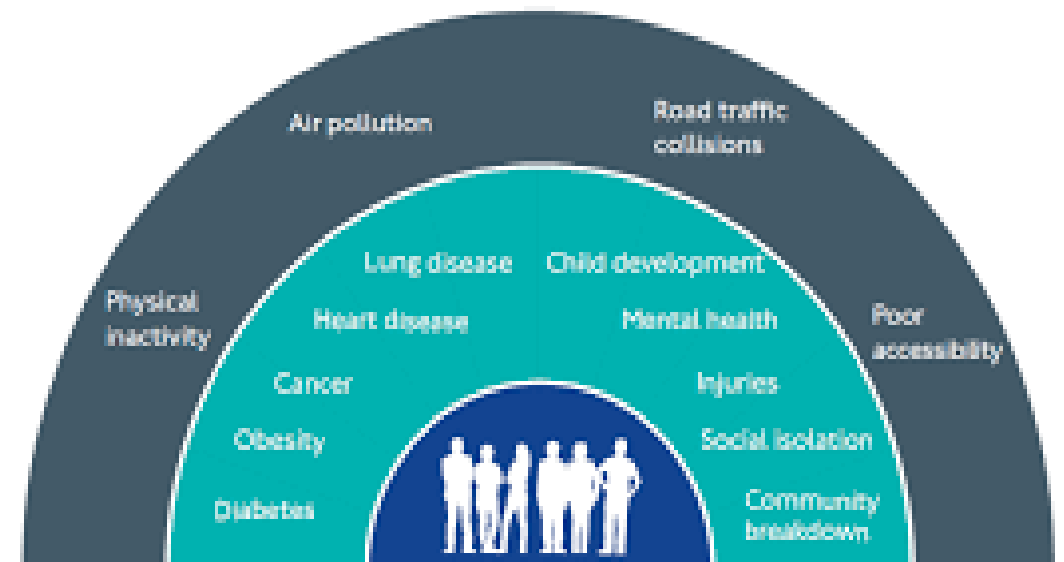
More choice – focus on connection & liveable places

Equitable approach to decarbonisation, active travel & public transport

Infrastructure to support



Key adverse links between motorised road transport and health



Mitigation

Affordable, safe & energy efficient homes

Homes need to be affordable, safe, secure & decent.

Energy efficient to reduce demand on expensive and volatile energy system.

Warm and cool (well ventilated).

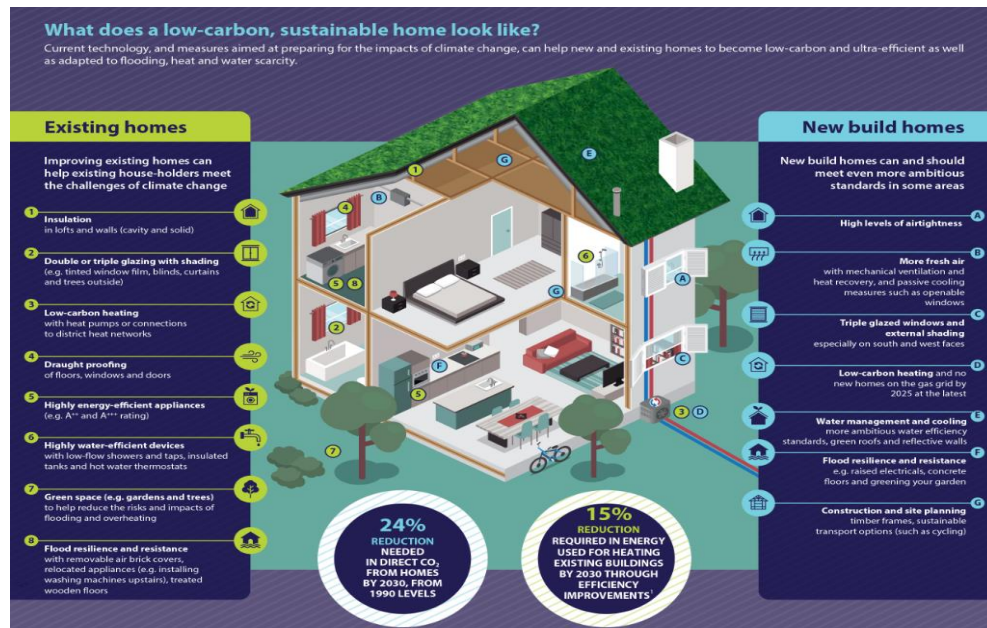
New builds and retrofitting at scale.

Equitable access to affordable & sustainable food

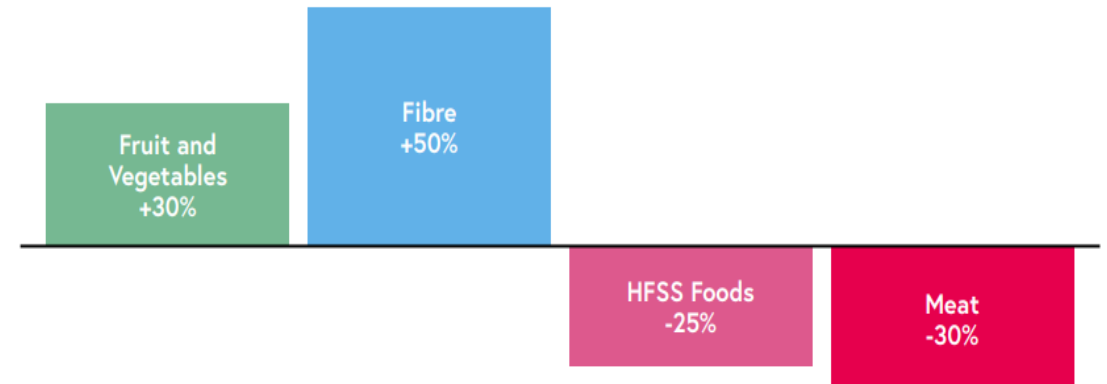
Promote a vibrant and diverse sustainable food economy.

Tackle food poverty, diet related ill health and access to affordable healthy food.

Making the best use of our land



Changes are needed to the national diet by 2032 (compared to 2019) to meet health, climate and nature commitments[†]

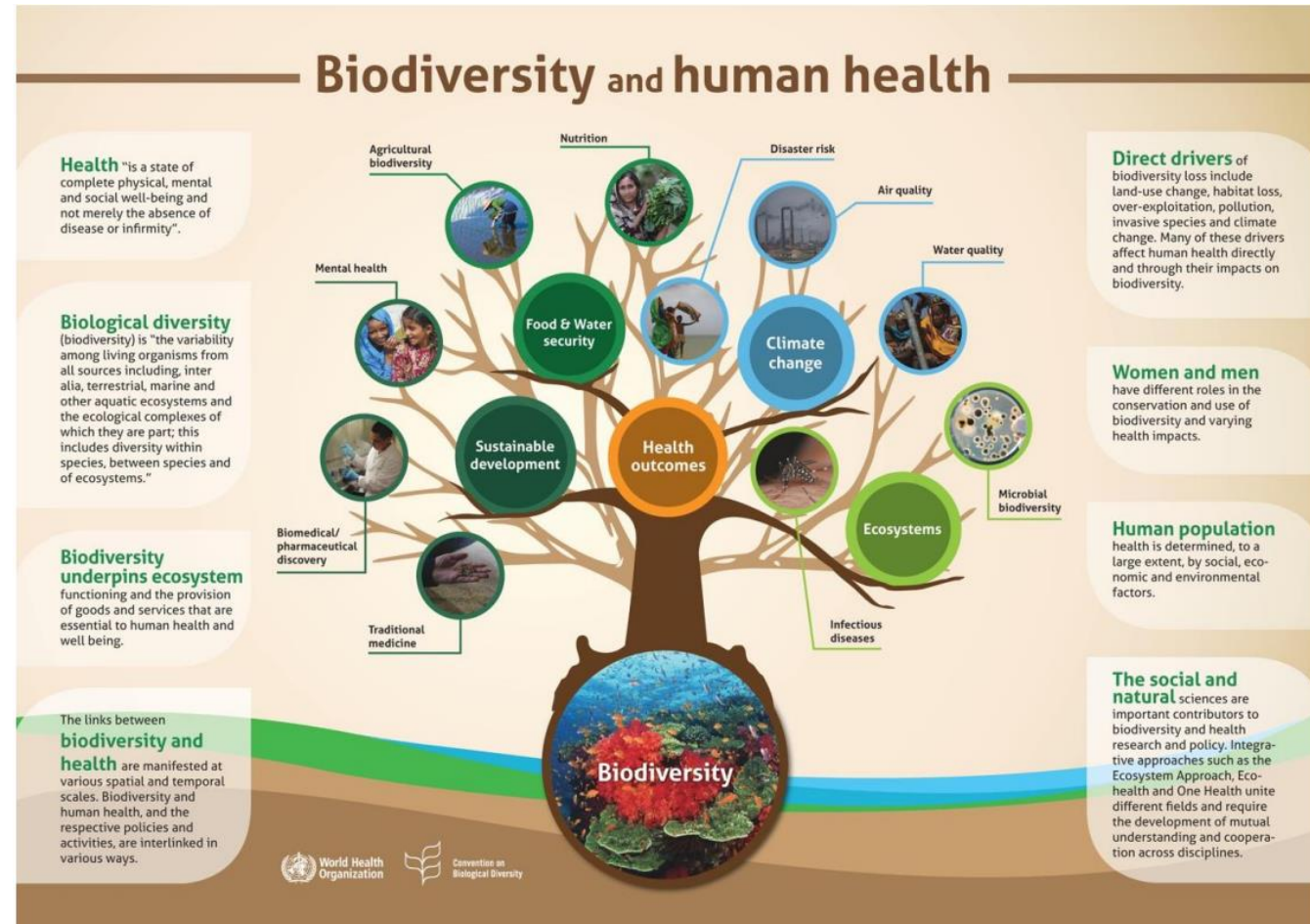


Mitigation

Value biodiversity and protect nature

'Nature is our most precious asset,' with our economies, livelihoods and wellbeing dependent upon it.

[Dasgupta](#) calls for action in reversing the trend of biodiversity loss, highlighting the co-benefits of this, including addressing climate change and alleviating poverty.



WHO and Conservation on Biological Diversity led [State of Knowledge Review, Connecting Global Priorities Biodiversity and Human Health](#)

Adaptation

"Climate change is landing blow after blow upon humanity and the planet, an onslaught that will only intensify in the coming years even if the world begins to bring down greenhouse gas emissions."

UNEP's Adaptation Gap Report 2022

Further warming is now unavoidable and we need to plan and prepare to for the impact of the climatic changes which are now inevitable.

Whilst these impacts may be inevitable, adaptation can help to reduce exposure and reduce vulnerability.

Adaptation plans should identify the communities and populations most at risk from the [health] impacts of climate change and seek to increase resilience and reduce risk and vulnerability in these populations.

Equity should be embedded in all policies.

Local communities must be part of the solution - they have a powerful voice in ensuring the process of decarbonisation is equitable and empowering for all places. Adaptation is local.

Nature based adaptation offers co-benefits, protecting against the impacts of climate change.

Adaptation

Inequalities needs to be at the centre of our adaptation plans

We know that the *impacts of climate change will not be distributed equally*; some populations will be at greater risk, particularly in terms of the negative effects on health and adaptation plans should reflect this.

Prepare for increasing temperatures and more heatwaves.

We need to prepare for periods of extreme rainfall and more flooding.

We need to prepare for disrupted food supplies, price volatility and food insecurity.

We need to prepare for changing vector patterns and infectious disease.

We need to prepare for changing the way in which we deliver health and care services



Adaptation Sub-Committee’s assessment of the top 6 areas of inter-related climate change risks for the UK

Communities at the heart

'Net zero by 2050 blah blah blah... hope is taking action... hope comes from the people' Greta Thunberg, 2021

Local actions can have impact and reach beyond that of international, national or individual actions.

Local communities must be part of the solution; they have a powerful voice.

By unlocking the potential of communities to meaningfully address climate change as it manifests in their lives, we can create an ecosystem of climate action that permits braver policymaking from the top.

Climate action is largely shaped by political decision making and more needs to be done to ensure that the voices of our communities is heard.

Young people think that there is a disconnect between climate commitments and climate action.

We need to engage young people in climate policy decisions.

Legitimacy
Power
Responsive

Rosa Foster, Co- Director Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission



Authors & Acknowledgements

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Q&A



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