

# The Paris (COP21) UNFCCC Agreement

## What it means for health

**Session I : Key Note Speeches: Green Technology and sustainable strategies for Planetary Health  
"Eco-Friendly Hospitals For A Sustainable World"**

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Executive Director  
Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA)  
22 Feb 2016



# Climate change is the biggest global health threat of 21<sup>st</sup> century

The impacts will be felt all around the world – and not just in some distant future but in our lifetimes and those of our children.

- *The Lancet 2009*

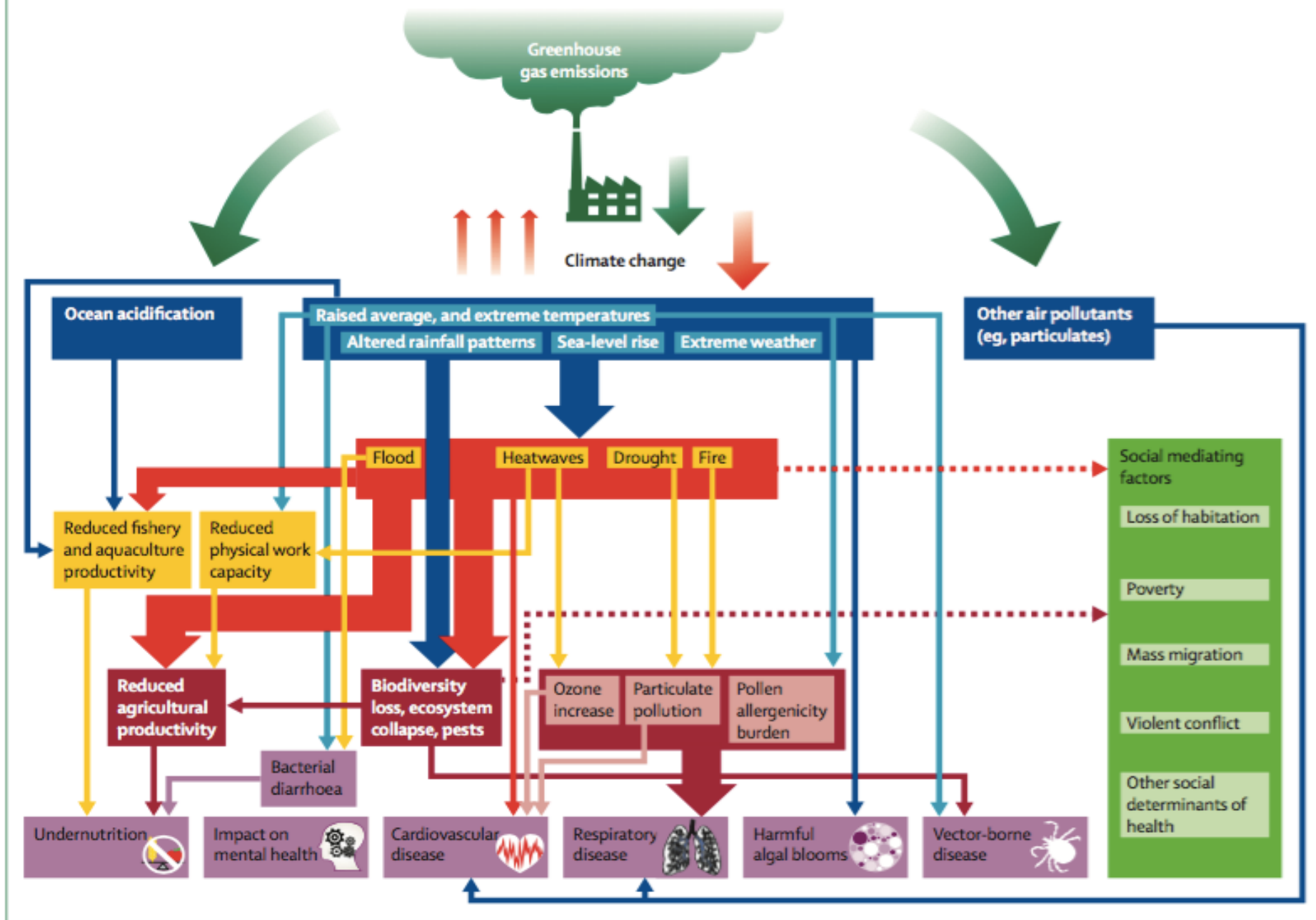
“The direct effects of climate change include increased heat stress, floods, drought, and increased frequency of intense storms, with the indirect threatening population health through adverse changes in air pollution, the spread of disease vectors, food insecurity and under-nutrition, displacement, and mental ill health.”

- *The Lancet 2015*



# The Environmental Crisis is Global





**Figure 1: An overview of the links between greenhouse gas emissions, climate change, and health**  
 The causal links are explained in greater detail in the section about climate change and exposure to health risks.

# Lancet Commission on Health and Climate 2015

## *The question:*

- How can we transform climate change from a threat to an opportunity to improve global health?

## *The findings:*

- The implications of climate change for a global population of nine billion people threatens to undermine the last half century of gains in development and global health
- Tackling climate change could be the greatest global health opportunity of the 21st century





# Lancet Commission on Health and Climate 2015

- Many mitigation and adaptation responses to climate change are “no-regret” options, which lead to direct reductions in the burden of ill-health, enhance community resilience, alleviate poverty, and address global inequity.
- These strategies will also reduce pressures on national health budgets, delivering potentially large cost savings, and enable investments in stronger, more resilient health systems.



# Nations Unies

## Conférence sur les Changements Climatiques 2015

COP21/CMP11

Paris France



# Key elements of the Paris Agreement

- The commitment to “pursuing efforts to **limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C** above pre- industrial levels
- Parties should “respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on .... **right to health...** intergenerational equity”
- Recognising the “social, economic and environmental value of voluntary mitigation actions and their co-benefits for adaptation, **health** and sustainable development”
- “Taking into account the imperatives of a **just transition** of the workforce”





# Advocacy for health in the UNFCCC

- First Global Climate and Health Summit in Durban in 2009, now held annually with support of WHO
- Global Climate and Health Alliance (HCWH, CHC, CAHA (Australia), HEAL, IFMSA) (now with CAPE, US CAHA, UK CAHA)
- Durban Declaration on Climate Health and Wellbeing in 2011
- GCHA request to WHO Director General in 2011
- WHO (inaugural) Health and Climate Conference in 2015



# Health at COP21

## ***Campaigns:***

- Our Climate Our Health campaign + organising health groups to join People's Climate Marches

## ***Reports:***

- “Health at COP21 and Beyond” + “Global Survey of Climate and Health Policy”

## ***Declarations:***

- Paris Platform for Healthy Energy + WHO Call to Action

## ***Events:***

- Health Climate Leadership Roundtable (HCWH);
- Forum on Health Professionals in Action for Healthy Energy and Climate (HEAL, CNOM, WMA, IFMSA)
- Conference on Climate Change and Healthcare (HCWH, FHF, FEHAP, APHP)
- Global Climate and Health Summit (GCHA)
- Many WHO events



# Working Together For a Healthy Future



OUR  
OUR





# PEOPLE'S CLIMATE MARCH



BELIEVE IN A HEALTHIER WORLD FOR EVERYONE?  
**WEAR WHITE AND JOIN US**

“I am inspired every day by the creativity and commitment of young people who are busily laying the foundations of climate justice.

“But we need help in ensuring a safe climate future. ...The longer we leave it, the more precarious our capacity to survive and thrive will become.

“As we race towards two degrees I implore you – please work with us. We can’t wait for more negotiations, for another federal election, for the call to action of another angry summer.

“The world in which I want to grow old is well within our reach; we just need all hands on deck to climate justice a reality.”





# Health Care Climate Leadership Roundtable

December 3, 2015





For too long the alarming impact of climate change on health has been ignored by the world's leaders despite repeated warnings from physicians across the globe.  
Xavier Deau  
WMA Past President



# Conference on Climate Change and Healthcare





# Global Climate and Health Summit during COP21



# WHO COP21 event: 'Why the climate change agreement is critical to Public Health'.





# “Health and Climate at COP21 and Beyond”

Outlined what is needed from the global agreement to protect health:

- National climate change action plans must include an evaluation of health benefits and risks
- Commitment to Green Climate Fund of USD \$100B
- A fair loss and damage mechanism
- Phase out fossil fuel subsidies and apply to renewables
- Phasing out coal from energy systems



# Global Climate Change and Health Policy Survey Report



- Report from global project led by CAHA for the World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA)
- First-ever global benchmarking survey of national climate and health policy
- Evaluated how nations are responding to the health impacts of climate change
- Shows Australia is well behind other industrialised nations in protecting its citizens from the major health risks associated with global warming



# Medical Community Warns Climate Change Is an Imminent Public Health Threat

The World Health Organization and a vast network of doctors and nurses calls for a climate deal to emphasize the danger to human health.

BY PHIL MCKENNA, INSIDECLIMATE NEWS

DEC 9, 2015



Beijing's pollution reached particularly unhealthy levels recently

Beijing's pollution recently triggered a "red alert," restricting driving and warning people to stay inside. Credit: Reuters

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## Risk COP21: Doctors unite to prescribe ambitious Paris climate deal

BusinessGreen staff Over 1,700 health organisations back joint declarations calling on world leaders to tackle escalating climate threats to human health

10 December 2015

Doctors and nurses from around the world will today unveil a host of declarations underlining the health sectors' overwhelming support for an ambitious new international climate change agreement.

Health groups are to meet on the sidelines of the Paris Summit to announce that signatories to a series of declarations demanding bolder action from governments to tackle climate change now total over 1,700 health organizations, 8,200 hospitals and health facilities, and 13 million health professionals.

### RELATED ARTICLES

- The hard work starts now: The Paris Agreement, one month on
- There is nothing 'boringly orthodox' about demanding climate risk

The declarations include the World Health Organisations' recently launched **Call to Action**, which "calls for a strong and effective climate agreement, that will save lives, both now and in the future", as well as national calls for climate action from health bodies in Australasia, Germany and France.

# Lives depend on climate deal as islands bear brunt of health impact

PARIS | BY BARBARA LEWIS



Locals sit on a pier situated on the shoreline of the harbour in the Fiji capital of Suva August 24, 2014. REUTERS/MOULN PEART



**It's getting ugly**  
Heats and accusations fly as the stakes soar heading into the make-or-break primary in South Carolina. [Video >](#)



6 DEC 2015 - 1:17PM

## COP21: Leaders warn of rising death toll from heat stroke, tropical diseases



# Why was Paris significant?

- The 1.5 degrees goal recognises that two degrees above pre-industrial temperatures is not safe (*however*, current pledges will only limit to three degrees)
- The IPCC is to produce a special report impacts of 1.5°C, and emissions pathways
- There are five yearly reviews – so there are opportunities to ramp up ambition



# The opportunities from mitigation

The many health co-benefits of mitigation via the social and environmental determinants of health:

- reductions in emissions (eg from burning fossil fuels) reduce air pollution and respiratory disease (in some cases, > 10 times the cost of policy implementation)
- safer active transport cuts road traffic accidents and reduces rates of obesity, diabetes, coronary heart disease, and stroke
- protecting our ecosystems will create the wellbeing we gain from nature and its diversity



CLIMATE  
AND  
HEALTH  
ALLIANCE



# How is the health sector responding?

- Advocacy
- Divestment
- Collaborating with other actors – environment groups, researchers, funders
- Policy development
- Campaigning for change
- Changing practices in healthcare



# Climate and health advocacy around the world

- British Medical Assoc (BMA) and Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) divest from fossil fuels
- Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR), Doctors for the Environment, Australia (DEA), Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (CAPE)
- Climate and Health Alliance (organisations and individuals)
- OraTaiao : New Zealand Climate & Health Council
- US Climate and Health Alliance
- British Health Alliance on Climate Change



# The 'story' of health

Using the health 'frame' to talk about climate change

- Evidence shows the public health narrative leads to stronger support for action
- The health co-benefits story leads to a sense of hope and optimism
- The economics of health co-benefits provide a compelling argument for economic rationalists



## The health sector can play a leading role in solving these problems

Through its massive buying power and mission-driven interest in preventing disease, the health care sector can help shift the entire economy toward sustainable, safer products and practices.





## Pacific Network:

Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association; St Vincent's Health Australia; Uniting Health in Qld; Mater Misericordiae Hospitals, Brisbane; Western Health, Austin Health, Northern Health, Bairnsdale and Koowrup Regional Health Services, and Hepburn Community Health in Victoria; the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (Vic branch); Women's and Children's Hospital in Adelaide; Auckland District Health Board, Counties Manukau District Health Board, Waitemata District Health Board; the New South Wales Nurses and Midwives Association, Western Sydney Local Health District and South West Sydney Local Health District in NSW.



## 2020 HCCC Challenge

The Challenge is based on three pillars:

- **Mitigation** – Reducing health care’s own carbon footprint.
- **Resilience** – Preparing for the impacts of extreme weather and the shifting burden of disease.
- **Leadership** – Educating staff and the public while promoting policies to protect public health from climate change.



## Founding participants leading the way

- Albert Einstein Hospital (Brazil)
- Gundersen Health System (USA)
- Kaiser Permanente (USA)
- Sustainable Development Unit, National Health Service (England)
- Manukau Counties District Health Board (New Zealand)
- Western Cape Health System (South Africa)
- Yonsei University Health System (South Korea)



# Meanwhile.....

**THE CONVERSATION**

Academic rigour, journalistic flair

Q Search analysis, research, academics...

Arts + Culture Business + Economy Education **Environment + Energy** Health + Medicine Politics + Society Science + Technology



CLIMATE AND  
**HEALTH**  
ALLIANCE

# Current policy in Australia

In place:

- Emissions Reduction Fund
- Renewable Energy Target

Targets:

- 26-28 per cent reductions (on 2005) by 2030

(The Climate Change Authority recommended 40-60 per cent below 2000 levels by 2030 – based on a 67% chance of limiting warming to two degrees)



# Examples of other country's INDCs

- Brazil: 43% by 2030 (on 2005 levels)
- European Union: 30% by 2030 (on 1990 levels)
- Indonesia: 41% by 2030 (compared to BAU)
- Philippines: 70% by 2030 (on BAU)
- US: 26-28% by 2025 (on 2005 levels)

# What's needed?

- Work together more to exercise our political muscle
- Needs a wide scale social movement to demand a political response
- Greater engagement from an even wider group from civil society, business, academia
- Develop a national plan on climate and health, as a policy framework to respond
- Advocate for policy interventions
- Undertake / commission research and reviews
- Mitigate and adapt to health threats





# A national strategy on climate change and health

- A policy framework to outline the measures needed to protect people's health from climate impacts
- Include strategies that deliver health co-benefits (cleaner air, active and public transport, reduce obesity and other NCDs)
- Support the health care sector to become low carbon, environmentally responsible, and healthy



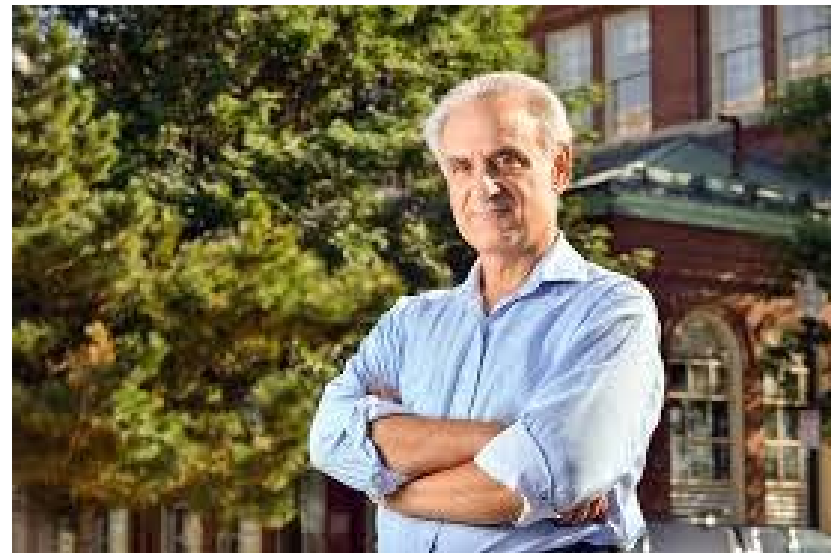
# What's needed? According to Lancet Health and Climate Commission 2015

“A sophisticated approach is needed, which draws on the universal desire to tackle threats to health and wellbeing..., in order to motivate rapid action, and a policy framing that is more human than purely environment, technology, or economy focused.”



# Gary Cohen, MacArthur ‘Genius’, White House Climate Champion, Founder and President, Health Care Without Harm

- “In this new era of climate change, health leaders need to become human rights advocates, defending peoples’ right to clear air, clean water, healthy food, and adequate shelter as the fundamental conditions for health.”



International Network for Health Promoting Hospitals & Health Services

## The Task Force on Health Promoting Hospitals and Environment

Asia-Pacific Regional Symposium 2016

### Eco-Friendly Hospitals For a Sustainable World

22-23 February 2016 | Griffith University | Brisbane | Queensland | Australia



## Program BOOKLET



AN INTERNATIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICE-SHARING REGIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON

**"ECO-FRIENDLY HOSPITALS FOR A SUSTAINABLE WORLD"**  
MONDAY, 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb 2016

Griffith University, Nathan Campus

Hosted by The Task Force on Health Promoting Hospitals and Environment  
of International Health Promoting Hospitals and Health Services Network  
and co-hosted by Griffith University

Venue: Griffith University Nathan Campus, Building N18 (Central Theatre), Theatre II

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