



How To Get Your Royal College to Declare a Climate & Ecological Emergency

A series of case studies based on how groups of healthcare professionals successfully managed to lobby their Royal College to declare a climate & ecological emergency.

Sustainability & climate change are likely to be on the college/faculty's agenda already, however it slips down the priorities without their members advocating for climate action as a matter of urgency.

Your voice as a college/faculty member is so important!

Paeds Declares

- A group of 6 paediatricians (registrars & consultants) circulated a letter to members, outlining why the RCPaeds should declare a climate & ecological emergency.
- 30 signatures were needed in order for it to be discussed at the RCPaeds AGM. In order to get this discussed more quickly, it was agreed that they would bring it up at the council meeting.
- The group of 6 met with the RCPaeds chief executive and deputy and it was agreed that the college would declare a climate & ecological emergency and set up a taskforce made up of members.
- An email was sent out to all their consultants, asking whether anyone would like to be on the taskforce. Many replied expressing their interest.
- RCPaeds are now in the process of setting up this task force.

RCEM Declares

- March 2019: RCEM Annual Conference, one member interested in climate & health, approached the Vice President, incoming President & Chief Finance Officer pitching the reasons for the College to Divest from fossil fuels
- April 2019: Meeting about climate & health with ~6 RCEM members and Vice President + Chief Finance Officer. The college agreed to divest and were open to 'what next?'
- College agreed to set up a climate & health group made up of members with an interest in sustainability. Members had to apply to be part of the group & the group is chaired by 2 RCEM members.
- November 2019: College declared a Climate Emergency
- December 2019: College officially divested & declares
- Jan 2020: Climate & Health RCEM group had first meeting. 4 streams have been set up: 1) Green ED 2) Education 3) College Infrastructure 4) Advocacy. College is an active part of UKHACC (UK Health Alliance on Climate Change)



Psych Declares

Psych Declares was formed in 2019 by a group of psychiatrists who, with the support of [Medact](#), went on to lobby the Royal College of Psychiatrists to divest its investments from fossil fuel portfolios.

Psych Declares meets monthly on zoom and is open to psychiatrists, psychologists and allied health professionals (mental health) who agree with their aims. Service users are welcomed.