

FPH Climate and Health Conference

Professor Kevin Fenton CBE PrFPH PhD
President of the Faculty of Public Health

Twitter: @ProfKevinFenton

- 50 Years -



**FACULTY OF
PUBLIC HEALTH**

1972 - 2022

#50YearsofFPH
www.fph.org.uk

Welcome

- Welcome to those joining us from across the UK and around the world – all of you here today are an important part of the solution to this great challenge.
- FPH has recognised climate change as the greatest threat to public health, declaring a climate emergency in 2019.
- Climate and Health is a priority issue for the Faculty, as identified in our corporate Strategic Plan and by our Climate and Health Strategy – which you will hear more about later.
- The public health workforce has a critical role to play in tackling the climate emergency, and we hope that today's event will inform and inspire, as well as help us connect together public health action on climate change.

The greatest threat to human health – especially for the disadvantaged

- Often lost in public debate about climate change is the link between planetary and human health, and the impact this has for health equity.
- We are already seeing the direct and indirect impacts of rising temperatures, rising sea levels, and increased frequency and severity of extreme weather events.
- On a global scale, those experiencing the greatest impacts from climate change are often those that have contributed the least towards global greenhouse emissions.
- Even across the UK we see the disproportionate impact of climate change, with disadvantaged groups living in more polluted areas, enjoying less green space, living in accommodation more prone to flooding, and unable to access healthy food.

The key role of public health

- Our work to tackle the climate emergency must be underpinned – as all our work is in public health – by principles of equity and social justice.
- We must build on our own, and our colleagues, knowledge and skills to ensure we are equipped to deliver impactful action on climate change.
- We have a key role in advocating for sustainable climate action, working with our partners to speak clearly that climate change poses the most severe threat to human health.
- We must identify and realise the co-benefits of action on climate change e.g. supporting healthy transport, better food systems etc. ensuring a clear and consistent narrative to the public, health and care professionals, policymakers and stakeholders.

Faculty of Public Health's work on climate and health

- The FPH has already taken action over recent years - by declaring a climate emergency, divesting from fossil fuels, amending its curriculum and contributing internationally to the health voice on climate action.
- Ongoing advocacy around the climate and ecological crises is at the core of the FPH's mission not only because of the dire consequences of climate change on population health, particularly for the most vulnerable at national and global level, but also because adaptation and mitigation strategies often have health co-benefits- action on climate change can have health benefits.
- The Sustainable Development Special Interest Group and Climate and Health Committee have played an important role by
 - Developing the FPH's Climate and Health Strategy
 - Achieving observer status at COP26 and COP27
 - Responding to the UK Government's draft Clean Air Strategy in 2018
 - Developing a series of resources on sustainable development to support the public health workforce
 - Organising this conference.

Faculty of Public's Health work on climate and health

2016

- FPH a founding member of the UK Health Alliance on Climate Change

2018

- FPH fully divested from oil, gas and coal companies

2019

- FPH declare a climate emergency

2020

- FPH Climate and Health Committee established

2021

- Climate, health, and sustainability content revised in FPH Curriculum

2021

- FPH Climate and Health Strategy published

2021

- FPH invited to COP26 with Observer status, lead submission of joint health statement to the UNFCCC secretariat

Our asks of you...

- We strongly encourage you to use those resources and contribute to the call for case studies. Sharing case studies can avoid duplication of efforts and share good practice across the UK.
- We also strongly encourage you to contribute to the implementation of the Climate and Health strategy. For instance, it is important to respond to surveys and take part in events or consultations, so that all member's voices are heard.
- All information including who to contact if you're interested in learning more about the FPH action on climate & health is available on the FPH website

Thank you

- To our Climate and Health Committee and Sustainable Development SIG for leading Faculty work on climate change – thank you for the outstanding work you do.
- To the organisers of today's event – Cat Pinho-Gomes, Sue Atkinson, Oliver Williams and others for delivering such an excellent, diverse programme.
- To all delegates for your commitment to delivering action on climate change.

- 50 Years -



**FACULTY OF
PUBLIC HEALTH**

1972 - 2022

www.fph.org.uk