



CLIMATE & HEALTH SCORECARD INITIATIVE

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About

This initiative was set up in response to the climate and ecological emergency - the most significant health threat of our time. Societal actions in the next decade will determine the extent to which we can minimise harm to physical and mental health. Every fraction of a degree of heating matters. Every action taken to reduce emissions matters. There is so much that health organisations can do to help tackle this crisis. This initiative focuses on supporting high-impact change within the health community.

Goal

Support health organisations in moving towards a just, healthy and sustainable world at the rate and speed required to ensure a liveable planet for all.

Strategy

- UK health organisations are surveyed to establish what are doing about climate change and environmental degradation. The questionnaire functions as a framework which breaks down climate action into manageable steps to aid health organisations with their climate work.
- Publishing results annually monitors progress and allows health professionals to see what their membership organisations have and have not done. This ensures transparency and accountability, and drives action by harnessing the competitive spirit of organisations!
- Cross-organisational learning is facilitated by sharing examples of good practice.

Methodology

1. CONSTRUCTING THE QUESTIONNAIRE

- A working group developed a framework of climate actions that were considered ambitious yet achievable for health organisations. A range of experts in the field of climate, nature, health, education, finance and campaigning were involved to maximise content validity.
- Four core domains were identified.
- Questions were written to cover the highest impact areas.
- Weighting was determined according to the estimated impact of each question on mitigating the climate and ecological emergency.

2. ORGANISATIONS ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE

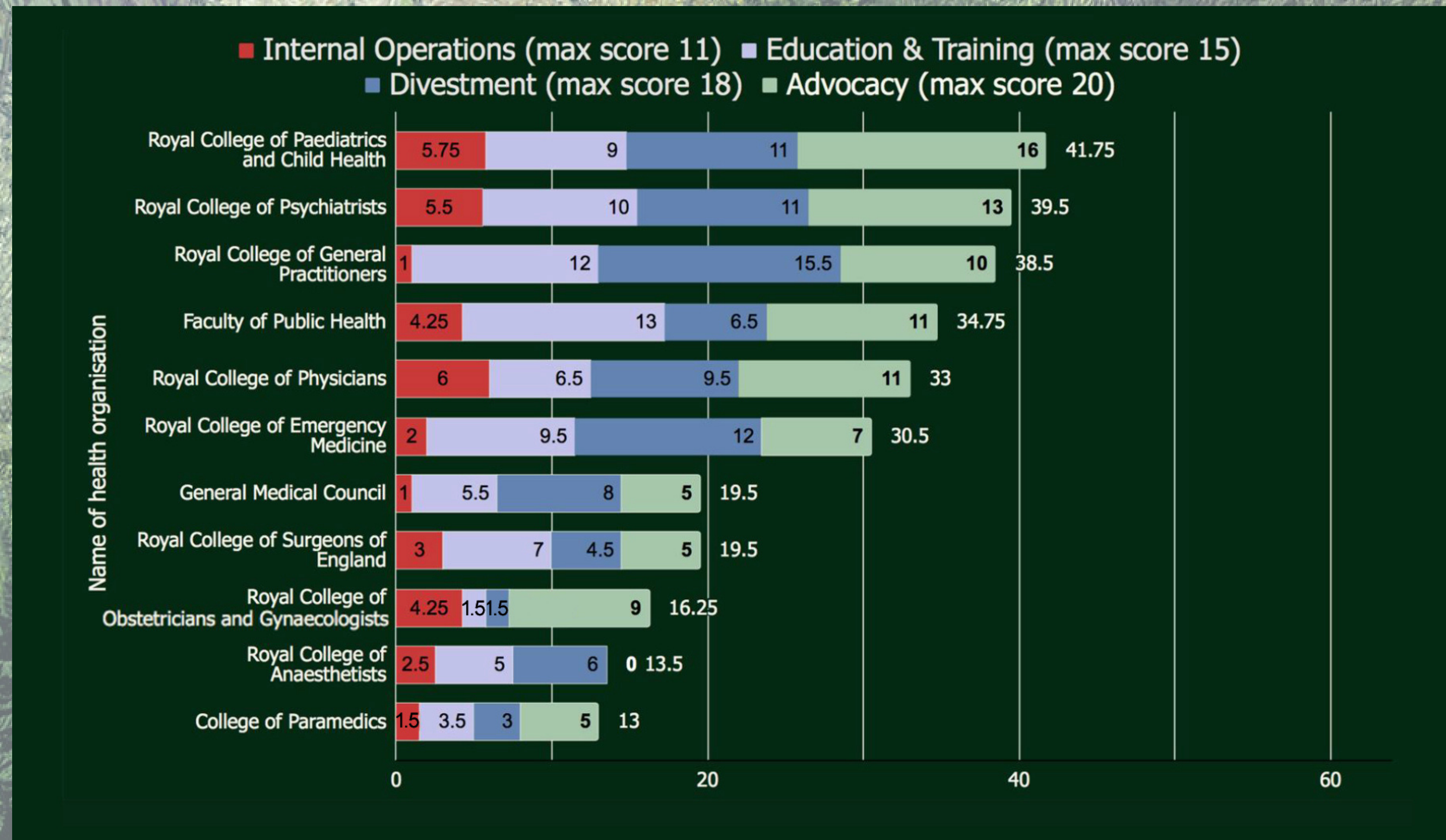
Inclusion criteria: UK-based health professional bodies (medical, nursing, allied health, pharmacy and psychology); unions; journals; and regulators.

3. QUESTIONNAIRES ARE REVIEWED AND SCORED

Health organisations complete the questionnaires. The questionnaire is self-reported and includes suggestions of evidence which helps verify the answers. The questionnaire is then marked by the scorecard team. During the marking process, organisations may be contacted to seek clarification on some answers. The questionnaire is then reviewed by a second scorecard team member who is blind to the name of the organisation to reduce potential bias. The scores are then compared and any discrepancies are discussed by the scorecard team. Finalised scores are shared with the organisation.

4. SCORECARDS ARE PUBLISHED

Results are presented as a total score and subdomain scores with a traffic light rating system depending on the percentage of points obtained.



INTERNAL OPERATIONS											
	RCP	RCPCH	RCPsych	FPN	RCSG	RCS Eng	RCA	RCEM	CoP	RCPD	GMC
Decarbonisation plan	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Renewable electricity supply in all venues	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Sustainable procurement and waste policies	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Sustainable transport policies	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Sustainable food policies	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Overall score (max 11)	6	5.75	5.5	4.25	4.25	3	2.5	2	1.5	1	1
● ≤25% ● 24-74% ● ≥75% of total points available											

DIVESTMENT											
	RCPD	RCEM	RCPCH	RCPsych	RCP	GMC	FPN	RCA	RCS Eng	CoP	RCSG
Divestment of endowment funds	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Divestment of pension funds	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Decarbonisation plan for all investments	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Financial transparency	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Declaration of a climate & ecological emergency	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Planetary health leadership & decision-making	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Overall score (max 15)	15.5	12	11	11	9.5	8	6.5	6	4.5	3	1.5
● ≤25% ● 24-74% ● ≥75% of total points available											

ADVOCACY											
	RCPCH	RCPsych	RCP	FPN	RCPD	RCSG	RCEM	GMC	RCS Eng	CoP	RCA
Membership of UNFCCC	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Influencing legislation affecting planetary health	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Planetary health research	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Engagement with policymakers on climate issues	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Equality, diversity & inclusion	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Overall score (max 20)	16	13	11	11	10	9	7	5	5	5	0
● ≤25% ● 24-74% ● ≥75% of total points available											

EDUCATION & TRAINING											
	FPN	RCPD	RCPsych	RCEM	RCPCH	RCSG	RCP	GMC	RCS Eng	CoP	RCA
Planetary health embedded in curriculum	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Conferences & webinars on climate change	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Sustainability fellow/ 'Green Scholars' programme	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Sustainability committee	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Promotion of low carbon health strategies	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Policies to reduce overprescribing	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Overall score (max 15)	13	12	10	9.5	9	7	6.5	5.5	5	3.5	1.5
● ≤25% ● 24-74% ● ≥75% of total points available											

I think that the scorecard is going to be used as a template for change. It breaks up the multitude of actions into manageable portions.

”

This report is extremely useful for our strategic motives moving forward and I'm sure will help influence what steps we make next.

”

We plan to use this as a baseline for future work. There is much to do!

”

After reading your piece of work for the 3rd time, this is beyond amazing, and your vision is perfect.

”

Domains



INTERNAL OPERATIONS

This domain focuses on the work health organisations are doing to minimise their carbon footprints and waste production. Not only do these actions reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but it demonstrates positive leadership and indicates to members and the public that climate change is an important health issue on which everyone should act. 'Getting one's house in order' is a crucial step.



EDUCATION & TRAINING

Education holds a critical role in building a climate-resilient health sector. Climate-informed health professionals can engage in public health promotion and prevention as well as integrating sustainable practice into their workplaces. This domain reviews actions taken by organisations to prepare their members for clinical practice in a climate-changing world, for example by including planetary health on their exam curriculum.



FINANCE

This domain focuses on organisations divesting their financial assets from investments in fossil fuels as well as banking with green banks and using green insurers. When health organisations move their funds, it makes a social and political statement which stigmatises fossil fuels and contributes to uncertainties around the long-term viability of this harmful industry. This is a critical action for breaking society's dependence on fossil fuels.



ADVOCACY

Health organisations have a responsibility to advocate for population health. This means advocating for an end to fossil fuel exploration and for bold climate policy. Health organisations should challenge global and intergenerational inequity as well as the colonial capitalist structure that underpins the climate crisis. This involves using the health voice to lobby policymakers to positively influence legislation.

Results

28 UK health organisations were asked to participate, with a 39% response rate. Total scores ranged from 13 to 41.75 out of 64 points.

The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health achieved the highest score (41.75) followed by the Royal College of Psychiatrists (39.5) and the Royal College of General Practitioners (38.5).

Organisations showed varying levels of action. Some demonstrated significant progress whereas others chose not to participate or withdrew after scoring poorly.

For more details, check out climatehealthscorecard.com

Conclusions

Considerable progress is being made, yet there is still much work to be done to secure a liveable future for all. We must use our collective influence as health professionals to change the climate trajectory.

Next steps

The next round of the scorecard (Jan - Dec 2022) is now underway. Keep an eye out for results which will be published on climatehealthscorecard.com.

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