

Building capacity around climate, health & sustainability in the research community



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NIHR: An Introduction



- NIHR is funded by the Department of Health and Social Care to improve the health and wealth of the nation through research
- Largest funder of health and care research in the UK

Our approach at NIHR

Reducing global health inequalities



Operational footprint

Sustainable procurement
Protect Biodiversity
Reduce carbon



Knowledge mobilisation

Maximise research Impact
Responsible publishing



Training & Capacity

Increase researcher capacity
Develop resources & Guidance



Funding research

Health & care systems
Research systems
Human health

Global, cross sector, networks, and communities

Our commitments to climate, health and sustainability 2024-2026




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Climate change is affecting our planet and will continue to have huge implications for human health. The World Health Organisation considers the climate crisis the 'single biggest health threat facing humanity' ([WHO, 2021](#)). Health and social care research has a key role in helping make healthcare services more sustainable and resilient to climate change, protecting human health from its impacts, and promoting human health through new innovations to support the move to net zero.

These commitments focus on environmental sustainability, climate change and health. Our NIHR portfolio reflects this, researching a wide range of issues, from the impacts of climate change on health and the decarbonisation of healthcare systems to fostering resilient populations and health and care systems. This commitment includes domestic and global

Building Capacity through...

- Targeting funding in three areas of focus
- Setting aside capacity development funds within a major funding opportunity
- Research Support Services (RSS) new sustainability specialism
- Convening joint research sharing conferences and events
- Providing guidance on environmentally sustainable health research
- Designing a programme of support specifically for sustainability through the NIHR Academy



HUMAN HEALTH

Protect people's health against the impact of climate change and realise health benefits of net zero transition



HEALTH AND CARE SYSTEMS

Help health & care systems decarbonise, become more sustainable and adapt to climate change



RESEARCH SYSTEMS

Help make research systems more environmentally sustainable

Decarbonising the health and social care system funding opportunity



£25m funding call

The £25m funding call to decarbonise the health and social care system will open in November 2024 to coincide with COP29. The call will invite funding applications to a total of £5m and similar calls will be made annually in the subsequent four years. This new annual call demonstrates NIHRs commitment to building research knowledge in this area for the longer term.

- Annual call for the next 5 years with up to £5m available per year
- Seeks to address urgent knowledge gaps across health and social care
- Package of support available preceding call open– collaborative webinars and workshops
- Opportunities to engage with multiple sectors and disciplines

Research Support Services: RSS Hub Lancaster

- Offers expert advice on integrating sustainable practices into research projects
- Supports development of environmental sustainability-focused health and social care research
- nihr-rss@lancaster.ac.uk





UK Research
and Innovation

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Medical
Research
Council



NIHR | National Institute for
Health and Care Research

Joint Conference on Research Outputs - MRC, Greener NHS and NIHR (hybrid) Virtual registration only

Overview

The Medical Research Council, Greener NHS at NHS England and National Institute for Health and Care Research, have joined together to showcase a number of research projects that seek to find solutions for a more sustainable health research and healthcare sector.

Closed 25 Apr 2024

Opened 22 Mar 2024

[Contact](#)

NIHR Carbon Reduction Guidelines

- [Carbon Reduction Guidelines](#) available online
 - Efficient study design
 - Principles for study set up and conduct
 - Sensible clinical trial monitoring
- Currently updating guidance, inviting feedback from researchers about the current advice and how it might be more helpful

Life changing research funded by the public

NIHR Academy

The NIHR Academy provides training and support to health and care researchers at all stages of their careers.



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