



Chartered
Institute of
Environmental
Health



Policy briefing note – climate change

The Chartered Institute of Environmental Health believes that we must act now to reduce the impact of climate change on health and wellbeing.

Climatic changes are already happening, human activity is the primary cause of these. Future changes present the most significant threat to individual health and wellbeing as well as to society.

Environmental health practitioners (EHPs) have the understanding, skills and the opportunities to make a significant contribution to prevent climate change from escalating and in adapting to the inevitable consequences.

The focus on health and the threats posed must be embedded in political debate, in strategies to change how we live and in how we plan for the future.

We, as human beings, are entirely dependent on and affected by the environment in which we live and by the basic essentials of life – adequate shelter, clean water, food and air.

The CIEH is committed to playing its part in addressing climate change and in supporting our members and partners in whatever ways are appropriate. We have taken steps to reduce the carbon footprint of our own organisation. We have a dedicated page on our website and have published two guidance documents marrying climate change and public health, showing the vital role EHPs can play.

The CIEH also supports the Friends of the Earth Get serious about CO2 campaign, which urges councils to play their part in tackling climate change.

Moving forward, the CIEH will:

- Ensure that climate change is a central consideration within all of our policy work
- Continue to advocate for adaptation measures to protect people and critical infrastructure from the effects of the climate change that is already happening
- Continue to advocate for mitigation measures to head off future catastrophic climate change
- Work with public, private and voluntary/ community and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to keep up the pressure for urgent action
- Support policymakers and decision makers through the provision of relevant advice and expertise
- Contribute research that adds to the evidence base
- Develop support for our members in their efforts to engage with this agenda
- Continue to ensure that the CIEH minimises its own environmental impacts
- Continue to develop our international work, and in particular to assist the developing world.