

British Infection Association’s report card on the UKHACC Commitments

In May 2025, the British Infection Association (BIA) joined the [UK Health Alliance on Climate Change](#) (UKHACC), a coalition of leading UK health organisations committed to tackling climate change as a public health issue. UKHACC’s membership collectively represents over one million healthcare professionals.

Climate change is increasingly recognised as a driver of infectious disease risk. The BIA is committed to minimising the environmental impacts of its operations, as outlined in the [2025–2030 Sustainability Strategy](#).

The UKHACC commitments are a set of guiding principles developed to help health organisations take meaningful steps to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

The report card published today provides a summary of the BIA’s work against each of the UKHACC commitments, along with priorities for the coming years to ensure that the organisation is continually reducing its impact on the planet while progressing its core aims of supporting high-quality infection care.

UKHACC Commitment	The BIA progress to date	The BIA’s next steps
1. Declare that the climate emergency is a health emergency	The BIA recognises the global climate emergency and its impact on health, as outlined in the 2025–2030 Sustainability Strategy. This has been published on the BIA website and promoted among members.	The BIA will continue to advocate for the climate emergency to be recognised as a health issue, and for action to be taken to tackle climate change because of its health impacts.
2. Publish a plan for your organisation to get to net zero, with actions and targets measured, monitored, and reported annually	The BIA has committed to achieving net zero for all direct and indirect emissions by 2040, with an interim target of reducing emissions by 50% by 2030 compared to a 2023/24 baseline. This commitment is set out in the BIA Sustainability Strategy.	To enable accurate measurement and tracking of progress, following initial work to reduce our carbon footprint, the BIA will commission carbon footprinting exercise to identify key emission hotspots. Progress against targets will be reported regularly to Council and members.
3. Campaign on mitigating and adapting to the planetary crisis	The BIA has joined the UK Health Alliance on Climate Change (UKHACC), thereby adding its voice to a coalition of health organisations advocating for action	The BIA will continue to campaign on climate mitigation and adaptation through its UKHACC membership, ensuring that infectious disease perspectives (for

	on climate change and health. BIA representatives are actively involved in the Royal College of Physicians sustainability work including the green physician toolkit.	example, the impact of climate change on outbreaks) are represented in national policy debates.
4. Embed sustainability in governance, structure and culture	The BIA has taken concrete actions to embed sustainability into governance and culture, including appointing a Sustainability Secretary to Council and ratifying an organisational sustainability strategy, which set out broad policy directions across its' operations.	The BIA will further embed sustainability into decision making by requesting council papers and proposals consider environmental and climate implications alongside financial and other impacts.
5. Develop a plan for sustainability in your specialist area	The BIA recognise the carbon impacts associated with infection care, both in specialist and non-specialist settings, and the potential to leverage expertise of members to provide guidance in this area. The BIA works in collaboration with other infection bodies to identify and coordinate responses to opportunities for reducing the environmental impact of infection care.	The BIA will identify opportunities to produce guidance to clinicians on sustainable infection care. This may include high level actions to reduce the environmental impact of infection management and technical guidance where appropriate.
6. Educate members on the links between climate and health	The BIA delivered a sustainability workshop, available here . Additionally, the BIA delivered teaching on climate change and health at the Autumn trainee day in 2024 and co-hosted a sustainability workshop at the Federation of Infection Societies (FIS) conference in 2024 & 2025. In 2025 the BIA have contributed to the addition of sustainability metrics in specialist infection training curricula.	The BIA will continue to educate members by embedding sustainability themes into conferences, workshops, and training opportunities.
7. Disinvest in fossil fuels and sign the fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty	The BIA has acknowledged and started the process of divestment from fossil fuels. The BIA does not hold investments in arms, and minimal investments in fossil fuels.	Over the next 12 months, the BIA will review its investment strategy and assess the feasibility and impacts of divestment from fossil fuels, including consideration of signing the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.

8. Acknowledge the link between climate change and inequalities	The BIA recognises that climate change disproportionately affects disadvantaged communities, with implications for infectious disease risk and access to care.	The BIA will incorporate equity considerations into its sustainability initiatives and advocacy work, ensuring that vulnerable populations are prioritised in climate and health responses.
9. Develop and implement a travel policy for members and staff	The BIA has developed a Travel Policy which encourages low-carbon travel (e.g. rail for UK/European trips) and discourages use of domestic flights; where flights are unavoidable (e.g. international scholarships/speakers), the BIA has committed to offsetting emissions on an annual basis	The BIA will review implementation of the Travel Policy annually, updating it in line with best practice and member feedback to further reduce travel-related emissions.
10. Prioritise plant based and sustainably sourced food	BIA has introduced vegetarian catering options at events and piloted a fully plant-based catering for a single day at multi-day meetings.	Within the next 12 months, the BIA will develop a formal plant-based food policy, aligning with the <i>EAT-Lancet 2.0</i> framework and toolkit, and ensuring sustainable catering becomes standard practice at all BIA events.
11. Move to greener banking choices	The BIA hosen their banking arrangements based on commercial terms and risk ratings.	The BIA will undertake a review of available green banking providers that meet its financial and risk requirements and will present recommendations to Council for consideration.