July 2026

**SOUTHAMPTON CLIMATE COMMISSION**

**HEALTH AND CLIMATE**

Southampton Climate Commission calls on our *politicians and policy makers to:*

- *Recognise the multiple health benefits of meeting our legally binding emissions targets to address the climate and nature crises.*
- *Make sure that "health in all policies" includes checking for impacts on the climate, nature and pollution that in turn impact on health, both physical and mental.*
- *Make sure that plans and policies demonstrate how they meet climate, nature and pollution targets, underpinned by needs assessments and evidence.*
- *Encourage and support much more action on health and climate together, with proactive support for community driven initiatives.*

## Health and climate change policy

We welcome the priority that the Director of Public Health is giving to Climate and Health in 2026.

National Emergency Briefings break down the crisis into different topics and the People's Emergency Briefing provides an overview including Professor Hugh Montgomery's Briefing on Health. Some more recent research is here from the Lancet.

We call on Southampton City Council and partners to:

- **Host People's Emergency Briefings and promote other organisation's screenings**. This is important for staff including those working in public service (health system and local authority), health champions, partner organisations as well as the public.
- Recognise the important role of community voice and organisations like SoCAN, which bring together lots of grassroots climate activity in the city, and can foster hope and practical actions in the face of potential overwhelm.

- **Agree to the suggested priority areas below**, which is based on the UK Health Alliance on climate change summary paper.

| Priority Areas | Priority actions in Southampton |
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| Accelerate the **clean-energy** transition to protect health and the economy | • A clear road map and delivery plan developed by the Renaissance Board and Mayor for clean energy transition.<br>• Incorporate climate action into Pride in Place projects.<br>• Support for local initiatives such as the Environment Centre's My Home Made Better and Southampton Healthy Homes.<br>• Support community energy solutions and build up skills and capacity. |
| Transform **food systems** and diets to improve health, cut emissions and improve food security | • Embed transformation of food systems, diets, reduced emissions and improved security in all Southampton partnership working and policies.<br>• Support for the Southampton Food Partnership to build traction and impact around healthy, environmentally friendly food and reduced food waste.<br>• Procurement approaches which actively support local businesses that align with lower carbon food.<br>• Better understanding of the link with childhood obesity, emissions and food security.<br>• Southampton as a city to join other cities worldwide in endorsing the plant based treaty |
| Significantly increase protected adaptation funding to protect health and ensure health service resilience | • Adaptation to climate and nature impacts embedded in all Southampton partnership working and policies.<br>• Increase understanding of climate and nature issues for staff and volunteers in health and those involved in prevention of poor health.<br>• Build on co produced initiatives such as Beat the Heat, with the aim of helping people to cope better in extreme weather<br>• Deliver greening in projects, including a focus on reducing temperatures in hot weather, drought and flood adaption.<br>• Create a cool spaces scheme for hot weather. |

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| | • Ensure public sector landlords/services address heat vulnerabilities e.g. in adult social care, GP surgeries and schools.<br><br>• Better links with social care, primary care and community care system to make changes. |

**About Southampton Climate Commission**

Informed by the work of the UK Committee on Climate Change, and other leading organisations in the sector, the Southampton Climate Commission seeks to be an **independent** voice in the city, providing authoritative information on steps towards a zero carbon, climate resilient future to inform policies and shape the actions of local stakeholders and decision makers. It will monitor progress towards meeting the city's carbon reduction and nature-based targets and recommend actions to keep the city on track and advise on the assessment of the climate-related risks and adaptation opportunities in the city.

**Our Vision**

Working with partners, stakeholders and the community, the Southampton Climate Commission provides an inclusive, collective approach, in ensuring a just transition towards a zero carbon and climate resilient future for everyone in the city.

**Our Members**

The Commission is comprised of over 20 core members representing key stakeholders across the city, including the hospital, universities, businesses, and community representatives.