



Climate Change Commission: Working with other organisations

Task Force 2, Climate Change Commission November 2024

One of the aims of the ILAE Climate Change Commission, through its Task Force 2, is to engage with and learn from other organizations on climate change initiatives. These links are focussing on evaluating developments in the area via ongoing communications with these organisations. On this page, we provide links to various organisations promoting awareness about neurological health and climate change. We also document webinars on the effects of climate change on various neurological conditions and how to develop sustainable research practices so that new developments in neurological health care do not exacerbate climate change.

The impact of climate change on neurological conditions is likely to be multifactorial, complex, and often indirect, which makes predictions on how climate change will affect neurological health difficult. Identifying possible climate-driven risks will help us to develop adaptation methods which protect persons with neurological disorders from the effects of climate change. Liaising with other organisations will not only strengthen the ILAE's commitment in this area but will also identify examples of good practice that we could emulate and share our achievements. These tailored recommendations and guidelines for preclinical and clinical epilepsy research can then be disseminated through Task Force 3 of the Commission. This task force in turn could use this information to identify research opportunities and the identification of projects which could result in better adaptations, especially for chronic neurological conditions such as epilepsy.

This list is a living document. ILAE members are invited to contact the ILAE Climate Change Commission if they become aware of other organisations, webinars, online resources and sustainable initiatives, which address the global issue of climate change and sustainability.



Collaborating organisations promoting awareness of the impact of climate change on neurological health

- World Health Organisation: <https://www.who.int/news/item/02-11-2023-climate-change-and-noncommunicable-diseases-connections> and iGAP <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240076624>
- World Federation of Neurology <https://wfneurology.org/> Environmental Neurology Specialty Group <https://wfneurology.org/about-us/global-networks/wfn-specialty-groups?slideId=23761>
- European Academy of Neurology: Task Force on Sustainability, Climate Change Effects and Transformation Design, chaired by Prof Ulf Kallweit <https://www.ean.org/home/about-us/sustainability>.
- Global Climate and Health Alliance (a group of global health care professionals working to shape and influence policy on climate change, through direct advocacy with decision makers and thus driving the transformational change needed to address the climate emergency) <https://climateandhealthalliance.org/>
- American Academy of Neurology <https://www.aan.com/> have established a Global Health Section (chair Dr Ali Saad)
- NICHe (an informal network of neurologists Interested in Climate and Health) www.nichebrainhealth.com (established by Bret Andrews and Larry Junck)
- The Harvard Global Health Institute, Centre for Climate, Health and the Global Environment Scientific Task Force in its Climate MD program <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/c-change/our-work/programs/>
- ESMO, Swiss-registered not-for-profit organisation focussed on medical oncology, Climate Change Task Force <https://www.esmo.org/about-esmo>
- The American Psychological Association has issued calls for a climate change council <https://www.apa.org/about/governance/council/climate-change-nominations>
- ANZAN (the Australian and New Zealand Association of Neurologists) <https://www.anzan.org.au/> (chair Dr Anna Ranta)



Webinars and online videos

Several webinars and online videos are also being organised and uploaded by various organisations. Several of them are free and available for non-members to follow on various social media.

- Sustainable Research Training: A four-part video series developed by the ILAE Climate Change Commission and FutureNeuro <https://www.ilae.org/about-ilae/structure-and-working-groups/commissions-and-sections/climate-change-commission/resources>
- Climate Change and Epilepsy: A joint ILAE/WFN/EAN webinar https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PsTWWWS_chY which was supported by all three Presidents: Prof Helen Cross, Prof Wolfgang Grisold and Prof Paul Boo (May 2023)
- Climate Change and Epilepsy: The impact on incidence of epilepsy on shifting patterns. ILAE Climate Change Commission webinar <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QOmQ2Xnk8Yc>. (9 May 2024)
- Feeling the Heat and the Hope: Our Health in the Face of Climate Change. CDC Foundation. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hg8_uA7XAsg (June 2022)
- Climate change and sustainability. European Paediatric Neurology Society webinar <https://www.epns.info/epns-journal-club/> This also included Prof Sanjay Sisodiya, Chair ILAE Climate Change Commission, as guest speaker (January 2024)
- How does climate change affect stroke risk. World Stroke Academy <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mx6W1u3VWzo> (June 2024)

How to begin sustainable research practices

Initiatives are also taking place in ancillary sectors on how to begin sustainable research practices.

- MyGreenLab <https://www.mygreenlab.org/> provides key information and also accreditation on how research labs can transition to more sustainable practices. In fact, Astra Zeneca, is working with MyGreenLab in this regard <https://www.astrazeneca.com/what-science-can-do/topics/sustainability/how-rd-is-helping-drive-a-greener-future.html>.
- The Carbon Trust <https://www.carbontrust.com/what-we-do> promises to provide solutions to the climate crisis.
- University College London have set up a climate action unit which is providing great practical examples of best sustainable practice <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/climate-action-unit/>.
- The LEAF programme has been adopted by many leading research organisations, including the UKRI government-funded research funders <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/sustainable/take-action/staff-action/leaf-laboratory-efficiency-assessment-framework>.
- The Centre for Sustainable Healthcare, UK <https://sustainablehealthcare.org.uk/who-we-are/staff> has engaged healthcare professionals, patients and the wider community to understand the connections between health and environment and reduce healthcare's resource footprint, providing practical advise on how this can be done.