



Global Health Talk 2021

Red flag: Climate change and health

Next steps for Germany

November 24

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★ Health Care Without Harm Regional Offices ● Strategic Partners
Highlighted countries indicate the location of GGHH members

Red flag 1

IPCC latest report. Aug 9, 2021

The current state of the climate

A.1 It is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere, ocean and land. Widespread and rapid changes in the atmosphere, ocean, cryosphere and biosphere have occurred.

A.2 The scale of recent changes across the climate system as a whole and the present state of many aspects of the climate system are unprecedented over many centuries to many thousands of years.

A.3 Human-induced climate change is already affecting many weather and climate extremes **in every region across the globe**. Evidence of observed changes in extremes such as heatwaves, heavy precipitation, droughts, and tropical cyclones, and, in particular, their attribution to human influence, has strengthened since the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5)...

Red flag 2

IPCC latest report. Aug 9, 2021

B.1 Global surface temperature will continue to increase until at least the mid-century under all emissions scenarios considered. Global warming of 1.5°C and 2°C will be exceeded during the 21st century unless deep reductions in carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gas emissions occur in the coming decades.

...

B.5 Many changes due to past and future greenhouse gas emissions are irreversible for centuries to millennia, especially changes in the ocean, ice sheets and global sea level.

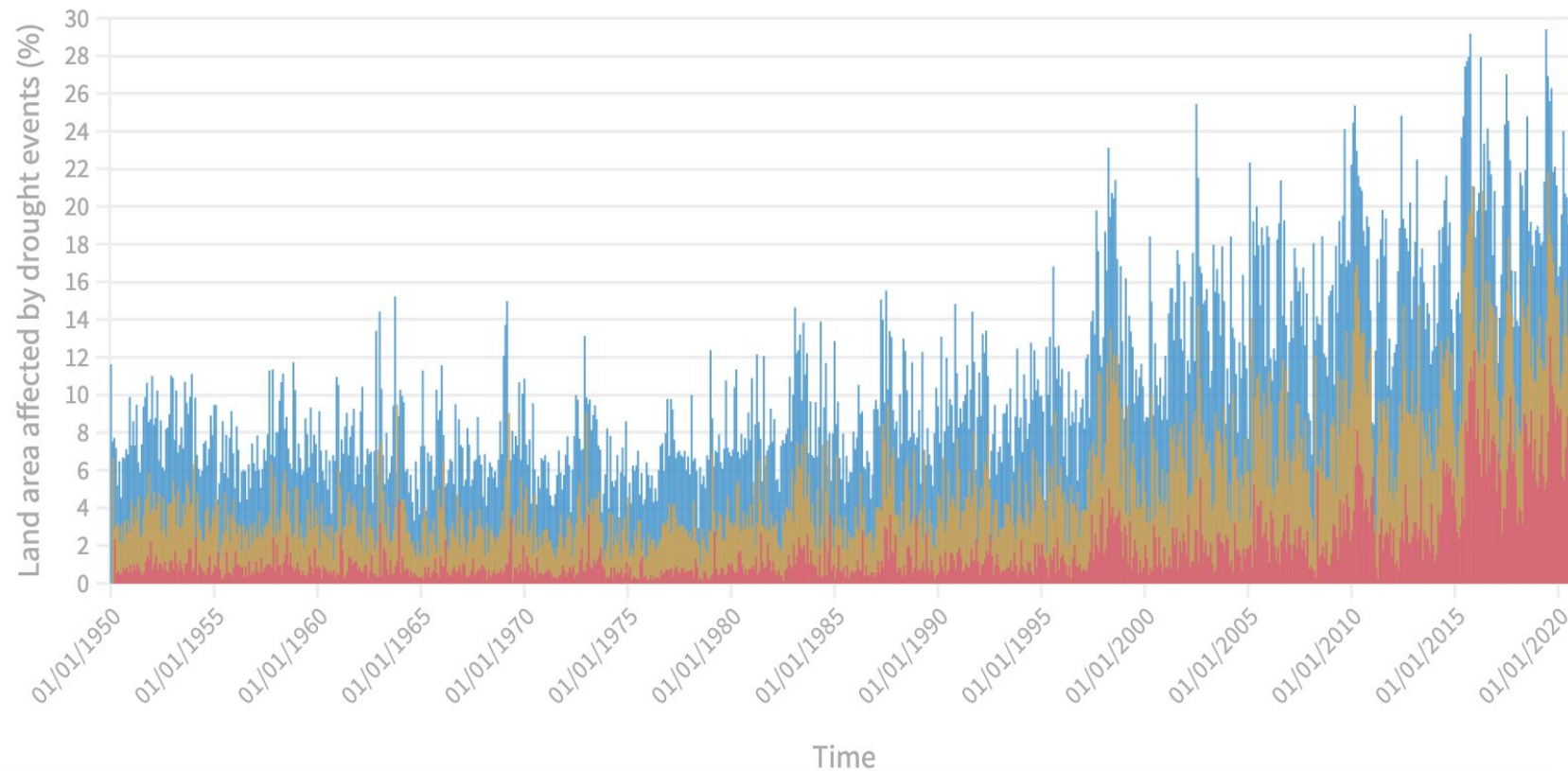
Red flag 3

The Lancet Countdown data platform: 2021 report

Land Affected by Droughts

Percentage of land area affected by drought events per month

■ Severe drought ■ Extreme drought ■ Exceptional drought



Red flag + opportunity

The responsibility of the health sector

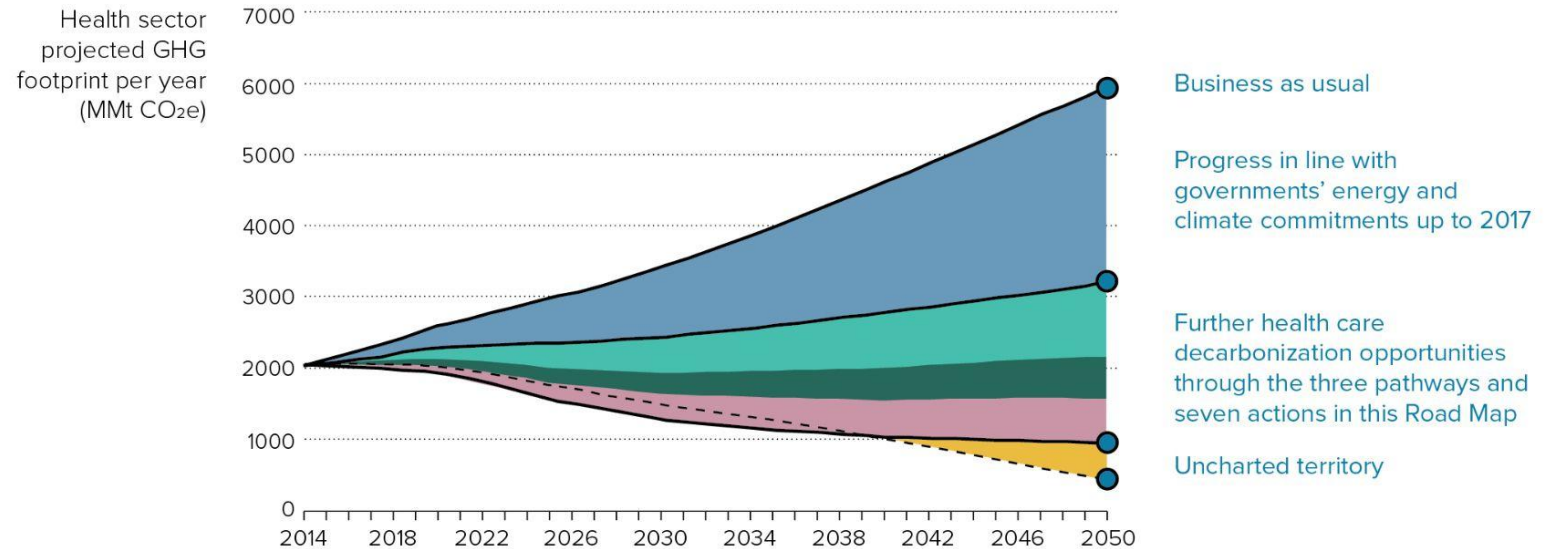


Figure 17. Top wedge (blue) is the projected impact of NDC commitments current in 2017 on the global health sector footprint between 2014 and 2050. Achieving NDCs will give a cumulative 45.4 Gt CO_{2e} reduction in emissions compared to the business-as-usual scenario. The remaining emissions across this period are predicted to reach 97.9 Gt, highlighting the need for more ambitious action on emissions. The middle wedge (three colors) is the projected reduction in health sector emissions for the three decarbonization pathways explored in this study between 2014 and 2050. These pathways assume a starting point where global NDC commitments up to 2017 are met. The bottom wedge is the emissions gap estimated from the Road Map modelling.

- Progress in line with NDC commitments up to 2017
- Pathway 1: facilities and operations
- Pathways 2: supply chain
- Pathways 3: wider economy and society

<https://healthclimateaction.org/roadmap>

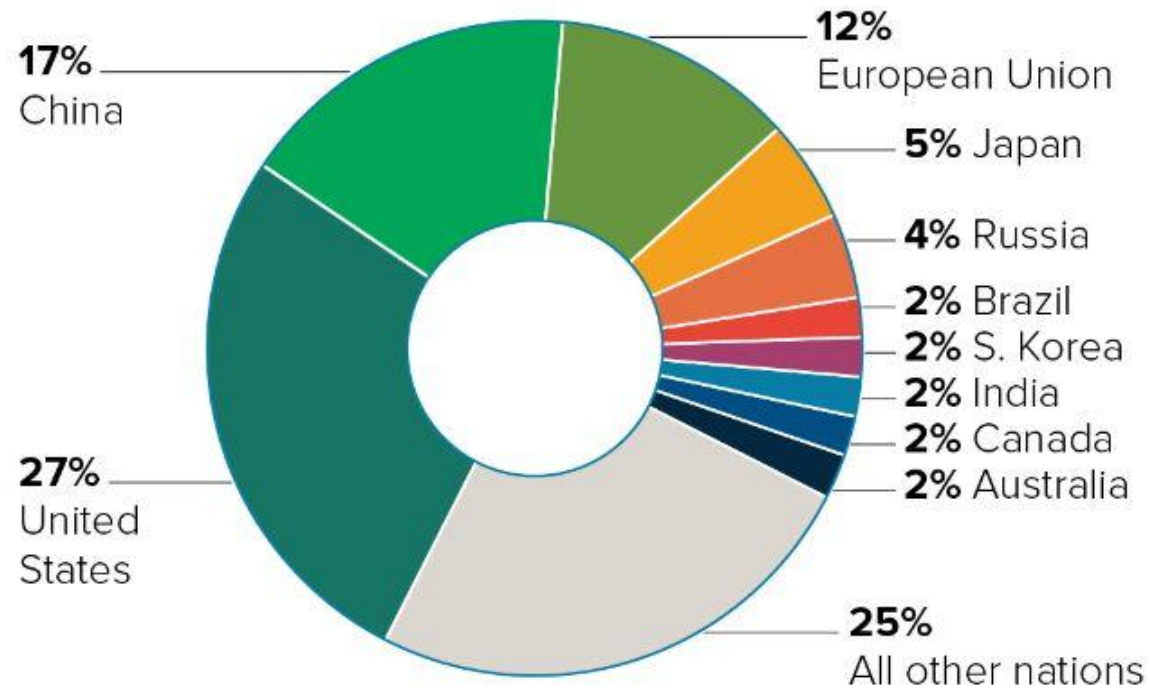


Figure 5. Top ten emitters plus all other nations and percentage of global health care footprint.

Source: Green Paper One.

<https://healthcareclimateaction.org/roadmap>



Germany

HEALTH SECTOR EMISSIONS FACT SHEET

Global Road Map for Health Care Decarbonization

Key facts (2014)

Health care spending as % of GDP:	11.0%	Health care emissions as % of national total:	5.2%
Health care gross emissions (MMtCO ₂ e) ¹ :	57.5	Health care per capita emissions (tCO ₂ e):	0.71
Rank among 68 nations in study, gross emissions:	5	Rank among 68 nations in study, per capita emissions:	15
Proportion of emissions from domestic economy:	61.8%		

Trajectories: Common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities

The Road Map establishes trajectories that require a steep or steady decline in emissions from the wealthiest and biggest polluting health care sectors, while allowing room for an increase in emissions that peak between now and the end of the present decade in low- and middle-income countries.

Despite the differences, achieving any one of these trajectories will require immediate action by all health systems to change course toward zero emissions.

Germany is assigned to the steep decline trajectory, which requires immediate, aggressive action to implement a rapid and deep decrease in emissions.

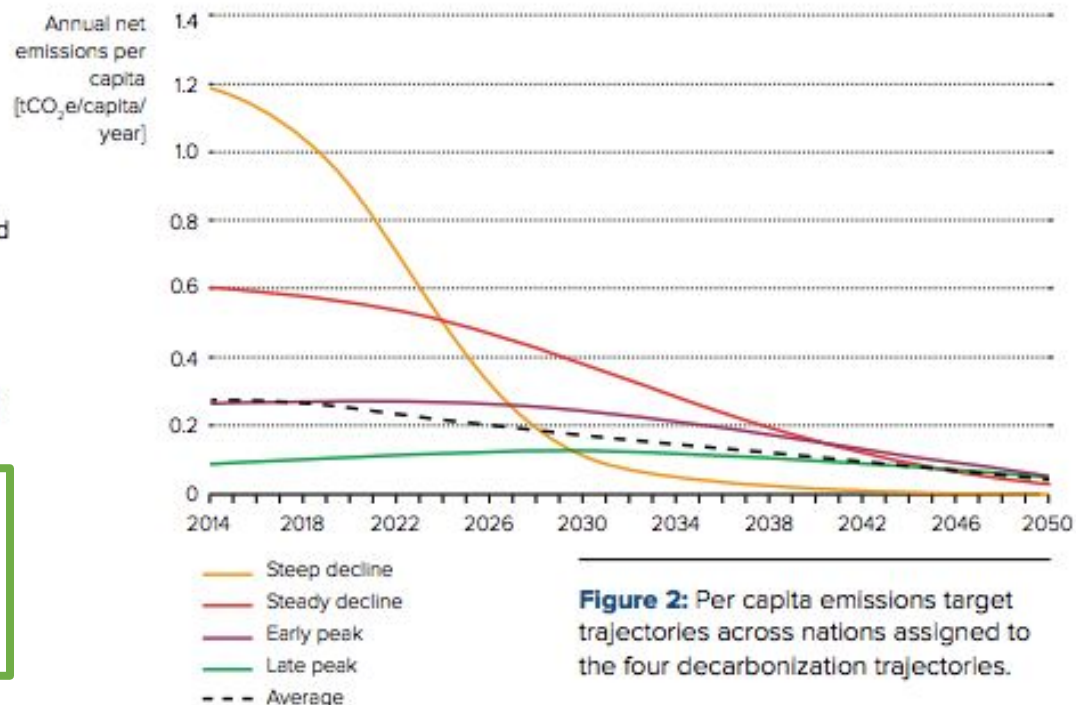


Figure 2: Per capita emissions target trajectories across nations assigned to the four decarbonization trajectories.

Climate and health prescription - The climate crisis is a health crisis

46 million health professionals signed a letter demanding climate action:

- Call on all nations to update their national climate commitments under the Paris Agreement to commit to their fair share of limiting warming to 1.5°C; and to build health into those plans;
- Call on all nations to deliver a rapid and just transition away from fossil fuels, starting with immediately cutting all related permits, subsidies and financing for fossil fuels, and to completely shift current financing into development of clean energy;
- **Call on high income countries to make larger cuts to greenhouse gas emissions, in line with a 1.5°C temperature goal;**

Climate and health prescription - The climate crisis is a health crisis

46 million health professionals signed a letter demanding climate action:

- Call on high income countries to also provide the promised transfer of funds to low-income countries to help achieve the necessary mitigation and adaptation measures;
- **Call on governments to build climate resilient, low-carbon, sustainable health systems;** and
- Call on governments to also ensure that pandemic recovery investments support climate action and reduce social and health inequities.

<https://climateandhealthalliance.org/news/climateprescription-video-why-world-leaders-must-take-climate-action-to-protect-our-health/>

<https://healthyclimateletter.net/>

Climate and health opportunities

Race to Zero and COP26 Health program

Race to Zero campaign with Climate Champions

German organizations already in:

- Evangelische Elisabeth Klinik
- Evangelisches Krankenhaus Hubertus
- Fachklinik Gaißach
- Krankenhaus Havelhöhe
- Dr. Becker Company Group



<https://healthcareclimateaction.org/racetozero>

<https://unfccc.int/climate-action/race-to-zero-campaign>

noharm.org

COP26 Health Program

51 countries formally committed to develop climate resilient and low carbon, sustainable health systems:

- 14 signed net zero commitment (Belgium, Fiji, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Spain, UK)
- 46 sustainable and low carbon health care systems
- 50 climate resilient systems

<https://www.who.int/initiatives/cop26-health-programme/country-commitments>

www.greenhospitals.net

Next steps for Germany - Opportunities

- **Leadership**
 - Signed COP26 commitment on climate resilient and low carbon health care systems. Did not commit on net zero. 14 countries did in 2021. Only one in 2020: the NHS
 - historical responsibility.
 - Need to set a national baseline and develop a plan
 - Track your emissions, including the supply chain (we have a tool)
- **Join a movement and network**
- **Promote innovation!**

- <https://www.who.int/initiatives/cop26-health-programme/country-commitments>

¡GRACIAS!

Questions, comments,
disagreements?

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