Tackling the double public health crisis: COVID-19 and Climate Change
LANCET COUNTDOWN: TRACKING PROGRESS ON HEALTH AND CLIMATE CHANGE
CO₂ concentrations are rising

Atmospheric CO₂ at Mauna Loa Observatory

RECENT MONTHLY MEAN CO₂ AT MAUNA LOA

NOAA 2020
Temperatures are rising around the world

NOAA 2020
1.1 – Heat and Health: Vulnerability to Extremes of Heat; Exposure to Heatwaves; Heat-related Mortality; Change in Labour Capacity

1.2 – Health and Extreme Weather Events: Wildfires; Flood and Drought; Lethality of Weather-Related disasters

1.3 – Climate-Sensitive Infectious Diseases: Suitability for Transmission; Vulnerability

1.4 – Food Security and Undernutrition: Terrestrial Food; Marine Food

1.5 – Migration, Displacement and Sea Level Rise
Headline Finding:
2018 saw 220 million additional vulnerable people exposed to heatwaves – 11 million more than the previous record set in 2015, increasing risk of heat stress, heart disease, and kidney disease.
Headline Finding:
Vectorial capacity for the transmission of dengue was the 2nd highest on record in 2017, with 9 of the 10 most suitable years occurring since 2000.
The global average increase above the 1950s baseline was 7.2% for Aedes aegypti and 9.8% for A. albopictus.
1.4.1: Climate Suitability for Infectious Disease Transmission

Headline Finding:

The percentage of coastal area suitable for *Vibrio* infections has increased by 31% along the Baltic coastline since the 1980s.

The number of suitable days per year in the Baltic for *Vibrio* infections reached 107 in 2018, the highest since records began.
1. Current peer-reviewed publications on the SARS-CoV-2 virus and the COVID-19 disease do not show a robust and consistent response to temperature, humidity, wind, solar radiation, nor other proposed meteorological and environmental drivers.

4. COVID-19 exemplifies the importance to recognize human-environment interactions and disease prevention.
Climate change, health and COVID-19

Compounding effects:
• Extreme weather events
• Climate-sensitive infectious diseases
• Food security and undernutrition

Overlapping vulnerabilities
The Five Working Groups of the Lancet Countdown
2.1 – Adaptation Planning and Assessment: National Adaptation Plans and Assessments for Health; City-Level Climate Change Risk Assessments

2.2 – Climate Information Services for Health

2.3 – Adaptation Delivery and Implementation: Detection, Preparedness and Response to Health Emergencies; Air Conditioning – Benefits and Harms; Urban Greenspace

2.4 – Adaptation Spending for Health
Headline Finding:

109 countries have medium to high implementation of their national health emergency framework – helping them respond to disease outbreaks, extreme temperatures, droughts, floods and storms.
3.1 – Power Generation: Carbon Intensity of the Energy System; Coal Phase-Out; Zero-Carbon Emission Electricity

3.2 – Access and Use of Clean Energy

3.3 – Clean Air: Air Pollution in Cities; Premature Mortality from Ambient Air Pollution by Sector

3.4 – Sustainable and Healthy Transport

3.5 – Food, Agriculture, and Health

3.6 – Mitigation in the Healthcare Sector
Headline Finding:
Between 2016 and 2018 total primary energy supply from coal increased by 1.7%, reversing the previous downward trend, and threatening people’s health through worsening air pollution.
Headline Finding:
In 2018, renewable energy accounted for 45% of growth in electricity generation, with 27% of growth coming from wind and solar.
Headline Finding:

In 2016 there were 2.9 million premature deaths due to ambient PM$_{2.5}$ pollution, with global mortality remaining stagnant.

More than 440,000 premature deaths are estimated to be related to coal burning.
Headline Finding:

In Europe improvements in particulate air pollution from human activity were seen from 2015 to 2016.

Sustaining this progress into the future would lead to an annual saving of €5.2 billion from reductions in Years of Life Lost across the EU.
COVID-19 and a healthy recovery

**Will COVID-19 fiscal recovery packages accelerate or retard progress on climate change?**

Cameron Hepburn, Brian O’Callaghan, Nicholas Stern, Joseph Stiglitz, Dimitri Zenghelis


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**Green Deal Is The ‘Motor For The Recovery’ For Europe**

Susy Tiberian, Contributor O

The European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen stated last week that the European Green Deal “will be our motor for the recovery.” The Green Deal proposes to ensure a climate neutral Europe by 2050 with investments of over €1 trillion ($1.1 trillion) over 10 years in a variety of areas including renewable energy production, recycling, biodiversity, building renovation, agriculture, transportation, economic support for transition in areas dependent on fossil economy, and research & development.

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**Government to use $52.9m funding to unlock more gas for domestic market**

Scott Morrison is championing a ‘gas-led recovery’ from economic shock of pandemic as booming LNG industry leads to increasing emissions

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**South Korea Embraces EU-Style Green Deal For COVID-19 Recovery**

David Vetter, t3ica contributor O

South Korea’s Democratic party has won a landslide victory in elections that took place yesterday, achieving a strong mandate for a European-style Green New Deal, making it the nation first in East Asia to enact a pledge to reach net zero emissions by 2050.
The 2020 Report

Report published by The Lancet 2nd December 23:30 GMT

Global launch event 3rd December 14:00-16:00 GMT

All data available at a national and regional level at https://www.lancetcountdown.org/data-platform/
Thank you
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