



THE PLANET'S HEALTH IS EVERYBODY'S HEALTH



INTRODUCTION

The connection between the health of our planet and the health of everybody on it sits at the heart of our purpose to protect, heal and nurture in the relentless pursuit of a cleaner, healthier world. Climate change will increasingly cause large scale harm to our health and put pressure on our health systems.

It's why we commissioned a new paper, co-authored by health experts from the EcoHealth Alliance and London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. The Impact of Climate Change on Health helps build better understanding of the impact of climate change on health, bringing together the state of knowledge on a wide range of burden and risks that only a planetary health approach can solve:

- Today, nearly 13 million deaths per year are linked to environmental factors such as air pollution, infectious diseases and extreme weather events.
- By 2100, over 40% of the world's population will be exposed to extreme heat episodes. The yearly burden of temperature-related mortality alone is projected to reach 4.6 million per year – on par with the current impact of obesity.

To both minimise the impact and prepare for the public health burden, we must combine preventative measures with better, climate-aware system and infrastructure planning.

We are combatting climate change through our own operations, in our products and by enabling consumers to take small actions that can add up. We also have a clear role to play in reducing the spread of disease, by bringing better hygiene, awareness of self-care and health education to millions worldwide.

There is only one way to solve this crisis, and that is together.

We are ready to stand shoulder to shoulder with business, government, public sector and communities to address the threat to people's health caused by climate change.



SCALE OF THE PROBLEM

Our shared Covid experience brought home the connection between the health of people and the health of the world around us.

We witnessed the impacts that poor health had on our ability to go to work, maintain social connections with family and local communities and live our lives in the way we were accustomed. We watched as the ripple effects of Covid were felt most acutely by the most vulnerable in societies across the world.

As Glasgow welcomes around 120 world leaders to COP26, there is growing recognition that climate challenge poses an even greater health challenge for all of us. Only 18 months after the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, 230 health journals worldwide united in publishing a letter calling on leaders to take emergency action on climate change and nature restoration, to avoid "catastrophic harm to health".

To better understand the nature and scale of the health challenge caused by climate change, Reckitt commissioned a new paper co-authored by health experts from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine and EcoHealth Alliance, *The Impact of Climate Change on Health*.

The findings bring home the extent to which climate change and its causes increase the risk of illness in three key areas. The report highlights the myriad ways in which air pollution, extreme weather and temperature anomalies elevate health risks, from infectious disease to malnutrition, cardiovascular and respiratory health as well as mental health. The resulting health burden from these impacts, as well as forced migration, conflict and flooding, will exceed the level of demand that health systems are currently prepared for. Finally, by not addressing climate change or protecting ecosystems, we are missing the opportunity to preserve the climate, biodiverse ecosystems and carbon sinks, food security and economic stability that we all depend on for our health.

In short, "while the physical impacts of climate change on infrastructure are the most direct and visible, the health impacts of climate inaction will create a pandemic of climate-induced health impacts that no vaccine can solve".



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“Unfortunately, climate change coincides with and will exacerbate other rising causes of death, such as antimicrobial resistance (AMR), which makes it all the more important to take action.”

Source: *The Impact of Climate Change on Health*, C. Machalaba and L. Smeeth

Two climate-induced health statistics stand out:

- Today, nearly 13 million deaths per year are already linked to environmental factors such as air pollution, infectious diseases, extreme weather events, forced displacement, food insecurity and pressures on mental health [Prüss-Üstün et al. 2016].
- Within that, heat is a major issue. By 2100, over 40% of the world's population will be exposed to extreme heat episodes [Ebi et al. 2021]. The yearly burden of temperature-related mortality alone is projected to reach 4.6 million per year – on a par with the current impact of obesity and diet-related illness [Bressler 2021].

The connection between climate change and health will only deepen. The overall cost to human health, wellbeing and the healthcare systems our communities and economies rely on will only increase. As demonstrated by the COVID-19 pandemic, health infrastructure and capacity are already strained in many parts of the world, requiring important strengthening that must also be forward-thinking on climate.

The results from this wide-reaching research support Reckitt's experience delivering health programmes on the ground in countries such as India, Thailand and the UK. Communities all over the world are already experiencing the health impacts of climate change firsthand.



By 2100, the incidence of heat waves in **India** is projected to increase by 3–4 times [source], resulting in a substantial rise in mortality as well as injuries from extreme weather events [source]. If carbon emissions continue unabated, it is projected that 4% of the world's inhabitants will suffer unsurvivable heatwaves, including in northern Indian cities with populations exceeding two million [source].



Thailand: Even if emissions decrease rapidly, the mean annual temperature will rise by at least 1.3°C in the same timeframe, resulting in 70 days of heatwaves per year by 2100. This increase in temperature will favor transmission of vector-borne diseases including malaria and dengue. By 2070, approximately 71 million people are projected to be at risk of malaria assuming a high emissions scenario [Source: Climate and health country profile 2015: Thailand]. The transmission potential of dengue fever will also increase over this timeframe.



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“The greatest threat to global public health is the continued failure of world leaders to keep the global temperature rise below 1.5° C and to restore nature. Urgent, society-wide changes must be made and will lead to a fairer and healthier world. “We, as editors of health journals, call for governments and other leaders to act, marking 2021 as the year that the world finally changes course.”

Atwoli et al.,

“Call for Emergency Action to Limit Global Temperature Increases, Restore Biodiversity, and Protect Health”, published in 230 health journals on September 5th, 2021.

In the **UK**, we face a rise in “tropical nights”, i.e., those with temperatures remaining over 20°C. Previously a rare occurrence, 16 were recorded last summer. The continued rise will affect overall heat-related mortality, which is projected to increase by 167% by 2050 [Source: Climate change effects on human health: projections of temperature-related mortality for the UK during the 2020s, 2050s and 2080s] Hajat et al. 2014].



We are not alone in sounding the alarm. Partners from across our sector, from the World Health Organisation to GSK, Walgreen Boots Alliance and Bupa, are coming together to highlight the same concern: Climate change is the single biggest challenge of our time, with serious implications for the planet, people and public health. A global and coordinated race to net zero is the only way to ensure a clean and healthy future for us all. The world cannot ignore it.

OUR PURPOSE MEANS WE MUST ACT.

As highlighted by the IPCC, we need to cut global greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2030 to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees. This is a "code red" for humanity.

In the lead up to COP26, US Special Envoy for Climate, John Kerry, said, "We have to get on the road here. Glasgow is the last best hope to do what scientists tell us we must do to avoid the worst consequences of climate change."

Reckitt is driven by our purpose to protect, heal and nurture in the relentless pursuit of a cleaner, healthier world. Without a cleaner, healthier planet, "the worst consequences" mean the health of people all over the world will suffer.

That is why Reckitt is a **Principal Partner for COP26**.

We hope COP26 builds cooperation, progress and impact. We know this cannot happen unless delegates from every nation are healthy and protected. We are proud to leverage our scientific knowledge as hygiene sponsor to contribute to progress that will serve our planet for generations.

And while we work tirelessly this year to support a successful COP26, we know now is the time for action more broadly. The world must transition to a greener society this decade. Reckitt can play an important role in working with partners and consumers to drive change.

Our purpose-driven brands are fighting harder than ever to make access to the highest quality hygiene, wellness and nourishment a right and not a privilege. Our aim for 2030 is to reach half the world with brands that enable people to lead cleaner healthier lives, underpinning our purpose and fight. We also want to truly engage two billion people in our partnerships, our programmes and our campaigns that support them in leading cleaner healthier lives.

By building awareness of what good hygiene looks like and increasing access to our products for people who can't use them today, we will tackle some of the issues that prevent good health. Hygiene is a foundation for health, helping to limit the spread of disease. And good health provides environmental, social and economic opportunities.



PLAYING OUR PART

To help tackle climate change, we are improving the environmental footprint of our own operations and our brands, as well as working with our partners and consumers to accelerate action throughout our value chain.

Through our global brands, we help people to play their part and protect themselves in two ways:

- By helping combat climate change through more pro-environmental behaviours when using more sustainable products;
- By protecting their health through products providing self-care, information and accessibility to help everybody live their best and healthy lives.

Our natural starting point is to reduce impact from our facilities and across our supply chains. We are acting at pace, but the urgency is increasing, and more is needed. We have set sustainability ambitions and science-based targets, backed by £1 billion in existing, planned investment over 10 years.

In our manufacturing sites

We have already cut our GHG emissions by 53% per product. Our ambition is net zero at Reckitt by 2040. Since 2020, our manufacturing sites in India, the US and EU, as well as our hygiene business, are buying 100% renewable power.

In our Hull factory we have reduced our GHG emissions by 65% in absolute terms since 2012. We achieved this through energy savings, efficiencies, and our growing use of renewable energy. We were also awarded LEED Gold status.

Through more sustainable products

We are developing products that are more sustainable, with greener ingredients and packaging. Our ambition is that every innovation is more sustainable than its predecessor. We use an in-house Sustainable Innovation Calculator to evaluate the impact of packaging, ingredients, and use at every stage of development for all our global brands. Currently 1/3 of net revenue comes from more sustainable products. Our aim is 50% by 2030.

- Our breakthrough packaging for Finish uses 30% post-consumer recycled content for the first flexible, recyclable monomaterial polyethylene (PE) pouch.
- Finish has developed its formulations to achieve the ultimate clean and shine even without pre-rinsing. A behaviour change that can help to save up to 20 gallons* of water every time. (*Based on US usage).
- Our work in green chemistry, reformulating existing products with new sustainable ingredients, continues to grow: Lysol Disinfecting Spray in the US replaced the main formula ingredient with bio-based ethanol across the whole product range. Dettol launched its first alcohol-free hand sanitiser in China which uses bio-renewable actives (lactic acid and citric acid, sourced from cane sugar and corn, respectively) and is proven to kill 99.9% of bacteria and viruses including SARS-COV-2, the cause of COVID-19.



In the communities we work

In Hull, where the Reckitt story began over 180 years ago, we are convening 30 businesses and organisations, large and small, in a Living Lab initiative to turn the city into a net zero hub. We are working in partnership with national and local Government and the Confederation of British Industry on a programme called 'Levelling Up Hull'. It aims for Hull to be recognised as the first place in the UK to achieve net zero carbon emissions across all aspects of society. We look forward to sharing knowledge and experience as other governments look to advance net zero progress for cities across the world.

Protecting our ecosystems

We recognise the importance of ecosystems on the planets' health and reducing our business' impact on nature. That is why we are strengthening our work on biodiversity with a partnership with University of Oxford University Innovation social venture Nature Based Insetting (NBI). Their analysis will support both metrics and interventions to mitigate Reckitt's ecosystem risks. The ensuing framework will stimulate and measure future nature-based solutions that both protect and regenerate ecosystems, and reduce the impact of climate change.

By 2030, we will implement a range of interventions to rejuvenate those ecosystems through regenerative agriculture that combine with nature-based solutions to climate change. It will support the emerging requirements of the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD).

Helping people reduce everyday impacts

We are also engaging millions of people every day as they use our brands, helping them take small actions that can add up. We want to enable a cleaner healthier world where the planet and people thrive, built from a foundation of hygiene to enable health.

As a business we are taking steps to make our operations and our products more sustainable at every stage. But we recognise that a large proportion of our indirect emissions (some 75%) come from the way people use our products (i.e. running dishwashers and washing machines). That is why we are using our insights to help consumers make positive personal choices.

Addressing consumer use is key to reaching our ambitions and we know that consumers want to live more sustainably. However, while 47% of consumers say they want to change their lifestyle "a great deal" to be more environmentally friendly, only 23% have made major changes in the past year to do so¹. That is where companies and brands can come in, to influence and enable more sustainable actions.

CASE STUDY



Each of our global brands focuses on where it can most accelerate progress to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Through the #skiptherinse campaign, Finish is raising global awareness of the water scarcity crisis and working to drive habit change at scale by encouraging people to embrace sustainable dishwashing. Working in partnership with National Geographic, Love Water UK and the Nature Conservancy, Finish reached 350m+ people with the #savewater campaign globally. In the US alone, it has driven more than 600,000 pledges to save 18.6 million gallons of water.

#SKIPTHERINSE

Building on our existing purpose-led brand work, we are using behavioural science techniques to initiate a conversation about business' role in helping nudge pro-environmental behaviours. Behaviour science techniques can help deliver positive action on climate change. In the UK, recent analysis from the Climate Change Committee shows that, whilst the overwhelming majority (87%) of emissions reductions achieved between 2009 and 2019 required no behavioural change, more than half of the emissions reductions required between 2020 and 2035 will need changes in individual behaviour to take effect.



CASE STUDY



Our new study shines a light on our ability to influence consumer behaviours to reduce the carbon impact of handwashing with our brand Dettol. Find out more about our study here: (link to behaviour change study). This study is just a small step in the journey to realising our ambition of reaching two billion people in our partnerships, our programmes and our campaigns. We want to share our latest insights to help inspire further action. We will be working with our brands to look at how best we can apply these insights in the real world.

¹The 2021 Healthy & Sustainable Living global consumer insights study from Globescan.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP TO ADDRESS THE HEALTH IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE.

While we are focused on mitigating our environmental impact, we are also focused on addressing the health impacts of climate change.

Our purpose, to protect heal and nurture in the relentless pursuit of a cleaner healthier world drives us to help people everywhere look after their health, hygiene and wellness in these more difficult times. Self-care and illness prevention will play an ever-greater role in reducing the strain on healthcare systems globally, which are already under great pressure.

Reckitt Global Hygiene Institute

It's why we established the Reckitt Global Hygiene Institute (RGHI) – a fully independent, not-for profit global initiative bringing together the best minds – to demonstrate hygiene's importance as a foundation for health and inform public health decisions.



Fight for Access Fund

Our focus on self-care is reflected in the partnerships we're establishing to support the wider public health agenda. Self-care complements the formal health sector with governments and other partners (NGOs), playing a role as a solution to society's public health challenges that the pandemic made even more visible.

As the The Impact of Climate Change on Health paper highlights, a major concern of climate change is the the predicted increase in mass migration and displacement and the associated health consequences for vulnerable populations.

Our Reckitt Fight for Access Fund is committed to improving access to health, hygiene and nutrition globally by ensuring high-quality products, driving access to them, and providing education and information to enable people to look after their own health and wellbeing.

OUR 2020 HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:



34m

Total people directly engaged



475m

Total people informed with hygiene educational campaigns since 2013



771k

People who have experienced a measurable and sustained positive improvement in their lives



£53m

Total investment

One year into the pandemic, Brazil was one of the world's worst affected nations. In the tightly packed favelas of São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, hygiene problems are exacerbated. It can be almost impossible to isolate, and access to water, sanitation and medical services are extremely limited. To support sustainable programmes, we joined with local partners to reach those most at risk, with high urgency. Together with the Brazilian Red Cross, we delivered clean water, masks and cleaning products to 25,000 families living in the favelas.



CASE STUDY



Our Dettol School Hygiene Education Programme focuses on teaching children about self-care and health and bodily awareness during their foundation years. The goal is to engrain healthy hygiene practices from an early age, so children will not only keep themselves safe and healthy but share these lessons home. The programme has reached 20 million children across India and has not only reduced cases of diarrhoea among children by 14.2% but boosted school attendance by 17%.

CASE STUDY



Pest control brands Mortein and SBP are anchored behind SDG3: good health and wellbeing with the purpose of ending the epidemics of malaria and other mosquito borne diseases to protect future generations. In Brazil, SBP has created a movement: 'Together against the mosquito' to generate awareness and education in vulnerable communities on how to fight *Aedes aegypti*, a mosquito that transmits more than 10 diseases such as Dengue, Zika and Chikungunya. Actions include working with communities to identify and remove stagnant water (mosquito breeding sites) and educational activities developed by the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine and executed in partnership with the Red Cross. To date the programmed has impacted 100,000 families.

CASE STUDY



Durex promotes sexual health and wellbeing with partners like RED in South Africa, helping to tackle HIV AIDS. One study in Thailand helped to quantify a saving of more than £120m a year to the wider public health agenda through Durex's work on sexual health and wellbeing.

WHAT CAN WE ACHIEVE, IF WE SUCCEED?

Governments, businesses, civil society groups and the public know that the world needs to raise its ambition.

Climate commitments must be stretching enough to halve global greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, to keep global temperature rises to within 1.5 degrees and thereby limit illness and loss of life.

But while preventing global warming is critical, it is not the limit of our ability to make a positive impact on people's health. At Reckitt, we see a role beyond reducing our emissions to mitigate the impacts of climate change on people and the planet.

The Impact of Climate Change on Health research paper highlights the burden that climate change induced extreme temperatures will have on public health systems. The yearly impact of temperature-related mortality alone is projected to reach 4.6 million per year – essentially equal to the current impact of obesity. Higher temperatures increase bacterial risk, and that risk multiplies in urban centres where population density is high. To enable a cleaner, healthier world will require private sector and public health actors to work together, in partnership to stifle the spread of disease and support our health systems.



We have a clear role to play in reducing the spread of disease, by bringing better hygiene to millions worldwide. Through Reckitt's products. Through our hygiene campaigns and programmes. By improving access to reliable information, to high quality hygiene products, we can help people to protect themselves and stay healthy.

All the evidence, and most recently the pandemic, has shown that everyone's health depends on a healthier planet. We believe shared success creates greater impact. How we work together to tackle climate change is at the heart of our relentless pursuit of a cleaner, healthier world. A world that benefits everybody, now and for the future.

By 2030 we want our products to reach half the world, with brands that help people live cleaner, healthier lives. And engage 2 billion people in partnerships that support the UN SDGs.



WHAT CAN BE DONE?

To reduce the impact of climate change on health, and the healthcare systems we all rely on, the world needs private sector and public sector to work in partnership.

It starts with acknowledging the dual role each must play.

Reducing emissions, both those generated by organisations themselves and across the value chain, is essential for the world's race to zero and limiting impacts on health and loss of life.

But we must equally acknowledge that climate challenge will increasingly cause large scale harm to our health. To both minimise the impact and prepare for the public health burden, we must combine preventative measures with better, climate-aware system and infrastructure planning.

Drawing from the lessons learned in the cross-sector approach to address the impacts of diet-related ill-health, business must do their bit to enable self-care and hygiene practices, that act as the foundation of good health. At the same time, our wider public health policies need to recognise the impact of climate change on people's health.

Reckitt is ready to stand shoulder to shoulder with business, government, public sector and wider actors to address the threat to people's health caused by climate change.



