

Pathfinder Initiative | LSHTM

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Updates

Johan Rockström wins the 2024 Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement

Thursday 29 February 2024

Johan Rockström, Director of the [Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research](#) and a member of the [Lancet Pathfinder Commission](#), has been awarded the 2024 Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement for his pioneering work on the “Planetary Boundaries” framework, a scientific guide to help keep the planet in a safe operating space.

The Tyler Prize Executive Committee awarded the prize to Professor Rockström for his “science-based approach to sustainable development for people on a stable and resilient planet”, citing the need for a holistic, interdisciplinary approach to the mounting environmental crises.

Professor Rockström is the second Pathfinder Commissioner to be given this prestigious award, considered the 'Nobel Prize for Environment', after Andy Haines, Co-Chair of the Pathfinder Commission and Professor of Environmental Change and Public Health, [won the award](#) in 2022.

[Read more](#)

Opinion: The health community must build on commitments from COP28 to deliver healthy outcomes for all

Friday 2 February 2024

Dr Sarah Whitmee, assistant professor at LSHTM and lead author of the Lancet Pathfinder Commission report; Jess Beagley, policy lead at the Global Climate and Health Alliance; and Shweta Narayan, climate and health campaigner, Health Care Without Harm, emphasise the need for continued engagement by the health community to ensure that climate action is commensurate with the scale of the threat.

The authors highlight the "health firsts" at COP28, but argue that health is not yet protected by sufficiently ambitious climate decision making.

Read the comment piece in [the BMJ](#).

Pathfinder at COP28

Friday 15 December 2023

COP28 included the first ever health themed day, a climate health ministerial, and a declaration on climate and health endorsed by over 140 countries. Representatives from the Pathfinder Initiative took part in a range of activities at COP, presenting findings from the Commission report and advocating for more ambitious action to mitigate climate change and improve health. Events featuring Pathfinder Co-Chairs, Commissioners and researchers included:

- How Ambitious Emission Reductions Can Save Lives, keynote speech delivered on Health Day by Joy Phumaphi, Co-Chair of the Pathfinder Initiative
- [Solutions showcase](#) in the green zone, presentation by Prof Tolu Oni, Pathfinder Commissioner
- [Health as Entry Point for SDG / Climate Synergy: A Focus on Cities, Air Pollution and Justice](#), presentation given by Dr Sarah Whitmee, LSHTM
- [Harnessing the health co-benefits of climate action](#), hosted by partners of the Pathfinder Initiative at the health pavilion
- UNFCCC side event on [Accelerating a just transition for healthy people and a healthy planet](#), presentation by Dr Sarah Whitmee.

Following the conference, Professor Andy Haines, Co-Chair of the Pathfinder Initiative and Professor of Environmental Change and Public health at LSHTM, and Professor Liam Smeeth, LSHTM Director, [commented in the BMJ](#) on the outcomes and their implications for climate action and health.

Expert comment: How governments and decision makers can capitalise on the health benefits of climate action

Friday 1 December 2023

As leaders gather for COP28, Professor Andy Haines, Co-Chair of the Pathfinder Initiative highlights key findings from the Pathfinder Commission report and explains how governments and decision makers can implement actions that help to mitigate climate change and improve health.

Read the [comment piece](#) (originally published on the [OECD Forum Network website](#))

Pathways to a healthy net-zero future: report of the Lancet Pathfinder Commission

Tuesday 21 November 2023

The report of the The Lancet Pathfinder Commission, part of the [Pathfinder Initiative](#), highlights the opportunity for ambitious climate mitigation actions to improve health and save lives.

The report, published in *The Lancet*, shows how climate mitigation actions across different sectors have the potential to bring major benefits to health, and highlights the opportunity for global leaders to take actions that would prevent millions of premature deaths annually worldwide.

The report calls for a step-change in evidence-based action to capitalise on health gains that can be achieved through accelerating a just transition to net zero, including by rapidly phasing out of fossil fuels and replacing them with clean renewable energy, shifting to healthier more sustainable diets, and increasing physical activity by promoting active travel and public transport.

For the first time, global evidence on the health co-benefits of climate mitigation actions across sectors has been quantified and compared through a methodology developed by the Pathfinder team, led by researchers at LSHTM.

In addition to analysing the results from modelled evidence on potential health benefits from climate mitigation, the report includes examples of implemented actions with measured climate and health benefits. Further case studies and data from the Pathfinder review are showcased in a new online Climate & Health Evidence Bank, hosted by the Pathfinder Initiative.

Following the recommendations of the Commission report, the next phase of the Pathfinder Initiative will include the development of a Coalition of partners committed to the implementation and evaluation of ambitious action on climate and health.

The Commission and its report are part of the wider Pathfinder Initiative that aims to accelerate the transition to net-zero societies through providing practical, evidence-based emissions reduction pathways that also benefit human health. The initiative is funded by the Wellcome Trust with support from the Oak Foundation. Research is led by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine; partners of the first phase of work include C40

Cities, CDP, the Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), and the Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research.

[Read the Commission report](#)

[Read the summary](#)

[Read the news story](#)

[Explore the Evidence Bank](#)

[Find out more about the Coalition](#)

[Find out more about the Pathfinder Initiative](#)

[Find out more about the Commission](#)

Launch Event for the Lancet Pathfinder Commission report on the health co-benefits of climate action

Monday 30 October 2023

The [Pathfinder Initiative](#) will be hosting an event on the **21 November 2023, 17:30 – 19:00 (GMT) at LSHTM and online** to present the findings and recommendations from the Lancet Pathfinder Commission report: Pathways to a healthy net zero future. The report provides the most comprehensive review to date of evidence on the health benefits of greenhouse gas mitigation by sector, as well as presenting evaluated examples of implemented actions. The review and case studies cover a wide range of initiatives across energy, transport, the built environment, agrifood systems, industry, sanitation and nature-based solutions, and highlight the opportunity to accelerate a just transition to net zero while bringing benefits to health and society.

At the launch event, speakers from the Pathfinder Initiative will present key findings and recommendations from the report, and highlight their significance ahead of COP28 in Dubai.

[Find out more about the event](#)

[Sign up to receive the published report](#)

A GST that Counts for People: Integrating Health into the Global Stocktake

Monday 12 June 2023

The Pathfinder Initiative, Wellcome Trust, Global Climate and Health Alliance and World Health Organization hosted an event at the Bonn Climate Change Conference on integrating health into the Global Stocktake. Speakers discussed the links between climate and health, including losses and damages, the health co-benefits of mitigation and adaptation, and examples of policies across sectors that benefit both people and planet.

[Read more](#)

[Watch the event](#)

Save millions of lives through healthy sustainable solutions to tackle the climate crisis

Wednesday 9 November 2022

In an open letter published during COP27, leading experts including the Pathfinder Co-Chairs and Commissioners, call for a new Coalition to scale up and evaluate climate change actions to ensure health and equity are priorities as the world faces increasing climate risks.

[Read the letter](#)

[Watch the video](#)

Accelerating the transition to healthy net-zero societies: challenges and opportunities for research, policy and practice

Monday 31 October 2022

The Pathfinder Initiative hosted a side event as part of the 2022 Planetary Health Annual Meeting (PHAM), coordinated by the Planetary Health Alliance.

LSHTM researchers presented the challenges of bringing together coherent evidence on the health co-benefits of climate mitigation actions and ways forward to advance research in this area and generate evidence to inform policy and practice.

[Read more](#)

[Watch the event](#)

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