

Public health impacts of climate change

Co-benefits of mitigation & adaptation



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Just an environmental issue?



Waste on roads



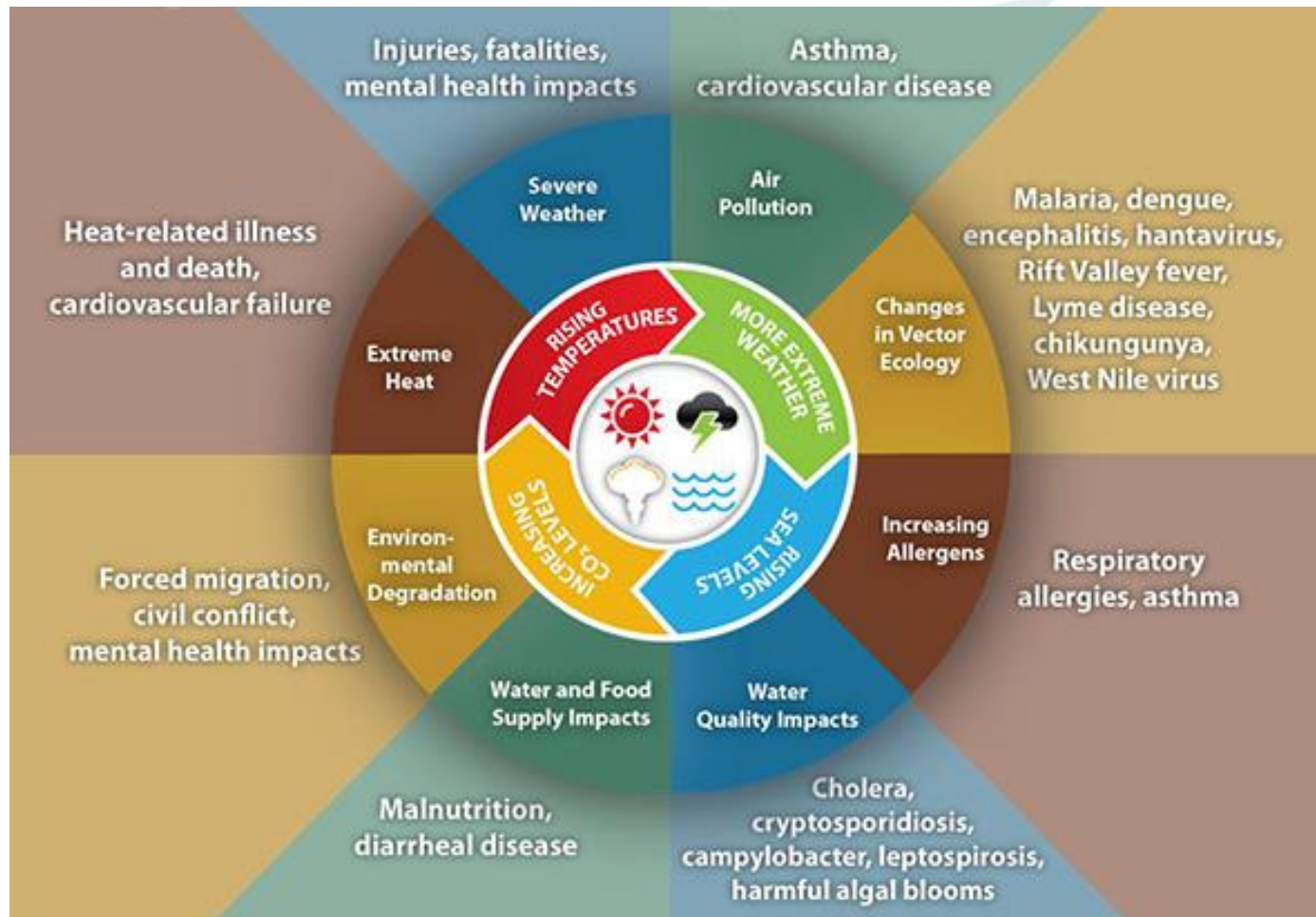
Break up glass

Fast food, burgers and sandwiches



Waste generated and removed from

Global impacts on human health



Local impacts

Drier summers and an increased likelihood of droughts



Hotter summers and an increased likelihood of heatwaves and periods of extreme heat



Milder, wetter winters with an increase in rainfall intensity and frequency



Rising sea levels and increased coastal erosion



Reductions in snowfall, frost and ice



Increase in the risk of wildfires



Increase in the intensity and frequency of storms



Shift in the growing seasons



Milder winters and changes to pest and disease pressures



- Direct & indirect risks to health & wellbeing from:
 - Heatwaves, droughts, wildfires
 - Storms, floods & coastal erosion
 - Infectious diseases
 - Risks to food safety/security
 - Risks to health & social care delivery
- Risks to mental health from extreme weather & the climate emergency

Public health perspective

The most important
health threat of the
century...

...and the greatest
opportunity to redefine
the social &
environmental
determinants of health

Opportunities...

Health and climate: co-benefits

Example interventions

These interventions have benefits both for health and for reducing climate change (also known as *mitigation*)

Produce more renewable energy

Improve insulation in homes

Encourage use of lower emission vehicles

Promote active transport

Reduce solid fuels used for cooking

Less food from animal sources

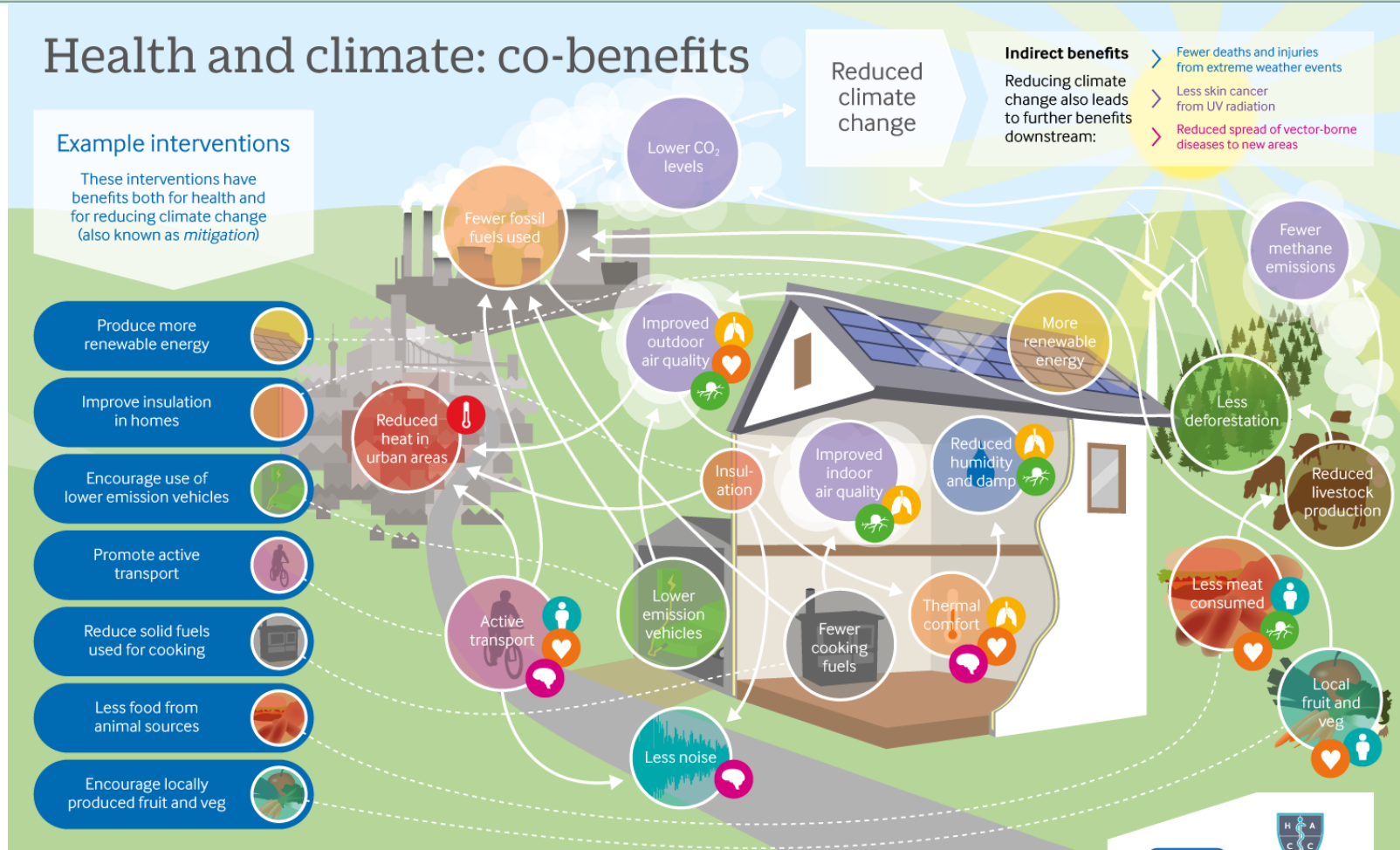
Encourage locally produced fruit and veg

Reduced climate change

Indirect benefits

Reducing climate change also leads to further benefits downstream:

- > Fewer deaths and injuries from extreme weather events
- > Less skin cancer from UV radiation
- > Reduced spread of vector-borne diseases to new areas



Health benefits

Better mental health

Fewer deaths from extreme heat

Less cardiovascular disease

Less respiratory disease

Lower rates of cancer

Lower rates of obesity

thebmj

UK HEALTH ALLIANCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Designed by: Will Stahl-Timmins

Content: Nick Watts

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Public health-related actions

- **Increase awareness** of climate impacts on physical & mental health
- Assist services to understand climate **impacts on service delivery** & community health
- Help integrate climate change & health **in all policies & in community plans**
- Minimise **heat/cold related illness** & death
- Maximise resilience of **food systems**
- **Build community resilience** to drought, flooding, heat & coastal change

Public health-related actions

- Establish '**climate champions**' - what are the priorities for your communities in terms of addressing & adapting to climate change?
- Identify **vulnerable populations** & interventions
- Keep working around areas of **co-benefits** for health & climate change
- **Reduce, Reuse, & Recycle** at work & in personal life
- Facilitate & influence **system change** to support public health & sustainability

Local Climate Adaptation Tool

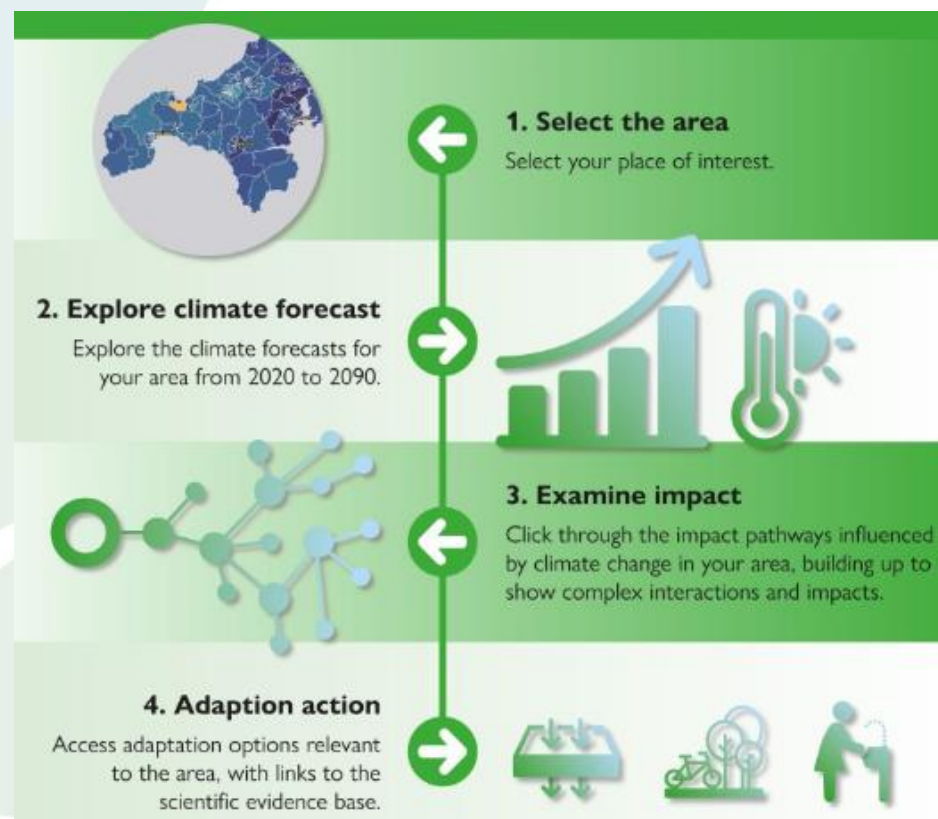
Use this tool to see what the scientific research is saying about:

- **How** local climates will change
- **What** health & community impacts may occur as a result
- **Who** will be most vulnerable & why
- **Which** adaptations to consider



LCAT

LOCAL CLIMATE
ADAPTATION TOOL



Summary

- Climate change impacts health in many ways
- There are co-benefits in addressing climate change
- There are opportunities & actions communities can take
- Regional work & insights can be applied locally
- Strategies to mitigate & adapt to climate change can help to **build community resilience**

Discussion

- Are the impacts of climate change something you currently prioritise as part of community planning? If so, how? If not, why not?
- Does the group or organisation you represent consider human health impacts of climate change in your community?
- What resources/guidance would you find useful in supporting your community to address the threats posed by climate change and promote health?



Thank you

Any questions?