

# **PRESS RELEASE** from

The British Medical Journal  
The Lancet  
The Royal College of Physicians;  
The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists  
The NHS Sustainable Development Unit  
The Campaign for Greener Healthcare  
The Climate and Health Council

**EMBARGOED UNTIL 11.59 pm Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2009-05-30**

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**It's our health, stupid!**

*Doctors speak out on climate change and fund awareness raising campaign*

*Funding secured for all NHS staff to see new climate change film: Age of Stupid*

Staff are getting the chance to see this year's most talked about environmental film *Age of Stupid* for free at work. Dr Mike Gill, co-chair of the Climate and Health Council the organisation that has coordinated this initiative said:

"The film delivers an incredibly powerful message. It shows the potential health outcomes of ignoring climate change. When staff realise that the NHS's own carbon footprint is three percent of the entire country's carbon output more of us will recognise how important it is we set an example."

The screenings, which will take place across the whole of England, have been made possible by a group of organisations coming together to fund the licence fee for showing the film. These include:

The British Medical Journal  
The Lancet  
The Royal College of Physicians;  
The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists  
The NHS Sustainable Development Unit  
The Campaign for Greener Healthcare

Director of the NHS's Sustainable Development Unit, Dr David Pencheon said:  
"Climate change is the greatest global health threat of the 21st century. This is the first time the health services and professionals have ever raised awareness of such a crucial issue in this way, but the commitment to raise awareness and promote action using this film indicates how seriously health professionals and the NHS are taking the health threat caused by climate change."

Dr Fiona Godlee, editor of the British Medical Journal (BMJ): "Health professionals and the health service must respond to this global danger and play its part in reducing greenhouse gases. Raising awareness amongst staff is critical to this process. The

Age of Stupid is a great way to highlight the precarious position we are in and the important role health professionals and health services have to play.”

Professor Hugh Montgomery, Director of UCL Institute for Human Health and Performance said: “Large organisations like the NHS and the UK government, as well as influential professional groups like doctors and other health professionals must both lead change and set important examples”.

This project has been coordinated by the Climate and Health Council (an international organisation whose aim is to mobilise health professionals across the world to take action to limit climate change), the Campaign for Greener Healthcare (helping transform healthcare for a sustainable future) and the NHS Sustainable Development Unit (a policy and delivery unit within the NHS). All the organisations involved will be promoting screenings throughout the NHS. Any part of the NHS can arrange a screening for staff and students for free by applying through this website: [www.indiescreenings.net](http://www.indiescreenings.net).

-ENDS

**For further information contact:**

Dr Mike Gill, co-chair of the Climate and Health Council  
([climateandhealthcouncil@bmj.com](mailto:climateandhealthcouncil@bmj.com))

07867 538245

or

Dr David Pencheon, NHS Sustainable Development Unit  
([www.sdu.nhs.uk](http://www.sdu.nhs.uk))

01223 597792 or 07973 826 544

or

Tim Nicholson, Campaign for Greener Healthcare 01865 515 811

**Notes to Editors:**

Full details of the Age of Stupid including photos and press resources are available at [www.ageofstupid.net](http://www.ageofstupid.net)

The NHS has a Carbon Reduction Strategy, details of which are available on the NHS Sustainable Development website: [http://www.sdu.nhs.uk/page.php?page\\_id=94](http://www.sdu.nhs.uk/page.php?page_id=94)

The Lancet and UCL have recently launched a report on managing the health effects of climate change:

<http://www.thelancet.com/climate-change>

The NHS Sustainable Development Unit (NHS SDU) provide leadership, support and policy input to ensure the NHS in England is one of the leading public sector organisations in promoting sustainable development and mitigating climate change.