

# NURSING SCHOOL COMMITMENT

## NURSES CLIMATE CHALLENGE EUROPE

Nurses must be prepared to care for patients in the context of climate change. Nurses should also understand what actions they and their organisations can take to mitigate further climate impacts and increase resilience to those impacts. It is important to acknowledge the interconnected and reciprocal relationship between humans and the natural world and to explore the capacity of the natural world to act as a therapeutic ally to support recovery, wellbeing, and health promotion.

The Nurses Climate Challenge Europe is a campaign delivered by Health Care Without Harm (HCWH) Europe that provides nurses with the resources to educate fellow health professionals, students, communities, care home residents, patients, and service users across the continent about the health impacts of climate change and the impact of the healthcare sector on climate change and the environment.

The Nursing School Commitment is an opportunity to proactively engage and empower nursing students at all levels in this movement to encourage environmental stewardship.

### THE NURSES CLIMATE CHALLENGE EUROPE PROVIDES:

- Evidence-based, carefully selected resources to support nurses who want to better understand climate science and how climate change impacts health and well-being.
- Resources to educate colleagues and students about climate change and its health impacts, including presentations with detailed talking points, resources, and references.
- Multiple, action-oriented resources to advocate for climate-smart healthcare within the healthcare setting, communities, social media, and amongst policy makers.
- Resources and guidelines that help nurses integrate climate-smart healthcare into their daily practice.
- Case studies of successful projects and initiatives implemented by nurses aimed at tackling the health impacts of climate change, climate mitigation, or improving resilience.



- A list of external resources for further reading and learning.
- Educational resources to help nurses understand the impact of healthcare delivery on climate change.

## **BY JOINING THE NURSING SCHOOL COMMITMENT, THE NURSING SCHOOL AGREES TO:**

- Integrate climate change and planetary health content into existing theoretical, vocational, undergraduate, postgraduate, PhD, and lifelong learning courses, where appropriate and applicable.
- Encourage environmental stewardship within clinical and laboratory settings.
- Encourage the transferability of sustainability competencies into practice and the integration of climate change, health, and health promotion into clinical teaching where appropriate.
- Include climate change, its health impacts, climate change mitigation, and resilience in nursing student assessments where appropriate.
- Actively advocate for the inclusion of climate change, its health impacts, and planetary health in the curriculum and/or syllabi informally and, if possible, formally.
- Actively advocate for the inclusion of the impacts of healthcare on the environment in curricula or syllabi.
- Use and share resources provided by the Nurses Climate Challenge Europe and the NurSusTOOLKIT in courses, guest lectures, or presentations. These can be adopted and adapted into the curriculum or syllabus as required.
- Report the number of students educated about climate change and its health impacts using the Nurses Climate Challenge Europe activity tracker after each education session.

- Encourage further research on sustainability and climate change in healthcare and report the number of research outputs if applicable.
- Contribute to the development of a Nurses Climate Challenge elective module and, if applicable, allow nursing students to choose this module to develop deeper knowledge on climate change and planetary health. This could include placements in sustainability settings for nursing education.
- Include climate issues within community work of the nursing school if applicable.
- Promote the Nurses Climate Challenge Europe to vocational, undergraduate, postgraduate, and PhD nursing students, as well as amongst faculty.
- Promote the Nursing School Commitment to other nursing schools and stakeholders involved in nursing education.

## **THE NURSES CLIMATE CHALLENGE EUROPE AGREES TO:**

- Display the names and logos of participating nursing schools publicly on the Nurses Climate Challenge Europe website.
- Highlight exemplary and outstanding nursing school efforts on climate and health education on social media.
- Provide promotional materials to participants so that they can demonstrate their engagement.
- Publicise select nursing school faculty and student research on planetary health, or climate and health, on the Nurses Climate Challenge Europe website.
- Provide an end-of-semester report to participants highlighting how many students have been educated and/or registered as Nurse Climate Champions at participating nursing schools.

- Support nursing schools in the development of an online Nurses Climate Challenge elective course/module on climate change and its health impacts.
- Support nursing schools in an annual implementation of the online Nurses Climate Challenge elective course/module for especially interested nursing students.
- Organise an annual meeting of all participating nursing schools.

## THE NURSING SCHOOL COMMITMENT HAS BEEN DEVELOPED IN COLLABORATION WITH:

- Pamela Gray and Terese Sjölund (Arcada University of Applied Sciences, Finland)
- Norma Huss and Petra Wihofszky (Hochschule Esslingen, Germany)
- Anna Kaltenbach, Corina Krohm, and Cornelia Mahler (Universität Tübingen, Germany)
- Danino Efrat, Moran Zerahia, and Elena Maoz (Shamir Nursing School, Israel)
- Maria Cassar, Josef Trapani, and Adrienne Grech (University of Malta, Malta)
- Kristin Kavli Adriansen and Bodil Bø (University of Stavanger, Norway)
- Isabel M López and Carmen Álvarez Nieto (Universidad Jaén, Spain)
- Victoria Morín Fraile, Cristina Font, and Angelina Gonzalez (University of Barcelona, Spain)
- Heather Baid and Alison Taylor (University of Brighton, UK)
- Jennie Aronsson and Sarah Howes (University of Plymouth, UK)

*The Nurses Climate Challenge Europe would like to thank everybody for their engagement and active contribution to the development of the Nursing School Commitment.*

The Nurses Climate Challenge is delivered by Health Care Without Harm Europe



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[eur.nursesclimatechallenge.org](http://eur.nursesclimatechallenge.org)

[nceurope@hcwh.org](mailto:nceurope@hcwh.org)