The Rockefeller Foundation–Lancet Commission on planetary health

Safeguarding human health in the Anthropocene epoch: report of The Rockefeller Foundation–Lancet Commission on planetary health

Executive summary
Far-reaching changes to the structure and function of the Earth's natural systems represent a growing threat to human health. And yet, global health has mainly improved as these changes have gathered pace. What is the explanation? As a Commission, we are deeply concerned that the explanation is straightforward and sobering: we have been mortgaging the health of future generations to realise economic and development gains in the present. By research and funding, together with an unwillingness or inability to deal with uncertainty within decision making frameworks. Thirdly, implementation failures (governance challenges), such as how governments and institutions delay recognition and responses to threats, especially when faced with uncertainties, pooled common resources, and time lags between action and effect. Although better evidence is needed to underpin appropriate policies than is available at present, this...
It is time for a new discipline.
DAMAGING THE PLANET DAMAGES HUMAN HEALTH

CLIMATE CHANGE
If unchecked climate change related impacts could cause an extra 250,000 deaths per year between 2030 and 2050.

BIODIVERSITY LOSS
Overfishing together with increasing acidity and other environmental changes threaten fish supplies.

UNDER NUTRITION
Millions of people are at risk of under nutrition due to the combined effects of climate change and other environmental changes.

WATER USE
By 2050 over 40% of the world’s population could be living in areas under severe water stress.

SOIL DEGRADATION
This leads to a loss of 1-2 million hectares of agricultural land per annum.

#planetaryhealth

THE LANCET
TO SAFEGUARD HUMAN HEALTH WE NEED TO MAINTAIN THE HEALTH OF THE PLANET ON WHICH WE DEPEND

LEARN ABOUT PLANETARY HEALTH
Planetary health is the highest standard of health, wellbeing and equity worldwide. Human systems are responsible for shaping the future of human civilisation and the Earth’s natural systems.

REDUCE FOOD WASTE
30-50% of all food produced is never consumed. Reducing food waste means less land is needed for agriculture; saving energy, water, helping to protect biodiversity and improving food security.

HEALTHY DIETS WITH A LOW ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
Diets low in red meat with plenty of fruit and vegetables reduce the risk of heart disease. Dietary changes could reduce greenhouse gas emissions and land use requirements by up to 50%.

BETTER GOVERNANCE
Coordinated global, national and local policies that reduce environmental damage and improve health need to be implemented.
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USE WATER MORE EFFICIENTLY

Although drip or trickle irrigation methods are more expensive to install, they can be 33% more efficient in water use.

END DEFORESTATION

Since 2000 we have cut down over 2.3 million km² of primary forest. The REDD+ mechanism aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve local livelihoods.

FAMILY PLANNING

Around 225 million women who want to avoid pregnancy are not using effective contraception. Access to family planning could cut maternal deaths by almost 30% and improve food security.

CITY PLANNING

Planning healthy and sustainable cities can increase resilience to environmental change, reduce environmental impacts and improve people’s health.
Planetary health broadens health research to include the external systems that sustain or threaten human health.

Read the latest research in planetary health
www.thelancet.com/planetary-health
Universities helping to lead the charge in Planetary Health

• Bring planetary health to the world stage
• Lead high-impact research that informs policy for action
• Teach planetary health to current, future leaders
• Foster trans-disciplinary, cross-sector collaboration
• Show Need + Solutions + Scalability for impact. Drive Policy
University of Sydney

- Named Professor of Planetary Health
- Trans-disciplinary education and impact-focused research
Consortium for Advanced Research Training in Africa (CARTA)

- Multidisciplinary education
- Multidisciplinary research
- Population health impacts
- Government awareness; commitment
- Cross-sector partnerships

University of Edinburgh

- Cross-disciplinary partnerships
- Accessible education
- Summer school demonstration projects
London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine

• Advocacy for awareness, action
• Cross-sector partnerships
• Impact-focused research
• Accessible education

Source: http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1262588/Spectacular-pictures-London-taken-1-000-feet-air.html
Harvard University

- Impact-focused research
- Accessible education
- Cross-sector partnerships
- Advocacy for awareness, action

Source: https://earth.com
Cornell University

Source: https://images.nasa.gov
Teach, Research, Work Across Disciplines

- Multidisciplinary education
- Multidisciplinary research
- Cross-sector partnerships
- Research for impact, scalability
- Science policy work for the Planetary Health Alliance
- The United Nations University (Japan)
- Thammasat University (Thailand)
- Tsinghua University (China)
- The University of Sao Paolo (Brazil)

Source: https://www.techinasia.com/southeast-asia-fintech-pivot