

**HALEON**

# Climate action

## Our Haleon position



## **Background**

Climate change poses significant challenges. Increased temperatures, rising sea levels, and extreme weather patterns put the natural world<sup>i</sup> and human communities<sup>ii</sup> under severe strain.

There is scientific consensus that climate change is being driven by human activity<sup>iii</sup> and in 2022, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reiterated the need for urgent action to avert the most severe impacts of climate change, with the world facing the prospect of significant climate hazards over the coming decades.<sup>iv</sup> It is incumbent on stakeholders from across the system, including businesses, to act.

As a leading consumer health company, we take climate change and the need for climate action seriously. We are committed to helping tackle climate change through delivering on our carbon reduction goal, aligned with the Science Based Targets initiative pathway to limit climate change to below 1.5°C. We are also collaborating with others and acting through our trusted brands to raise awareness and galvanise action on issues that have implications for both climate change and health, such as air pollution.

## **Carbon reduction across our whole value chain**

Global carbon emissions are the main driver of climate change<sup>v</sup>, so cutting them is a crucial intervention needed to help tackle climate change.

We have mapped out our carbon footprint across our whole value chain to identify the largest contributors of emissions and we are targeting these accordingly.

*For information on our goals and how we're working to reduce our Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions and achieve Net Zero, please visit our [\*\*Environment page\*\*](#).*

## **Working in partnership on climate change and health**

Climate change is putting human health at risk – whether that's through the impact of extreme weather events, health issues linked to extreme heat, increased zoonotic disease risk, or disruption to global food systems – with disadvantaged groups and communities often most exposed.<sup>vi</sup>

As a company committed to delivering better everyday health with humanity, we are collaborating with partners to help raise awareness and galvanise action on the linkages between climate change and health.

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We are part of Forum for the Future's Coalition on Climate and Health. Forum for the Future is a leading non-governmental organisation (NGO), which has expertise in galvanising systems change. By working through this coalition, we can collaborate with peer companies, partners, and experts to contribute to wider systems thinking. Ahead of the UN COP26 climate summit in 2021, we worked with the Coalition to produce a comprehensive **report** that highlighted actions that the private sector can take to accelerate progress on decarbonisation, while at the same time also making progress on public health.

## **Air pollution**

Air pollution is a key area of focus for us: the same emissions that are driving climate change are also causing air pollution and affecting people's respiratory health. Air pollution now affects 93% of children worldwide, putting them at risk of reduced lung growth and function, infections, and aggravated asthma.<sup>vii</sup>

We work with partners, such as The International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP), to equip pharmacists to give trusted advice to people on mitigating the impact of air pollution on respiratory health.

We also work to raise awareness of the linkages between climate change, air pollution, and health, through our brands. In November 2021, our respiratory health brand, **Otrivin**, brought a novel educational exhibit, the Air Bubble, to Glasgow for COP26. Showcasing its innovative, environmentally-friendly technology on a global stage, the Air Bubble helped spark a conversation among climate leaders and activists in attendance and attracted global media attention.<sup>viii</sup>

The Air Bubble uses micro-algae to purify the air inside, so the more children play, the more the algae 'eat up' the pollution and release clean air. First launched in Warsaw, Poland in 2021, in partnership with ecoLogic Studio and the Copernicus Science Centre, it reduced levels of the harmful air pollutant PM2.5 by 80% compared to its surroundings.<sup>ix</sup>

**Otrivin** also launched Actions to Breathe Cleaner, which teaches young people about the small actions they can take each day to minimise the health impacts of air pollution. The programme has successfully reached 5,000 school children and is now being rolled out widely across the UK and in other countries.

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## Policy recommendations

We believe that governments, policymakers, health systems, regulators, industry, trade associations, HCPs, and citizens should work together to:

- Address climate change and human health as deeply interconnected issues. We encourage policymakers to partner with stakeholders, including industry, to build an understanding and awareness of the effects of climate change on people’s health.
- Develop enabling policy frameworks to encourage investment in, and adoption of, low and zero carbon technologies, such as renewable energy solutions.
- Participate in coalitions, adopt robust commitments, and drive collective action on private and public sector decarbonisation in pursuit of the Paris Climate Agreement’s ambition to limit climate change to well below 2°C, and ideally 1.5°C, above preindustrial levels.

*For more information on how we engage policymakers, please see our **position on political advocacy**.*

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<sup>i</sup> <https://www.wwf.org.uk/learn/effects-of/climate-change>, last accessed: Jul 2022

<sup>ii</sup> <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/climate-change-and-health>, last accessed: Jul 2022

<sup>iii</sup> <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/>, last accessed: Jul 2022

<sup>iv</sup> <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/resources/press/press-release/#:~:text=%E2%80%9CThis%20report%20is%20a%20dire,responds%20to%20increasing%20climate%20risks.%E2%80%9D>, last accessed: Jul 2022

<sup>v</sup> <https://www.ipcc.ch/2021/08/09/ar6-wg1-20210809-pr/>, last accessed: Jul 2022

<sup>vi</sup> <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/climate-change-and-health>, last accessed: Jul 2022

<sup>vii</sup> <https://www.who.int/news/item/29-10-2018-more-than-90-of-the-worlds-children-breathe-toxic-air-every-day>, last accessed: Jul 2022

<sup>viii</sup> <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/science-environment-59136460>, last accessed: Jul 2022

<sup>ix</sup> <https://mediaselect.pa.media/otrivin-airbubble>, last accessed: Jul 2022