

March 2012 – Climate change and health

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SO WHAT IS SO UNSUSTAINABLE ABOUT THE GLOBAL ECONOMY?

1. According to the latest global reports, which one of the following represents the ecological boundaries of sustainable development?

- A. Global warming of no more than 4°C
- B. CO₂ emissions per person of no more than 2.2 tonnes
- C. Annual extraction of raw materials of no more than 6 tonnes per person
- D. 350 parts per million of CO₂ in the atmosphere
- E. An extinction rate of 10 species.

2. According to Gallopin which one of the following is a definition of sustainable development?

- A. Improvement in well-being plus material economic growth
- B. Material economic growth with no improvement in well-being
- C. No material economic growth and no improvement in well-being
- D. Improvement in well-being plus non-material economic growth
- E. Non-material economic growth and no improvement in well-being.

3. Which one of the following does professor Swilling list as global trends that should shape the way we view our world?

- A. Degradation of eco-systems
- B. Climate change
- C. Unemployment
- D. Food insecurity
- E. Material flows.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN BURDEN OF DISEASE AND CLIMATE CHANGE

4. Positive impacts on health in the context of anticipated regional drought in the Karoo of allowing 'fracking' to exploit shale gas include:

- A. Access of more groundwater for drinking and other productive purposes
- B. Creation of employment, leading to better social determinants of health for some residents
- C. Water brought into the area will ameliorate drought
- D. More vehicular traffic to transport water and gas in the area will improve infrastructure development and therefore health for all
- E. Natural gas is more climate friendly than solar or wind power.

5. Considering infectious diseases, choose one correct answer:

- A. Malaria will get worse for Africa as a whole
- B. Tuberculosis will get better in South Africa

- C. Population displacement is unlikely to occur regionally
- D. Food production will not be seriously threatened
- E. HIV infection rates will decline with anticipated climate change.

6. True (A) or false (B):

Climate change is anticipated to lead to the emergence of hitherto unknown diseases.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH SYSTEMS

7. Which one of the following is the largest contributor to the health sector's greenhouse gas emissions?

- A. Procurement of medical supplies and medication
- B. Use of energy
- C. Travel by staff, patients and visitors
- D. Waste management
- E. Food and catering.

8. Which one of the following areas should a health facility focus on to reduce its carbon footprint?

- A. Design of new buildings to be energy efficient
- B. Efficient design of water heating, air conditioning and heating
- C. Use of transport
- D. Procurement of supplies
- E. All of the above.

9. The benefits of reducing the carbon footprint of the health sector include all of the following except (choose one)?

- A. Mitigating climate change
- B. Saving money, particularly on energy
- C. Promoting primary healthcare
- D. Reducing workload
- E. Generating employment.

HEALTH LIFESTYLE INTERVENTIONS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

10. Which one of the following lifestyle changes will not improve one's carbon footprint?

- A. Recycling waste and reducing landfill
- B. Maintaining one's car and keeping the speed limit
- C. Using incandescent light bulbs
- D. Walking and cycling more
- E. Eating more vegetables, fruit and legumes.

11. Which one of the following lifestyle changes will reduce one's risk of non-communicable chronic diseases and one's carbon footprint?

- A. Recycling waste
- B. Family planning
- C. Offsetting carbon emissions

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- D. Reducing red meat consumption
- E. Solar water heating.

12. Which one of the following is not congruent as a health professional with being a role model of low carbon and healthy living?

- A. Encouraging action on climate change
- B. Eating a healthy diet
- C. Using public transport
- D. Offsetting travel to medical conferences
- E. Driving a fuel-inefficient vehicle.

COMMUNITIES, CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE DISTRICT HEALTH SYSTEM

13. True (A) or false (B):

The district health system comprises the public and private health services within a demarcated area.

14. True (A) or false (B):

Social capital is a term used to describe the ability of the local leaders to solve local problems.

15. True (A) or false (B):

With regard to global warming, the key activity a health-promoting school can do is to ensure that learners understand both mitigation of and adaption to climate change.

THE HEALTH PROFESSION AND CLIMATE CHANGE: ADVOCACY NEEDED

16. True (A) or false (B):

The World Health Organization's regional committee for Africa in 2011 advocated 'Scale up existing public health interventions.'

17. True (A) or false (B):

The World Health Organization's regional committee for Africa in 2011 advocated 'Promote research on climate change impacts and adaptation.'

THE CARBON CYCLE

18. True (A) or false (B):

Combustion of fossil fuels is not part of the carbon cycle.

19. True (A) or false (B):

Burning fossil fuels accounts for most of the increases in carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

HOW WELL ARE WE TEACHING HEALTH SCIENCE STUDENTS ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH?

20. True (a) or false (B):

The Faculty of Health Sciences at Stellenbosch University used 16.4 million kWh in 2010.