



---

# Planetary Health Report Card (Medicine): *University of Aberdeen*

---



2024-2025 Contributing Team:

- Students: *Rebecca McEwen*
- Faculty Mentors: Dr Johnny Naylor

\*Primary Contact: Rebecca McEwen [rebecca.mcewen2@nhs.scot](mailto:rebecca.mcewen2@nhs.scot)

Land acknowledgment:

## Summary of Findings

<b>Overall Grade</b>	<b>B</b>
<b>Curriculum</b>	<b>C</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There have been a number of new additions into the curriculum on sustainable healthcare. This has also been improved by the employment of a clinical lecturer with a special interest in sustainable healthcare.</li> <li><b>Recommendations:</b> Improve the overall depth of sustainable healthcare teaching in the curriculum. Continue to think about where more teaching could be integrated into the curriculum.</li> </ul>	
<b>Interdisciplinary Research</b>	<b>B</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is research being done by students and staff within the medical school and the wider University. Research and work on sustainability makes up part of the Aberdeen 2040 goals.</li> <li><b>Recommendations:</b> Enhance the current institution webpage for sustainability by ensuring it is updated regularly, and provide a list of faculty who have a research interest in sustainability. This would allow interested students to easily contact academics to propose potential projects.</li> </ul>	
<b>Community Outreach and Advocacy</b>	<b>B+</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Within the medical school there are societies such as MedAid involved with sustainability community outreach work. To educate the wider public the medical school sometimes has educational events such as Cafe Med and Cafe Sci.</li> <li><b>Recommendations:</b> Include more teaching for the community and educational leaflets on sustainable healthcare and the impact of climate change on health for the wider community. As well as producing more frequent planetary health updates in university communication updates.</li> </ul>	
<b>Support for Student-Led Initiatives</b>	<b>B</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The medical school provides grants for students to undertake summer educational projects on sustainable healthcare and research. The medical school sustainable healthcare group also encourages interested students to attend their meetings. There is also a sustainable healthcare society within the University that is greatly supported by staff members.</li> <li><b>Recommendations:</b> Update the sustainability website within the University and potentially create a site for the medical school on sustainable healthcare. It should also include information regarding how students could get involved with sustainability QIs and what the NHS, as well as the local NHS trust, is doing.</li> </ul>	
<b>Campus Sustainability</b>	<b>B</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overall, the Medical School seems to be prioritising sustainability on its campus with features such as the building's energy efficiency and recycling bins. This could be improved by adding compost bins to the Medical School. The University also has sustainable procurement policies. The University is entirely divested from fossil fuels and is looking at having their investment portfolio reflected in its overall beliefs about sustainability by 2025.</li> <li><b>Recommendations:</b> Create sustainability guidelines for Medical School events and have meat free days in the Suttie Centre cafe.</li> </ul>	

# Statement of Purpose

*Planetary health is human health.*

The Planetary Health Alliance describes planetary health as “a solutions-oriented, transdisciplinary field and social movement focused on analysing and addressing the impacts of human disruptions to Earth’s natural systems on human health and all life on Earth.” This definition is intentionally broad, intended to encompass the multitude of ways that the environment can affect health, including water scarcity, changing food systems, urbanisation, biodiversity shifts, natural disasters, climate change, changing land use and land cover, global pollution, and changing biogeochemical flows. The health of humanity is dependent on our environment, and our environment is changing rapidly and in disastrous ways. Although the World Health Organization has called climate change “the greatest threat to global health in the 21st century,” many medical school’s institutional priorities do not reflect the urgency of this danger to human health.

As future health professionals, we must be prepared to address the impacts of human-caused environmental changes on our patients’ health. This preparation is in the hands of the institutions providing our medical training. It is imperative that we hold our institutions accountable for educating medical students about the health impacts of climate change and other anthropogenic environmental changes, generating research to better understand health impacts and solutions, supporting related student initiatives, embracing sustainable practices as much as possible, and engaging with surrounding communities that are most affected by environmental threats. Because climate change and environmental threats disproportionately affect vulnerable populations (for example, communities of colour, older adults sensitive to health threats, and individuals in low-resource settings), these issues are inherently ones of equity and justice.

With the purpose of increasing planetary health awareness and accountability among health professional schools, we have created a Planetary Health Report Card that students internationally can use to grade and compare their institutions on an annual basis. This student-driven initiative aims to compare health professional schools nationally and internationally on the basis of discrete metrics in five main category areas: 1) planetary health curriculum, 2) interdisciplinary research in health and environment, 3) university support for student planetary health initiatives, and 4) community outreach centred on environmental health impacts 5) medical school campus sustainability.

# Instructions for Completing the PHRC

**Thank you!** We are really pleased to have you and your team on board to complete the PHRC at your institution. Many of you will have already been part of a completed report card or even lead the team at your school but please take a moment to read the instructions below.

For a full comprehensive step-by-step guide to completing your report card please refer to the PHRC User Guide. This page serves as a brief overview of the important methodology.

## Completing the report card:

The Planetary Health Report Card is a self assessment tool designed to identify an institution's strengths and areas in need of improvement in regards to its planetary health education. The metric-based report card consists of five sections; 1. Curriculum, 2. Interdisciplinary Research, 3. Community Outreach, 4. Support for Student-Led Initiatives and 5. Campus Sustainability.

- **Metrics.** There are roughly 55 metrics (depending on your discipline). Sections 2-5 are the same across all disciplines. Each metric has different criteria for either scoring 1, 2 or 3 points. Participants should read each metric carefully and answer the question with as much accuracy as possible, drawing upon multiple sources where possible. It is vital sufficient investigation is completed for each metric to give a fair and accurate representation of your institution.

Most of the Curriculum metrics are graded by inclusion in **elective** coursework, **brief** coverage in the **core curriculum** or **in depth** coverage in the **core curriculum**.

**Elective coursework:** This score applies to material that is actively selected by the students such as a module choice, or additional lecture series. By implication, only a given proportion of the cohort will receive this taught material.

**Brief coverage in the core curriculum:** This score applies where a topic is covered only briefly in a core curriculum session. This implies that the entire cohort receives the same material. Brief inclusion would qualify as inclusion in a single lecture slide in a single year.

**In depth coverage in the core curriculum:** This score applies where a topic is taught in significant detail or where a topic is repeatedly brought up in different years. This might look like several dedicated lecture slides, or inclusion of the same topic in different lectures and teaching formats. Please consider amongst your team that this is the highest score awarded and a subjective decision must be made as to whether the topic should be awarded this score.

(A full list of definitions is provided on the below pages)

- **Types of evidence.** Acceptable forms of evidence include: lecture titles, learning objectives, module descriptions, descriptions of the intended learning, case titles, seminar titles, project titles, webpages, researcher profiles / biographies, news articles, publications, social media output, institutional policy documents. Please be as specific as possible.

It is essential that you have clearly justified the score for each metric, outlining in the box provided the specific content delivered in your curriculum and why you have assigned the

score. Each report card is reviewed by a member of the leadership team for accuracy and consistency across report cards. An example of the sufficient level of evidence is provided below each metric.

Please do not include **lecturers' names** without permission. The title of the lecture or module with a brief description of the material will suffice.

Where material is publicly available via an institution's website, please include hyperlinks to the webpages.

- **Evidence deadline.** Any material from the previous academic year and the current academic year up to the draft deadline of the **17th February 2025** may be included in this report card. Any teaching planned after this date should not be scored in this report card but can be included in the 2025/26 report. You may wish to make a note of any such teaching for your colleagues producing next year's report card.

# Definitions & Other Considerations

## Definitions:

- **Planetary Health:** is described by the Planetary Health Alliance as “the health of human civilisation and the state of the natural systems on which it depends.” For example, topics such as climate change, declining biodiversity, shortages of arable land and freshwater, and pollution would all fall under the realm of planetary health. Both planetary health and traditional ‘environmental health’ examine the relationship between human health and the external environment, including extreme temperatures, chemicals, vector-borne diseases, etc. Planetary health explicitly concerns itself with the potential health harms associated with human-caused perturbations of natural systems. Therefore, the human health focus of planetary health makes the field well-adapted for the context of medical school education. Throughout this report card, we use the term planetary health to refer to this broad swath of topics, but resources do not need to explicitly include the term “planetary health” to satisfy the metric.
- **Sustainable Healthcare:** As defined by the Academy of Royal Colleges, sustainable healthcare involves ensuring the ability to provide good quality care for future generations by balancing the economic, environmental, and social constraints and demands within health care settings. A sustainable healthcare system maintains population health, reduces disease burden and minimises use of healthcare services.
- **Education for Sustainable Healthcare (ESH):** is defined as the process of equipping current and future health professionals with the knowledge, attitudes, skills and capacity to provide environmentally sustainable services through health professional education, thus working to decrease the enormous environmental impact of the healthcare industry. Planetary Health Education is an integral part of this education rather than an end in itself. This is because knowledge on Planetary Health is required to be able to fully understand the necessity of sustainable healthcare as well as being part of the broader knowledge needed to fully protect and promote health. In summary, ESH is covered by the three Priority Learning Outcomes of the Centre of Sustainable Healthcare below, and Planetary Health Education is embraced in the first learning objective and is a fundamental requirement to achieve learning outcomes 2 and 3:
  1. Describe how the environment and human health interact at different levels.
  2. Demonstrate the knowledge and skills needed to improve the environmental sustainability of health systems.
  3. Discuss how the duty of a doctor to protect and promote health is shaped by the dependence of human health on the local and global environment.
- **Medical School/Department vs. Institution:** When “Medical school” is specified in the report card, this only refers to curriculum and resources offered by the School/department of Medicine and does not include offerings from other parts of the university (e.g. undergraduate departments (USA), other related departments (e.g. Public Health, Population Health departments). In contrast, when “institution” is specified in the report card, we are referring to the university more broadly including all of its campuses. Any resource reasonably accessible by medical students, no matter where in the institution the resource comes from or if it is

specifically targeted for medical students, can meet this metric.

- **Environmental history (Metric #19 in Curriculum Section):** This is a series of questions students are taught to ask during medical encounters that elicits patients' exposures and environmental risk factors. Historically, this has included consideration of exposures like pesticides, asbestos, and lead, though in the modern era shaped by climate change, it can be expanded to include things like wildfire smoke exposure, air pollution and mould after flooding. Key components include place of residence over the lifecourse, occupational history, food and water sources (e.g. meat from industrial feeding operations, regular fishing in contaminated water, access to clean drinking water), and exposure to air pollution. Please be as specific as possible when providing evidence for this metric.
- **Elective:** The word "elective" refers to an optional course or lecture series that a medical student can opt to take part in but is not a requirement in the core curriculum. Generally, these elective courses take place in the preclinical curriculum but vary by school.
- **Core Curriculum:** This refers to taught material that is delivered to the entire cohort of students in one year.
- **Clerkship / Outreach:** This is a term used in the USA to refer to placements that medical students go on e.g. Pediatrics, General medicine, Psychiatry. In the UK these are referred to as rotations, outreach or placements. This is a relatively short (approximately 4-8 weeks) period of study and patient-centred clinical experience that takes place as part of the undergraduate programme.
- **Clinical rotation:** This is a term used to refer to placements that students go on (e.g., ophthalmology, surgery, cardiology).
- **Physiotherapy vs Physical Therapy:** For the purposes of this report card these terms are considered interchangeable. However, physiotherapy will be used primarily.
- **Community organisations:** For most institutions, there are existing groups that are not directly affiliated with the university and exist as a product of what the community the institution exists in cares about or needs. These specific community organisations relevant to this report include those that are focused around some aspect of climate and health preservation. These community organisations can include but are not limited to local mutual aid initiatives, underserved-resource distribution groups, clean-up and nature conservation groups, community gardeners, and other environmental-related organisations. If your institution does not have access to local volunteerships with community groups, please report any community organisations your institution or school has collaborated with.
- **Climate justice:** The idea that certain population groups and geographical locations which are disproportionately more impacted by climate change are already economically and socially disadvantaged. This double vulnerability sits alongside pre-existing social justice concerns and should therefore shift policy and practice to mitigate the inequitable effects of the climate crisis.
- **Extractivism:** The removal of natural resources typically in large quantities. Within anthropology this term is often used in the context of colonialism to refer to

the historic seizing of natural resources, a practice which has developed business models tied to ecological degradation and loss of biodiversity.

- **Global South:** Nations that often have less economic and industrial development and are typically in the southern hemisphere. These nations have been found to be disproportionately impacted by the climate crisis.
- **Low socioeconomic status (SES):** An individual or geographical area that across a variety of socioeconomic factors (e.g., income, education, race/ethnicity) is considered vulnerable. This vulnerability has been correlated to more adverse health outcomes often as a consequence of encountering more barriers in accessing and receiving healthcare.
- **Low and Middle-Income Countries (LMIC):** Countries that have lower degrees of economic affluence.
- **Anthropogenic:** Created through human activity
- **Marginalized communities:** Groups excluded from mainstream economic, educational, social, and/or cultural experiences due to race, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, physical ability, language, and/or immigration status (Sevelius et al., 2020).

**Other considerations:**

- If there are more than one “tracks” at your institution with two different curricula (for example, Harvard Medical School has a Pathways and HST curriculum track), you can choose to fill out a report card for each track, or fill out just one report card and average the scores received by each track in cases where the scores are different (see the 2021 Harvard or Oxford report cards as examples). Where possible please indicate the proportion of students that are on each track.

Completed in 2022 a [Literature Review by Metric](#) is available for the 2022 medicine report card metrics. We are in the process of updating this review and making it more applicable to all the disciplines. However the review serves as a rough collection of references for further learning and a resource for those advocating for increased planetary health engagement at their institutions.



# Planetary Health Curriculum

***Section Overview:*** *This section evaluates the integration of relevant planetary health topics into the medical school curriculum. Today's medical students will be on the frontlines of tackling the health effects of climate and other environmental changes. Therefore, it is critical that medical students are trained to understand the health effects of these changes, as well as planetary health issues and principles more broadly. Topics like the changing geography of vector-borne diseases, the health consequences of air pollution, environmental health inequities, and disaster response principles must be part of every medical school's core curriculum.*

## ***Curriculum: General***

<b>1.1. Did your <u>medical school</u> offer elective courses (student selected modules) to engage students in Education for Sustainable Healthcare or Planetary Health in the last year?</b>	
Yes, the medical school has offered <b>more than one</b> elective whose primary focus is ESH/planetary health in the past year. (3 points)	
Yes, the medical school has offered <b>one</b> elective whose primary focus is ESH/planetary health in the past year. (2 points)	
The medical school does <b>not</b> have any electives whose primary focus is ESH/planetary health, but there are one or more electives that include a <b>lecture</b> on planetary health. (1 points)	
No, the medical school has <b>not</b> offered any electives on planetary health or electives that include ESH/planetary health topics in the past year. (0 points)	
Score Assigned:	3
<i>Score explanation: The Medical School offers a first-year Student Selected Component focused on sustainable medicine. There is also a third-year medical humanities Student Selected Component in October every year on sustainable medicine that is held in Inverness.</i>	

## ***Curriculum: Health Effects of Climate Change***

<b>1.2. Does your <u>medical school</u> curriculum address the relationship between extreme heat, health risks, and climate change?</b>
This topic was explored <b>in depth</b> by the <b>core</b> curriculum. (3 points)
This topic was <b>briefly</b> covered in the <b>core</b> curriculum. (2 points)
This topic was covered in <b>elective</b> coursework. (1 point)
This topic was <b>not</b> covered. (0 points)

Score Assigned:	2
<i>Score explanation: These topics are addressed in the first year General Practice (GP) lecture on the environmental influences on health lecture. There is a learning outcome to develop the awareness of the effects of climate change on health.</i>	

<b>1.3. Does your <u>medical school</u> curriculum address the impacts of extreme weather events on individual health and/or on healthcare systems?</b>	
This topic was explored <b>in depth</b> by the <b>core</b> curriculum. (3 points)	
This topic was <b>briefly</b> covered in the <b>core</b> curriculum. (2 points)	
This topic was covered in <b>elective</b> coursework. (1 point)	
This topic was <b>not</b> covered. (0 points)	
Score Assigned:	0
<i>Score explanation: There was previously an outcome in the first year GP lecture (A lecture is a teaching session to a large group delivered by an expert in the teaching area) on environmental influences on health lecture on natural disasters and their impact on health but this is no longer present in this lecture.</i>	

<b>1.4. Does your <u>medical school</u> curriculum address the impact of climate change on the changing patterns of infectious diseases?</b>	
This topic was explored <b>in depth</b> by the <b>core</b> curriculum. (3 points)	
This topic was <b>briefly</b> covered in the <b>core</b> curriculum. (2 points)	
This topic was covered in <b>elective</b> coursework. (1 point)	
This topic was <b>not</b> covered. (0 points)	
Score Assigned:	1
<i>Score explanation: This topic was briefly covered in the global health medical humanities Student Selected Component and in the medical humanities sustainable medicine Student Selected Components. These are elective courses that are only available to a small amount of the year group.</i>	

**1.5. Does your medical school curriculum address the respiratory health effects of climate change and air pollution?**

This topic was explored **in depth** by the **core** curriculum.

This topic was **briefly** covered in the **core** curriculum.

This topic was covered in **elective** coursework.

This topic was **not** covered.

Score Assigned:

2

*Score explanation: This was addressed in the first year GP lecture Environmental Influences on Health. There are associated learning outcomes such as to develop the awareness of the effects of climate change on health, to appreciate that removal of exposure to certain environments can have significant individual and/or population health benefits- this includes the impacts of air pollution on respiratory health. Air pollution is also considered to be a risk factor for several conditions that are addressed in the respiratory block (Aberdeen has a systems based approach to teaching, as such each system such as respiratory and cardiovascular is one block of this systems based teaching) such as asthma.*

**1.6. Does your medical school curriculum address the cardiovascular health effects of climate change, including increased heat**

This topic was explored **in depth** by the **core** curriculum.

This topic was **briefly** covered in the **core** curriculum.

This topic was covered in **elective** coursework.

This topic was **not** covered.

Score Assigned:

2

*Score explanation: This was covered in the environmental influences on health lecture in the first year GP block. This lecture includes the learning outcome to develop awareness of the effects of climate change on health which includes conditions associated with increased heat. Also, it was covered during a dermatology lecture on skin and temperature control with the effect of extreme heat being covered with a focus on its effects on the cardiovascular system. Learning outcomes:  
Illustrate the range of responses made by a human to cold and heat stress*

**1.7. Does your medical school curriculum address the mental health and neuropsychological effects of environmental degradation and climate change?**

This topic was explored **in depth** by the **core** curriculum.

This topic was <b>briefly</b> covered in the <b>core</b> curriculum.	
This topic was covered in <b>elective</b> coursework.	
This topic was <b>not</b> covered.	
Score Assigned:	0
<i>Score explanation: This is not covered in the curriculum.</i>	

<b>1.8. Does your <u>medical school</u> curriculum address the relationships between health, individual patient food and water security, ecosystem health, and climate change?</b>	
This topic was explored <b>in depth</b> by the <b>core</b> curriculum.	
This topic was <b>briefly</b> covered in the <b>core</b> curriculum.	
This topic was covered in <b>elective</b> coursework.	
This topic was <b>not</b> covered.	
Score Assigned:	1
<i>Score explanation: This topic is addressed in the global health student selected component in third year. It is also addressed in the sustainable medicine student selected component in first year.</i>	

<b>1.9. Does your <u>medical school</u> curriculum address the outsized impact of climate change on marginalised populations such as those with low SES, women, communities of colour, Indigenous communities, children, homeless populations, and older adults?</b>	
This topic was explored <b>in depth</b> by the <b>core</b> curriculum.	
This topic was <b>briefly</b> covered in the <b>core</b> curriculum.	
This topic was covered in <b>elective</b> coursework.	
This topic was <b>not</b> covered.	
Score Assigned:	0
<i>Score explanation: This is not covered in the curriculum.</i>	

<b>1.10. Does your <u>medical school</u> curriculum address the unequal regional health impacts of climate change globally?</b>	
This topic was explored <b>in depth</b> by the <b>core</b> curriculum.	

This topic was <b>briefly</b> covered in the <b>core</b> curriculum.	
This topic was covered in <b>elective</b> coursework.	
This topic was <b>not</b> covered.	
Score Assigned:	1
<i>Score explanation: This is covered in the global health humanities in the third year.</i>	

**Curriculum: Environmental Health & the Effects of Anthropogenic Toxins on Human Health**

<b>1.11. Does your <u>medical school</u> curriculum address the reproductive health effects of industry-related environmental toxins (e.g. air pollution, pesticides)?</b>	
This topic was explored <b>in depth</b> by the <b>core</b> curriculum.	
This topic was <b>briefly</b> covered in the <b>core</b> curriculum.	
This topic was covered in <b>elective</b> coursework.	
This topic was <b>not</b> covered.	
Score Assigned:	2
<i>Score explanation: In the third year reproductive block there is a male reproductive lecture on the effect different chemicals can have on sperm production and testosterone.</i>	

<b>1.12. Does your <u>medical school</u> curriculum address important human-caused environmental threats that are relevant to the university's surrounding community?</b>	
This topic was explored <b>in depth</b> by the <b>core</b> curriculum.	
This topic was <b>briefly</b> covered in the <b>core</b> curriculum.	
This topic was covered in <b>elective</b> coursework.	
This topic was <b>not</b> covered.	
Score Assigned:	2
<i>Score explanation: Aberdeen has high levels of radiation in comparison to other places which was addressed in various teaching activities throughout the curriculum as it is a well known fact by the general public in Aberdeen and is a very interesting aspect to know about. It is often mentioned in radiology teachings the number of X-rays that we are exposed to every year just by living in Aberdeen. Other threats are not currently covered in the curriculum.</i>	

**1.13. To what extent does your medical school emphasise the importance of Indigenous knowledge and value systems as essential components of planetary health solutions?**

This topic was explored **in depth** by the **core** curriculum.

This topic was **briefly** covered in the **core** curriculum.

This topic was covered in **elective** coursework.

This topic was **not** covered.

Score Assigned:	0
-----------------	---

*Score explanation: This is not covered in the curriculum.*

**1.14. Does your medical school curriculum address the outsized impact of anthropogenic environmental toxins on marginalised populations such as those with low SES, women, communities of colour, children, homeless populations, Indigenous populations, and older adults?**

This topic was explored **in depth** by the **core** curriculum.

This topic was **briefly** covered in the **core** curriculum.

This topic was covered in **elective** coursework.

This topic was **not** covered.

Score Assigned:	0
-----------------	---

*Score explanation: This is not covered in the curriculum.*

### *Curriculum: Sustainability*

**1.15. Does your medical school curriculum address the environmental and health co-benefits of a plant-based diet?**

This topic was explored **in depth** by the **core** curriculum.

This topic was **briefly** covered in the **core** curriculum.

This topic was covered in **elective** coursework.

This topic was **not** covered.

Score Assigned:	2
-----------------	---

*Score explanation: This topic was briefly covered in the nutrition lectures during the cardiovascular block in first year. In the third year there is a lecture on complementary and*

alternative medicines in the specialities block that mentions the health benefits of a plant based diet.

**1.16. Does your medical school curriculum address the carbon footprint of healthcare systems?**

This topic was explored **in depth** by the **core** curriculum.

This topic was **briefly** covered in the **core** curriculum.

This topic was covered in **elective** coursework.

This topic was **not** covered.

Score Assigned:

3

*Score explanation: This is addressed in the sustainability and resilience lecture in the GP block. The learning outcomes from this lecture are: To understand the definition of sustainability and how it might apply to healthcare, to appreciate the necessity of a sustainable healthcare system. It is also covered in the Sustainable medicine Student Selected Component. This is also covered in a realistic medicine lecture in first year.*

**1.17. Does your medical school curriculum cover these components of sustainable clinical practice in the core curriculum? (points for each)**

**Score**

The health **and** environmental **co-benefits** of **avoiding** over-medicalisation, over-investigation and/or over-treatment (2 points)

2

The environmental impact of **pharmaceuticals** and over-prescribing as a cause of climate health harm. Alternatively teaching on **deprescribing** where possible and its environmental and health co-benefits would fulfil this metric. (2 points) .

2

The health **and** environmental **co-benefits** of **non-pharmaceutical management** of conditions where appropriate such as exercise or yoga classes for type 2 diabetes; social group activities such as gardening for mental health conditions; active transport such as bicycle schemes. This is commonly known as social prescribing in the UK. (1 point)

1

Environmental impact of **surgical** healthcare on planetary health and the climate crisis, and how can it be mitigated. (1 point)

0

The impact of **anaesthetic** gases on the healthcare carbon footprint and ways to reduce anaesthesia's environmental impacts, such as total intravenous anaesthesia or choosing less environmentally harmful anaesthetic gas options with reduced greenhouse gas emissions. (1 point)

0

The impact of **inhalers** on the healthcare carbon footprint and the environmental benefit of dry powdered inhalers over metered dose inhalers. (1 point)

1

<b>Waste production</b> within healthcare <b>clinics</b> and strategies for reducing waste in clinical activities (e.g. single use items in the inpatient or outpatient setting) (1 point)	1
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The General Practice realistic medicine online module addresses the effects of over-medicalisation and over- investigation on patient health and the environment. There is the learning outcome: To understand the need to reduce harm and waste in this learning.</li> <li>2. The environmental benefits of deprescribing is included in the realistic medicine lecture in the GP block in first year. During the third year of geriatrics teaching, the health benefits of deprescribing is addressed.</li> <li>3. The health and environmental co-benefits of non-pharmaceutical management is addressed in the third year pharmaceuticals block within the specialities block.</li> <li>4. The environmental impact of surgical healthcare on planetary health and the climate crisis is not addressed in the curriculum.</li> <li>5. The impact of anaesthetic gases on the healthcare carbon footprint is not addressed in the curriculum.</li> <li>6. The respiratory clinical skills teaching addresses the environmental impact of inhalers through small group teaching in clinical skills sessions. It is also addressed in general practice teaching.</li> <li>7. Waste production is mentioned throughout the curriculum at different stages and areas such as core lectures, clinical skills and practical skills.</li> </ol>	

### *Curriculum: Clinical Applications*

<b>1.18. In training for patient encounters, does your <u>medical school's</u> curriculum introduce strategies to have conversations with patients about the health effects of climate change?</b>	
Yes, there are strategies introduced for having conversations with patients about climate change in the <b>core</b> curriculum. (2 points)	
Yes, there are strategies introduced for having conversations with patients about climate change in <b>elective</b> coursework. (1 points)	
No, there are <b>not</b> strategies introduced for having conversations with patients about climate change. (0 points)	
Score Assigned:	0
<i>Score explanation: This is not included in the core curriculum.</i>	

<b>1.19. In training for patient encounters, does your <u>medical school's</u> curriculum introduce strategies for taking an environmental history or exposure history?</b>	
Yes, the <b>core</b> curriculum includes strategies for taking an environmental history. (2 points)	
Only <b>elective</b> coursework includes strategies for taking an environmental history. (1 point)	
No, the curriculum does <b>not</b> include strategies for taking an environmental history. (0 points)	
Score Assigned:	2



*Score explanation: The University provides teaching in clinical skills on taking a full history from first year onwards which includes their social history. The social history includes factors such as environmental risk factors including smoking exposure and occupational history e.g. asbestos. This could be expanded to understanding where people have lived over their lifetime and any exposure they may have had to flooding or wildfires.*

### **Curriculum: Administrative Support for Planetary Health**

#### **1.20. Is your medical school currently in the process of implementing or improving Education for Sustainable Healthcare (ESH)/planetary health education?**

Yes, the medical school is currently in the process of making **major** improvements to ESH/planetary health education. (4 points)

Yes, the medical school is currently in the process of making **minor** improvements to ESH/planetary health education. (2 points)

No, there are **no** improvements to planetary health education in progress. (0 points)

Score Assigned:

4

*Score explanation: Due to the employment of a teaching fellow on sustainability who is focusing on incorporating more sustainability teaching into the overall curriculum. This is the first year that a sustainability teaching fellow has been employed and this work done will help improve the amount of sustainability teaching. There were also two students who conducted a summer project which created learning outcomes for the curriculum on sustainable healthcare.*

#### **1.21. How well are the aforementioned planetary health/Education for Sustainable Healthcare topics integrated longitudinally into the core curriculum?**

Planetary health/ESH topics are **well integrated** into the core medical school curriculum. (6 points)

**Some** planetary health/ESH topics are appropriately integrated into the core medical student curriculum. (4 points)

Planetary health/ESH is not integrated and is primarily addressed in **(a) standalone lecture(s)**. (2 points)

There is **minimal/no** education for sustainable healthcare. (0 points)

Score Assigned:

4

*Score explanation: There are multiple lectures mentioned above that include sustainable healthcare features. This is present throughout the curriculum and this is being furthered even more by a summer project by two medical students where they developed learning outcomes to be included in the curriculum.*

**1.22. Does your medical school employ a member of faculty to specifically oversee and take responsibility for the incorporation of planetary health and sustainable healthcare as a theme throughout the course?**

**Yes, the medical school has a specific faculty/staff member responsible for overseeing curricular integration of planetary health and sustainable healthcare. (1 point)**

**No, the medical school does **not** have a specific faculty/staff member responsible for overseeing curricular integration of planetary health and sustainable healthcare. (0 points)**

Score Assigned:

1

*Score explanation: Aberdeen has employed a sustainability teaching fellow to oversee the inclusion of sustainable healthcare into the curriculum.*

**Section Total (39 out of 72)**

**54%**

Back to Summary Page [here](#)

# Interdisciplinary Research

**Section Overview:** *This section evaluates the quality and quantity of interdisciplinary planetary health research at the broader institution. Interactions between health and the environment are complex and multifactorial. While climate change has been extensively studied from an environmental science perspective, planetary health is an emerging field. As leading health institutions with talented researchers and research resources, institutions should fund research studying the health effects of climate change and anthropogenic environmental toxins. This obligation is particularly strong because the public and policymakers are more attentive to climate change when its implications for human health are emphasised.*

## 2.1. Are there researchers engaged in planetary health research and healthcare sustainability research at your institution?

Yes, there are faculty members at the **institution** who have a **primary** research focus in planetary health **or** sustainable healthcare/vetcare. (3 points)

Yes, there are individual faculty members at the **institution** who are conducting research **related** to planetary health or healthcare sustainability, **OR** are part of a national/international sustainability working group, but it is not their primary research focus. (2 points)

There are sustainability researchers at the **institution**, but not specifically associated with healthcare/vetcare. (1 point)

No, there are **no** planetary health and/or sustainability researchers at the **institution** at this time. (0 points)

Score Assigned:

3

*Score explanation: The Rowett Institute is part of the University of Aberdeen's School of Medicine, Medical Sciences and Nutrition. One of their three main research themes is "[Microbiome, Food Innovation and Food Security](#)", which includes work on planetary health via the lens of food supply chains. There has also been research done by staff members with some student involvement on including [sustainability within the curriculum](#) including work in the sustainable medicine medical humanities block.*

*There has been research done by students within the medical school and has been a sustainability teaching fellow implementing sustainable healthcare teaching into the curriculum.*

## 2.2. Is there a dedicated department or institute for interdisciplinary planetary health research at your institution?

There is **at least one** dedicated department or institute for interdisciplinary planetary health research. (3 points)

There is **not currently** a department or institute for interdisciplinary planetary health research, but there are **plans** to open one in the next 3 years. (2 points)

There is an <b>Occupational and Environmental Health department</b> , but no interdisciplinary department or institute for planetary health research. (1 points)	
There is <b>no</b> dedicated department or institute. (0 points)	
Score Assigned:	3
<i>Score explanation: The University of Aberdeen's <a href="#">Interdisciplinary Centre for Environment and Biodiversity</a> encourages collaboration between faculty and researchers amongst schools within the university. Their work focuses on various aspects of planetary health such as food security, empowering local communities regarding climate change and marine biodiversity.</i>	

<b>2.3. Is there a process by which communities disproportionately impacted by climate change and environmental injustice give input or make decisions about the research agenda at your institution?</b>	
Yes, there is a process in which community members impacted by climate and environmental injustice have <b>decision-making power</b> in the climate + environmental research agenda. (3 points)	
Yes, there is a process in which community members impacted by climate and environmental injustice <b>advise</b> the climate + environmental research agenda. (2 points)	
<b>No</b> , but there are <b>current efforts</b> to establish a process for community members to advise or make decisions on the research agenda. (1 points)	
There is <b>no</b> process, and <b>no</b> efforts to create such a process. (0 points)	
Score Assigned:	0
<i>Score explanation: There are currently none.</i>	

<b>2.4. Does your institution have a planetary health website that centralises ongoing and past research related to health and the environment?</b>	
There is an <b>easy-to-use, adequately comprehensive</b> website that <b>centralises</b> various campus resources related to health and the environment including all of the following: upcoming events, leaders in planetary health at your institution, and relevant funding opportunities. (3 points)	
There is a website that <b>attempts to centralise</b> various campus resources related to health and the environment, but it is hard-to-use, not updated, or not adequately comprehensive. (2 points)	
The <b>institution</b> has an <b>Office of Sustainability website</b> that includes <b>some</b> resources related to health and the environment. (1 point)	
There is <b>no</b> website. (0 points)	
Score Assigned:	3

*Score explanation: The University of Aberdeen has a dedicated [webpage](#) to sustainability as part of the Aberdeen 2040 strategy. This website is up to date and comprehensive on sustainability information.*

**2.5. Has your institution recently hosted a conference or symposium on topics related to planetary health?**

Yes, the **institution** has hosted at least one conference or symposium on topics related to planetary health in the past year. (4 points)

Yes, the **institution** has hosted at least one conference or symposium on topics related to sustainable healthcare/vetcare in the past year. (3 points)

Yes, the **institution** has hosted a conference on topics related to planetary health / sustainable healthcare/vetcare in the past three years. (2 points)

The **institution** has not hosted any conferences directly, but they have provided financial support for a local planetary health event. (1 point)

No, the **institution** has not hosted a conference on topics related to planetary health in the past three years. (0 points)

Score Assigned:

2

*Score explanation: The Medical School held their first clinical skills sustainability showcase in early 2024 which aimed to highlight the actions the Medical School was taking to become more sustainable and promoted how students could get involved.*

**2.6. Is your institution a member of a national or international planetary health or ESH/ESV organisation?**

Yes, the institution is a member of a national or international planetary health **or** ESH/ESV organisation. (1 points)

No, the institution is **not** a member of such an organisation. (0 points)

Score Assigned:

1

*Score explanation: The University is part of the Sustainable Development Goals Accord which works towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.*

**Section Total (12 out of 17)**

**71%**

Back to Summary Page [here](#)



# Community Outreach and Advocacy

***Section Overview:*** This section evaluates medical school engagement in community outreach and advocacy efforts associated with planetary health. Researching and teaching planetary health is necessary but not sufficient. It is critical that institutions also directly engage with communities most affected by environmental health harms. Although climate change is a problem largely created by those with power and resources, its impacts fall disproportionately on under-resourced populations and communities of colour. Institutions should partner with local communities affected by climate change and pollution to share information about environmental health threats, advocate together for change, and provide opportunities for students to be a part of this work.

<b>3.1. Does your <u>institution</u> partner with community organisations to promote planetary and health?</b>	
Yes, the <b>institution</b> meaningfully partners with <b>multiple</b> community organisations to promote planetary and environmental health. (3 points)	
Yes, the <b>institution</b> meaningfully partners with <b>one</b> community organisation to promote planetary and environmental health. (2 points)	
The <b>institution</b> does not partner with community organisations, but has participating in community focused events relating to planetary health. (1 point)	
No, there is <b>no</b> such meaningful community partnership. (0 points)	
Score Assigned:	3
<i>Score explanation: Aberdeen's branch of MedAID, acts to re-distribute excess healthcare resources by donating them to institutions, hospitals or individuals in need of them, with global outreach. During the 4th year curriculum in Inverness, students are offered a morning session led by a local charity, Nature 4 Health, to help learn and understand the benefits of environmental connectivity and improved health outcomes. Ongoing research is conducted by the university into sustainability. The university is also a member of various sustainability networks including the <a href="#">North East Scotland Climate Change Partnership</a>, an "information, education and collaboration hub" for individuals and organisations across the North East.</i>	

<b>3.2. Does your <u>institution</u> offer community-facing courses or events regarding planetary health?</b>	
The <b>institution</b> offers community-facing courses or events at least once every year. (3 points)	
The <b>institution</b> offers courses or events open to the community at least once per year, but they are not primarily created for a community audience. (2 points)	
The <b>institution</b> has promoted community-facing courses or events, but was not involved in planning those courses or events. (1 point)	

The <b>institution/medical school</b> have not offered such community-facing courses or events. (0 points)	
Score Assigned:	3
<i>Score explanation: The University contributes to Cafe SCI and Cafe MED <a href="#">events</a>, an initiative of public engagement between community members and research at the University of Aberdeen. The <a href="#">North East Climate Week</a> annually raises awareness of sustainability, particularly with a focus on the NHS, open for the public to attend.</i>	

3.3. Does your <b>institution</b> have regular coverage of issues related to planetary health and/or sustainable healthcare in university update communications?	
Yes, all students <b>regularly</b> receive communication updates dedicated to planetary health and/or sustainable healthcare. (2 points)	
Yes, planetary health and/or sustainable healthcare topics are regularly included in communication updates to <b>some courses</b> . (1 point)	
Students <b>do not</b> receive communications about planetary health or sustainable healthcare. (0 points)	
Score Assigned:	1
<i>Score explanation: Planetary health and sustainable healthcare topics are occasionally covered in <a href="#">social media posts</a> by AUSA (Aberdeen University Student Association) and communications from the university can include environmental updates, such as those showcasing recent developments or research findings. The AUSA Vice president for Communities, frequently shares community and university-led climate events through her social media accounts.</i>	

3.4. Does the <b>institution</b> or <b>main affiliated hospital trust</b> engage in professional education activities targeting individuals post graduation with the aim of ensuring their knowledge and skills in planetary health and sustainable healthcare remain up to date during their professional career?	
Yes, the <b>institution</b> or <b>main affiliated hospital trust</b> offers multiple in-person or online courses relating to planetary health and/or sustainable healthcare for post-graduate providers, including at least one with a primary focus of planetary health. (2 points)	
Yes, the <b>institution</b> or <b>main affiliated hospital trust</b> offers one course relating to planetary health and/or sustainable healthcare for post-graduate provider. (1 point)	
There are <b>no</b> such accessible courses for post-graduate providers. (0 points)	
Score Assigned:	2
<i>Score explanation: The University of Aberdeen offers a variety of advanced postgraduate programmes with a primary focus of planetary health. These coincide with the UN Sustainable Development Goals covering programmes in biological sciences, business, law and policy,</i>	



chemistry, engineering, geosciences, social sciences and medical sciences. There are additionally multiple [“Energy Online Courses”](#) available, including full degrees and short courses. However this could be improved by introducing a planetary health postgraduate course.

**3.5. Does your institution or its affiliated teaching hospitals have accessible educational materials for patients about environmental health exposures?**

Yes, the **medical school** or **all affiliated hospitals** have accessible educational materials for patients. (2 points)

**Some** affiliated hospitals have accessible educational materials for patients. (1 point)

**No** affiliated medical centres have accessible educational materials for patients. (0 points)

Score Assigned: 2

*Score explanation: Aberdeen Royal Infirmary has public health literature and posters around the hospital, for patient and staff education on travel, diet, exercise and smoking. Raigmore hospital in Inverness has similar resources on display to patients.*

**3.6. Does your institution or its affiliated teaching hospitals have accessible educational materials for patients about the health impacts of climate change?**

Yes, the **medical school** or **all affiliated hospitals** have accessible educational materials for patients. (2 points)

**Some** affiliated hospitals have accessible educational materials for patients. (1 point)

**No** affiliated hospitals have accessible educational materials for patients. (0 points)

Score Assigned: 0

*Score explanation: There are currently no educational materials available at the hospital on the health impacts of climate change.*

**Section Total (11 out of 14)**

**79%**

Back to Summary Page [here](#)

# Support for Student-Led Planetary Health Initiatives

**Section Overview:** This section evaluates institutional support for student-led planetary health initiatives, such as funding, fellowships, programming, and student groups. Planetary health is a young field and, as young people facing a future deeply shaped by climate change, students are often some of the first at an institution to engage with it. Institutions should provide support for students to engage in sustainability quality improvement (QI) initiatives, discover mentors in their area of interest, and receive funding for planetary health projects.

<b>4.1. Does your <u>institution</u> offer support for students interested in enacting a sustainability initiative/QI project?</b>	
Yes, the <b>institution</b> <i>either</i> offers grants for students to enact sustainability initiatives/QI projects <i>or</i> sustainability QI projects are part of the core curriculum. (2 points)	
The <b>institution</b> encourages sustainability QI projects (to fulfil clerkship or longitudinal requirements) and offers resources to help students succeed in these projects, <b>but</b> there is no student funding available and there is no requirement to participate. (1 point)	
No, <b>neither</b> the medical school or the institution offer opportunities or support for sustainability initiatives or QI projects. (0 points)	
Score Assigned:	2
Score explanation: The UoA Medical School offers grants to students during their electives, which can be sustainability-themed. In addition, the sustainability medical humanities is also funded by the Medical School. There were also two sustainability themed projects available for students in the previous summer, which provided funding of £300 per week.	

<b>4.2. Does your <u>institution</u> offer opportunities for students to do research related to planetary health and/or sustainable healthcare/vetcare?</b>	
The <b>institution</b> has a <b>specific</b> research program or fellowship for students interested in doing planetary health/sustainable healthcare/vetcare research. (2 points)	
There are research opportunities for students to perform research related to planetary health/sustainable healthcare, but these <b>require student initiative</b> to seek these out and carry them out in their spare time. (1 point)	
There are <b>no opportunities</b> for students to engage in planetary health/sustainable healthcare research. (0 points)	
Score Assigned:	2
Score explanation: Recently there have been funded opportunities for students to conduct two sustainability themed projects over the summer. In addition, the medical humanities block offers Sustainable Medicine, which allows three students to do research into an area of sustainable healthcare.	

**4.3. Does the institution have a webpage where students can find specific information related to planetary health and/or sustainable healthcare/vetcare activities and mentors within the institution? For example, projects achieved, current initiatives underway at the medical school and/or contact of information of potential mentors.**

The institution has a webpage with specific information related to planetary health or sustainable healthcare/vetcare that includes up-to-date information on relevant initiatives and contact information of potential mentors. (2 points)

There is an institution webpage that features some information on projects and mentors within planetary health and sustainable healthcare within the medical school, but it lacks key information. (1 point)

There is **no institution** specific webpage for locating planetary health and/or sustainable healthcare projects or mentors. (0 points)

Score Assigned:

1

*Score explanation: The UoA Medical School's medical humanities website lists [sustainable medicine](#) as a potential topic. However, this is primarily aimed at 3rd year students and no other Medical School webpage exists that lists potential supervisors and projects that students could get involved with.*

**4.4. Does your institution have registered student groups dedicated towards fostering a culture of planetary health engagement, scholarship, and advocacy on campus, supported by faculty advisors?**

Yes, there is a student organisation **with faculty support** at my medical school dedicated to planetary health or sustainability in healthcare. (2 points)

Yes, there is a student organisation at my medical school dedicated to planetary health or sustainability in healthcare but it **lacks faculty support**. (1 point)

No, there is **not** a student organisation at my institution dedicated to planetary health or sustainability in healthcare. (0 points)

Score Assigned:

2

*Score explanation: The University of Aberdeen has a [Sustainable Medicine Society](#), which is a student led society that promotes sustainable healthcare in the Medical School. The society is supported by a clinician who is associated with the Medical School. The MedAid society is another student-led society that aims to distribute perishable medical supplies to those that need them, preventing healthcare waste.*

**4.5. Is there a student liaison representing sustainability interests who serves on a department**

<b>or institutional decision-making council to advocate for curriculum reform and/or sustainability best practices?</b>	
Yes, there is a student representative that serves on a department or institutional decision-making council/committee. (1 points)	
No, there is no such student representative. (0 points)	
Score Assigned:	1
<i>Score explanation: Students are involved with the Clinical Skills Sustainability Working Group within the Medical School.</i>	

<b>4.6. In the past year, has the <u>institution</u> had one or more co-curricular planetary health programs or initiatives in the following categories? (1 point each)</b>	<b>Score</b>
Projects where students are able to gain experience in organic agriculture and sustainable food systems, such as gardens, farms, community supported agriculture (CSA), fishery programs, or urban agriculture projects.	1
Panels, speaker series, or similar events related to planetary health that have students as an intended audience.	1
Events in which students learn directly from members of a local environmental justice community about the climate and environmental challenges they face, and how health professionals can partner with their community to address these exposures and impacts.	0
Cultural arts events, installations or performances related to planetary health that have students as an intended audience.	0
Local volunteer opportunities related to building community resilience to anthropogenic environmental impacts.	0
Wilderness or outdoors programs (e.g., that organise hiking, backpacking, kayaking, or other outings for students)	1
<p><i>Score explanation:</i></p> <p>(1) The Secret Garden society within the wider university gives students the opportunity to manage a community garden. AUSA, the student union, facilitates a <a href="#">swap shop</a> and a <a href="#">food sharing hub</a>.</p> <p>(2) A student spoke at a research symposium on their work on creating teaching modules on sustainable healthcare.</p> <p>(3) The Wilderness and Expedition Medicine Society regularly holds hiking events in various mountain ranges for students. The Conservation Society organises frequent outdoors trips, advertises volunteering opportunities, documentary watch parties, and talks on conservation.</p>	

<b>Section Total (11 out of 15)</b>	<b>73%</b>
-------------------------------------	------------

Back to Summary Page [here](#)

# Campus Sustainability

**Section Overview:** This section evaluates the support and engagement in sustainability initiatives by the institution. The healthcare industry is a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions as well as pollution that harms local, regional, and global ecosystems. While healthcare is, by nature, a resource-intensive endeavour, the healthcare sector is well poised to lead the world to a more sustainable future. This will involve scrutinising every aspect of how our systems operate, from where we source our energy, to how we build our infrastructure, to what companies we invest in. Our medical schools, clinics, and hospitals must set the standard for sustainable practices, and show other sectors what is possible when it comes to minimising environmental impact.

5.1. Does your <u>institution</u> have an Office of Sustainability?	
Yes, there is an Office of Sustainability with multiple full-time staff dedicated to campus sustainability. If the Office of Sustainability serves the entire campus, there is <b>at least one designated staff member</b> for sustainability at the hospital. (3 points)	
There is an Office of Sustainability with one or more full-time staff dedicated to campus sustainability, but <b>no specific staff member</b> in charge of hospital sustainability. (2 points)	
There are <b>no salaried sustainability staff</b> , but there is a sustainability task force or committee. (1 point)	
There are <b>no</b> staff members <b>or</b> task force responsible for overseeing campus sustainability. (0 points)	
Score Assigned:	2
Score explanation: The University of Aberdeen has a <a href="#">sustainable development committee</a> which coordinates the work on achieving the Aberdeen 2040 plan. The University also states that it has a small group leading on aspects of the <a href="#">sustainability agenda</a> . There is currently a sustainability teaching fellow employed within the school of medicine to help implement sustainability into the medical school curriculum.	

5.2. How ambitious is your <u>institution's</u> plan to reduce its own carbon footprint?	
The institution has a <b>written and approved plan</b> to achieve carbon neutrality by <b>2030</b> (5 points)	
The institution has a <b>written and approved plan</b> to achieve carbon neutrality by <b>2040</b> (3 points)	
The institution has a stated goal of carbon neutrality by <b>2040</b> but has <b>not created a plan</b> to reach that goal or the <b>plan is inadequate</b> (1 point)	
The institution/medical school does <b>not</b> meet any of the requirements listed above (0 points)	
Score Assigned:	3
Score explanation: <a href="#">Aberdeen's 2040 strategy</a> aims to achieve net zero by 2040	

**5.3. Do buildings/infrastructure used by the institution for teaching (not including the hospital) utilize renewable energy?**

Yes, institution buildings are **100%** powered by renewable energy. (3 points)

Institution buildings source **>80%** of energy needs from off-site and/or on-site renewable energy. (2 points)

Institution buildings source **>20%** of energy needs from off-site and/or on-site renewable energy. (1 point)

Institution buildings source **<20%** of energy needs from off-site and/or on-site renewable energy. (0 points)

Score Assigned:

1

*Score explanation: The Suttie Centre, Aberdeen Medical Schools main educational building draws its electricity from a combined heat and power station. This is operated by the NHS circuit and is a low carbon technology system fuelled by natural gas and 20% biomass. A small rain water harvesting system has also been installed.*

**5.4. Are sustainable building practices utilised for new and old buildings on the institution's campus, with design and construction of new buildings and remodelling of old buildings conforming to a published sustainability rating system or building code/guideline?**

Yes, sustainable building practices are utilised for new buildings on the institution's campus and the **majority** of old buildings **have been retrofitted** to be more sustainable. (3 points)

Sustainable building practices are utilised for new buildings on the institution's campus, but most old buildings have **not been retrofitted**. (2 points)

Sustainable building practices are **inadequately or incompletely** implemented for new buildings. (1 point)

Sustainability is **not considered** in the construction of new buildings. (0 points)

Score Assigned:

2

*Score explanation: The Suttie Centre has been recognised nationally securing a Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method excellent rating. This measures and validates the overall sustainability of buildings. The older buildings have not been retrofitted to our current knowledge.*

**5.5. Has the institution implemented strategies to encourage and provide**

**environmentally-friendly transportation options for students and reduce the environmental impact of commuting?**

Yes, the institution has implemented strategies to encourage and provide **environmentally-friendly transportation options** such as safe active transport, public transport, or carpooling and these options are well-utilised by students. Alternatively, the campus location is not amenable to unsustainable forms of transportation by default. (2 points)

The institution has implemented **some** strategies to provide environmentally-friendly transportation options, but the options are **unsatisfactorily** accessible or advertised. (1 point)

The institution has **not** implemented strategies to encourage and provide environmentally-friendly transportation options. (0 points)

Score Assigned:

2

*Score explanation: The Medical School runs a free campus bus between the University halls of residence, the main University Library and the medical school. There are bike lockers available on site and good bus links to the hospital. The medical school also encourages lift sharing where possible.*

**5.6. Does your institution have an organics recycling program (compost) and a conventional recycling program (aluminium/paper/plastic/glass)?**

Yes, the institution has **both** compost **and** recycling programs accessible to students and faculty. (2 points)

The institution has **either** recycling **or** compost programs accessible to students and faculty, but not both. (1 point)

There is **no** compost or recycling program at the medical school. (0 points)

Score Assigned:

1

*Score explanation: The Medical School has recycling bins but there is currently no on site compost system within the medical school building.*

**5.7. Does the institution apply sustainability criteria when making decisions about the campus food and beverage selections (e.g. local sourcing, reduced meat, decreased plastic packaging)?**

Yes, the institution has **adequate** sustainability requirements for food and beverages, including meat-free days or no red-meat, and **is engaged** in efforts to increase food and beverage sustainability. (3 points)

There are sustainability guidelines for food and beverages, but they are **insufficient or optional**. The institution **is engaged** in efforts to increase food and beverage sustainability. (2 points)



There are sustainability guidelines for food and beverages, but they are <b>insufficient or optional</b> . The institution is <b>not</b> engaged in efforts to increase food and beverage sustainability. (1 point)	
There are <b>no</b> sustainability guidelines for food and beverages. (0 points)	
Score Assigned:	2
<i>Score explanation: The University clearly outlines its attempts at maximising campus sustainability through its carbon reducing policy and <a href="#">sustainability criteria</a>. They are doing things like replacing single use plastic cutlery and gradually moving towards more plant based options.</i>	

<b>5.8. Does the <u>institution</u> apply sustainability criteria when making decisions about supply procurement?</b>	
Yes, the institution has <b>adequate</b> sustainability requirements for supply procurement <b>and</b> is <b>engaged</b> in efforts to increase sustainability of procurement. (3 points)	
There are sustainability guidelines for supply procurement, but they are <b>insufficient or optional</b> . The institution is <b>engaged</b> in efforts to increase sustainability of procurement. (2 points)	
There are sustainability guidelines for supply procurement, but they are <b>insufficient or optional</b> . The institution is <b>not engaged</b> in efforts to increase sustainability of procurement. (1 point)	
There are <b>no</b> sustainability guidelines for supply procurement. (0 points)	
Score Assigned:	3
<i>Score explanation: Clinical skills resources such as blood tubes are almost exclusively recycled- usually tubes from the hospital since that have surpassed their use-by dates. Furthermore, procurement at the University of Aberdeen Medical School adheres to a procurement policy which takes into account our sustainability goals as a university and Medical School. The supply chain is constantly reviewed in order to ensure that the most sustainable options are acquired and more recently, a student led summer project highlighted problems and potential solutions for the clinical skills department on reducing waste.</i>	

<b>5.9. Are there sustainability requirements or guidelines for events hosted at the institution?</b>	
Every event hosted at the institution <b>must</b> abide by sustainability criteria. (2 points)	
The institution <b>strongly recommends or incentivizes</b> sustainability measures, but they are <b>not required</b> . (1 point)	
There are <b>no</b> sustainability guidelines for institution events. (0 points)	
Score Assigned:	0
<i>Score explanation: There are none</i>	

**5.10. Does your institution have programs and initiatives to assist with making lab spaces more environmentally sustainable?**

Yes, the institution has **programs** and **initiatives** to assist with making lab spaces more environmentally sustainable. (2 points)

There are **guidelines** on how to make lab spaces more environmentally sustainable, but not programs or initiatives. (1 point)

There are **no** efforts at the institution to make lab spaces more sustainable. (0 points)

Score Assigned:

1

*Score explanation: Anatomy labs are the only lab spaces used by the Medical School. Students are required to purchase and wear their own lab coats to prevent the use of disposable aprons. The sustainable medicine society is looking at creating a more formalised scheme to encourage older students to donate their old lab coats the younger years.*

*Through undertaking audits into the sustainability of lab spaces and clinical skills areas, there has been much more solid information available to staff and students and guidance on how to increase sustainability, however there are no fixed programmes in place.*

**5.11. Does your institution's endowment portfolio investments include fossil-fuel companies?**

The institution is **entirely divested** from fossil fuels **and** has made a **commitment to reinvest divested funds** into renewable energy companies or renewable energy campus initiatives. (4 points)

The institution is **entirely divested** from fossil fuels. (3 points)

The institution has **partially divested** from fossil fuel companies **or** has made a **commitment to fully divest**, but **currently** still has fossil fuel investments. (2 points)

The institution has **not divested** from fossil-fuel companies, but faculty and/or students are **conducting organised advocacy** for divestment. (1 point)

Yes, the institution has investments with fossil-fuel companies and there have been **no efforts** to change that. (0 points)

Score Assigned:

4

*Score explanation: UoA has [divested from fossil fuels](#) and by 2025 plans to have any investments be in renewable energy.*

**Section Total (21 out of 32)**

**66%**

Back to Summary Page [here](#)



# Grading

## Section Overview

This section focuses on the grading of the report card. The institution received a grade for each of the individual sections as well as an overall institutional grade. Section point totals were tallied, divided by the total points available for the section, and converted to a percentage. The overall institutional grade is a weighted average of the section grades, with curriculum receiving a higher weight owing to its larger number of metrics. Letter grades for each section and the institution overall were then assigned according to the table below.

Letter Grade*	Percentage
A	80% - 100%
B	60% - 79%
C	40% - 59%
D	20% - 39%
F	0% - 19%

*\*Within each grade bracket, a score in the top 5% (\_5 to \_9%), receives a “+”, and a score in the bottom 5% (\_0- \_4%) receives a “--”. For example, a percentage score of 78% would be a B+.*

## Planetary Health Grades for the Aberdeen School of Medicine

The following table presents the individual section grades and overall institutional grade for the Aberdeen School of Medicine on this medical-school-specific Planetary Health Report Card.

Section	Raw Score %	Letter Grade
<b>Planetary Health Curriculum (30%)</b>	$(39/72) \times 100 = 54\%$	C
<b>Interdisciplinary Research (17.5%)</b>	$(12/17) \times 100 = 71\%$	B
<b>Community Outreach and Advocacy (17.5%)</b>	$(11/14) \times 100 = 79\%$	B+
<b>Support for Student-led Planetary Health Initiatives (17.5%)</b>	$(11/15) \times 100 = 73\%$	B
<b>Campus Sustainability (17.5%)</b>	$(21/32) \times 100 = 66\%$	B
<b>Institutional Grade</b>	$(A \times 0.3 + B \times 0.175 + C \times 0.175 + D \times 0.175 + E \times 0.175) = 67\%$	<b>B</b>

# Report Card Trends

## Section Overview

This graph demonstrates trends in overall and section grades for the years in which the University of Aberdeen has participated in the Planetary Health Report Card initiative.

