

Climate Change Commission Annual Report 2023

MEMBERS

Sanjay Sisodiya (UK), chair
Stephen Blenkinsop (UK)
Michael Hildebrand (Australia)

Janet Mifsud (Malta)
Annamaria Vezzani (Italy)
Alla Guekht (Russia), MC liaison

SUSTAINABLE ILAE TASK FORCE

Michael Hildebrand (Australia), chair
Norman Delanty (Ireland), co-chair
Angel Aledo-Serrano (Spain)

Priyanka Madaan (India)
Lynette Sadleir (New Zealand)

SUSTAINABILITY ENGAGEMENT TASK FORCE

Janet Mifsud (Malta), chair
David C. Henshall (Ireland), co-chair

Hasnaa Elbendary (Egypt)
Medine Gulcebi Idriz Oglu (Egypt)

RESEARCH SUSTAINABILITY TASK FORCE

Annamaria Vezzani (Italy), chair
Giulia Battaglia (Italy)
Bernadette Chua-Macrohon (Philippines)

Sara Eyal (Israel)
James Mills (UK)
Alessia Romagnolo (Netherlands)

HIGHLIGHTS

- We encouraged ILAE to obtain an independent external review of the ILAE investment portfolio in an attempt to achieve the highest standards for institutional investments.
- We ran a number of climate change related events at the 35th International Epilepsy Congress (IEC 2023) in Dublin, Ireland, including a parallel session that was well attended and a loop that played on numerous screens across the meeting, raising awareness about climate change.
- We raised awareness about climate change throughout the year, with articles in the ILAE newsletter, organization of a multiparty webinar, and publication of an article about members motivations. These have all led to further activities being promoted in 2024, including further multiparty webinars.

ACTIVITIES

- We held monthly Commission meetings, which have been very productive and collegiate.
- We held additional meetings as needed, for example to discuss climate change and sustainability issues with the conference team.
- We held a face-to-face meeting at IEC 2023 in Dublin, Ireland, and a parallel session on climate change at the meeting.
- We held a webinar jointly with EAN and WFN.

- We organized and distributed a survey to the ILAE membership, results of which are currently being evaluated by the Research Sustainability Task Force.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

We have continued to raise awareness of the importance and impacts of climate change and made it a regular topic of conversation at all levels at the ILAE, and thus hopefully in the practice and research of more of its members.

This is an entirely new Commission, in a topic that most members will not previously have linked with epilepsy, which means that there is a foundation to lay for future work and sustainability of the Commission itself.

We have also learnt much about what does and does not work in terms of engagement, and that our major efforts are likely to be best focused at advocacy within the community, provision of guidance and advice for members, and coordination of activities including gathering information. We have also engaged constructively with the Congress Committee and team members, supporting their evident commitment to sustainability, and providing the science behind their actions.

RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS

[Taking action on climate change: Testimonials and position statement from the International League Against Epilepsy Climate Change Commission.](#)

Aledo-Serrano A, Battaglia G, Blenkinsop S, Delanty N, Elbendary HM, Eyal S, Guekht A, Gulcebi MI, Henshall DC, Hildebrand MS, Macrohon B, Madaan P, Mifsud J, Mills JD, Neill KH, Romagnolo A, Vezzani A, Sisodiya SM. *Seizure*. 2023 Mar;106:68-75.

MEETINGS

The Climate Change Commission met 13 times in 2023, including a face-to-face meeting at IEC in Dublin.



Screenshot of slide loop played at IEC 2023 in Dublin, Ireland.



Screenshot of a virtual Climate Change Commission meeting, April 2022.

Report submitted by Sanjay Sisodiya