COMMUNITY ADAPTATIONS TO CITY HEAT

URBAN HEAT ACTION
AND POLICY DATABASE

How do indoor temperature ordinances differ across Boston, New Orleans, and Phoenix?

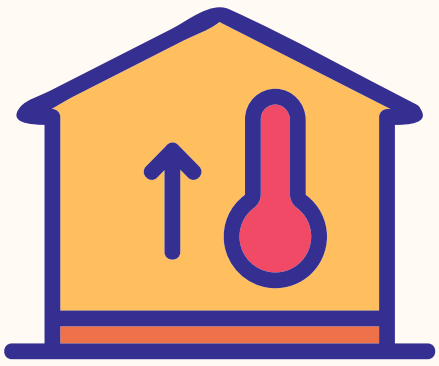


the CATCH HEAT PROJECT

BOSTON UNIVERSITY

Funded by: wellcome

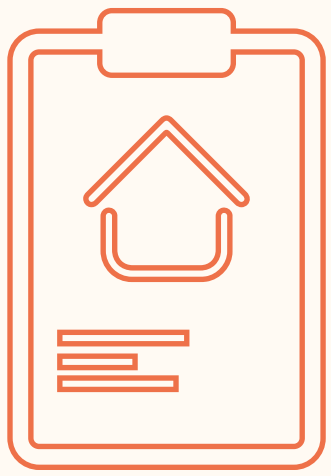
Housing policies are vital for protecting communities —particularly vulnerable groups like children, older adults, and pregnant people—from the physical and mental health risks that come from extreme heat.

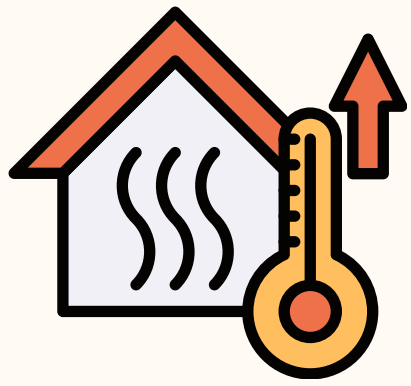




Yet **protections remain uneven**: while some cities establish maximum indoor temperature standards for rental housing, others are left to feel the heat.

Scroll to **learn how different cities** are currently protecting their residents.





Boston

Massachusetts housing code sets winter heating standards, but does not establish a clear summer maximum indoor temperature for rental housing.

Scan to read more

⚠️ No statewide summer maximum indoor temperature standard for renters

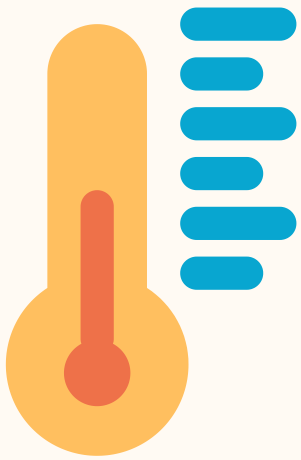


Phoenix

Phoenix requires rental housing with cooling systems to safely cool habitable rooms to no more than 82°F (28°C) with air conditioning, or 86°F (30°C) with evaporative ("swamp") cooling.

Scan to read more

❄️ Cooling standards required for habitable rental units



New Orleans

New Orleans' Healthy Homes standards require rental units to have cooling systems that can maintain bedrooms at a maximum temperature of 80°F (27°C), measured three feet above the floor and two feet from exterior walls.

Scan to read more

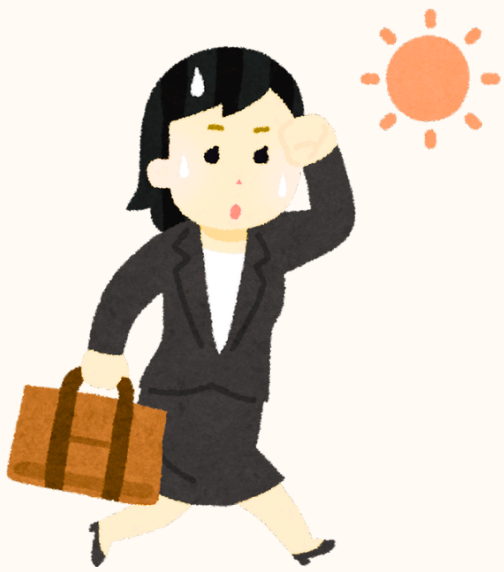
🌡️ Bedrooms must remain at or below 80°F (27°C)

Heat protections vary widely across cities — with major gaps in coverage and enforcement.

Do you know if your city has heat protection laws? Tell us!

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1AnYCRaw0rBkSprgtFkxWEsUjcODexJlSmq5OlGu1bNo/viewform?edit_requested=true





Check out our database to learn more about heat action and policies!

https://www.catchcityheat.org/policy-database

the CATCH HEAT PROJECT

Making **extreme heat** impacts visible in **frontline communities.**

Working in Boston, Phoenix, and New Orleans.

the CATCH HEAT PROJECT

A project at Boston University School of Public Health funded by a Climate Impact Award from Wellcome Foundation.

https://www.catchcityheat.org/