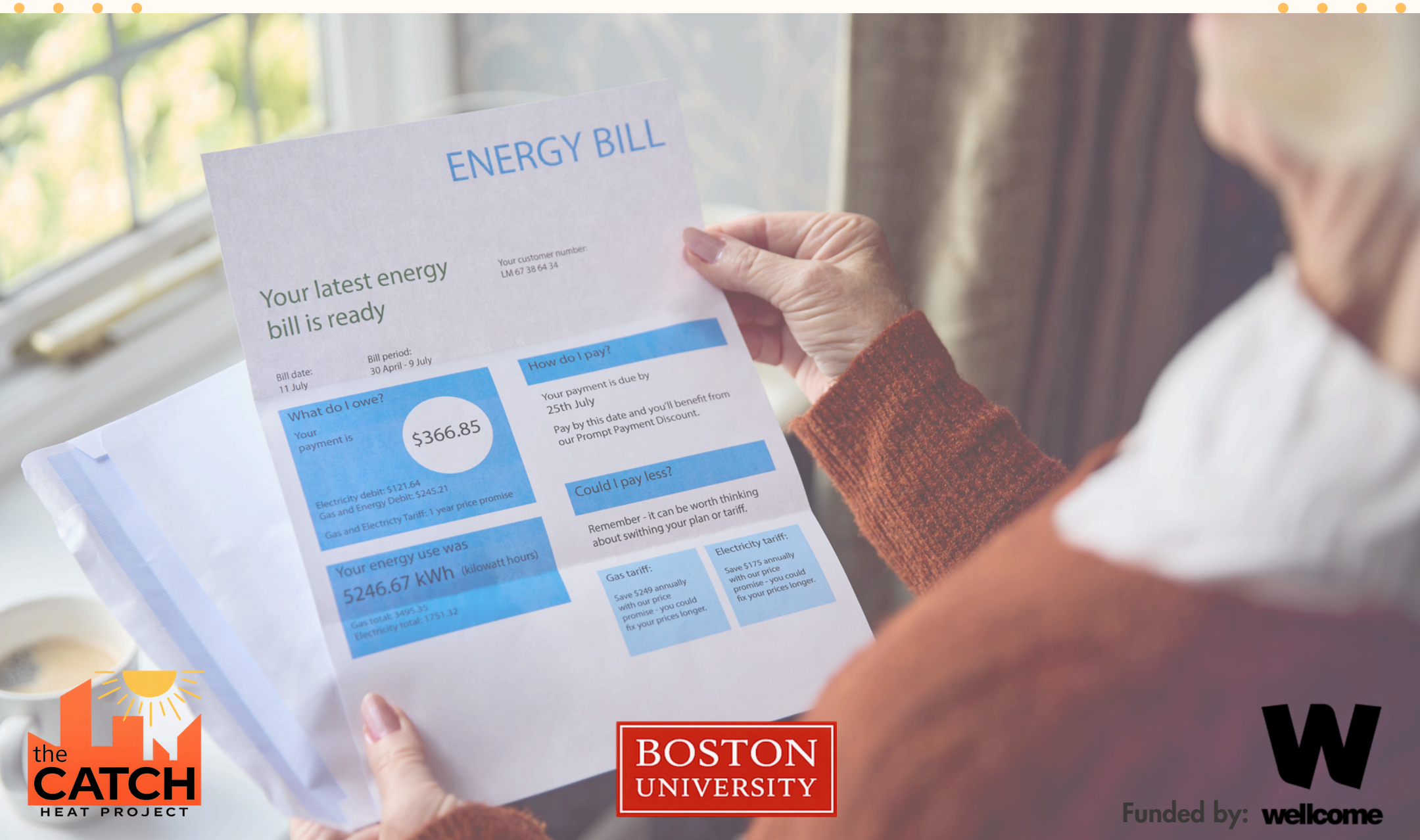
COMMUNITY ADAPTATIONS TO CITY HEAT

URBAN HEAT ACTION
AND POLICY DATABASE

How do Boston, New Orleans, and Phoenix navigate protecting residents who are unable to cool their homes?

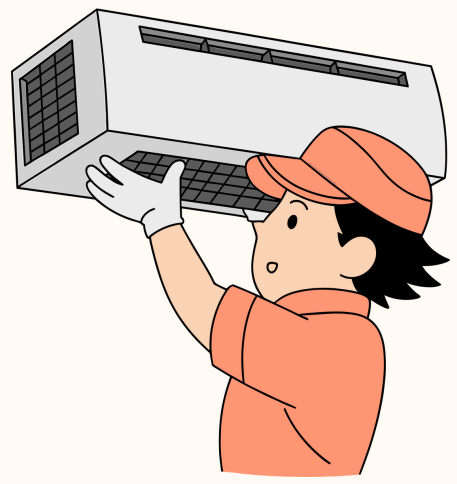


the CATCH HEAT PROJECT

BOSTON UNIVERSITY

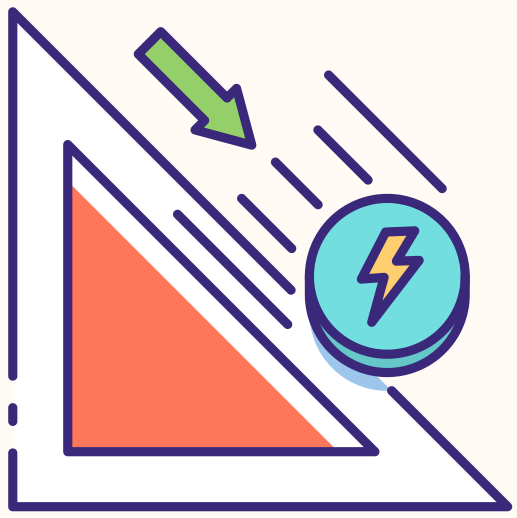
Funded by: wellcome

Programs like the **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)** help families cover energy costs and reduce health risks associated with dangerous indoor heat exposure.



Most LIHEAP funding is dedicated to winter heating. More funding is needed to support summer cooling needs. Proposed **funding cuts** could threaten access to critical cooling assistance across the country. Yet, as temperatures rise, access to safe indoor cooling is becoming a public health necessity, not a luxury.

Scroll to **learn how different cities** are navigating heat protection for residents who are unable to safely cool their homes.



Boston

Boston is navigating rising energy costs and extreme heat through affordability programs and proposed heat-resilience legislation, including Massachusetts bill S.3064, which is currently under legislative review. Efforts like Boston Community Choice Electricity also aim to help residents access more stable and affordable energy costs.

Scan to read more about S.3064!

⚡ Boston is combining heat resilience policy with energy affordability efforts.

Phoenix

In Phoenix, extreme heat can make access to uninterrupted electricity a matter of survival, especially for households facing financial hardship and relying on evaporative (“swamp”) coolers to stay safe indoors. Arizona utility rules limit certain power shutoffs during dangerous heat to help residents maintain access to cooling.

Scan to read more about disconnection rules!

⚡ Extreme heat protections can include utility shutoff restrictions.

New Orleans

New Orleans residents face rising utility costs as extreme heat increases energy demand and cooling needs across the city. Advocacy groups are pushing for stronger protections, including utility shutoff bans during extreme weather and an arrearage management program to help residents maintain access to cooling.

Scan to read more about the push for stronger protections!

💡 New Orleans is focusing on utility affordability and shutoff protections.

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

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/