COMMUNITY ADAPTATIONS TO CITY HEAT

URBAN HEAT ACTION
AND POLICY DATABASE

How are Boston, Phoenix, and New Orleans addressing the urban heat island (UHI) effect?



the CATCH HEAT PROJECT

BOSTON UNIVERSITY

Funded by: wellcome

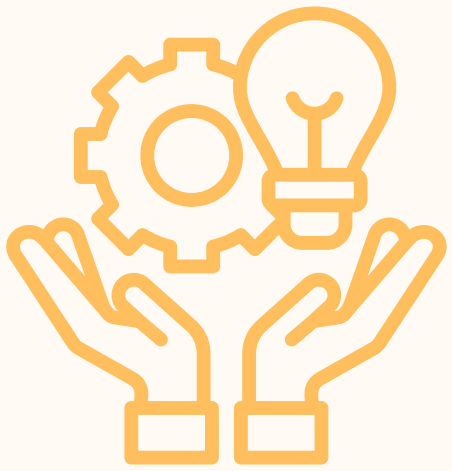
Even in the same city, neighborhoods can experience heat differently. Less green space and more infrastructure contribute to the urban heat island (UHI) effect.



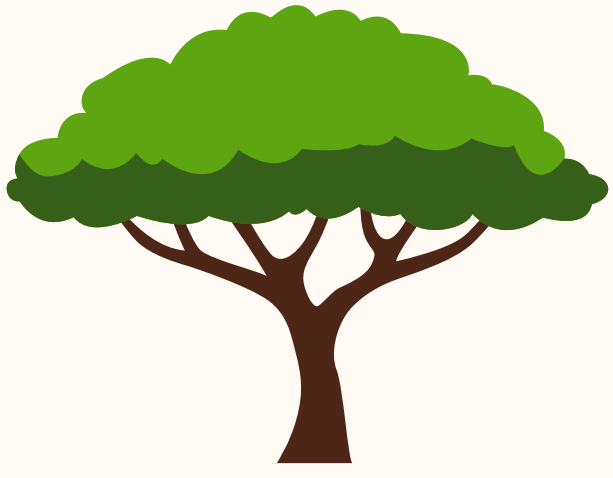


To reduce urban heat, cities are using various strategies: from studying local heat patterns to expanding tree canopy and developing targeted mitigation policies.

The following examples highlight just a few ways Boston, New Orleans, and Phoenix are working to combat the urban heat island effect.



Scroll to learn more!



Boston

Boston's Urban Forest Plan prioritizes expanding tree canopy in under-canopied, historically excluded, and socially vulnerable neighborhoods, recognizing that increasing shade can help reduce urban heat island impacts while advancing environmental equity.

Scan to read more about the Urban Forest Plan!

🌳 Expanding tree canopy can help cool neighborhoods most affected by extreme heat.



Phoenix

Phoenix established an **Urban Heat Island/Tree and Shade Subcommittee** to evaluate urban heat challenges and recommend policies related to tree canopy, cool roofs, heat equity, and shade infrastructure.

Scan to read more about Maricopa County's Heat Surveillance Program !

☀ Coordinated planning can help guide long-term heat mitigation strategies.



New Orleans

As part of New Orleans Hazard Mitigation Plan, the city will conduct an **Urban Heat Island Study**, helping the city better understand where heat is concentrated and identify opportunities for future heat mitigation efforts.

Scan to read more about Action 2020.5.7!

🗺️ Understanding local heat patterns is an important first step toward effective action.

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!





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

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/

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