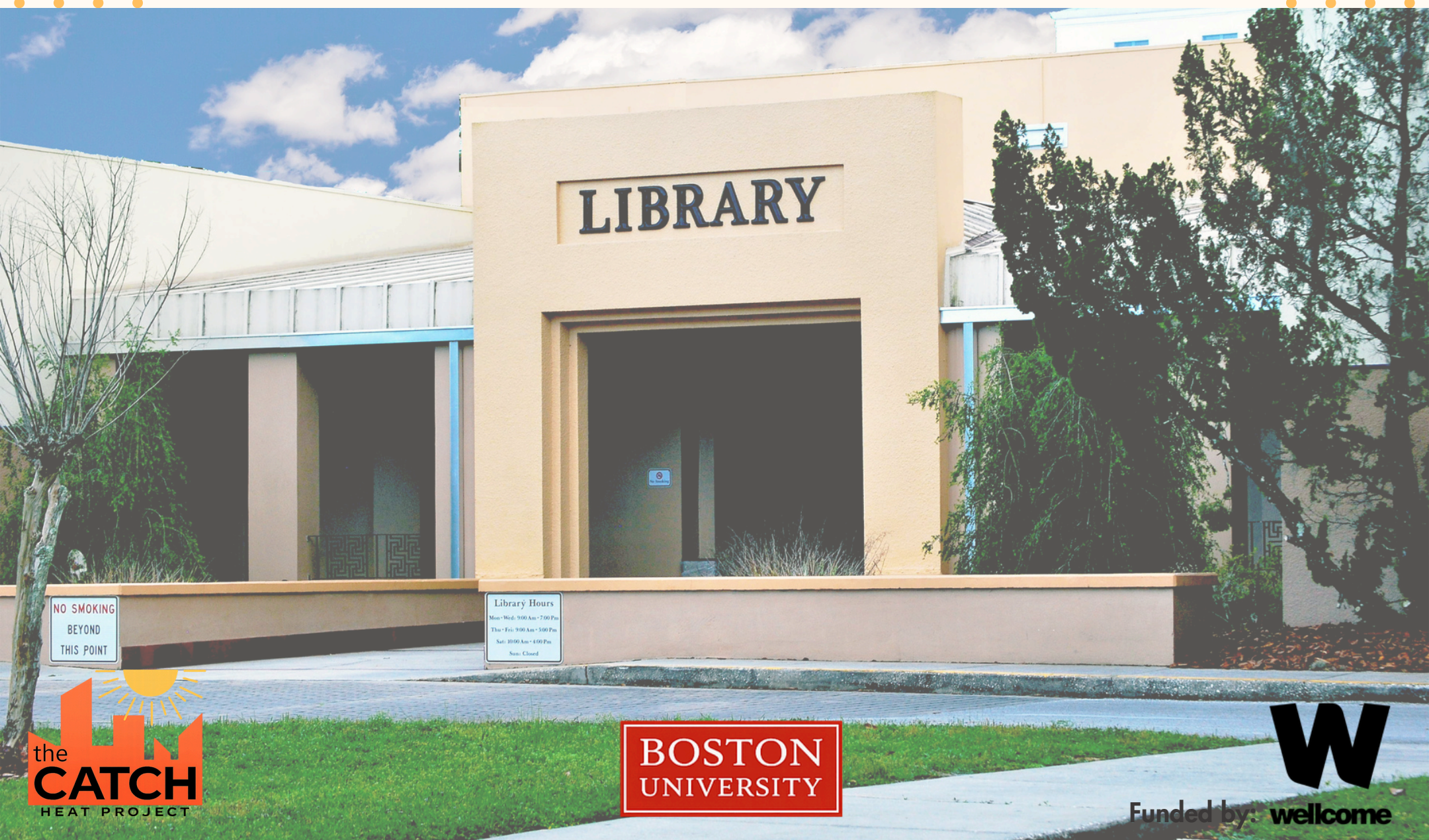


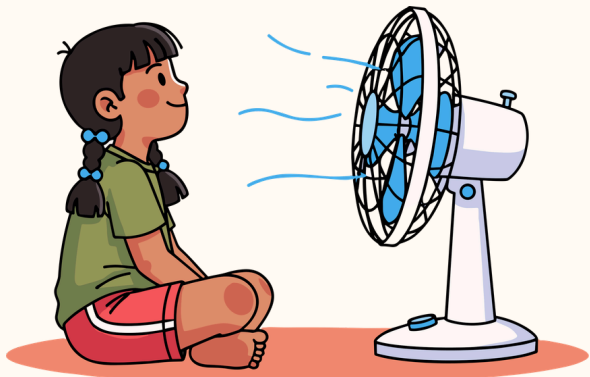
COMMUNITY ADAPTATIONS TO CITY HEAT

URBAN HEAT ACTION AND POLICY DATABASE

How are Seattle, Chicago,
and New York City
transforming public spaces
into places of refuge during
extreme heat?



As extreme heat becomes more frequent and intense, access to safe, cool spaces is increasingly important for protecting public health; but, not everyone has reliable air conditioning or a safe place to escape dangerous temperatures.

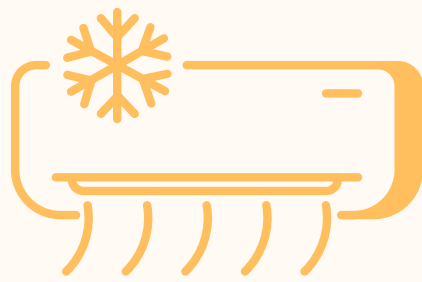


Cities are adapting existing public facilities, including libraries, community centers, and recreational spaces, to provide cooling and other essential resources during extreme weather.

The following examples highlight approaches in **Seattle, Chicago, and New York City.**



Scroll to learn more!



Seattle

Seattle secured \$5.5 million in federal funding to install air conditioning in five public library branches. These upgrades aim to improve indoor comfort while allowing libraries to serve as cooling and clean-air spaces during extreme heat and wildfire smoke events.



**Scan to read more
about the federal
funding!**



Upgrading public buildings can expand access to climate-safe spaces.



Chicago

Chicago's Park District launched a \$1 million initiative to upgrade air conditioning in indoor recreational facilities within public parks, across 42 park sites, using a Heat Vulnerability Index to prioritize neighborhoods at greatest risk. These improvements provide cool indoor spaces within public parks, offering residents relief from extreme heat.



**Scan to read more
about the fieldhouse air
conditioning**

 Fieldhouses can provide cooling opportunities in heat-vulnerable neighborhoods.



New York City

During a July 2026 heat emergency, New York City activated 10 additional library branches and eight municipal buildings as cooling centers. The city also used LinkNYC kiosks to direct residents to nearby cooling locations, expanding both the availability and visibility of heat relief.



**Scan to read more
about the cooling
center expansions**

 Rapid expansion and accessible information can strengthen emergency cooling access.

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.

Expanded policy research in 15 cities including:

Albuquerque, Austin, Burlington (VT), Chicago, Houston, Little Rock, Los Angeles, Miami/Miami Beach, Minneapolis, New York City, Philadelphia, Portland (OR), San Francisco, Seattle, Washington DC



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<https://www.catchcityheat.org/>