COMMUNITY ADAPTATIONS TO CITY HEAT

URBAN HEAT ACTION
AND POLICY DATABASE

How are Boston, Seattle, and Phoenix improving access to drinking water during extreme heat?



the CATCH HEAT PROJECT

BOSTON UNIVERSITY

Funded by: wellcome

Staying hydrated is critical for preventing heat-related illness... but access to free drinking water can be limited, particularly for people spending extended periods outdoors.



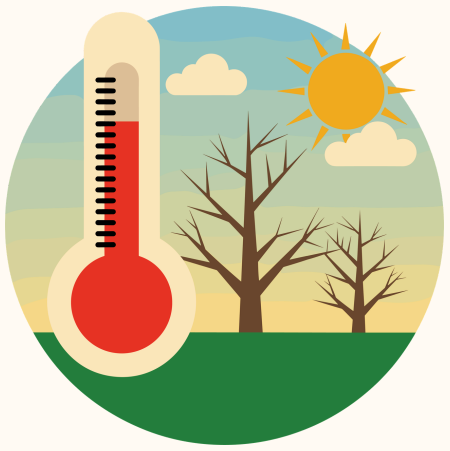


Cities are addressing this challenge through public drinking fountains, water refill stations, and coordinated hydration services to help residents stay safe during extreme heat.

The following examples highlight approaches in **Boston**, **Seattle**, and the **Phoenix** metropolitan area.



Scroll to learn more!



Boston

Boston's Heat Resilience Plan (Strategy 6.3) proposes expanding drinking fountains and water bottle fillers in parks and public spaces, particularly in areas with high heat exposure. The strategy calls for analyzing existing infrastructure alongside heat risk to identify neighborhoods where additional water access is most needed.

Scan to read more about Strategy 6.3!

📍 Heat risk data can help guide equitable investments in drinking water access.

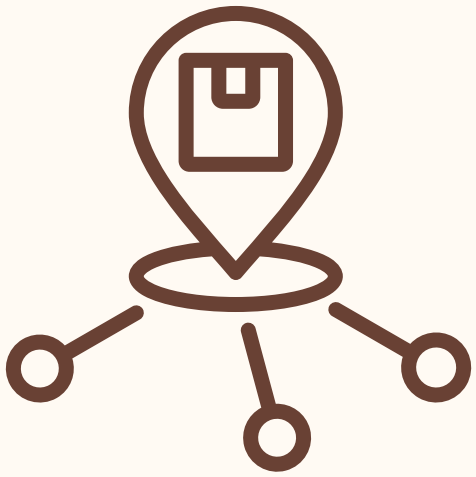


Seattle

Seattle Public Utilities has installed seven free drinking water refill stations in downtown Seattle. The City was motivated in preparation to host six FIFA World Cup matches this summer, as well as by the increasingly frequent and severe heat waves that taking place in the region.

Scan to read more about the new water refill stations!

🚰 Public refill stations can make hydration more accessible throughout the city for tourists and residents.



Phoenix

The Maricopa Association of Governments' Heat Relief Network coordinates local governments, nonprofits, businesses, and community organizations to provide hydration stations and other heat-relief services across the Phoenix metropolitan area during extreme heat events.

Scan to read more about the cooling center expansions

🤝 Regional partnerships can expand access to emergency hydration resources.

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, Washingon DC

the CATCH HEAT PROJECT

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https://www.catchcityheat.org/

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