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Heat Island Effect

Climate Change and Heat Islands

Explore our recently updated webpage to understand the interactions between climate change and heat islands.

[Learn more](https://epa.gov/heatislands/climate-change-and-heat-islands)

1 2 3 4

Heat islands are urbanized areas that experience higher temperatures than outlying areas. Structures such as buildings, roads, and other infrastructure absorb and re-emit the sun's heat more than natural landscapes such as forests and water bodies. Urban areas, where these structures are highly concentrated and greenery is limited, become "islands" of higher temperatures relative to outlying areas. Daytime temperatures in

urban areas are about 1–7°F higher than temperatures in outlying areas and nighttime temperatures are about 2–5°F higher. Find more information on the Learn About Heat Islands <<https://epa.gov/heatislands/learn-about-heat-islands>> page.

Learn



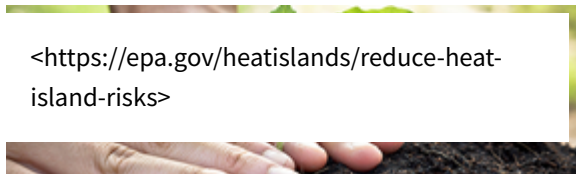
- Learn About Heat Islands <<https://epa.gov/heatislands/learn-about-heat-islands>>
- What are the Impacts? <<https://epa.gov/heatislands/heat-island-impacts>>
- Heat Islands and Equity <<https://epa.gov/heatislands/heat-islands-and-equity>>
- Heat Island Guide <<https://epa.gov/heatislands/heat-island-compendium>>
- Climate Change and Heat Islands <<https://epa.gov/heatislands/climate-change-and-heat-islands>>
- Frequent Questions About Heat Islands <<https://epa.gov/heatislands/frequent-questions-about-heat-islands>>

Plan



- **Trees and Vegetation** <<https://epa.gov/heatislands/using-trees-and-vegetation-reduce-heat-islands>>
- **Green Roofs** <<https://epa.gov/heatislands/using-green-roofs-reduce-heat-islands>>
- **Cool Roofs** <<https://epa.gov/heatislands/using-cool-roofs-reduce-heat-islands>>
- **Cool Pavements** <<https://epa.gov/heatislands/using-cool-pavements-reduce-heat-islands>>
- **Smart Growth** <<https://epa.gov/heatislands/smart-growth-and-heat-islands>>

Act



<<https://epa.gov/heatislands/reduce-heat-island-risks>>

- **Stay informed with news** <<https://epa.gov/heatislands/heat-island-newsroom>>
- **Explore community actions** <<https://epa.gov/heatislands/heat-island-community-actions-database>>
- **Share graphics on social media** <<https://epa.gov/heatislands/cool-your-community-social-media-toolkit>>
- **Educate with posters and fact sheets** <<https://epa.gov/heatislands/heat-island-outreach-materials>>
- **Información Relacionada Disponible en Español** <<https://espanol.epa.gov/la-energia-y-el-medioambiente/las-islas-de-calor>>

What's New



LATEST NEWSLETTER: Tools to Combat Extreme Heat, New York City Sustainability Roadmap, Heat Resilience Scorecard, and more.

Visit the Heat Island Newsroom page to read this and other newsletters

<<https://epa.gov/heatislands/heat-island-newsroom>>



LATEST COMMUNITY ACTIONS: Cities are taking meaningful steps to reduce their local heat islands.

Visit the Community Actions Database <<https://epa.gov/heatislands/heat-island-community-actions-database>>



LATEST CASE STUDY: Explore how Cincinnati, OH is prioritizing equitable tree canopy coverage.

Download the Cincinnati case study <<https://epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-07/cincinnati-heat-island-trees-case-study-2023.pdf>>

Stay informed

Sign up for the Heat Island Reduction Program newsletter
<<https://epa.gov/heatislands/forms/heat-island-newsletter-signup>>

Contact Us <<https://epa.gov/heatislands/forms/contact-us-about-heat-islands>> to ask a question, provide feedback, or report a problem.

LAST UPDATED ON AUGUST 16, 2023



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