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COOL CITIES

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HOT TRENDS

- 9 of the 10 warmest years in recorded history have occurred since 2005
- Heat waves growing longer, hotter and more frequent
- July 2019 ***hottest month on record*** for the planet
- If we stay on the current global emissions path, more than 60% of urban areas in the U.S. will experience an average of 30 or more days with a heat index above 105°F*
- ***Cities are particularly impacted.*** Climate change worsens the Urban Heat Island effect by raising the baseline
- This relative change in temperature causes greater damage in cooler places and where fewer heat-mitigation and adaptation strategies are in place



HEALTH IMPACTS

- Mortality
 - More people in the U.S. die from extreme heat than from any other weather-related event*
 - Worst heatwave in modern history: Russia in 2010, killed an estimated 55,000
 - A “no-action” scenario would result in an additional 9,300 heat-related deaths across the country annually without additional adaptation or acclimatization
- Heat exhaustion, heat stroke, aggravated existing conditions, increased suicide rates
- ***Vulnerable populations disproportionately impacted***
 - Low-income, minorities, elderly, homeless, immigrants, pregnant, socially isolated, preexisting medical conditions, people with disabilities
 - Historically redlined areas; fewer resources; limited access to A/C, cooler recreational facilities, green space



OTHER IMPACTS

- **Power outages** from stress on electrical grid (e.g., increased A/C demand)
- **Infrastructure** - buckling roads, rail track kinking, planes unable to take off (decreased air density)
- **Reduction in GDP**, loss in labor productivity, retail and tourism affected
- **Drought, wildfires**



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LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

- Positioned to collect information about community needs and ***respond on a community scale***
- Exercise ***significant authority in policy domains*** that can increase adaptability and reduce vulnerability to heat
 - Energy efficiency
 - Zoning and land use
 - Building codes
 - Public works and utilities
 - Emergency response and public health



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MAKING STRIDES

- Heat emergency response plans
- Cool roofs, cool pavement, green roofs
- Cooling centers
- Updating building codes to improve energy efficiency and ventilation
- A/C multi-family ordinances
- Tree cover/urban forestry programs, greening urban spaces



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Surili Sutaria Patel - Deputy Director, Center for Health Policy, American Public Health Association

- Health equity, health/climate nexus, BRACE

Sean Hecht - Co-Director, Emmett Institute on Climate Change and the Environment, UCLA School of Law

- Adaptation frameworks, equity and environmental justice, public participation

Kathryn Goldman - Climate Adviser, City of Los Angeles

- Local strategies, lessons learned, regional coordination

Mark Hartman - Chief Sustainability Officer, City of Phoenix

- Challenges, opportunities, developing partnerships



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QUESTION & ANSWER



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