



LA County Heat Action Plan (CHAP)



Background and Context

- Climate change is causing a rise in average temperatures and more frequent and severe extreme heat
- Extreme heat impacts health and well-being, learning and productivity, air quality, natural resources, and infrastructure
- Susceptibility to these impacts is influenced by a range of social, economic, and environmental factors
 - Highly paved neighborhoods are hotter
 - Communities of color are disproportionately burdened



July 2023 Board Motion and Report

- The Chief Sustainability Office (CSO) worked with ten County Departments to assess heat resilience opportunities & gaps within existing County initiatives and develop a proposed County Heat Action Plan (CHAP) framework
- A comprehensive approach must include preventive and responsive actions to address risks across multiple domains: health and well-being, ecosystem, infrastructure
- Dozens of existing and proposed initiatives support heat resilience; many of these could be accelerated or expanded

Project Team Overview and Introductions



LA County Chief Sustainability Office
Environment • Economy • Equity

Multidisciplinary team of planners, climate action specialists, and sustainability consultants that are supporting the development of the County Heat Action Plan:



Engagement Timeline

	2024						2025									
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Steering Committee	★	★		★		★					★		★			★
Goal 1 Workgroup				◆		◆							◆			
Goal 2 Workgroup				◆					◆			◆				
Goal 3 Workgroup			◆		◆							◆				
Partner Workshops		●●													●●	
Resident Engagement														■		

Vision for a Heat-Resilient Region

Los Angeles County envisions a future where every resident is protected from the dangers of extreme heat: children can play outside safely on hot summer days, and neighborhoods thrive with shaded streets and energy-efficient, heat-safe homes and workplaces.

Communities and first responders are prepared for more extreme heatwaves, so that vulnerable groups are able to stay safe and our region avoids the potential health and economic toll of these events.



County Heat Action Plan Draft Framework

Guiding Principles:

Procedural Equity, Distributional Equity, Structural Equity, Transgenerational Equity

**Goal 1:
Cool Outdoor Spaces**

**Goal 2:
Create Heat-Resilient
Indoor Spaces**

**Goal 3:
Expand Heat Safety
Communications &
Programs**

Cool Outdoor Spaces (Draft)

- Improve shade equity in the public right of way
- Alleviate chronic heat burden in highly paved urban areas
- Integrate cooling features into outdoor recreational and gathering spaces
- Ensure that County assets can thrive long-term in the face of rising temperatures



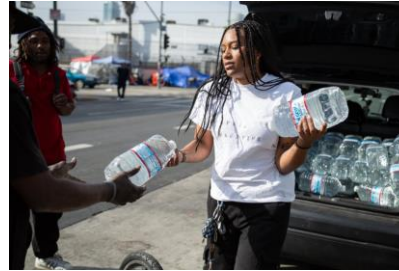
Create Heat-Resilient Indoor Spaces (Draft)

- Protect renters from harmful levels of heat in the home environment
- Maximize passive cooling strategies and energy-efficient operations
- Install energy-efficient cooling equipment in facilities serving heat-vulnerable populations
- Promote electricity affordability, clean energy access, and energy resilience



Expand Heat Safety Communications and Programs (Draft)

- Improve access to, and utilization of, cool spots during extreme heat
- Build community capacity to support resident and worker heat safety
- Increase public awareness of heat risk and personal strategies for staying cool and safe
- Improve the capacity of the health system to mitigate, prepare for, and respond to heat risk



Resident Engagement

- CSO engaged with residents at community events such as swap meets and farmers markets in heat-vulnerable neighborhood
- Engagement locations in & around heat-vulnerable areas of unincorporated LA County:
 - Pomona: Wellness Center Food Distribution
 - Watts Willowbrook: MLK Hospital Farmers Market
 - Del Amo: Metro Station & Swap Meet
 - Topanga: Community Center Farmer's Market
 - Whittier: EV Resource Fair
 - Whittier: Pumpkin Pool Splash
 - Pearblossom: Duck Race



Resident Engagement- Reflections



- Based on the input, CSO will identify what to prioritize for County efforts and investment
- Themes so far include:
 - Desire for shaded sidewalks, drinking water access, and pedestrian safety
 - Support for renters and landlords accessing home cooling resources, utility assistance
 - Need for trusted cool community spaces, effective heat safety communications, and youth programming

Extreme Heat Tabletop

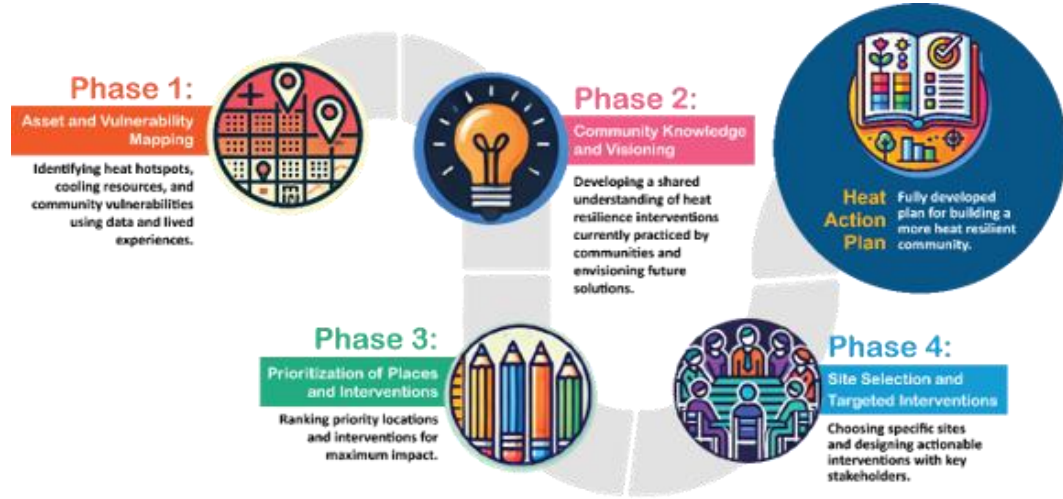
- Three-part scenario exercise simulating cascading impacts from an extreme heat event
- Participants identified areas for improvement across communication, mobilization of resources, outreach and preparedness
- Participants include local and regional government agencies, community organizations, services providers, and academic groups
- **Tabletop report in development**



Sample Actions

Strategy	Action	Lead	Partner	Timeline
1-3: Integrate more cooling features into outdoor recreational and gathering spaces	Support schools with incorporation of shade and nature-based features into their campuses and formation of agreements to expand community access to green spaces and water recreational facilities.	CSO, LACOE	DPH, DPR, School districts	Mid-term (3-5 yrs)
2-4: In coordination with utilities, promote electricity affordability, clean energy access, and energy resilience for heat-vulnerable communities	Support installation of onsite solar with back-up batteries in spaces that serve as cool community refuges	ISD	CSO, Libraries, Parks, Utilities	Mid-term (3-5 yrs)
3-2: Build the capacity of community organizations and other implementation partners to support resident and worker heat safety	Support schools and childcare providers with adoption of best practices for heat safety	DPH	LACOE	Mid-term (3-5 yrs)

Public Engagement Toolkit for Heat Action Planning



- Developed during the CHAP process
- Resources, modules, and informational materials to develop a local heat action plan that reflects community knowledge, values, and priorities

Next Steps

- Public Comment closed on October 6th
- Public comments incorporated October-November
- Finalization in December

*County Heat Action Plan
Draft Link*



Thank you!

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