1/1/ Urban Climate News Quarterly Newsletter of the IAUC

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From the IAUC President

Dear IAUC community,

We are one newsletter away from ICUC-11 at the University of New South Wales (UNSW) in Sydney, Australia. The conference registration opened earlier this month, and travel grant applications are now accepted for early-career research and delegates from underrepresented areas. For more information, please check out the ICUC-11 update by Negin Nazarian and Melissa Hart at the end of this newsletter. I hope to see you all "down under" at the end of August!

In the meantime, preparations for ICUC-12 in 2025 are in full swing. We received ten Expressions of Interest (EOIs) from organizing teams all across the world. We were excited about the diverse pool of potential host locations! The IAUC Board reviewed the EOIs and invited six groups to prepare a full proposal by the end of May. The Board will discuss the proposals in June and select finalists for proposal presentations in Sydney.





I hope that you will enjoy reading Issue no. 87 of this newsletter! As always, David Pearlmutter and the IAUC News team have compiled the hottest urban climate news stories to keep you posted on what's happening in the IAUC community. This issue's Feature by Yan Zhang and colleagues describes how the Coriolis force deflects the flow of an urban heat dome. In the Urban Project section, Heike Schlünzen summarizes WMO guidance concerning UHI measurement, modeling, and monitoring, and Sebastian Pfautsch reports on an Urban Cooling Course at Western Sydney University.

Enjoy!

 Ariane Middel **IAUC** President Ariane.middel@asu.edu



Climate change: The IPCC just published its summary of five years of reports – here's what you need to know

- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has just launched its latest report on the climate crisis.
- The AR6 Synthesis Report: Climate Change 2023 summarizes five years of reports on global temperature rises, fossil fuel emissions and climate impacts.
- Here are the main findings and what needs to happen to limit global warming to below 1.5°C.

March 2023 — The viability of humanity living within planetary boundaries rests on the actions we take in the next seven years. There's no time to lose to keep to the target of limiting the global average temperature to below 1.5° C.

"There is a rapidly closing window of opportunity to secure a liveable and sustainable future for all."

This is the conclusion of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in its latest report, which sets out to summarize the scientific data on global temperature rises, fossil fuel emissions and the impact of the climate crisis.

The <u>AR6 Synthesis Report: Climate Change 2023</u> finds that, despite progress in policies and legislation around climate mitigation since the previous such report in 2014, it's "likely that warming will exceed 1.5°C during the 21st century".

This is based on the expected levels of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the atmosphere by 2030, based on all countries' climate targets – known as nationally determined contributions or "NDCs" – announced as of October 2021.

Limiting warming to "well below 2°C", by 2030, as per the <u>Paris Agreement targets</u>, will be hard to achieve, but avoiding 1.5°C is still possible.

The report also lays out the economic imperative for taking action, finding that the "global economic benefit of limiting global warming to 2°C exceeds the cost of mitigation in most of the assessed literature".

Here's what you need to know about the latest IPCC report, its findings and what needs to happen to ensure we stay on track to meet climate goals.

How is this IPCC report different from previous ones?

The Synthesis Report (SYR) is the culmination of a cycle of reports (the Sixth Assessment) that have been published over the past five years.

Since the Fifth Assessment Report cycle, which ended in 2014, there has been an intensified focus around the

DIRECT IMPACTS	1.5°C	2°C	2°C IMPACTS
EXTREME HEAT Global population exposed to severe heat at least once every five years	14%	37%	2.6X WORSE
SEA-ICE-FREE ARCTIC Number of ice-free summers	AT LEAST 1 EVERY 100 YEARS	AT LEAST 1 EVERY 10 YEARS	10X WORSE
SEA LEVEL RISE Amount of sea level rise by 2100	0.40 METERS	0.46 METERS	0.06m MORE
SPECIES	1.5°C	2°C	2°C IMPACTS
SPECIES LOSS: VERTEBRATES Vertebrates that lose at least half of their range	() 4%	8%	2X worse
SPECIES LOSS: PLANTS Plants that lose at least half of their range	8%	16%	2X WORSE
SPECIES LOSS: INSECTS Insects that lose at least half of their range	Č 6%	18%	3X worse
LAND	1.5°C	2°C	2°C IMPACTS
	7%	13%	1.86X WORSE
	4.8 MILLION KM ²	6.6 MILLION KM ¹	38% worse
Reduction in marze harvesta in tropics	() 3%	7%	2.3X WORSE
OCEANS	1.5°C	2°C	2°C IMPACTS
	70-	0 99%	UP TO 29% WORSE
Further decline in coral reets	90%		

The difference in projected climate impacts at 1.5°C and 2°C of warming (IPCC 2018). *Source*: weforum.org

globe on the climate crisis and efforts to mitigate its impacts, with the annual Conference of the Parties (COP) meetings driving this progress.

This report is the summary of all reports of the IPCC's 6th Assessment Cycle that were published between 2018 and 2023, which covered, including the landmark Global Warming of 1.5°C, the more recent reports demonstrating how anthropogenic greenhouse gases are causing unprecedented damage, and the report demonstrating that at current levels, many parts of the planet will become unliveable in the next few decades.

This summary report demonstrates an undeniable scientific consensus about the urgency of the climate crisis, its primary causes, its current devastating impacts – especially on most climate vulnerable regions – and the irreversible harm that will occur if warming surpasses 1.5°C, even temporarily.

Its aim is to provide policymakers with a high-level, up-to-date understanding of climate change, its impacts and future risks, and highlight solutions and options for addressing it.

As the next cycle, the Seventh Assessment Report, is not expected before at least 2027, this report provides the foundation for what will be a critical seven-year period to 2030.

We're not going to have this time again, where we know what the situation is so conclusively. This scientific consensus, combined with the fact that the majority of climate solutions to avoid the worst consequences of climate change exist, provides a unique opportunity for us to address the gaps and take action.

What are the main findings of the AR6 report?

The new report, written by <u>39 scientists</u>, is separated into three sections arranged by timeframes: *Current Status and Trends* looks back through history to the present day; *Long-term Climate and Development Futures* projects scenarios to 2100 and beyond; and *Near-term Responses in a Changing Climate* looks at current international policy timeframes between now and the 2030s.

Here are some of the main findings:

• Human-caused climate change is already affecting many weather and climate extremes in every region across the globe – with widespread loss and damage to both nature and people.

• GHG emissions will lead to increasing global warming in the near term, and it's likely this will reach 1.5°C between 2030 and 2035.

• We are currently at around 1.1°C of warming and current climate policies are projected to increase global warming by 3.2°C by 2100.

• The IPCC has "very high confidence" that the risks and adverse impacts from climate change will escalate with increasing global warming.

• To keep within the 1.5°C limit, emissions need to be reduced by at least 43% by 2030 compared to 2019 levels, and at least 60% by 2035. This is the decisive decade to make that happen.

• Losses and damages will disproportionately affect the poorest and most vulnerable populations, particularly those in Africa and least-developed countries, creating more poverty.

• Prioritizing equity, social justice, inclusion and just transition processes would enable ambitious climate mitigation actions and climate-resilient development.

• Tracked climate finance for mitigation falls short of the levels needed to limit warming to below 2°C or to 1.5°C across all sectors and regions.

• Public and private finance flows for fossil fuels are still greater than those for climate adaptation and mitigation.

• Among other measures to ensure energy systems are net-zero CO₂ emitters, we need a "substantial reduction in overall fossil fuel use, minimal use of unabated fossil fuels,



Momentum is building to tackle climate change. Image: Alliance of CEO Climate Leaders. *Source*: <u>weforum.org</u>

and use of carbon capture and storage in the remaining fossil fuel systems; energy conservation and efficiency; and greater integration across the energy system".

Why do we need to listen to the IPCC?

The IPCC is the United Nations' (UN) <u>global organiza-</u> tion for assessing the science related to climate change and is made up of 195 member countries.

Thousands of experts from all over the world volunteer to objectively assess the latest scientific research and write reports for the IPCC, which are signed off by the governments of member countries.

Over the course of a week-long session held in Switzerland, the 58th Session of the IPCC, governments have approved the shorter *Summary for Policymakers of the Synthesis Report* **line by line** and have adopted the longer report. This will then shape international climate change negotiations at the future COP meetings – the decision-making body of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Is it too late to stay within 1.5 °C?

We need to see 1.5°C not as a target but as a ceiling. Overshooting 1.5 °C means we are entering a danger zone, beyond planetary limits in which natural, animal and human life has flourished for millions of years.

As the IPCC report shows, we're not too late to avoid passing 1.5 °C, but the greatest threat is apathy. The impacts of climate change will only get worse.

The cost of inaction is far greater than the cost of action – and the financial implications will impact everyone, from governments to companies and families.

Every fraction of a degree counts. We're already see-

ing the disproportionate impact the warming of 1.1°C is having globally, particularly on the lives and livelihoods of more vulnerable communities.

The IPCC finds nearly <u>half of the world's popula-</u> tion live in this danger zone of climate impacts, where their lives and livelihoods are under threat from more frequent and intense extreme weather events, such as flooding and drought, which impacts on food and water security, as well as loss of vital natural ecosystems.

In reality, the difference between 1.5° C and 2° C degrees is not merely a temperature rise of 0.5° C – but as the <u>chart</u> above shows, it means climate risks will be at least two times worse.

We need to act now to protect climate-vulnerable communities, while also taking action towards a cleaner, healthier and more prosperous future.

What needs to happen now and what is the World Economic Forum doing?

The solutions are out there to reduce emissions by at least 43% over the next seven years.

The IPCC highlights that to achieve this we need to transition "from fossil fuels without carbon capture and storage (CCS) to very low- or zero-carbon energy sources, such as renewables or fossil fuels with CCS, demand-side measures and improving efficiency".

Governments, businesses, civil society and communities can work together to transform our energy, food, transport and manufacturing systems. This can be achieved through clear, courageous and concerted policies to further unlock the transformative power of financial markets, industry, and innovators.

The UN Secretary-General António Guterres outlined a major new <u>Acceleration Agenda</u> in his video message to launch the Synthesis Report, which includes:

• Ensuring net-zero electricity generation by 2035 for all developed economies and 2040 for the rest of the world.

• Ceasing all licensing or funding of new oil and gas – consistent with the findings of the International Energy Agency.

• Stopping any expansion of existing oil and gas reserves. Shifting subsidies from fossil fuels to a just energy transition.

• Establishing a global phase-down of existing oil and gas production compatible with the 2050 global net-ze-ro target.

• Speeding-up efforts to deliver climate justice to those on the frontlines.

We have seen a miraculous breakthrough in renewables, where <u>solar and wind are now the cheapest source</u> of new power in countries representing 90% of electricity generation, and <u>electric vehicles are projected price pari-</u> ty with internal combustion engines in the next 2-3 years.

We need similar breakthroughs across the so-called "hard-to-abate" sectors of heavy industry and long-haul transport – and this is where the <u>World Economic Fo-</u> <u>rum's work with the First Movers Coalition (FMC)</u> is leveraging the power of demand to accelerate the supply of transformational near-zero-emission solutions.

Since it was launched at COP26 in 2021, 74 companies and 12 governments have joined this global, public-private coalition, which aims to decarbonize heavy industry and long-distance transport <u>responsible for 30% of</u> <u>global emissions</u>. To date, FMC represents a strong early market signal of \$12 billion in demand for near-zero-emission solutions.

And we need to catalyse similar breakthroughs to transform our food systems. There is no way to keep 1.5°C alive without stopping and reversing deforestation, transforming our food and land use systems and protecting ocean ecosystems.

Today, <u>agri-food systems are responsible for up to a</u> <u>third of emissions</u> and are the primary driver of biodiversity loss. Our food and land use systems need to flip from carbon emitters to carbon sinks, and from a contributor to protectors of biodiversity, all while meeting global demand for food.

The green transition has multiple benefits beyond the immediate mitigation of climate change impacts. It could create <u>24 million new jobs globally by 2030</u>, according to the International Labour Organization. And protect the 1.2 billion workers in farming, fishing, forestry and tourism activities that rely directly on a healthy and stable environment.

In the year 2020-21, <u>employment in the renewable en-</u> ergy sector grew by 700,000, reaching 12.7 million jobs, according to the International Renewable Energy Agency.

Climate action is now essential to drive sustainable development. Failure to act could <u>shrink global GDP by up to 18%</u> in the next 30 years, according to the Swiss Re Institute.

The <u>net-zero transition will require \$125 trillion by</u> 2050 in climate investment. While this level of investment has yet to be achieved, momentum is building. In 2021, <u>the world spent \$755 billion on low-carbon energy</u> technologies, up 27% from the year prior.

Guterres looked ahead to COP28, which will <u>be held in</u> <u>November 2023 in Dubai</u>, calling for "all G20 leaders to have committed to ambitious new economy-wide nationally determined contributions encompassing all greenhouse gases and indicating their absolute emissions cuts targets for 2035 and 2040. The transition must cover the entire economy. Partial pledges won't cut it". *Source:* <u>https://www.weforum.</u> <u>org/agenda/2023/03/the-ipcc-just-published-its-summaryof-5-years-of-reports-here-s-what-you-need-to-know/</u>

"Climate change adaptation plans of cities across Europe are getting better – but there is still a lot of progress to be made"

March 2023 — That is the headline conclusion of our new study, published in <u>npj Nature Urban Sustainability</u>, in which we assess the most recent adaptation plans of 167 European cities. In these plans, produced between 2005 and 2020, we find that the overall quality has improved.

Looking into different components of the plans, we find that cities have mostly improved in setting adaptation goals, suggesting thorough and varied adaptation measures and outlining their implementation. The Bulgarian capital Sofia and the Irish cities of Galway and Dublin score highest for their plans.

However, there has been only a slight improvement on how the implementation of city plans is monitored and on including civil society in plan making.

And while newer plans are slightly better at proposing measures that match the previously identified climate risks, the involvement of vulnerable people and the monitoring of adaptation measures that aim to support those people is still rare.

Here, we unpack the details of the clear positive trend in urban adaptation plans in Europe – and show that there is still a long way to go towards more inclusive and robust adaptation planning for climate risk reduction.

Adaptation planning

Adapting to the impacts of climate change formed a key part of the 2015 <u>Paris Agreement</u>, which stressed the need to review progress on adaptation, including through regular "global stocktakes".

However, given that the effectiveness of many adaptation measures only really becomes apparent after some time – often only after a severe weather event has hit – it is notoriously difficult to assess this progress. Indeed, to date there is no agreement on the current state of adaptation, what "progress" means and how it should be assessed.

In our study, we examine the contents of adaptation plans to analyse the extent to which they identify climate risks and propose measures to reduce the scale of potential impacts.

To achieve this, we develop and apply three different indices to assess the quality of adaptation plans and apply them to 167 cities across Europe.

We find that these cities have improved in their abilities to plan for adaptation. These improvements may come about through processes of collective learning, knowledge transfer, capacity building, transnational networks and other types of science-policy collaborations.

However, most local governments are still not con-

sidering the needs of vulnerable people, nor involving them in policy formulation or monitoring whether adaptation measures reduce their vulnerability to climate threats. This is something that we regard as necessary for a good adaptation plan in order to make sure adaptation works for people most in need of it.

Evaluating progress

The impacts of climate change can be particularly pronounced in cities – many of which are highly vulnerable to heatwaves, flooding, coastal erosion and storms. This potentially puts a huge number of people at risk – around 40% of the population of Europe lives in cities, amounting to approximately 300 million people.

Therefore, we might expect that many city governments have set out how they seek to address these threats in official plans. These plans cannot tell the whole story in terms of actual progress in the collective reduction – or redistribution – of climate risks, because they do not tend to monitor implementation or the effectiveness of previous policies.

However, they can provide information about the <u>quality and relevance of adaptation processes and ac-</u><u>tions</u>, and help to assess the likelihood that cities' advance adaptation goals by <u>reducing risks and increasing</u> <u>resilience equitably</u>.

As <u>one previous study</u> put it: "The best method [of] ensuring robust adaptation is to ensure rigorous adaptation planning processes."

As such, developing and applying a set of indicators to measure and track the quality of urban adaptation plans can help us to learn collectively about how to deal with climate threats better.

We have incorporated our indicators into <u>a free online</u> tool to help city practitioners assess the quality of their own plans and benchmark their progress against others.

Defining urban adaptation planning quality

We assess adaptation plan quality according to six principles that are already well-established in previous studies:

1. Evidence of impacts and risks in the local area.

- 2. Adaptation goals.
- 3. Adaptation measures.
- 4. Details on the implementation of adaptation measures.
- 5. Monitoring and evaluation of adaptation measures.
- 6. Societal participation in plan creation.

In addition, we introduce a relatively new aspect concerning the "consistency" of the plans. Consistency means that impacts, risks, goals, measures, monitoring



Map of European cities with urban climate adaptation plans and their quality score. The quality of the plan is shown by the size of the hexagon. Colours refer to the age of the plan, from before mid-2015 (yellow), to between mid-2015 and mid-2018 (blue) and after mid-2018 (green). Cities in our sample without an adaptation plan are shown by grey dots. Hatched countries have national legislation that requires cities to develop urban climate adaptation plans (France, the UK, Ireland and Denmark). *Source: Reckien et al., 2023* (https://www.carbonbrief.org)

and participation are aligned with each other. For example, if a city identifies that it is vulnerable to heatwaves, which puts older people at particular risk, then a good plan designs and implements specific heat-related measures that target older people, and puts mechanisms in place to assess whether their vulnerability to heat risks reduces after implementation.

Based on a combination of these six principles and various consistency measures, we develop a new "AD-Aptation plan Quality Assessment" (ADAQA) index. We then apply it to urban adaptation plans in <u>a sample of 327 European cities</u> that were published between 2005 and 2020.

Plan quality in European cities

The map below illustrates which European cities do (shown by hexagons) and do not (shown by grey dots) have adaptation plans. For cities that do have plans, the colour of the hexagon shows how recent it is, from before mid-2015 (yellow) to between mid-2015 and mid-2018 (blue) and then after mid-2018 (green). The size of the hexagon indicates the quality score of the plan, with larger hexagons signifying higher scores.

Of the whole sample, about 50% – 167 cities – have an adaptation plan. The largest numbers are found in the UK (30 plans), Poland and France (22 plans each) and Germany (19 plans).

A total of 53 of these 167 cities (32%) were developed under a national, regional or local law that requires municipalities (sometimes above a certain threshold of population size) to develop an urban climate adaptation plan. This is the case for cities in Denmark, Ireland, the UK and France.

The cities of Sofia in Bulgaria and Galway and Dublin in Ireland score highest in the adaptation plan index. Notably, the Irish government requires cities to produce

adaptation plans that include certain features – such as an assessment of climate risks to the urban area – and this contributes towards their high scores.

Galway in particular achieves the highest score and performs particularly well on the first, fourth and sixth principles (impacts, implementation and participation, respectively) and also in terms of taking account of vulnerable sectors in its plan. The city has set clear priorities for different actions, identified responsible parties, set out a timeline for implementation and developed a detailed budget. Furthermore, it involved a wide range of stakeholders in the plan-making process.

Galway's plan included a detailed risk assessment of how climate change threatens critical infrastructure, biodiversity, cultural capital, water resources and community services in the city. It then sets out a comprehensive action plan, which includes timescales and assigns responsibility to specific posts and teams within the municipality.

Specific initiatives include carrying out climate risk assessments of all council buildings and infrastructure (such as roads), integrating adaptation into planning decisions (such as by restricting development near coastal erosion zones), upgrading stormwater drainage systems and planting trees. The city is also running campaigns to inform the public about how they can reduce their exposure to climate risks and to raise awareness amongst businesses about the funding that is available to help with adaptation. Galway is committed to regular monitoring of climate impacts and reviewing its policies accordingly, and producing annual reports that evaluate how it is implementing the plan.

For its part, the city of Sofia focuses more on improving blue-green infrastructure (such as grey water recycling), improving surface water management, acquiring additional land to increase the amount of green space, planting a new forest on deserted council-owned property and upgrading water supply and sewerage systems.

In contrast, Lincoln in the UK had the oldest plan in our sample and – perhaps unsurprisingly – achieved a much lower score. Lincoln's plan was approved by the municipality in 2005, but had not been updated before our cut-off date at the end of 2020. Although Lincoln was ahead of most other cities at that time (its plan sets out ideas for combatting various climate threats), it does not consider the specific needs of vulnerable groups, nor set out clear goals, timelines or priorities for action.

Evolution of plan quality over time

We find that the quality of city adaptation plans has shown a small improvement over time. On a linear basis, plan quality has increased by about 1.3 points per year from 2005 to 2020. Despite this progress, we find clear differences in terms of the various principles of plan quality. This is shown in more detail <u>in a series of charts</u>, which show the overall trend and also unpack the quality scores into each of the six principles individually.

On average, cities improved most in terms of goal setting (second principle) – suggesting detailed and different measures – and setting out the implementation approach (fourth principle). The plans improved only slightly with regard to monitoring (fifth principle) – that is, the progress of implementing the measures – and participation (sixth principle), such as including civil society in plan making.

Consistency of plans over time

As mentioned, one of the central characteristics of our index is its focus on consistency between identified climate risks and the measures that the city plans and monitors.

We find that the consistency improved slightly over time, particularly with regards to aligning risks with adaptation goals and vulnerable industries with adaptation measures.

The risks for vulnerable groups and how these groups were involved in plan development, as well as how adaptation measures for vulnerable groups were monitored over time, were also better aligned in later plans.

However, the overall number of cities that engage vulnerable people in developing plans and monitor the impact of adaptation measures on these at-risk groups remains very low.

In other words, vulnerable groups – such as older people and those on low incomes – are rarely involved in participation processes and the vast majority of plans make no mention of monitoring and evaluation to address their specific needs.

Moreover, urban adaptation plans got worse over time setting out measures that particularly address these vulnerable groups. That means, more recent plans involve fewer measures that particularly address identified vulnerable groups.

Overall, although the quality of urban adaptation plans in Europe has improved since 2005, many cities are still lagging behind or are yet to even produce a plan.

Furthermore, most of the existing plans do not sufficiently take account of the specific needs of those people who are particularly vulnerable to climate impacts.

We hope that our study – and the accompanying online tool – can help practitioners and policymakers reflect on what they can include in future plans, and thereby contribute towards improved resilience in cities across Europe and elsewhere.

Source: <u>https://www.carbonbrief.org/guest-post-how-</u> <u>climate-adaptation-plans-for-european-cities-are-gradu-</u> <u>ally-getting-better/</u>

Threat of rising seas to Asian megacities could be worse than thought

March 2023 — Parts of Asia's largest cities could be under water by 2100 thanks to rising sea levels, according to a new study that combines both the impact of climate change with natural oceanic fluctuations.

Sea levels have already been on the rise due to increasing ocean temperatures and unprecedented levels of ice melting caused by climate change.

But a report published in the journal <u>Nature Climate</u> <u>Change</u> offers fresh insight and stark warnings about how bad the impact could be for millions of people.

While many shoreline Asian megacities were already at risk of flooding, the study suggests that previous analysis underestimated the degree of sea level rise and subsequent flooding caused by natural ocean fluctuations.

Since natural fluctuations have a high degree of variability, their impact is hard to quantify. But the study showed that with the maximum possible impact from natural fluctuations combined with the expected consequences of climate change, several Southeast Asian megacities would become new hotspots of high sea-level rise.

In the Philippine capital Manila, for example, the study predicts that coastal flooding events within the next century will occur 18 times more often than before, solely because of climate change.

But factoring in naturally-occurring fluctuations in sea level increases the frequency of coastal flooding up to 96 times more often than before, the study found.

Millions should 'prepare for the worst

Lourdes Tibig, a climate science adviser for the Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities in the Philippines, said the study's findings underscore the urgency of addressing climate change.

"The world needs to act on climate change with far more urgency and ambition to protect the millions living in our coastal megacities," Tibig said. Manila, where more than 13 million people live, is far from alone.

The study, conducted by scientists at the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS), the University of La Rochelle in France and the National Center for Atmospheric Research in the United States (NCAR), found that Thailand's capital Bangkok, Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh City and Yangon, Myanmar are particularly at risk, along with Chennai and Kolkata in India, some western tropical Pacific islands and the western Indian Ocean.

The rise in sea level along the west coasts of the United States and Australia would also increase, the study suggested. Across the Asian megacities alone, more than 50 million people could be affected by the higher than expected rise in sea levels – nearly 30 million of them in India.

Bangkok is home to at least 11 million people, Ho Chi Minh City more than 9 m, and Yangon around 5.6 million.



'Mind boggling': CNN meteorologist shows how rising sea levels will affect the coasts. Source: <u>https://edition.</u> <u>cnn.com/2023/03/07/asia/rising-sea-levels-asia-cities-</u> <u>threat-climate-intl-hnk-scn/index.html</u>

The sea level changes detailed in the report are not likely to take effect until the end of the 21st century. However, if the pace of greenhouse gas emissions increases, the threat becomes more imminent, the authors warned. NCAR scientist Aixue Hu, one of the study's authors, said policy makers and the general public alike should be concerned about these potential threats. From a policy perspective, we have to prepare for the worst," Hu said.

Warming waters

According to a NCAR news release, the study found that naturally occurring events such as El Niño, a weather phenomenon known to leave much of the West Pacific, Australia and Asia warmer than usual, could amplify the anticipated sea level rise due to climate change by 20-30%, which also increases the risk of extreme flooding events.

Climate change has already triggered unprecedented extreme flooding in the Asia-Pacific region within the last year. An analysis by the European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service described 2022 as "a year of climate extremes," including deadly floods in Pakistan and widespread flooding in Australia.

At the same time, ocean temperatures are the highest they've ever been and expected to continue increasing.A January report from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration noted that ocean temperatures were at a record high last year, surpassing the previous record set in 2021. The past four years have been the warmest four on record for the planet's oceans.

"And unfortunately, we're predicting that 2023 will actually be warmer than 2022," Gavin Schmidt, a climate scientist at NASA, said in January.

Source: <u>https://edition.cnn.com/2023/03/07/asia/rising-</u> sea-levels-asia-cities-threat-climate-intl-hnk-scn/index.html

Win-Win: Why cities should tackle climate change and air pollution together

Many of the air pollutants that harm our health also harm our climate, or share sources. Cities' efforts to tackle air pollution the climate crisis must go hand-in-hand. The good news is that action to limit these emissions delivers local, nearterm health benefits, as well as longer-term, global climate impacts. This article explains the synergies between air pollution and climate change, and the shared solutions.



Climate change and air pollution share sources

Many sources of carbon dioxide (CO2) and methane (CH4) also produce health-harming air pollutants. This means that climate action to limit emissions from these sources also reduces air pollution and its health and economic impacts, even though these greenhouse gases are not themselves harmful to human health (except at very high concentrations).

Common sources that produce both greenhouse gases and air pollutants in cities are road traffic (particularly diesel vehicles), building energy use (including cooking and heating with wood and coal), unsafe waste disposal and open burning, and industry (including fossil fuel-powered heavy machinery and brick kilns).

Most greenhouse gases and other climate-altering air pollutants are also damaging to our health. The pollutants contributing to both climate change and air pollution are mostly short-lived climate pollutants. This means they stay in the air for a relatively short period of time. Carbon dioxide, in contrast, remains in the air for around 200 years. The main pollutants that damage both climate and health are:

Black carbon (soot), which is a major component of fine particulate air pollution (PM2.5) and is especially damaging to our lungs and health because of its very small size. Black carbon is an aerosol formed of solid airborne particles, rather than a greenhouse gas. It contributes to climate change by converting light into heat, with a warming impact up to 1,500 times that of carbon dioxide. It also influences cloud formation and rainfall patterns. Black carbon comes mainly from coal and biomass stoves used for cooking and heating, which together account for around 58% of black carbon emissions globally, as well as diesel engines, brick kilns and waste incineration. It stays in the air for around 12 days.

Ground-level (or tropospheric) ozone (O3), which is the main component of urban smog. At ground level, ozone is harmful to our health. It is a greenhouse gas with a strong warming effect, and also impacts evaporation rates, cloud formation, rainfall and more. Ground-level ozone is not emitted directly but forms from reactions of emitted gases, namely: methane (CH4) and other 'volatile organic compounds', carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxides (NOx). To reduce ozone pollution cities should focus on reducing emissions of methane and nitrogen oxides, which come from vehicle engines, fossil fuel burning, agriculture and waste. Ground-level ozone stays in the air for anything from a few hours to a few weeks.

As well as being an important pre-cursor to ozone, methane is also an extremely potent greenhouse gas in itself. It stays in the air for around ten years. Methane: Why cities must act now explains more.

Without action, climate change will make air pollution worse

The main ways that climate change impacts outdoor air pollution concentrations are:

Particulate matter (PM2.5 and PM10): the more intense droughts and wildfires that accompany higher temperatures in many regions generate more dust and smoke particles. Wind can carry these particles for thousands of miles, affecting many people and cities.

Ground-level ozone: longer, hotter summers will increase ozone levels even if emissions of the pollutants it forms from stay the same, because heat speeds up ozone formation.

Allergens: plants produce more pollen in warmer temperatures, leading to longer pollen seasons with increased allergies, asthma episodes missed school days and diminished productive work days.

Watch this short animation from the World Meteorological Organization to learn more about these links.



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR URBAN CLIMATE

Climate change and air pollution share solutions

Swift action to limit the sources of short-lived pollutants, especially methane, is our best chance of avoiding runaway global heating, and for limiting warming to 1.5° C. Because they remain in the atmosphere for a relatively short period of time, reducing these pollutants delivers rapid benefits for both climate and health. Strong action on these pollutants will slow climate change in the near-term – it can avoid over half a degree of warming by 2050, a huge win for climate – and will greatly reduce the chances of triggering dangerous climate tipping points, like the irreversible release of carbon dioxide and methane from thawing Arctic permafrost. Indeed, limiting global heating to 1.5° C is no longer possible without an aggressive strategy to tackle methane, in parallel to carbon dioxide.

However, any climate gains made by reducing only shortlived pollutants would be wiped out by the end of this century if efforts are not accompanied by strong reductions in carbon dioxide. It is vital, then, that the solutions used to reduce these pollutants also tackle carbon dioxide. This means limiting emissions at source, rather than relying on air purifiers, 'anti-smog guns' which spray water into the air or other temporary air quality solutions that seek to extract pollutants which have already been emitted.

Cities can target these pollutants by:

• Reducing emissions from traffic, by supporting a shift from private vehicles to public transport, walking and cycling and by shifting those vehicles remaining to electric. In particular, cities can support increased efficiency and electrification of freight vehicles and buses, which are major sources of traffic emissions over which cities often have more control.

• Supporting a shift to cleaner cookstoves, in particular replacing household cookstoves fuelled by kerosene, coal and biomass with more efficient models that use clean fuels – ideally electricity, if affordable and reliable electric connections are possible; otherwise liquid petroleum gas, ethanol and biogas, which are also cleaner. This is especially relevant in cities in lower-income countries, where these highly polluting cookstoves are more commonly used, and from an equity perspective, as air pollution from domestic solid fuel use disproportionately affects women and children.16 A shift to cleaner fuels could significantly alleviate the burden of poverty-related diseases.

• Shifting energy production within the city, and ideally the region, to clean and more efficient technologies, including by increasing the use of building-scale technologies such as solar.

• Reducing emissions from municipal sewage and solid waste (particularly food waste), by collecting, safely disposing and treating waste. This includes collecting waste to reduce open burning, treating food and organic waste, which otherwise produces methane, and treating recyclable waste. Avoid incinerating waste.

• Improved building energy efficiency to reduce energy demand, through existing building retrofits and high standards for new buildings. This helps to reduce air pollution

Select a city:	TEL AVIV-YAFO - ISRAEL		
Clear Selection			
AVO	IDED DEATHS		
93	3,000		
Shindell et al (2018)			

Early deaths avoided this century by local 1.5°C-aligned climate action (see interactive graphic at c40knowledgehub)

from power plants or from fuel combustion for district heating, for example. Electrifying buildings also helps to reduce methane leaks and emissions from cooking or heating with gas.

Cities should integrate air quality management planning and climate action planning to develop solutions that effectively tackle both air pollution and climate change. Clean air, healthy planet offers a framework to support this.

Local benefits for public health and cities' economies

The benefits of reduced black carbon and ground level ozone can be felt within days or weeks, and are concentrated in the area where action is taken.

Health benefits

Globally, emissions reductions in line with the 1.5°C target, relative to weaker action delivering 2°C of heating, could lead to 153 million avoided early deaths due to better air quality this century (2020–2100).21 This figure would be much higher if it compared 1.5°C-aligned emissions reductions with 'business as usual' emissions.

The numbers of lives saved are greatest in cities in Asia and Africa, which have some of the worst air quality in the world. Find out below how many early deaths would be avoided in your city by strong local climate action, relative to weaker 2°C emissions reductions.

Financial savings

The economic gains from the air quality-related health benefits of strong climate action, in line with the 1.5°C target, are up to 145% higher than the cost of the interventions needed to achieve it. Read <u>Toward a Healthier World: Connecting the dots between climate, air quality and health</u> to find out how to estimate the health and financial benefits of specific interventions in your city.

Cities with poor air quality must ensure that these synergies between improving air quality and climate change are incorporated in climate action plans. By clearing the air, cities can maximise near-term, local health benefits and long-term climate impacts simultaneously. Find out about your city's air quality in our <u>Air Quality Data Explorer</u>.

Source: https://www.c40knowledgehub.org/s/article/Win-Win-Why-cities-should-tackle-climate-change-and-air-pollution-together?language=en_US

Feature

Urban heat dome flow deflected by the Coriolis force

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The urban heat island is one of the most evident urban climate phenomena (Vardoulakis et al., 2013) caused by urbanisation/densification and subsequent changes to underlying surface properties (Fan et al., 2021), vegetation effects (Manickathan et al., 2022), radiative heat exchange (Zhao et al., 2014) and urban ventilation (Van Hooff et al., 2012). Under stable and calm background conditions, airflow in cities is dominated by different scales of natural convection (Fan et al., 2016a), and an urban heat dome flow induced by urban heat island effects may form at city scale (Fan et al., 2017). The urban heat dome flow is widely believed to strongly affect urban environment (Yang and Li, 2009), building energy consumption (Li et al., 2019).

It is known that the Coriolis effect leads to the deflection of meso- and regional- scale flows (Hunt et al., 2010) and the generation of vortices (Lazpita et al., 2022), such as cyclone and anticyclone phenomena (Frank et al., 2017). These wind deflection effects have also the potential to affect the urban heat dome flow and subsequently further affect urban ventilation, heat dissipation (removal and storage), and pollution dispersion in urban and suburban areas (Mirzaei and Haghighat, 2010).

The urban heat dome flow has been evaluated using field measurements (Shreffler, 1979), numerical simulations (Lemonsu and Masson, 2002), and water/air tank experiments (Hidalgo et al., 2008) without considering the Coriolis force. This is justified when the characteristic length is small (<10 km) and the Rossby number (Ro) is significantly larger than unity (>>1) (Pournazeri et al., 2012). However, an increasing number of megacities and city clusters have emerged as a result of rapid urbanisation, with many of these cities exceeding 20 km in characteristic diameter (Hunt et al., 2013). As a result, the value for Ro becomes close or even smaller than 1. Therefore,



Figure 1. Illustration of the urban heat dome flow over square urban areas at different latitudes.

the Coriolis force should be taken into consideration when performing urban heat dome flow studies, particularly over megacities locating in high latitude regions (See Fig. 1). The urban heat dome flow near the equator has negligible Coriolis force (Fig. 1c). When the Coriolis force is significant, the urban heat dome flow becomes deflected. Blue and red arrows in Fig. 1 (a) and (b) indicate main lower-level inflows and upper-level outflows respectively, which are strongly deflected by the Coriolis force. Lower-level inflow is deflected counter-clockwise and upper-level outflow is deflected clockwise, and the deflection effect gets stronger as the latitude increases.

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Numerical model used in the study

The large-eddy simulation (LES) is used to solve the continuity, momentum, and energy equations. The Wall Adapting Local Eddy Viscosity (WALE) model is used to calculate the eddy-viscosity term. To ensure that the proper settings of potential temperature and stable stratification are used, vertical coordinate transformation (Wang and Li, 2016) is applied and a new set of governing equations is obtained. All simulations are performed using transformed coordinates. After the simulation, the results are converted back to the Cartesian coordinate system with the physical height for better presentation and analysis. The governing equations of continuity, momentum, and energy are rewritten as Eqs. (1-3):

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{V} = 0 \tag{1}$$

$$\frac{d(\rho_0 \vec{V})}{dt} = -\nabla p + \mu \nabla \vec{V}^2 + \rho_0 \beta (T - T_0) g + \vec{F_n} + \vec{F_c} = 0 \quad (2)$$

$$\frac{d(\rho_0 c_p T)}{dt} = \nabla (k \nabla T) + S_T \tag{3}$$

where *t* is time [s], μ is the molecular viscosity for the friction term (kg m⁻¹ s⁻²], and *k* is the incompressible conductivity [W m⁻¹ K⁻¹]. *T* [K] and *p* [Pa] represent temperature and pressure. The Coriolis force term ($\vec{F_c}$) and coordinate transformed term ($\vec{F_n}$) are included in Eq. (4) and (5) respectively. The parameters *J* and ξ are given in Eq. (6) and (7):

$$\vec{F}_{c} = \begin{bmatrix} \rho_{0}fv - \rho_{0}lw_{n}J \\ -\rho_{0}fu \\ \rho_{0}luJ \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\tag{4}$$

$$\vec{F}_{n} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ (J^{2} - 1)\rho_{0}\beta(\theta - T_{0})g + \xi\rho_{0}w_{n}^{2}J - p_{n}\xi(J + 1 + \xi z_{n}) \end{bmatrix}$$
(5)

$$J = 1/(1 - \xi z_n)$$

$$\xi = -\frac{1}{z} \left(\frac{g}{R} \left(\frac{\partial \theta}{\partial z} \right)^{-1} - 1 \right) ln(1 - \left(\frac{\partial \theta}{\partial z} \right) \frac{z}{T_i})$$
(6)
(7)

where f ($f = 2\Omega \sin \varphi$) and l ($l = 2\Omega \cos \varphi$) are the vertical and horizontal components of the Coriolis frequency, respectively [rad s⁻¹]. Ω (7.25 × 10⁻⁵ rad s⁻¹) is the angular speed of the Earth's rotation, and φ is the latitude.

Boundary conditions

In this study, an ideal square city subject to uniform heating is considered (Fig. 2). *D* and *B* are characteris-



Figure 2. The computational domain and boundary conditions. The origin of coordinates is located in the centre of the urban area.

tic diameter of urban area and the distance from urban edge to domain boundary, respectively. *D* is chosen to be 20 km.

To qualitatively and quantitatively demonstrate the influence of different magnitudes of the Coriolis forces on the urban heat dome flow, we simulate four cases corresponding to four latitudes of 0°, 30°, 50°, and 78°, respectively, in the Northern hemisphere. The parameters of the cases are summarised in Table 1.

Validations of the numerical model

In order to better verify the numerical method in this paper, we established a separate numerical water tank model (Case 1). The setting of relevant background conditions was the same as the experimental study of Fan et al. (Fan et al., 2018)

As suggested by Fan et al. (2016b), the non-dimensional horizontal velocity profiles in reduced-scale water tank models and real atmospheric scale models should be scaled using the Prandtl number (Pr) for comparison (Eq. 8).

$$U_W^{*} = U_A^{*} (\frac{\Pr_W}{\Pr_A})^{-c}$$
(8)

where Pr_W and Pr_A are the Prandtl numbers for water and air, respectively. U_W^* and U_A^* are the horizontal velocity scales used for water and air, respectively. The average non-dimensional horizontal velocity profiles at the city edge (x/D = 0.5, y/D = 0) of the numerical model are

Case	D (m)	N (s-1)	H₀ (W m-2)	U _D (m s-1)	z _i (m)	Ro, φ (°)
Case 1	0.12	0.68	4444	0.0069	0.0024	∞, 0
Case 2	2×10 ³	0.018	200	4.73	705	∞, 0
Case 3	2×104	0.018	200	4.73	705	3.25, 30
Case 4	2×104	0.018	200	4.73	705	2.12, 50
Case 5	2×104	0.018	200	4.73	705	1.66, 78

Table 1. Summary of all cases.

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compared with the experimental data, (Fan et al., 2018) as shown in Fig. 3. Solution time is from 150s to 250s for a numerical water tank case, and 10,000s to 15,000s for the full-scale atmosphere model when the quasi-steady state is reached. The results show that the numerical water tank model (Case 1) is in good agreement with the results obtained from the water tank experiments (Fan et al., 2018).

Distinction between model with and without Coriolis force

Based on the vertical distribution profile of the mean horizontal velocity $U_{xy} = (U_x^2 + U_y^2)^{1/2}$ at the urban edge (x/D = 0.5, y/D = 0), the maximum inflow height (z_{in}) , equilibrium height (z_{eq}) , and maximum outflow height (z_{out}) could be determined (Fig. 1). For Cases 2-4, the velocity fields are determined on horizontal planes at these three heights $(z_{in}, z_{eq}, \text{ and } z_{out})$ and represented in Fig. 4.

At the maximum inflow height (z_{in}), the flow field for a 0° latitude case shows a standard convergent inflow along the diagonals (Fig. 4a). At a latitude of 30° (Fig. 4b), the lower-level flow is deflected in a counter-clockwise direction owing to the Coriolis force. Prominent cyclone phenomena manifest at lower levels. As the latitude increases to 50° (Fig. 4c), the high-speed areas on the side regions continue to expand, and the vortex in the dome core region continues to grow.

At the middle level z_{eq} the inflow weakens, and outflow starts to appear. For Case 2, diagonal inflows remain, and the speed on the diagonals is higher than that in other areas (Fig. 4d). For Case 3 (Fig. 4e), while the high-speed area shrinks toward the dome core, a large central vortex is formed. As the latitude increases to 50° (Fig. 4f), the central vortex intensifies as the high-speed area ($U_{xy} > 3m s^{-1}$) expands.

For the upper level z_{out} , the four side areas exhibit obvious divergent outflows (Case 2, Fig. 4g). Four low-speed recirculation regions (calm regions) form between each of the two high-speed outflow branches. When the Coriolis force is present (Case 3, Fig. 4h), the outflow is displaced towards the counter-clockwise direction over the urban area owing to the rotational inertia of strong inflows in counter-clockwise direction. As the side outflow propagates further away from the urban area, it is deflected in a clockwise direction under the influence of the Coriolis force, that is, the anticyclone phenomenon. As the latitude increases, the deformation of the outflow branch becomes more distinct (Case 4, Fig. 4i).

3D iso-surfaces of the time-averaged velocity $U_{xyz} = (U_x^2 + U_y^2 + U_z^2)^{1/2}$, respectively, for cases at dif-



Figure 3. The mean vertical distribution profile of horizontal velocity at the urban edge (x/D = 0.5, y/D = 0). Data for the water tank experiments are obtained from Fan et al., (2018) (Fr = 0.08).



Figure 4. Mean velocity fields on different horizontal planes at quasi-steady state for Case 2 (a, d, g) with $\phi = 0^{\circ}$, Case 3 (b, e, h) with $\phi = 30^{\circ}$, and Case 4 (c, f, i) with $\phi = 50^{\circ}$. The dashed white squares denote the position of the urban area.



Figure 5. Three dimensional (3D) urban heat dome flow structure for cases at latitude of 0° (a), 30° (b), and 50° (c) visualized by iso-surface of time-averaged velocity magnitude U_{xyz} averaged from solution time 10,000 to 15,000s.

ferent latitudes are shown in Fig. 5(a), (b), and (c). When the Coriolis force is absent (Case 2, Fig. 5a), an iso-surface of 3 m s⁻¹ is observed along the diagonal at the lower level. The iso-surface in the side region represents a stripelike inflow formed by the disturbance of sub-city-scale thermal plumes. At the upper level, the outflows above the four sides of the city present a four-leaf clover structure. Stripe-like outflows are also observed at this level. Figs. 5(b) and (c) further prove that both convergent and divergent outflows are deflected as a result of the Coriolis force, and that the deflection increases with latitude.

3D iso-surfaces of time-averaged temperature are shown in Figs. 5(d), (e), and (f). In the absence of the Coriolis force (Fig. 5d), stripe-like thermal plumes are observed in the urban edge regions and high-temperature ridges are formed near the diagonal lines. High-temperature plumes are advected towards the core of the dome. When the Coriolis force is applied, the high-temperature ridges begin to deflect and a central vortex appears. As the latitude increases from 30° to 50° (Figs. 5e and f), the deflection of the high-temperature ridges becomes more significant, and the vortex in the dome core region becomes stronger.

The overall effects of the Coriolis force on the urban heat dome flow above a square city are summarised and illustrated in Fig. 6. Fig. 6a-b-c show the schematic diagrams of the urban heat dome flow at different levels without Coriolis force. With presence of Coriolis force, the low-level area presents clear anticyclone characteristics (Fig. 6d). The diagonal inflow is deflected counter-clockwise. Highspeed areas appear in the side regions due to deflections. At the upper-level (Fig. 6f), the Coriolis force deflects outflows to turn clockwise, and an anticyclonic phenomenon is manifested. To quantitatively analyse the strength of the deflection effect, maximum speed points in the urban area are identified on the centreline of the outflow branch and connected by a fitted line. The angle between this line and the adjacent coordinate axis is defined as the outflow angle γ as marked in Fig. 6(f).

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Figure 6. Schematic diagrams of the urban heat dome flow at different levels for (a, b, c) without the Coriolis force and (d, e, f) with the Coriolis force. The black dashed squares denote the urban edges. The side regions are marked by red shadows (d) at the lower level and blue shadows (f) at the upper level.

Quantification of the deflection effects

The outflow angle γ for the various cases is calculated as shown in Fig. 7. The values of γ for Case 3 ($\gamma = 40^{\circ}$, Ro = 3.25) is shown in Fig. 7(a). Case 4 ($\gamma = 49^{\circ}$, Ro = 2.12) and Case 5 ($\gamma = 57^{\circ}$, Ro = 1.66) are shown in Fig. 7(b). As the Coriolis force increases, i.e., Ro decreases, γ shows an increasing trend. Ro quantifies the ratio of the inertia force due to convection to the Coriolis force owing to the Earth's rotation, which determines the rotation of the outflow branch. Therefore, the relationship between the outflow angle γ and Ro is quantified to be $\gamma = 74 \times \text{Ro}^{-0.53}$ using a nonlinear regression, where R² = 0.99. Through a log-log plot (base 10), this relation is transformed to be linear, as shown in Fig. 7(c), where the slope is equal to -0.53.

Conclusion

The Coriolis force becomes more distinct with the increasing of city size, which is considered and modelled to study the buoyancy-driven urban heat dome. When the Coriolis force was taken into account, the urban heat dome flow exhibited an evident deflection effect. At the lower level, the convergence flow was deflected in a counterclockwise direction in the Northern hemisphere. A prominent cyclone phenomenon was manifested. For the upper level, the outflow was deflected in a counterclockwise direction over the urban central area. As the side outflow propagated towards further away from the urban area, it was deflected in a clockwise direction, followed by the manifestation of an anticyclonic phenomenon. Vice versa in the Southern hemisphere. The deflection effect of Coriolis force increases with latitude. To quantitatively analyse the deflection effect of the Coriolis force, the outflow angle γ is defined. As Ro decreases, γ shows an increasing trend. The relationship between the outflow angle γ and Ro is quantified to be $\gamma = 74 \times \text{Ro}^{-0.53}$ using a nonlinear regression.

The findings imply that, when urban characteristic diameter reaches beyond 10 km, the deflection of the urban heat dome in high-latitude regions has to be considered for studying heat and pollutant distribution in urban areas. The model provides a tool to help policy-makers to predict hot spots and potential city scale cooling energy demand at unprecedented spatial resolution. The model enables future studies focusing on city scale coupling of heat field, cooling demand and energy resilience analyses, thanks to its ability in delivering urban morphology-resolved heat and airflow fields.

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Figure 7. (a) An example (Case 3, $\varphi = 30^{\circ}$) of outflow branches at upper level and the definition of γ . (b) the γ values of Case 3 ($\varphi = 30^{\circ}$), Case 4 ($\varphi = 50^{\circ}$), and Case 5 ($\varphi = 78^{\circ}$). (c) Log-log plot (base 10) of the outflow angle (γ) as a function of the Ro number (Ro = 3.25, 2.12 and 1.66) with the fitted model superimposed.

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WMO guidance on UHI measurement, modelling and monitoring

WMO (2023): Guidance on Measuring, Modelling and Monitoring the Canopy Layer Urban Heat Island (CL UHI). K.H. Schlünzen, S. Grimmond, A. Baklanov (editors.), World Meteorological Organisation, WEATHER CLIMATE WATER. 2023 edition. WMO Publication No. 1292, 88 pp. https://library.wmo.int/doc_num.php?explnum_id=11537

More than half of the world's population lives in urban areas; they contribute ~70% of the greenhouse gas emissions and thus significantly influence global climate change. Furthermore, urban areas with their buildings and sealed surfaces locally alter the meteorology, creating, among other influences, characteristic temperature patterns. One of the best-known and widely studied phenomena is the canopy layer urban heat island (CL-UHI) which is found in cities of all sizes. Specifically, near surface night temperatures (~1.5 m above ground) are often higher in urban areas than in the surrounding rural areas. The CL-UHI characteristics differ between cities, within a city and with time of the day and the season. Urban temperature increases lead to nighttime heat stress and affect the height of the atmospheric boundary layer, atmospheric chemistry, and plant growth or pollen season length, to name a few effects. Climate change induced warming in cities is similar to that experienced in rural areas, but modified by the CL-UHI.

With climate change, the CL-UHI with its additional influence on temperature in urban areas is receiving more and more attention by urban planners. Given this development, and in response to the request of the 18th World Meteorological Congress (Resolutions 32 and 61), experts from WMO GAW (Global Atmosphere Watch) Urban Research Meteorology and Environment (GURME) initiated in 2020 an expert team inviting more than 30 world-wide experts to contribute to a "Guidance on Measuring, Modelling and Monitoring the Canopy Layer Urban Heat Island (CL-UHI)" (https://library.wmo.int/index.php?lvl=notice display&id=22236). The experts' texts and reviewer's comments were merged into the CL-UHI guidance. It provides the scientific background needed to understand the processes that generate and influence the urban heat island, gives examples for different agencies and services that need the information, and compiles useful metrics. The role of metrics and urban form is discussed, as well as the parameters needed to characterise urban areas at the building level and local scale. The influences of weather conditions, topography and urban features on heat island intensity, and ways of determining the CL-UHI intensity (measurement, modelling, monitoring) are explained. Topics include a clear definition of the CL-UHI and clarifications of what it is not, as well as CL-UHI application

Guidance on Measuring, Modelling and Monitoring the Canopy Layer Urban Heat Island (CL-UHI) 2023 edition

examples. The guidance also explains why the CL-UHI mitigation is only part of an answer to reduce urban heat problems. The guidance could serve as a useful reference to meteorologists, climatologists, meteorological administrative staff, and others interested in the CL-UHI.

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Urban Cooling Course at Western Sydney University in Australia

Australia is one of the most urbanised countries in the world, where more than 90% of the population live urban lives. The trend in Australia and elsewhere in the world is towards larger and denser cities. Both processes, expansion of cities at their fringe zones and densifying within, make cities warmer. This is counterproductive in a time where our summers become hotter. We must do the opposite – develop urban spaces to keep cool.

Western Sydney University, together with the Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils, have developed the new micro-credential course "The Basics of Urban Cooling" that addresses the problems we face head on. The course is packed with the latest knowledge in urban heat mitigation relevant for beginners and experts in the practical implementation of urban climate science, and those that plan, build and manage urban landscapes.

This is the course you want to do when you need an injection of positive, practical examples how to plan and build cool cities. The course will take about 25 hours of learning and engagement and completers are awarded a digital Western Sydney University badge as evidence of having engaged successfully. The course can also be used for professional development credits.



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Associate Professor Sebastian Pfautsch Urban Management and Planning School of Social Sciences



Recent Urban Climate Publications

Agbo EP, Nkajoe U, Edet CO (2022) Comparison of Mann-Kendall and Sen's innovative trend method for climatic parameters over Nigeria's climatic zones. Climate Dynamics

Aquilera MA, Gracia Gonzalez M (2023) Urban infrastructure expansion and artificial light pollution degrade coastal ecosystems, increasing natural-to-urban structural connectivity. Landscape and Urban Planning 229 104609.

Agyekum J, Annor T, Quansah E, Lamptey B, Amekudzi LK, Nyarko BK (2022) Extreme temperature indices over the Volta Basin: CMIP6 model evaluation. Climate Dynamics

Ahmad M, Rappenglück B, Osibanjo O, Retama A (2022) A machine learning approach to investigate the build-up of surface ozone in Mexico-City. Journal of Cleaner Production 379 134638.

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Algretawee H (2022) The effect of graduated urban park size on park cooling island and distance relative to land surface temperature (LST). Urban Climate 45 101255.

AlKheder S (2023) Studying the effect of built environment on traffic safety with random parameter and generalized ordered logit models. Urban Climate 47 101388.

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Andresen I, Healey Trulsrud T, Finocchiaro L, Nocente A, Tamm M, Ortiz J, Salom J, Magyari A, Hoes-van Oeffelen L,

In this edition is a list of publications that have generally come out between November 2022 and February 2023. Publications in boldface are featured papers recommended by the members of the Bibliography Committee. If you believe your articles are missing, please send your references to the email address below with a header "IAUC publications" and the following format: Author, Title, Journal, Year, Volume, Issue, Pages, Dates, Keywords, URL, Abstract.

For this guarter, we would like to warmly welcome Jie Cao (Chinese Academy of Sciences), Dr. Jia Wang (Chinese Academy of Sciences), Dr. Qian Cao (China University of Geosciences), Xiangwen Deng (China University of Geosciences), Dr. Tirthankar Chakraborty (Pacific Northwest National Laboratory), and Namrata Dhamankar-Jadhav (MKSSS Dr. B. N. College of Architecture), who recently joined the committee.

We are always looking for researchers at any career stage (especially early career) to join the committee and contribute to the IAUC community. If you are interested in joining or would like to learn more information, please feel free to let me know via the email address below.

Happy reading,

Chenghao Wang

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Conferences

Upcoming Conferences...

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ASIA OCEANIA GEOSCIENCES SOCIETY (AOGS) 20TH ANNUAL MEETING: SESSION ON "CITIES, EXTREME WEATHER, AND CLIMATE CHANGE"_ Singapore • July 30 - August 4, 2023 https://www.asiaoceania.org/aogs2023/

17TH NATIONAL MEETING OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMFORT IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND 13TH LATIN AMERICAN MEETING OF ENVIRON-MENTAL COMFORT IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT São Paulo, Brazil • October 25-27, 2023 https://www.encac2023.com/en

6TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON COUNTERMEASURES TO URBAN HEAT ISLANDS Melbourne, Australia • December 4-7, 2023 https://www.ic2uhi2023.com

Calls for Papers...

Special issue on "Recent progress in atmospheric boundary layer turbulence and implications to surface-atmosphere exchange" in *JGR Atmospheres*

Open for Submissions: September 1, 2022 Submission Deadline: August 31, 2023

https://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/hub/jgr/ journal/21698996/features/call-for-papers

Special Issue on "Understanding urban climates with artificial intelligence and Earth observation" in the International Journal of Applied Earth Observation and Geoinformation

Submission Deadline: October 1, 2023

https://www.journals.elsevier.com/international-journal-of-applied-earth-observation-and-geoinformation/call-for-papers/ understanding-urban-climates-with-artificial-intelligence-and-earth-observation

ELEVENTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON URBAN CLIMATE (ICUC-11)

University of New South Wales (UNSW) Sydney, Australia • August 28 - September 1, 2023 Conference website: <u>https://icuc11.com/</u>



IAUC Board



ICUC11 update: Registration is now open

ICUC11 preparations are moving along nicely, with over 780 abstracts received. Those who submitted an abstract would have now received their outcome; please do accept, or decline if you can no longer attend, this offer of presentation as soon as possible . We have planned 5 days of presentations in 5 parallel sessions (~420 presentations), however, given the large number of abstracts we have had to move many who requested an oral presentation to a poster. We do hope you all understand that with a conference this size we simply cannot have everyone present orally, even with five parallel sessions. However, we will have engaging and interactive poster sessions, and as I am sure many of you found, presenting a poster can often result in more options for feedback and discussions with colleagues than presenting in a parallel oral session (also it's worth noting that the chairs and organizing committee are all doing poster presentations).

You can now see a skeleton of the conference program on our <u>website</u>. Meanwhile we have been busy with post-it notes and complicated spreadsheets as we build the detailed program so that you can go to as many sessions as possible. We hope to have this finalised in the coming weeks.

You will note the program consists not only of keynote presentations from thought leaders in our field, but also two sessions we are calling "Australian Stories". During these sessions we will showcase Australian research in the areas of Air Quality and Urban Overheating. We will also end the conference with an exciting panel discussion on the role of urban climate in the larger context of climate change discourse. This discussion includes authors from all three IPCC Working Groups.

<u>Registration</u> is now open. Be sure to also register for our Gala Dinner, which will take place on a boat on beautiful Sydney Harbour.

Looking forward to seeing you all in Sydney!

IAUC Board Members & Terms

- **President**: Ariane Middel (Arizona State University, USA), 2022-2026
- Secretary: Benjamin Bechtel (Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany), 2022-2026
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- Melissa Hart (University of New South Wales, Australia), 2020-2024
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- Simone Kotthaus (Institut Pierre Simon Laplace, France), 2020-2024
- Dan Li (Boston University, USA), 2023-2026
- · Zhiwen (Vincent) Luo (University of Reading, UK), 2022-2026
- Negin Nazarian (University of New South Wales, Australia): ICUC-11 Local Organizer, 2020-24
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- Victoria Ramsey (UK Met Office, UK), 2023-2026
- David Sailor (Arizona State University, USA), Past Secretary 2014-2018*
- Nigel Tapper (Monash University, Australia), *Past President* 2018-2022*
- Natalie Theeuwes (Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute, the Netherlands), 2021-25
- James Voogt (University of Western Ontario, Canada), Past President 2014-2018.**
- * non-voting, ** non-voting appointed member

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The next edition of *Urban Climate News* will appear in late June. Contributions for the upcoming issue are welcome, and should be submitted by May 31, 2023 to the relevant editor.

Submissions should be concise and accessible to a wide audience. The articles in this Newsletter are unrefereed, and their appearance does not constitute formal publication; they should not be used or cited otherwise.

Bibliography: Chenghao Wang and BibCom members <u>chenghao.wang@ou.edu</u>