



LOS ANGELES COUNTY HEAT ACTION PLAN

Cities at the Center of a Heat-Resilient Future

How Cities Can Advance the County Heat Action Plan

Extreme heat and rising daily temperatures are reshaping life across Los Angeles County, and their impacts go beyond jurisdictional boundaries. Extreme heat events affect regional systems as much as individual people who live, work, and travel throughout Los Angeles County and its 88 cities, and many of the most consequential decisions about how to deal with heat happen at the city level.

The County Heat Action Plan (CHAP) establishes a shared regional vision for protecting people, infrastructure, and ecosystems from the growing risks of heat. Achieving that vision will require collective action not only by County government, but also by cities and other local public agencies, to protect vulnerable populations and critical infrastructure. While the County will implement actions in unincorporated areas and areas of service throughout the region, achieving the CHAP's goals depends on strong city leadership. Cities are essential partners in translating regional strategies into local action and ensuring that solutions reflect local conditions, priorities, and community needs.

Cities may take on different roles depending on the strategy or action:

- **Lead Locally** – Implement CHAP actions directly within city boundaries.
- **Leverage Existing Tools** – Use data, guidance, and resources developed or shared by the County and other implementation partners.
- **Partner Across Jurisdictions** – Collaborate with the County or other agencies where shared standards, enforcement, or information systems are needed.

The examples that follow are not exhaustive, but they highlight practical opportunities for cities to engage with actions in the CHAP. In many cases, impactful heat solutions will involve multiple actions, with a different City role associated with each one.

Goal 1: Cool and Protect Outdoor Spaces

Cooling streets, sidewalks, transit stops, and other public spaces is essential to reducing heat exposure during both extreme heat events and increasingly hot everyday conditions.

Lead Locally

Cities can directly implement outdoor cooling strategies within their jurisdictions, including:

- Planting and sustaining trees in the public right-of-way to expand shade and reduce surface temperatures. In neighborhoods with limited tree canopy or few existing tree wells, establishing an equitable tree canopy may require pavement removal, curb reconfiguration, or street redesign to create space for trees to grow and thrive (Actions 1.1.a, 1.2.c).
- Installing bus shelters at transit stops (Action 1.1.b), particularly in locations with high pedestrian sun exposure.

These actions parallel County investments in unincorporated areas and provide immediate, tangible benefits for residents and transit users.

Leverage Existing Tools

Cities can use County-developed resources to advance outdoor cooling efficiently and cost-effectively, including:

- Applying innovative shade designs developed through County-led pilots (Action 1.1.c), reducing the need for cities to design shade amenities independently.
- Using County heat and vulnerability data to identify where shade, cooling, and greening interventions are likely to have the greatest impact (Action 1.3.a).

Partner Across Jurisdictions

Cities can benefit from coordinated processes by:

- Participating in County efforts to establish design templates, shared performance standards, and expedited permitting pathways for shade amenities in the public right-of-way (Action 1.1.e).

How the roles work together:

A City might use County data to identify priority corridors, pilot County-developed shade designs, and lead local installation—while participating in coordinated permitting or procurement efforts that reduce barriers and costs.

Goal 2: Make Buildings More Heat-Resilient

As daily temperatures rise, indoor heat is becoming an increasingly serious health and safety concern, particularly for renters and residents of older housing stock and congregate facilities.

Lead Locally

Cities can establish local protections and make buildings more heat-resilient by:

- Adopting the Indoor Maximum Temperature (IMT) standard for residential buildings into their own code, along with tenant protections that prevent eviction or retaliation when residents seek relief from unsafe indoor heat (Actions 2.1.a, 2.1.d).
- Incorporating cool, energy-efficient designs and features in public facilities, ranging from small scale interventions such as solar window film and cool paints, to upgrading or retro-commissioning HVAC systems (Action 2.1g, Action 2.2 b).

Local adoption ensures that indoor heat safety standards are enforceable within city boundaries and responsive to local housing conditions.

Leverage Existing Tools

Cities can support education and compliance without duplicating effort by:

- Leveraging informational materials, guidance, and outreach tools developed by County departments to support renters and landlords in maintaining safe indoor temperatures (Actions 2.1.b, 2.1.c), such as those that can be found at coolhealthyhomes.org.

These shared resources can be particularly valuable for cities with limited capacity to develop standalone materials.

Partner Across Jurisdictions

Cities can benefit from coordinated enforcement by:

- Partnering with or contracting through the County Department of Public Health to support enforcement of IMT standards (Action 2.1.a), particularly where cities lack inspection or enforcement capacity.

How the roles work together:

A City may adopt an IMT locally, rely on County-developed materials for outreach and education, and collaborate with the County on enforcement—creating a comprehensive indoor heat safety framework while minimizing administrative burden.

Goal 3: Strengthen Heat Safety Communications and Programs

Clear communication and accessible services are critical to preparing and protecting residents during heat events.

Lead Locally

Cities can tailor heat response to community needs by:

- Partnering with local organizations to offer programming at City-run cooling centers (Action 3.1.d), such as wellness checks, resource navigation, or culturally appropriate services.

Leverage Existing Tools

Cities can expand outreach and preparedness by:

- Using and adapting heat safety training, guidance, and communication materials developed by County departments for staff, volunteers, workers, and community groups (Action 3.2.b).

This supports consistent, evidence-based messaging while allowing local customization.

Partner Across Jurisdictions

Cities can coordinate on messaging with other public agencies by:

- Sharing information on local facilities that can serve as cooling centers with the County, so they can be included on Ready LA County and other regional platforms (Action 3.1.a).

How the roles work together:

A City may operate and program its own cooling centers, rely on County materials to prepare staff and partners, and coordinate with the County to ensure residents can easily find services during heat emergencies.

Moving Forward Together

Cities are central to achieving the CHAP's vision of a heat-resilient Los Angeles County. By leading locally, leveraging County resources, and partnering across jurisdictions, cities can address heat in ways that reflect local needs while contributing to a coordinated regional response.

The County is committed to supporting cities through shared data, tools, and collaboration. Together, as temperatures rise, we can strengthen the systems, spaces, and services that keep communities across Los Angeles County safe, healthy, and livable.