



LOS ANGELES COUNTY HEAT ACTION PLAN





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February 2026



LA County Chief Sustainability Office
Environment • Economy • Equity

Message from the Chair

As Chair of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, I am proud to introduce the County Heat Action Plan (CHAP) – a bold, equitable framework to protect our communities from the growing dangers of extreme heat. This issue is deeply personal to me. As the daughter of immigrant parents and a lifelong advocate for working families, I have seen firsthand how heat harms those who can least afford to adapt: renters, outdoor workers, children, and older adults.

Extreme heat is now the deadliest climate threat facing our region, and its toll falls hardest on low-income neighborhoods and communities of color. Too many families live in homes that become dangerously hot, and too many communities lack the shade and green space needed to stay safe and healthy. That is why I have championed the establishment of a safe indoor temperature threshold for renters – a first-of-its-kind policy in Los Angeles County to protect residents' health and dignity – and continue to support broader efforts to expand access to shade, cooling, and hydration in parks and other public spaces.

The CHAP builds on this progress and deepens our shared commitment to equity and resilience. It will help reduce heat-related illnesses and deaths, expand cooling access in homes and neighborhoods, create local green jobs, and make communities more livable and connected. Just as important, it brings together cities, unincorporated areas, County departments, and community partners to ensure our response to heat is coordinated, inclusive, and sustained.

For years, Los Angeles County has led with courage and compassion – advancing environmental justice and directing resources where they are needed most to improve quality of life. The CHAP continues that legacy, protecting lives today while preparing our neighborhoods for a hotter future. Together, we can build a healthier, safer, and more resilient County where every person – no matter where they live – can thrive.

Sincerely,

Hilda L. Solis
Chair, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Supervisor, First District



Foreword

On behalf of the LA County Chief Sustainability Office, I am proud to present our first-ever County Heat Action Plan (CHAP). This comprehensive roadmap outlines how we will protect our residents, infrastructure, and environment from the growing impacts of extreme heat, a hazard that affects every neighborhood and disproportionately harms our most vulnerable residents. This plan reflects years of research, collaboration, and community engagement, and represents an important milestone in our collective commitment to climate resilience.

The CHAP builds on years of County leadership in addressing heat. Examples of key progress to date include the adoption of a Cool Roof Ordinance to reduce indoor temperatures and energy use, implementation of the Community Forest Management Plan to expand tree canopy in high-need areas, and innovative efforts like the Cool Capital Stack project, which empowers local organizations and residents to design community-driven climate strategies. The CHAP unites and strengthens these efforts, aligning them with clear goals, measurable targets, practical implementation steps, and a robust framework for collaboration.

As a priority action in the OurCounty Sustainability Plan, the CHAP is rooted in equity and guided by science. It will ensure that our actions protect those most at risk while delivering tangible results: reduced heat-related illnesses and deaths and more resilient buildings, streets, and public spaces. These outcomes are especially critical in communities burdened by environmental and health inequities, where higher temperatures amplify vulnerabilities. Grounded in data, local knowledge, and lived experience, the CHAP provides a foundation for strategic investments, cross-sector partnerships, and meaningful progress.

Lastly, the CHAP is a call to action. Its success depends on County departments, unincorporated communities, cities, and regional and community stakeholders working together to advance heat resilience. I invite all of our partners to use the CHAP as a shared blueprint for building a cooler, healthier, and more equitable Los Angeles County. Together, we can transform the challenge of extreme heat into an opportunity to create a more resilient and connected region for all who call it home.

Sincerely,

Rita Kampalath
Chief Sustainability Officer
County of Los Angeles



Land Acknowledgment *for the County of Los Angeles*

The County of Los Angeles recognizes that we occupy land originally and still inhabited and cared for by the Tongva, Tataviam, Serrano, Kizh, and Chumash Peoples. We honor and pay respect to their elders and descendants – past, present, and emerging – as they continue their stewardship of these lands and waters. We acknowledge that settler colonization resulted in land seizure, disease, subjugation, slavery, relocation, broken promises, genocide, and multigenerational trauma.

This acknowledgment demonstrates our responsibility and commitment to truth, healing, and reconciliation and to elevating the stories, culture, and community of the original inhabitants of Los Angeles County. We are grateful to have the opportunity to live and work on these ancestral lands.

We are dedicated to growing and sustaining relationships with Native peoples and local tribal governments, including (in no particular order) the

- Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians
- Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council
- Gabrieleño/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians
- Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation
- Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation
- San Fernando Band of Mission Indians
- Coastal Band of Chumash Nation
- Gabrielino/Tongva Nation
- Gabrielino Tongva Tribe

To learn more about the First Peoples of Los Angeles County, please visit the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission website at lanaic.lacounty.gov

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Executive Summary

Why This Plan, Why Now

Rising average temperatures and more frequent extreme heat events are fundamentally changing what it means to live, work, and thrive in our region. The changing climate exacerbates health risks, economic burdens, and infrastructure strain, especially in historically underserved communities. The LA County Heat Action Plan (CHAP) provides a coordinated, cross-agency roadmap for becoming more resilient to these changes and delivering tangible cooling benefits in the communities that need it most.

The urgency for action is clear when considering the scale of the challenge ahead. All areas of the County, home to nearly 10 million residents in total, face rising temperatures. Inland areas such as Lake Los Angeles and Pacoima are increasingly experiencing temperatures over 100°F, and even our coastal areas are starting to reach the triple digits; for example, Long Beach hit a record-breaking 109°F during the September 2024 heat wave. These extreme temperatures increase emergency room visits, reduce access to safe outdoor spaces, and place financial strain on households already struggling with high utility bills.

Plan Purpose and Scope

The CHAP represents Los Angeles County's first multisector plan solely focused on addressing the risks associated with rising temperatures and extreme heat. Developed with input from hundreds of partners, the CHAP provides a strategic coordination framework to unite County departments, other local and regional government agencies, community organizations and businesses to take action on both outdoor and indoor heat risks. The CHAP is grounded in climate science, public health evidence, and the lived experiences of residents most affected by extreme heat. It is intended to guide and align policy, planning, and investment decisions that reduce heat exposure and improve resilience.

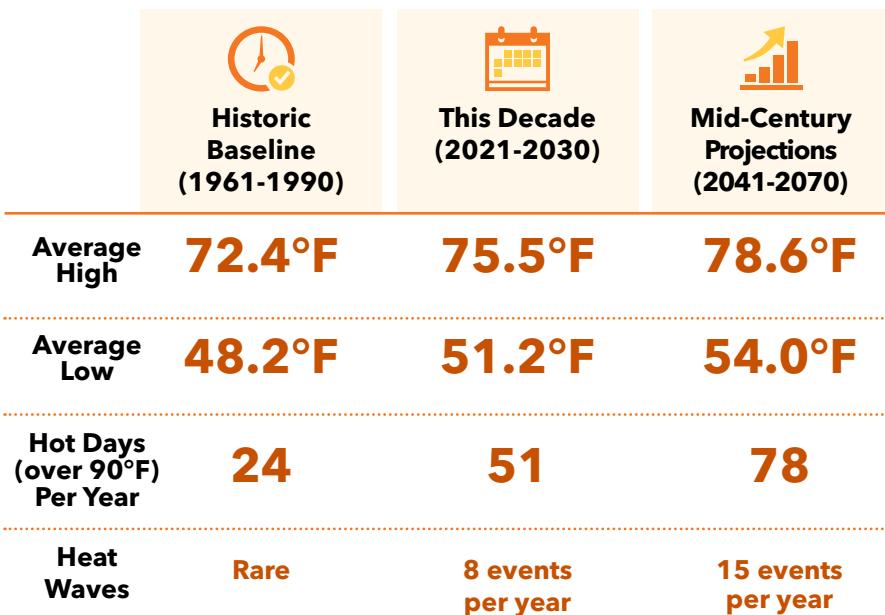


Figure 1. Los Angeles County Summer Temperature Evolution & Characteristics

Climate projections come from Cal-Adapt 4th Assessment tools and reflect a high emissions (RCP 8.5) scenario. For the purposes of the above projections, "heat wave" was defined as 4 consecutive days at a temperature threshold of 90°F.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At its core, the CHAP is designed to drive implementation through a set of three comprehensive goals, each supported by intersectional strategies and measurable actions aimed at equity-centered outcomes.



Goal 1, "Cool Outdoor Spaces," focuses on preventing harm to County residents, built and natural resources, domestic animals, and plants and wildlife from excess outdoor heat and the urban heat effect.



Goal 2, "Create Heat-Resilient Indoor Spaces," emphasizes efforts to ensure people are not exposed to harmful levels of heat in homes, schools, and other critical facilities, especially for renters and vulnerable groups.



Goal 3, "Expand Heat Safety Communications and Programs," strengthens emergency response and public awareness by expanding outreach, access to cooling centers, and various services during extreme heat events.

Research has shown that heat mitigation and preparedness actions can meaningfully reduce heat-related burdens. In the LA area, heat-related emergency department visits have been trending upward for decades, but partners working together across the LA region to implement the CHAP have the potential to stem the tide; by 2045, we aim to reduce the projected number of visits by 30%.

- **County departments** can use the plan to align capital investments, policy development, and program design with shared heat resilience goals;
- **The 88 cities within the County and other public agencies** can reference the CHAP as a model for local action, review CHAP data to adapt strategies to local conditions, collaborate and make use of implementation tools and materials to be developed by County government;

- **Community-based organizations** can use the plan to identify advocacy priorities and collaboration opportunities, develop grant proposals, and hold government partners accountable for implementation commitments; and

- **Funders and philanthropic organizations** can use the CHAP to identify high-impact investment opportunities, understand how specific projects fit within a comprehensive regional strategy, and coordinate investments to maximize collective impact.

While comprehensive in scope, the CHAP does **not** replace existing capital improvement plans, zoning ordinances, or building codes, nor does it mandate specific construction projects or retrofits. Further, as a policy document, this plan is not designed to serve as a direct resource for the general public or to educate individual residents about heat safety practices and resources. However, the plan does include County commitments to creating resources for the general public, such that implementation of the plan will fulfill the need for those resources.

Equity has been, and will be, woven throughout every aspect of the CHAP, from its development process to implementation steps. This commitment is operationalized through a comprehensive equity framework that addresses four interconnected dimensions of equity: procedural, distributional, structural, and transgenerational equity. For detailed information about how these dimensions guide all strategies and actions throughout the CHAP, see the CHAP Equity Framework discussion on page 12.

The CHAP is both a commitment and an invitation: A commitment from LA County government to lead by example and leverage its authority and resources to protect residents from extreme heat, and an invitation to cities, community organizations, funders, businesses, and residents to join in building a heat-resilient future together. The scope of the challenge requires all of us working in partnership—each contributing what we can, learning from each other, and ensuring that the communities most affected by heat have voice and agency in shaping solutions.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This plan also contains an Implementation section that contains additional information about how the County will resource the work, implement the actions, and report on progress.

Table 1. Goals and Strategies at a Glance

Goal	Strategies
Goal 1 Cool Outdoor Spaces: Create cooler, more livable outdoor environments through strategic shade, green infrastructure, and heat-reducing surfaces that protect residents and ecosystems while fostering vibrant community spaces.	*Strategy 1.1: Improve shade equity in the public right-of-way to reduce overexposure to heat and promote vibrant street life. Strategy 1.2: Alleviate chronic heat burden in highly paved urban areas through urban greening, design, and smart surfaces. Strategy 1.3: Integrate cooling features into outdoor recreational and gathering spaces. Strategy 1.4: Ensure that County assets, especially trees and vegetation that provide cooling benefits in public corridors and gathering spaces, can thrive long-term in the face of rising temperatures.
Goal 2 Create Heat-Resilient Indoor Spaces: Promote safe, efficient design and operations for the buildings where County residents live, work, and learn.	*Strategy 2.1: Protect renters and heat-vulnerable residents from excessive levels of heat in the home and congregate facilities. Strategy 2.2: Maximize the adoption and use of passive cooling strategies and energy-efficient operations in both public and private buildings. Strategy 2.3: In coordination with utilities, promote electricity affordability, clean energy access, and energy resilience.
Goal 3 Expand Heat Safety Communications and Programs: Build robust community networks and emergency management operations that promote heat safety and connect vulnerable people to cooling resources.	Strategy 3.1: Improve access to, and utilization of, cooling locations during extreme heat. Strategy 3.2: Build the capacity of community organizations and other implementation partners to support resident and worker heat safety. *Strategy 3.3: Increase public awareness of heat risk and personal strategies for staying cool and safe. Strategy 3.4: Improve the capacity of the health system to mitigate, prepare for, and respond to heat risk.

* As noted in the Implementation section, the County has identified Strategies 1.1, 2.1, and 3.3 as initial implementation priorities based on resident and partner input.

A photograph of a person in a blue shirt standing in a field of tall grass at night. The person is facing away from the camera, towards a bright light source in the background, which creates a bokeh effect of yellow and orange circles. The foreground is filled with the silhouettes of grass blades.

Introduction

INTRODUCTION

Los Angeles County stands at a critical juncture as daily temperatures rise and heat waves become longer, hotter, and more frequent due to climate change. Extreme heat is more than an inconvenience, it is a serious public health threat—and some communities are more burdened by it than others. For example, areas with limited tree canopy, extensive pavement, or older housing stock face more intense heat exposure. These disadvantages are concentrated in communities that have experienced decades of disinvestment in infrastructure and public amenities like parks.

The scale and complexity of heat-related risks requires a comprehensive, coordinated response from all sectors and jurisdictions. Community advocates and health experts have increasingly called for action to match the scope of the challenge; this plan is LA County's roadmap for the work ahead.



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 heat waves, so that vulnerable groups are able to stay safe and our region avoids the potential health and economic toll of these events.

By investing in heat resilience, we not only prevent emergency room visits¹ and lost productivity—estimated to cost the region billions each year²—we also create vibrant public spaces, strengthen community bonds, and build healthier, more equitable neighborhoods. This is the vision that guides the CHAP: a cooler, safer, and more connected Los Angeles County.

"We are encouraged that LA County recognizes extreme heat as a public health emergency that demands preventive action. The Heat Action Plan lays out practical solutions to address indoor and outdoor extreme heat, while considering environmental, equity, and economic factors to develop effective, community-centered solutions. We look forward to continuing to work with the County on the successful implementation of this plan, as extreme heat events grow more frequent and vulnerable communities face the greatest risks."

**— Alex Jasset, Energy Justice Director,
Physicians for Social Responsibility LA (PSR-LA)**

Benefits of Taking Action for Heat Resilience



Environmental & Climate

- **Energy and Emissions Reduction:** Cooler surfaces and shaded areas reduce demand for air conditioning, which in turn cuts greenhouse gas emissions and supports climate mitigation goals.
- **Biodiversity and Habitat:** Incorporating native plants and trees helps create microhabitats for pollinators and urban wildlife, even in dense urban areas.
- **Stormwater Management:** Green infrastructure enhances infiltration, reduces runoff, and supports local groundwater recharge.



Health & Equity

- **Reduced Heat-Related Illness:** Improvements to the built environment and emergency preparedness efforts can lower the risk of hospitalization and death during extreme heat for residents and workers.
- **Daily Health Benefits:** Cooler air and safe outdoor spaces promote physical activity, reducing long-term risks of cardiovascular and respiratory conditions.
- **Community Connection:** Shaded, comfortable public spaces encourage social interaction, reduce stress, and strengthen social cohesion—especially for youth, families, and seniors.



Economic

- **Lower Utility Costs:** Cooling retrofits such as cool roofs, tree planting, and energy-efficient design can reduce building cooling loads by 10%-50%, particularly during peak demand periods.
- **Employer and Government Savings:** Fewer worker injuries and illnesses and less infrastructure strain can generate meaningful savings while reducing liabilities for employers and government agencies.
- **Business Vitality:** Heat-resilient workplaces and streetscapes promote worker productivity, increase foot traffic, and promote small business retention and real estate value.



Studies estimate that each \$1 invested in heat resilience can avoid \$3-\$6 in emergency response and healthcare costs (World Bank, NOAA, EPA estimates).

INTRODUCTION

Purpose and Foundations

The CHAP represents LA County's first comprehensive, multisector strategy dedicated exclusively to protecting communities from extreme heat and rising average temperatures. Unlike emergency response plans that activate only during extreme heat events, or building codes that address individual structures, the CHAP takes a holistic view of heat resilience that spans outdoor cooling, indoor safety, emergency preparedness, and community empowerment.

The CHAP is fundamentally designed to drive collective action across LA County while establishing clear commitments from County government for advancing heat resilience goals. Implementation of the CHAP will provide strategies, tools, and resources that can be adapted and implemented by all 88 cities within LA County, as well as school districts, community-based organizations, and regional partners. Heat doesn't respect jurisdictional boundaries, and effective resilience requires coordination across municipal lines.

At the same time, the CHAP establishes specific commitments from LA County government to lead by example and leverage its unique authorities and resources. The County operates primarily in unincorporated areas, serving over 1 million residents, where it has municipal-level authority over land use, infrastructure, and services. As the region's largest public entity, LA County government also operates extensive infrastructure and services that span jurisdictional boundaries: the public health system, regional parks, major transportation corridors, and emergency response networks.

Strengthening Regional Coordination: LA County Government as a Model and Partner

Effectively addressing extreme heat will require cross-jurisdictional action. Every day, people travel between unincorporated areas and cities within LA County for work, school, and other obligations—and heat exposure across those different settings can have a cumulative impact on the body.



Figure 2. Los Angeles County Unincorporated Areas

Furthermore, the design and performance of the built environment in one jurisdiction can influence conditions in another, especially as urban heat is shaped by wind patterns, infrastructure, and cumulative land use decisions.

INTRODUCTION

The action details listed in this plan—including lead agencies, timelines, and cost estimates—describe the County government’s own implementation pathway. However, the CHAP is designed to support coordinated regional action by providing a flexible framework that cities and other partners can adopt or adapt to meet their unique needs and context. In this way, the County aims to serve as both a leader and a resource for the 88 cities within its borders.

Several actions in the CHAP present opportunities for city-county collaboration. For example, cities that adopt local renter heat safety ordinances may choose to contract with the County for enforcement and inspection services, streamlining administration and ensuring consistency across jurisdictions. The County will also develop resources such as design standards and procurement agreements to help cities implement cooling infrastructure more efficiently. These shared approaches will reduce duplication and lower costs while allowing cities to tailor interventions to local needs. By aligning strategies and sharing resources, the County and its partners can achieve results that are greater than the sum of their individual efforts.

“Extreme heat is the leading cause of weather-related deaths in the United States and worldwide. As the federal government steps back, Los Angeles is emerging as a global model for climate resilience—yes, we are beating the heat through cool infrastructure projects that enhance daily life and demonstrate how local action can create global impact.”

— Jonathan Parfrey, Executive Director, Climate Resolve

Guiding Principles



Equity-Driven

The CHAP has been developed, and will be implemented, with equity at the fore.*



Action-Oriented

Every strategy in the CHAP is built around implementable actions with clear timelines, responsible agencies, and resource needs identified.



Integrative

The CHAP recognizes the interconnected nature of our physical infrastructure and social and economic systems. Our evidence-informed strategies draw from research across multiple disciplines.



Collaborative

The CHAP promotes cross-agency and cross-jurisdictional collaboration. Strategies are designed to align with existing initiatives and community priorities, supporting shared ownership and regional impact.



Adaptive

The CHAP will incorporate new science, respond to changing conditions, and integrate lessons learned as community needs and opportunities evolve during implementation.

* See page 12 for more information about our equity framework.

Intersection with Broader Hazards

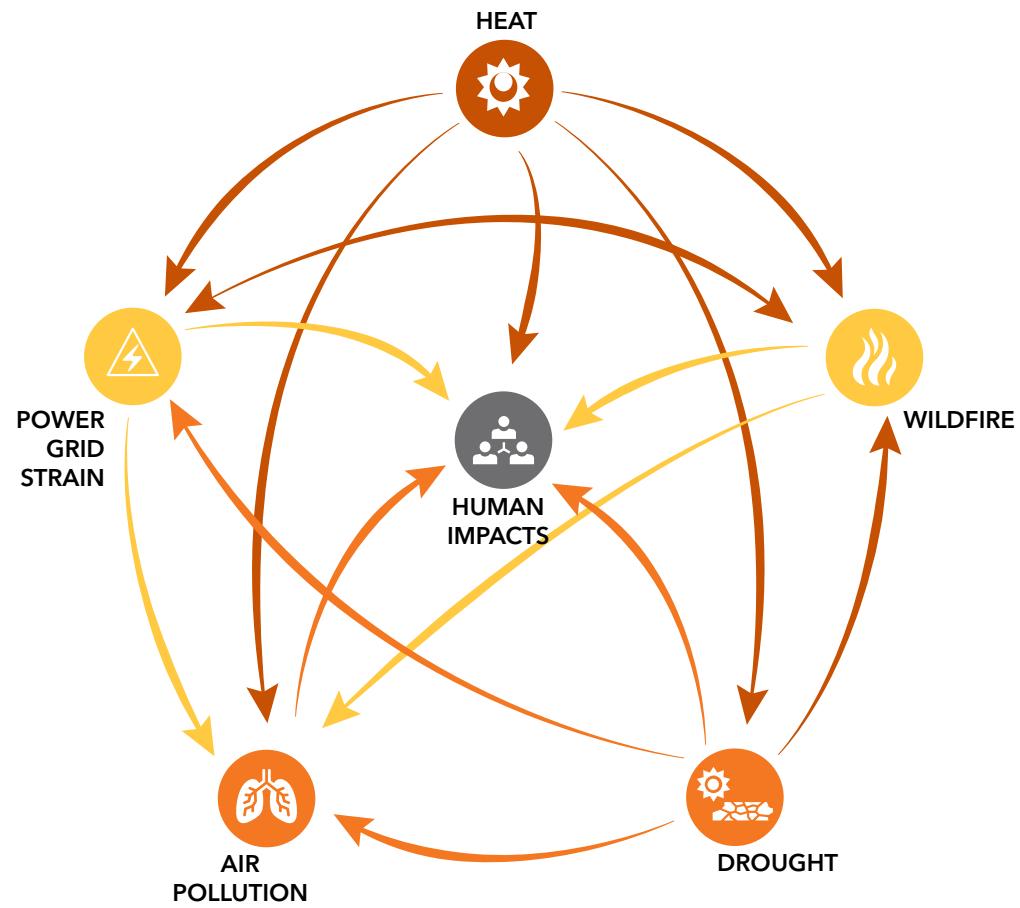
Advancing heat resilience means grappling with a range of intersecting environmental and social challenges. Rising temperatures intensify existing hazards while creating new vulnerabilities across multiple systems.

Climate-related hazards compound one another in dangerous ways:

- Extreme heat increases wildfire risk and worsens air quality by accelerating ground-level ozone formation.
- Drought conditions, made more severe by higher temperatures, limit water availability for cooling strategies and stress urban vegetation that provides natural cooling.
- Higher electricity usage during extreme heat may increase climate pollution and make it more difficult to stem the global rise in temperatures.
- Power outages during heat events eliminate access to air conditioning precisely when it is most needed.

Heat also amplifies social and economic vulnerabilities in ways that extend far beyond climate impacts:

- Families struggling with housing insecurity may be forced to choose between rent and utility bills during expensive cooling months.
- Limited access to healthcare can turn heat stress into a life-threatening emergency.
- Language barriers can prevent residents from receiving critical heat warnings or accessing cooling resources.



INTRODUCTION

The CHAP recognizes these intersecting risks and is designed to strengthen resilience across both physical and social systems.

While developing strategies to mitigate the impacts of heat, partners across the County must be sensitive to these intersecting issues. Our collective approach must use a balanced mix of strategies, accounting for potential constraints to heat resilience resources such as water and power, and avoiding overreliance on strategies that can become maladaptive, such as the use of air conditioning or fire-prone vegetation.

Building on a Decade of Climate Action

The CHAP did not develop in a vacuum. Sustained advocacy and grassroots leadership from community-based organizations throughout LA County have already driven County-level policy development for heat resilience and established a strong foundation for comprehensive heat action, positioning the County to implement an ambitious heat resilience agenda that is connected to broader sustainability and equity goals.



INTRODUCTION

The **Los Angeles Countywide Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment** (PNA) underscores the value of parks for urban heat mitigation and highlights the need for more equitable access to parks and their amenities. Since its adoption in 2016, LA County Parks and partners have made meaningful progress in addressing this need by creating new parks and improving existing ones, though work remains to be done.

The **Cool Roof Ordinance**, adopted in 2018, established requirements for reflective roofing materials on new construction and major roof replacements in unincorporated areas, lowering indoor temperatures, reducing cooling demand, and laying an early regulatory foundation for heat resilience.

The **Safe, Clean Water Program**, approved by voters in 2018, funds stormwater initiatives that improve water quality, increase our local water supply, and provide multiple benefits beyond stormwater capture—such as through the planting of trees and creation of new green spaces. The program cultivates regional and community partnerships and prioritizes historically underserved communities. Information on regional proposals funded or under consideration is available on the project's webpage.

The **OurCounty Sustainability Plan**, first developed in 2019 and updated in 2025, has established environmental justice and health equity as central organizing principles for County operations and investments toward addressing our region's sustainability challenges. OurCounty's commitment to centering frontline communities in this work created the political and programmatic foundation for the CHAP's equity-driven approach.

The County's **Extreme Temperature Plan**, first developed in 2006, was updated in 2020 to incorporate equity-based criteria for expanding the pool of potential cooling centers and to reference National Weather Service HeatRisk ratings to identify areas at risk.

The **Climate Vulnerability Assessment (CVA)**, completed in 2021, provided the first comprehensive analysis of heat risks across LA County. The CVA Mapping Tool has helped to identify heat-vulnerable communities and create a shared understanding of the intersection of climate hazards with social vulnerabilities.

The **Safety Element of the County General Plan**, updated in 2022, aligned land use planning with climate resilience goals, creating regulatory mechanisms for incorporating heat and other climate considerations into development decisions.

The **Los Angeles County Community Forest Management Plan**, adopted in 2024, advanced a strategic vision for managing the County's urban forest as critical green infrastructure. By identifying priority areas for canopy expansion and emphasizing equitable tree planting in heat-vulnerable neighborhoods, the plan laid a foundation for long-term shade equity and biodiversity goals.

The County's **Extreme Temperature Plan**, first developed in 2006, was updated in 2020 to incorporate equity-based criteria for expanding the pool of potential cooling centers and to reference National Weather Service HeatRisk ratings to identify areas at risk.

The **All-Hazards Mitigation Plan** update in 2025 expanded the County's hazard planning framework to include climate change as a recognized threat, incorporating extreme heat into disaster preparedness through measures such as cooling centers, urban greening, and heat-resilient building practices.

The Los Angeles County **Indoor Maximum Temperature Ordinance**, adopted in 2025, established a threshold of 82°F for rental units, creating a regulatory framework to protect tenants from extreme indoor heat and advance housing-related climate resilience.

INTRODUCTION

Research Partnerships

Since the 2021 release of the CVA, CSO has benefitted from many opportunities to partner with research institutions to further inform County heat resilience efforts. CSO staff have participated in, commissioned, or advised on a range of research projects, including:

- An ongoing climatological study by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory to create more precise heat exposure projections into the future
- Development of the USC LABarometer survey
- A RAND statistical analysis of heat impacts to County operations and a software tool that enables similar analyses to be run with future data
- A RAND analysis of renter heat safety policy implications for energy resilience
- ShadeLA, an initiative jointly led by USC and UCLA that includes research on solutions to technical and bureaucratic barriers to shade installation
- An Accelerating Resilience LA-funded analysis and framework for prioritizing depaving opportunities based on stormwater capture potential, heat mitigation potential, and other criteria
- UCLA spatial analyses of shade locations and pedestrian activity, aimed

at identifying where new shade installations should be placed for maximal cooling benefits

- UCLA policy analysis of regulations related to shade

The County also engages with researchers developing heat-related resources at the state and national levels and facilitate collaborations among our research partners. The County will continue these efforts to advance the field of heat research throughout the implementation of the CHAP, not only to benefit the LA region but also generate insights that can help agencies across the world who are seeking to adapt to a hotter future.

The CHAP Equity Framework

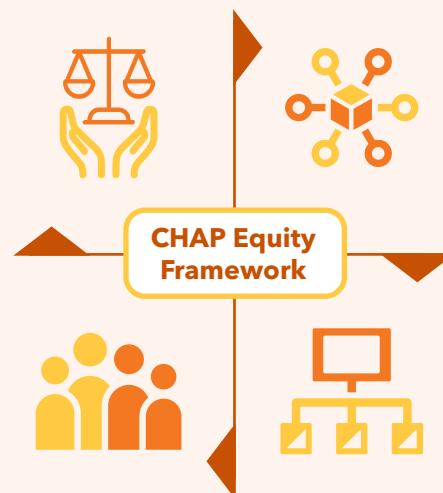
The entire CHAP planning process was intentionally designed to advance procedural equity from the outset, ensuring meaningful participation and shared decision-making throughout plan development. Further, the County is committed to operationalizing equity through the below framework that addresses multiple dimensions of fairness and inclusion. This framework is aligned with the OurCounty Sustainability Plan and demonstrated at the Goal, Strategy, and Action level of the CHAP.

Procedural Equity

The CHAP planning process used an inclusive methodology that elevated the perspectives of groups historically excluded from policy decision-making.

Transgenerational Equity

The CHAP balances the County's need to address present-day risks with the County's commitment to making the region healthy and safe for generations to come.



Distributional Equity

The CHAP uses data, evidence-based solutions, and promising innovations to address the inequitable distribution of extreme heat impacts and develops strategies that maximize benefits for the most burdened groups.

Structural Equity

The CHAP considers potential secondary and cross-sector impacts of heat resilience interventions and prioritizes solutions that maximize benefits for burdened groups and mitigates drawbacks, such as displacement.

Planning Process

The CHAP development process began with a motion from the LA County Board of Supervisors in July 2023, directing the Chief Sustainability Office (CSO) to work with nine other County Departments to draft a framework for addressing the risks of increasing heat. During the subsequent 12 months, CSO and County Departments assessed heat resilience opportunities and gaps, identified potential goals, and secured consultant support to conduct a more formal planning process with broad, inclusive engagement.

From there, the planning process was designed to center the expertise and priorities of communities most affected by extreme heat while building the technical and political foundation for sustained implementation. The planning team engaged hundreds of stakeholders through multiple formats designed to reach different constituencies and capture diverse forms of knowledge. This engagement reflected a fundamental belief that effective heat resilience strategies must be grounded in both technical expertise and lived experience of heat vulnerability.



Steering Committee Leadership

External engagement began with the July 2024 formation of a Steering Committee composed of regional implementation partners, academic and technical experts, and community representatives who provided high-level guidance throughout the planning process. The 20-person committee advised on the overall scope, process, and direction of the CHAP, bringing diverse perspectives on heat resilience while ensuring that the CHAP remained accountable to broader regional goals and maintained focus on actionable outcomes.

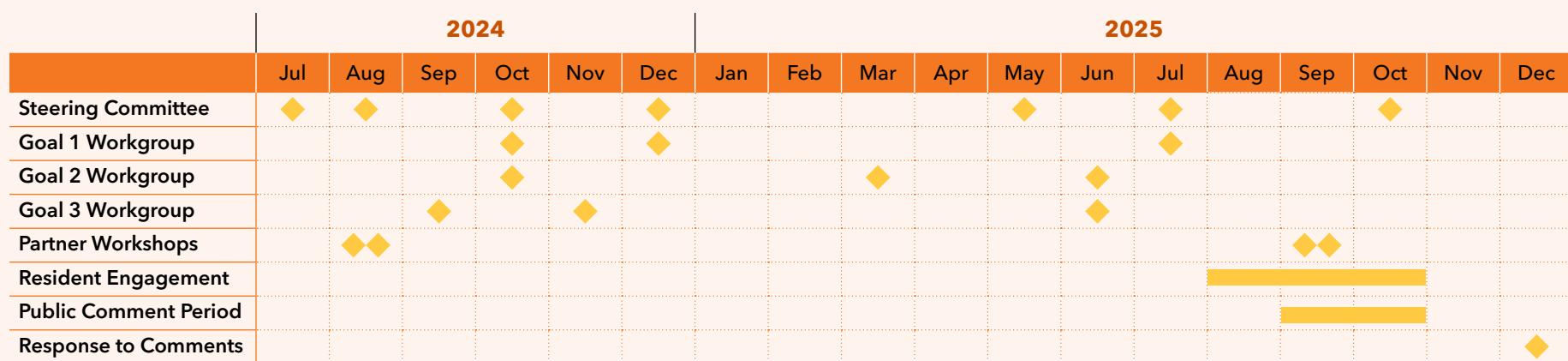


Figure 3. Engagement Timeline

Steering Committee members represented the full spectrum of heat resilience, with participation from the following organizations:

- Antelope Valley Partners for Health
- Climate Resolve
- Gateway Cities Council of Governments
- LA City Climate Emergency Mobilization Office
- LA County Department of Public Health, Office of Environmental Justice and Climate Health
- LA County Public Works, Sustainability Office
- LA Metro
- LEAP-LA Coalition, represented by Physicians for Social Responsibility Los Angeles and Pacoima Beautiful
- Los Angeles Regional Collaborative for Climate Action and Sustainability
- ReDesignLA, represented by the Council for Watershed Health
- San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
- South Bay Cities Council of Governments
- Southern California Association of Governments
- UCLA Institute of the Environment and Sustainability
- UCLA Luskin Center for Innovation

The Committee met seven times throughout the planning process, providing input on engagement strategies and reviewing draft content. The Committee's guidance was particularly valuable to ensuring that the broader engagement process was inclusive and equitable. The Committee also helped project staff navigate tensions between ambitious vision and practical implementation, ensuring that the final CHAP would be both transformative and achievable.

Goal-Specific Workgroups

Three goal-specific Workgroups each included County department staff, technical experts, and regional implementation partners with multifaceted expertise. The full list of workgroup member agencies can be found in the Acknowledgements section of this plan. Each workgroup met three times over several months, allowing for iterative feedback as initial ideas for how to advance each goal evolved into specific and detailed strategies and actions:

- **Members of the workgroup for Goal 1 (Cool Outdoor Spaces)** included infrastructure and environmental experts, community organizations, and urban planners.
- **Members of the workgroup for Goal 2 (Create Heat-Resilient Indoor Spaces)** included energy efficiency and building science experts, community and environmental justice organizations, and housing providers.
- **Members of the workgroup for Goal 3 (Expand Heat Safety Communications and Programs)** included emergency management professionals, community and worker organizations, and healthcare providers.

INTRODUCTION

Workgroup meetings focused on reviewing and refining potential strategies and actions, identifying implementation opportunities and challenges, and developing targets for tracking the CHAP's progress. The iterative nature of these discussions allowed participants to learn from and build on each other's expertise while ensuring that goal content reflected both best practices and feasibility.

Partner and Resident Engagement

The County engaged a broader set of organizations from across the region through partner workshops. The workshops took place at different times and in different formats to accommodate a diversity of participants whose leadership is crucial for advancing heat resilience, including local government staff, community organizations, and technical experts. The workshops were designed to be accessible to participants with varying levels of familiarity with policy and planning processes. The CBO participants represented the diversity of heat-vulnerable residents across LA County: from renters living in older housing without air conditioning, outdoor workers exposed to extreme temperatures, older adults with limited mobility, parents concerned about children's safety during heat events, to residents of neighborhoods with minimal tree canopy or green space. Their contributions shaped the direction of the CHAP, and their continued partnership in the CHAP's implementation will be essential to its success. CSO also engaged directly with cities and tribes throughout the process, gathering input through forums such as Councils of Governments meetings.

In August–October 2025, the CSO team conducted resident engagement at community events in and near heat-vulnerable unincorporated communities using materials from the Public Engagement Toolkit (more information in callout box below). Input gathered at these events supported the identification of priority strategies and potential capital projects for the County's capital improvement pipelines.

After releasing a draft of the County Heat Action Plan for public comment in September 2025, the County revised the plan based on feedback resident and partner input and feedback. A record of the public comments and responses can be found on the CHAP website.



Technical Integration: One-on-One Consultations

Dozens of one-on-one consultations with County departments and potential implementation partners ensured that the CHAP content reflected existing roles and opportunities and aligned with ongoing initiatives rather than creating duplicative or conflicting requirements. These conversations were essential for understanding the practical constraints and opportunities that would shape implementation while identifying potential partnerships and resource-sharing arrangements.

INTRODUCTION

Public Engagement Toolkit for Heat Action Planning

As part of the CHAP planning process, CSO collaborated with community leaders, government partners, and experts to develop a Public Engagement Toolkit for Heat Action Planning. The toolkit is designed to support frontline communities, government agencies, and others with engaging community residents in identifying and developing solutions to risks posed by extreme heat and rising temperatures. While the CHAP itself can serve as a model for other heat resilience plans, this toolkit reinforces and supports the principle that cities should also engage their own residents in their planning processes.

The Public Engagement Toolkit equips its users with structured, ready-to-use resources to guide meaningful community engagement around extreme heat and rising temperatures. It provides everything needed to run an effective workshop: sample agendas and event flyers, presentations, detailed facilitator's guides, step-by-step activity instructions, and visuals and templates designed to accompany the suggested activities. These activity materials can be modified for use in engagement formats beyond a structured workshop, such as tabling at community events. Presentations, activity materials, and event flyers have been translated into Spanish.

The toolkit is organized into four phases:



(1) Asset and Vulnerability Mapping



(2) Community Visioning



(3) Prioritization of Interventions



(4) Site-Specific Planning

It is designed to offer a structured, yet flexible, process which translates technical information into accessible discussions.

Equity is embedded throughout. The Toolkit provides practical guidance for creating inclusive engagement spaces, such as using plain-language materials, and hosting activities in familiar and trusted community venues. It emphasizes culturally relevant facilitation, accessible meeting formats, and targeted outreach to residents who are often left out of planning processes, including older adults, youth, renters, and low-income households. Facilitators are encouraged to acknowledge systemic inequities, and to ensure that the voices of disproportionately heat-burdened communities shape decisions about interventions.

Additional resources in the toolkit include reference materials—to help facilitators develop more detailed plans for local engagement activities and establish additional context and pre-existing informational materials—such as flyers on how to stay safe during extreme heat and tree planting guidelines, which may be helpful to share with event participants. All elements of the toolkit are available on the County's [CHAP website](#).

A photograph showing the silhouettes of three people walking away from the camera on a bridge. The bridge has large, light-colored concrete arches. In the background, there is a speed limit sign that reads "35".

Heat Impacts and Vulnerabilities

HEAT IMPACTS AND VULNERABILITIES

Rising temperatures pose serious and escalating threats to human health, community well-being, and the systems that support daily life in LA County.

Extreme heat exacerbates chronic conditions like cardiovascular and respiratory disease, increases emotional distress, and can lead to heat exhaustion and life-threatening heat stroke. National data show that hundreds of people die from heat-related causes each year, and the actual toll is likely much higher due to underreporting and misclassification.^{3,4} Furthermore, heat impairs cognitive function, affecting student learning and diminishing worker productivity—particularly in outdoor industries like construction. These economic consequences ripple through communities, with costs estimated in the billions annually for the Los Angeles region.

Our built and natural infrastructures are also affected; high temperatures degrade roadways and railways and reduce the efficiency of the electrical grid.⁵ Parks and other green spaces become less effective at cooling when they lose plants and trees due to heat stress.

The following sections discuss these interconnected impacts in greater detail, underscoring the importance of cross-sector collaboration for heat resilience.

Understanding Heat Exposure

LA County is warming: Countywide temperature trends show a clear increase in average and extreme heat over the past several decades,⁶ driven by global climate change and local land use patterns. These rising temperatures are reshaping daily life, health risks, and infrastructure performance in communities across the region.

Since the 1980s, LA County has seen average summer temperatures rise by 2°F to 3°F in many inland and valley areas.⁷ Climate projections suggest this warming will accelerate in the coming decades under moderate to high emissions scenarios, resulting in more frequent and prolonged heat events across the region.

2-3°F

Average summer temperature rise since the 1980s in inland and valley areas

10x

Projected increase in annual heat waves by mid-century, as compared to historical baseline

33

Additional extreme heat days projected in inland and valley areas

Extreme Heat Thresholds: Historical vs. Projected



Figure 4. Countywide Temperature Trends

NOTE: Data in the above figure is based on CalAdapt 4th Assessment projections for a High Emissions scenario.

HEAT IMPACTS AND VULNERABILITIES

Nighttime temperatures are rising even faster than daytime temperatures, eliminating crucial recovery periods. This projected increase is illustrated in **Figure 5**, which shows the modeled trend in warm nights through the end of the century. The rising trajectory underscores the growing risk to residents, particularly those without access to air conditioning who rely on passive cooling. Sustained warm nights are associated with elevated risks of heat illness, cardiovascular stress, and occupational injury the following day.

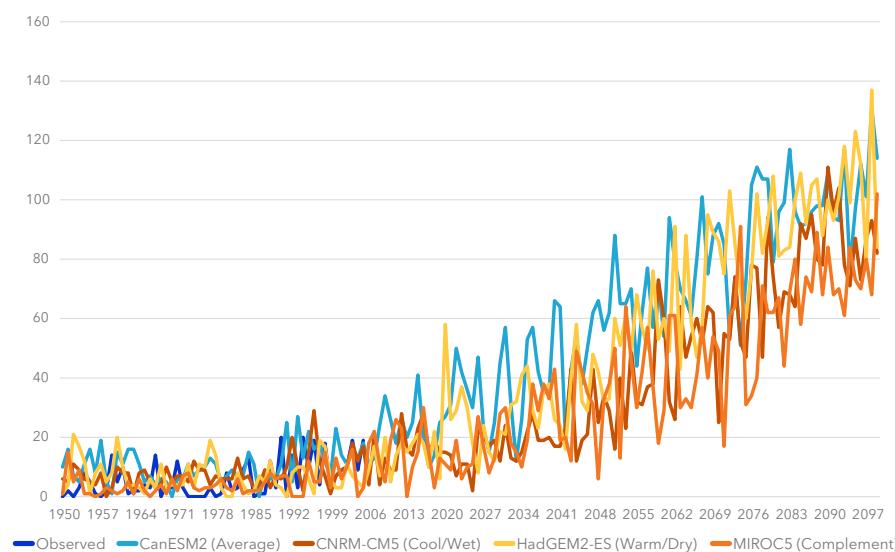


Figure 5. Warm Nights for LA County

This graph shows historical (observed) and projected number of warm nights for Los Angeles County using several key global climate models. These global climate models provide projections of future climate conditions under the high-emissions Representative Concentration Pathway 8.5 scenario for global warming. Warm nights is defined as nights when the minimum temperature is over 66.4°F, which represents the 98th percentile of the historic baseline (1961-1990).⁸

The elimination of cool nights poses particular dangers because the human body relies on nighttime temperature drops to recover from daytime heat stress. When nights remain warm, the cumulative health impacts compound. Sustained warm nights are associated with elevated risks of heat illness, cardiovascular stress, and occupational injury the following day.⁹

Regional Variations in Heat Exposure

Inland communities face the biggest temperature increases, with areas like the Antelope Valley and San Gabriel Valley showing warming projections of up to 8°F by the end of the century. During recent heat waves, pavement temperatures of inland communities such as Pacoima exceeded 120°F.

Coastal areas are also warming. Communities such as Venice and Malibu—historically buffered by marine influence—are projected to warm significantly, potentially catching residents unprepared due to historically milder climates and limited heat adaptation infrastructure. Even with marine influence, these areas may see temperature increases of several degrees, representing a substantial shift from historical norms.

Built Environment and the Urban Heat Effect

Temperatures across the County are not only changing as a result of global climate change, but also through local development patterns. The urban heat effect occurs when buildings, pavement, and other heat-absorbing surfaces trap and re-radiate heat. These materials absorb solar radiation during the day and release it slowly at night, raising air and surface temperatures.¹⁰ As a result, parts of LA County with lots of impermeable surfaces and limited vegetation can be up to 10°F hotter than nearby neighborhoods with more natural cover.¹¹

The Scale of Pavement in LA County

Over 290,000 acres of pavement exist across Los Angeles County—equivalent to 465 square miles, which makes it the second-largest city in California by land area.

Residential land accounts for the largest share, with 61,388 acres of pavement, 79% of which is located on single-family parcels.

These vast expanses of heat-retaining surfaces significantly amplify the urban heat effect, especially in communities with low tree canopy and limited green space.

Source: DepaveLA Report 2026.¹²



These temperature differences closely reflect patterns of disinvestment and structural inequity. The urban heat effect is pronounced in neighborhoods that were historically excluded from public and private investment.¹³ Research shows that formerly redlined areas in LA County consistently experience higher daytime surface temperatures than adjacent neighborhoods with similar geography but different historical land use decisions.¹⁴

These disparities are the legacy of discriminatory land use policies, including the placement of freeways, industrial zones, and underinvestment in green infrastructure in communities of color. Those decisions continue to shape who is most exposed to dangerous heat today.

Interaction between Regional and Local Climate Variation

During the same heat event, a highly paved coastal neighborhood may have lower absolute temperatures than a rural inland neighborhood, even though both may benefit from increased tree canopy, cool surfaces, and shade within their respective climate contexts. This geographic complexity means that equitable heat resilience action must account for both local built environment characteristics (which create temperature disparities within regions) and regional climate patterns (which shape baseline exposure levels across the County).

How Heat Affects Health and Well-Being

"Extreme heat magnifies every existing health inequity—from asthma to housing insecurity. When we protect people from heat, we're not just cooling communities—we're preserving health, dignity, and hope."

— **Jerry P. Abraham, MD, MPH, CMQ, Steering Committee Member, National Academy of Medicine NAM Grand Challenge on Climate Change & Health Equity**

Extreme heat can impact health, safety, productivity, and community well-being. As temperatures continue to rise, the risk of these impacts grows—especially for vulnerable populations and communities.

The Broad Impacts of Extreme Heat

 Health Impacts	 Cognitive & Educational Impacts	 Occupational Impacts	 Social Impacts	 Economic Impacts
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Heat stroke (can be fatal)• Asthma, and heart strain• Mental health stress• Preterm birth and low birth weight	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduced focus and test performance• Learning loss in overheated classrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Heat-related injuries• Lower productivity• Outdoor worker exposure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Less outdoor activity• Fewer safe play spaces• Reduced community gatherings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Infrastructure damage• Higher utility costs• Healthcare system strain

Vulnerable Populations

People can face elevated risk of heat impacts for different reasons, including physiological sensitivities that affect how their bodies respond to heat, and living conditions or circumstances that increase heat exposure or limit access to cooling resources during extreme heat events. For example:

- Young children and older adults are less able to regulate their internal temperatures
- People with disabilities or chronic health conditions such as cardiovascular disease and asthma may experience acute health episodes triggered by extreme heat
- People experiencing homelessness and outdoor workers (such as construction workers, landscapers, street vendors, and agricultural workers) face direct, prolonged heat exposure
- Communities of color have limited cooling resources (e.g., tree canopy) due to historical disinvestment
- People with limited English proficiency, undocumented status, or no health insurance may avoid seeking cooling services or medical care due to language barriers, deportation fears, or cost concerns

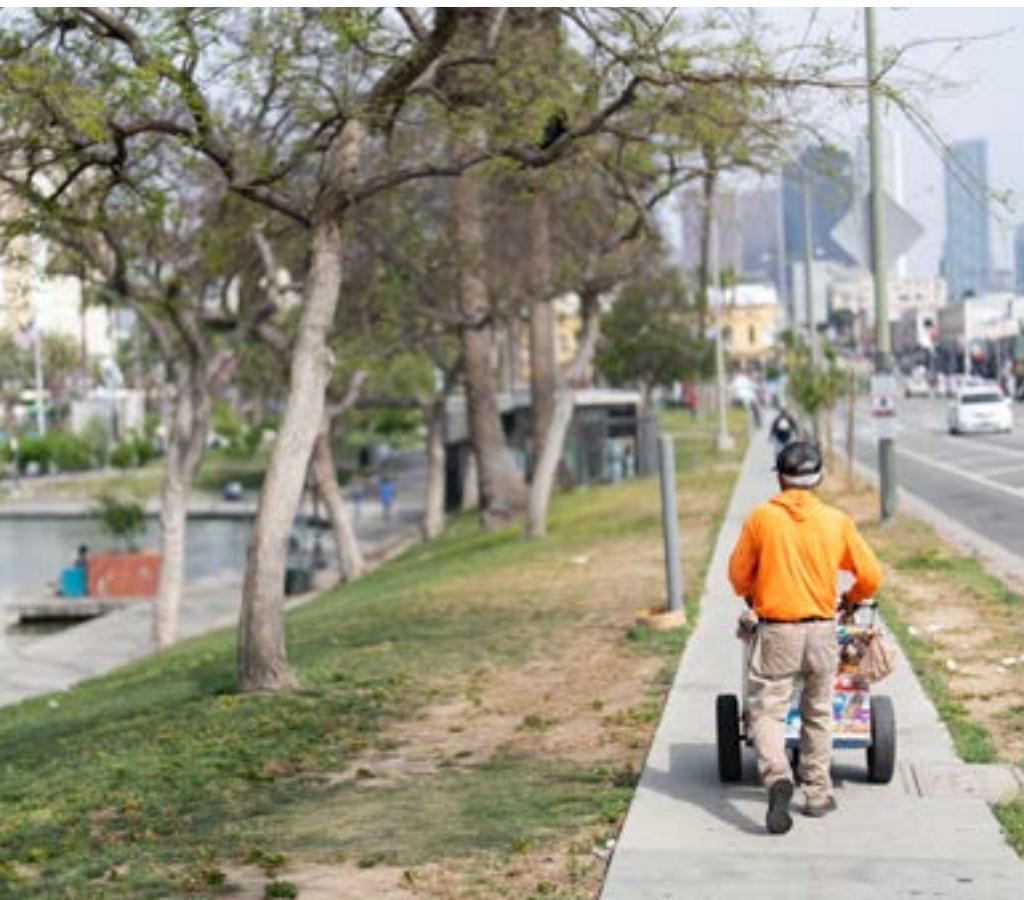
Physical, Mental, and Social Well-Being

Extreme heat can quickly overwhelm the body's ability to regulate temperature, leading to dehydration, heat exhaustion, or life-threatening heat stroke. It can also trigger renal, cardiovascular, and respiratory problems and lead to injury.^{15,16,17} Between 2014 and 2019, elevated heat was associated with an average of more than 200 deaths annually in LA County.¹⁸

HEAT IMPACTS AND VULNERABILITIES

Prolonged heat waves can also disrupt mental health and community well-being. In California, a study found that a 10°F increase in same-day mean apparent temperature during warm seasons was associated with a 4.8% increase in emergency room visits for mental health disorders, a 5.8% increase in self-injury and suicide, and a 7.9% increase in intentional injury or homicide.¹⁹ Lack of nighttime cooling affects sleep quality and cognitive function, particularly for children and older adults.

Social cohesion and physical activity also decline during hot weather. Residents are less likely to use public parks—especially those that lack trees, shade structures, or indoor facilities—during extreme heat events, reducing opportunities for exercise, social connection, and outdoor activity. This effect is most pronounced in neighborhoods lacking shade or cooling infrastructure, contributing to isolation and reduced quality of life.



Economic Impacts of Extreme Heat

Household Utility Costs

Heat-related costs extend across household budgets, workplaces, and public systems. Energy use rises sharply during heat waves, particularly among households that rely on air conditioning to maintain safe indoor temperatures. In disadvantaged communities, residents may spend more than 6% of their income on summer utility bills, meeting the threshold for “energy burden.”²⁰

Missed Work and Lowered Performance

Extreme heat disrupts the ability to work, particularly for those in outdoor or high-exertion roles. In Los Angeles, heat and humidity are estimated to cost the metro region nearly \$5 billion annually in lost worker productivity, with projected losses rising to \$11 billion by 2050.²¹ These impacts are most pronounced in sectors such as construction and utilities, where a large share of labor occurs outdoors and is highly sensitive to temperature extremes. Studies have shown that extreme heat can impair cognitive function, reduce learning outcomes for students, and affect academic performance—especially in under-resourced schools lacking adequate cooling.²²

Healthcare and Emergency Response Costs

Increased use of emergency services and healthcare systems during heat waves strains our public resources. A study that looked at emergency medical service calls over 10 years in LA County found that calls increased by an estimated 15% during extreme heat (defined as days that reach the Extreme HeatRisk designation of the National Weather Service). The economic impact is substantial: the September 2022 heat wave alone generated an estimated \$1.76 million in additional emergency medical service expenses for LA County Fire Department and \$2.28 million in additional emergency room costs.²³

Community Heat Vulnerability

Heat resilience planning is a relatively new field of practice, with research on heat vulnerability, heat impacts, and relevant interventions still emerging and evolving rapidly. Many researchers have developed heat vulnerability indices to try and predict which parts of a geographic region will be more prone to health and social impacts due to the cumulative burden of increased heat exposure, population susceptibility, and environmental characteristics; however, most indices have only moderate predictive power.

Because of world-class research taking place locally, the LA region is able to draw on real-world outcomes rather than relying solely on predictions; UCLA analyses of health records has revealed which local areas are already disproportionately burdened by heat health impacts. Darker colors in the map on the following page indicate where residents had worse health outcomes during extreme heat in recent history. When we implement our heat resilience strategies, we can advance equity in the near term by targeting investments toward these heat-vulnerable communities.

The County and implementation partners must also leverage other data sources to understand heat vulnerability in new ways – such as how residents may be exposed to heat as they travel across the region, and how their risk level increases the longer they are exposed. A resident may live in one neighborhood but spend much of their day in other locations: waiting at bus stops, working outdoors or in unconditioned facilities, accessing healthcare services, or taking children to parks and schools. This means effective cooling interventions must be deployed beyond the residential areas with the highest rates of heat health burden to protect vulnerable populations. Improvements to transit stops, commercial corridors, employment sites, healthcare facilities, and recreational spaces throughout the County can help reduce heat exposure for residents of high-burden communities regardless of where they live.

CSO will continue to monitor and engage with researchers throughout CHAP implementation so that Departments and partners can execute and adjust interventions based on the best available evidence and new research methods for understanding these nuances.

"Rising temperatures are creating serious health risks across Los Angeles County. While extreme heat affects everyone, people in hotter neighborhoods, outdoor workers, older adults, and those with health conditions face the greatest danger. The County Heat Action Plan is a comprehensive, multisector plan with strategies to help all 88 cities, schools, and community organizations create cooler, safer indoor and outdoor environments that protect everyone, especially those most at risk, from the impacts of extreme heat. Together, it represents a collective commitment to keeping people in Los Angeles County safe year-round."

**– Muntu Davis, MD, MPH, Los Angeles County Health Officer,
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health**

HEAT IMPACTS AND VULNERABILITIES

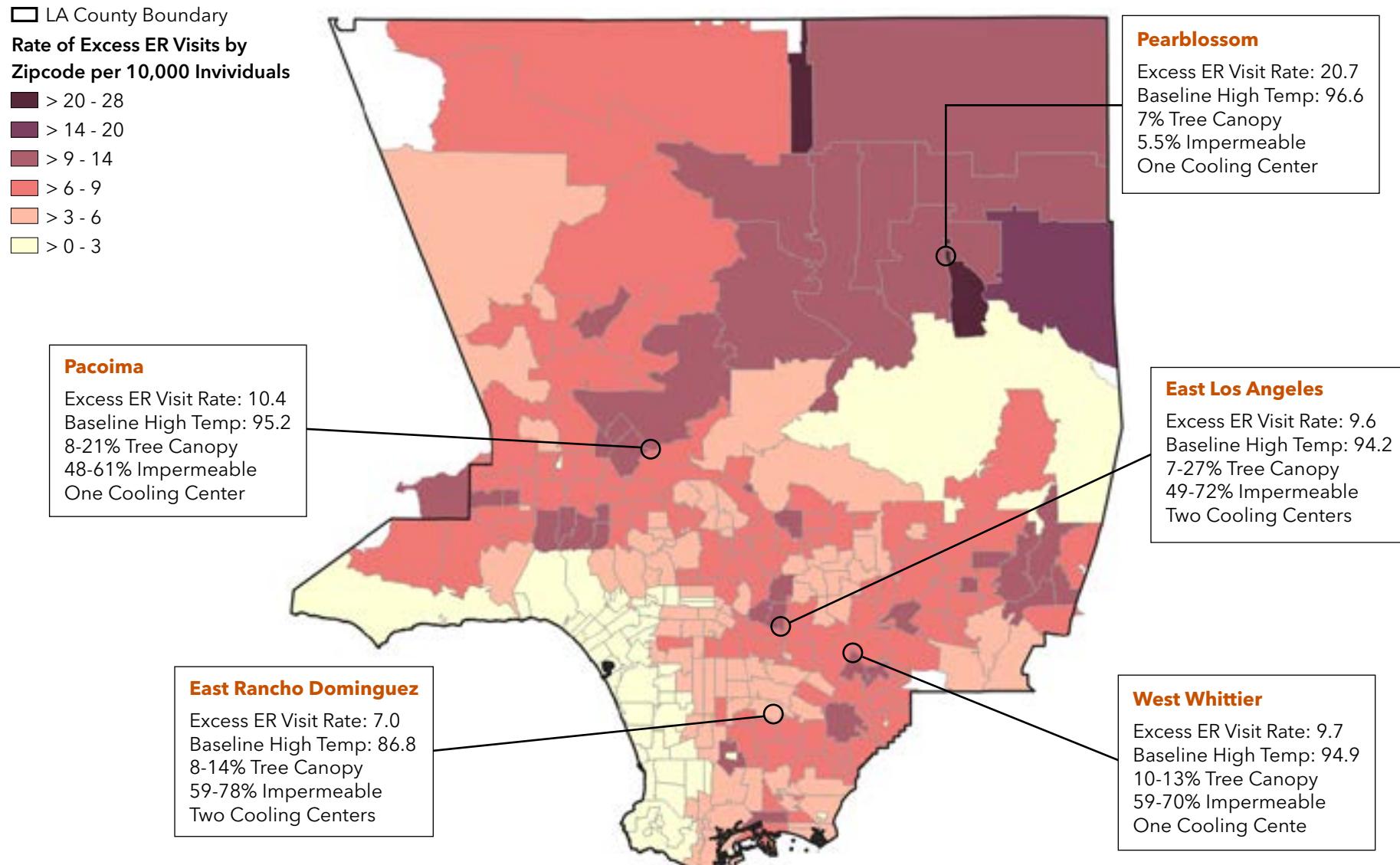


Figure 6. Community Heat Vulnerability

Data source: UCLA Center for Healthy Climate Solutions.²⁴

How Heat Impacts Infrastructure and Ecosystems

Extreme heat does not just threaten people, it strains the infrastructure and systems that communities depend on daily. These impacts are the most severe in neighborhoods that already face service inequities and aging infrastructure.

Nearly 96% of LA County's high-voltage transmission lines face moderate to high heat increases. When temperatures soar, electricity demand spikes while heat stress can cause transmission lines to lose carrying capacity. Transportation networks may also face challenges such as buckling roads and warping of railway tracks.

Higher temperatures can lead to eutrophication of streams and rivers, impacting water quality as well as plant and animal life. Even LA County's parks and open spaces, which serve as vital cooling locations, are vulnerable to heat stress. Vegetation loss, inadequate irrigation, and wildfire risk can reduce their effectiveness just when communities need them most. Without drought- and heat-resilient species and long-term plans and funding for maintenance, parks and open spaces may no longer function as effective cooling infrastructure during extreme heat events.

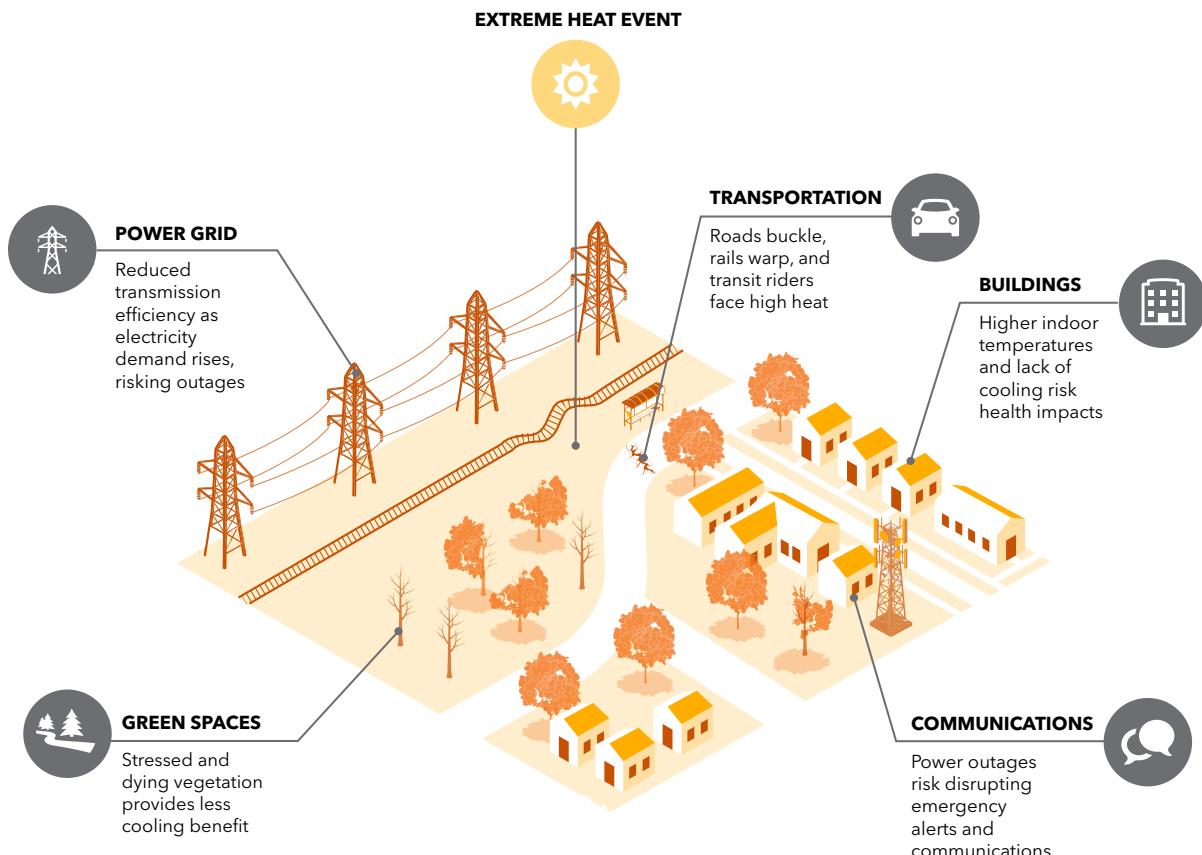


Figure 7. How Heat Impacts Infrastructure

The interconnected nature of these systems means that a single event can trigger a cascade of disruptions. If power goes out, transportation options may become limited, communications

systems may fail, and access to cooling spaces may be reduced simultaneously, precisely when reliable infrastructure is most critical to protect vulnerable communities.



How to Use the CHAP

HOW TO USE THE CHAP

The CHAP serves dual purposes: it establishes specific commitments and timelines for action by LA County government, while also providing a framework that cities, councils of government, tribal governments, and other regional partners can adapt for their own role in achieving the regional vision. Specifically:

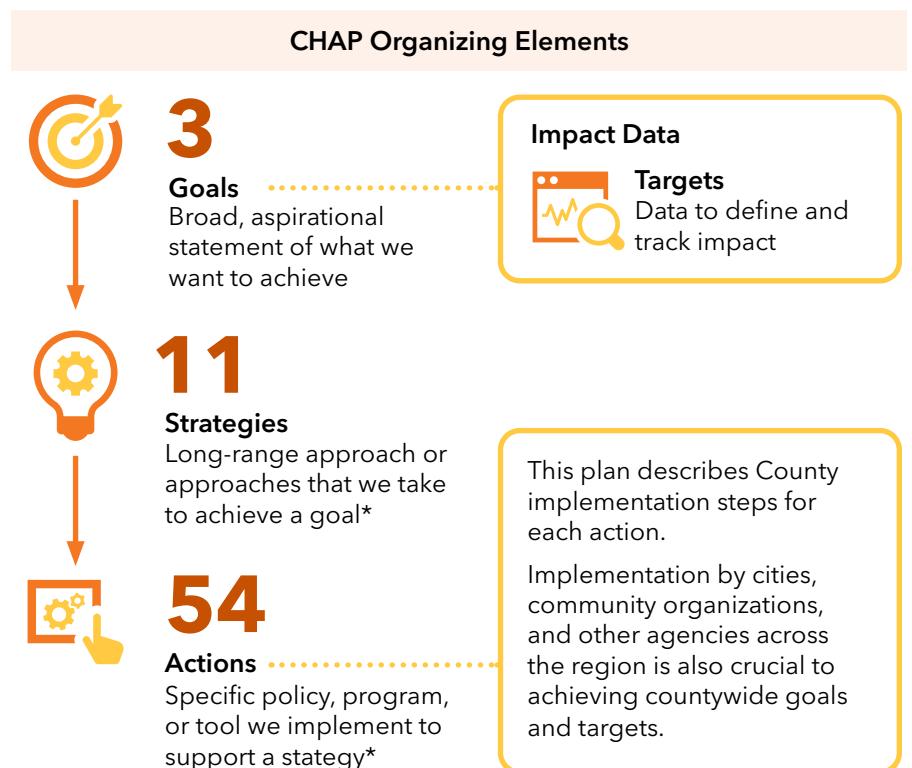
- **County departments** can use the plan to align capital investments, policy development, and program design with shared heat resilience goals;
- **The 88 cities within the County and other public agencies** can reference the CHAP as a model for local action, review CHAP data to adapt strategies to local conditions, collaborate and make use of implementation tools and materials to be developed by County government;
- **Community-based organizations** can use the plan to identify advocacy priorities and collaboration opportunities, develop grant proposals, and hold government partners accountable for implementation commitments; and
- **Funders and philanthropic organizations** can use the CHAP to identify high-impact investment opportunities, understand how specific projects fit within a comprehensive regional strategy, and coordinate investments to maximize collective impact.

As a policy document, this plan is not designed to serve as a direct resource for the general public or to educate individual residents about heat safety practices and resources. The plan does, however, include County commitments to creating resources for the general public.



The plan is organized around three **Goals** that define the outcomes that partners across the region aim to achieve. Each goal is implemented through multiple **Strategies** that outline core approaches. These strategies are operationalized through specific **Actions**.

The following sections of the plan describe how LA County government will advance each Goal, Strategy, and Action. Similarly, the details listed in the Action Table at the end of the document relate to the County's implementation pathway. However, full achievement of the CHAP goals and targets will require action from other public agencies as well as cross-sector private and nonprofit agencies.



* Strategies may support multiple goals and actions may support multiple strategies

Monitoring Impact through Data

The CHAP's success will ultimately be determined by its ability to tangibly benefit LA County residents, particularly those who have historically borne the greatest burden of environmental hazards. The most important indicator of the CHAP's intended impact is the health and safety of County residents - and research suggests that comprehensive efforts like the ones included in this plan can prevent heat-related health problems. For example, a multi-city study of heat action plans in Italy that combined early warning systems, outreach to vulnerable populations, healthcare coordination, and cooling centers reduced excess heat-attributable deaths from 6.3% to 4.1% during extreme heat –a 35% reduction.²⁵ Furthermore, local modeling has found that increasing tree cover and cool surfaces in Los Angeles could reduce heat-related emergency room visits by 7-66%, depending on implementation scale.²⁶

As shown below, emergency room visits for heat-related illnesses have been trending upward in the LA region for decades. Without action, this trend is likely to continue as heat continues to get more severe. By accelerating

progress on heat mitigation and preparedness and coordinating with partners across the region to advance all three goals of this plan, the County aims to curb the trend and prevent 10% of the heat-related ER visits projected by 2030, 20% of the visits projected by 2035, and 30% of the visits projected by 2045.

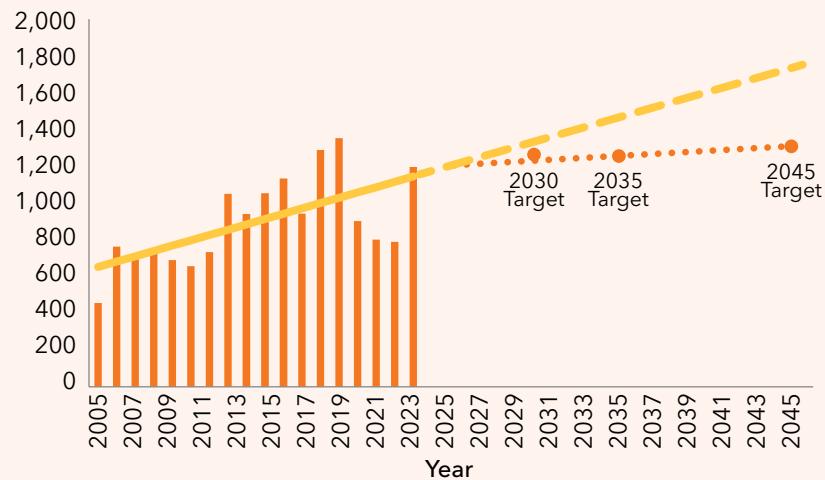
The County acknowledges that there are a variety of factors outside the scope of this plan which could influence heat-related health outcomes; for example, street homelessness is such a strong risk factor for heat-related illness that an increase in the unhoused population could drive up the countywide rate of heat-related illnesses. Nonetheless, the monitoring of heat-related health outcomes over time will provide important insight into overall progress, even as we interpret the outcomes with care and consider other factors that may have contributed to change.

The County will also track progress toward targets relevant to each of the three goals of the plan, as described in the introductions to each Goal.

Figure 8. Los Angeles County Heat Action Plan Overall Target: Heat-Related Emergency Department Visits

- ED Visits
- ED Trendline
- ED Target Trendline

Data source: LA County Department of Public Health / California Department of Health Care Access and Information. Methodology for CHAP Targets can be found in Appendix C.





GOAL 1: Cool Outdoor Spaces





Goal Statement

GOAL 1

Create cooler, more livable outdoor environments through strategic shade, green infrastructure, and heat-reducing surfaces that protect residents and ecosystems while fostering vibrant community spaces.

Rising temperatures are making outdoor experiences less safe and less enjoyable for residents in every community. These challenges are compounded by the urban heat effect, which can make neighborhoods with little tree canopy and high concentrations of pavement significantly hotter than other areas. The result is not only discomfort but hazardous conditions for people, infrastructure, and ecosystems. Outdoor spaces where residents walk, wait for transit, work, shop, and gather often lack adequate shade or cooling infrastructure, and local ecosystems—from street trees to wildlife habitat—are strained by prolonged heat stress. Addressing these challenges means rethinking the design of streets, sidewalks, and public spaces; removing unnecessary barriers in codes, guidelines, and permitting; and investing in a broader range of cooling interventions that include, but are not limited to, trees and landscaping.

This goal builds on the LA County *Room to Grow* Community Forest Management Plan, which provides a comprehensive roadmap for preserving and expanding tree canopy in ways that maximize environmental and social benefits, while also outlining strategies for long-term maintenance, ecological resilience, and climate adaptation. (See more information in the callout box on the following page.) Additional and innovative approaches are also necessary for making outdoor spaces safer and more livable; these include expanding shade at transit stops through bus shelters, prototyping space-efficient shade structures for constrained sites, and piloting innovative designs that can cool outdoor gathering areas, recreation facilities, and other high-use spaces. Across these efforts, the County will balance water conservation with greening needs, prioritizing drought-tolerant and native vegetation that supports ecosystem health and urban wildlife while providing meaningful temperature relief.



Community voices will be central to shaping these interventions so they meet local needs, reflect cultural values, and create spaces where people want to spend time. The County will work with residents, cities, and partner agencies to integrate natural systems alongside built solutions, providing habitat, beauty, and comfort. Investments will be paired with the County's existing tenant protections and anti-displacement measures so that the residents who most need cooling improvements are able to remain in their neighborhoods as those neighborhoods become healthier and more livable.



Benefits of Trees

SEQUESTERING CARBON

A single mature tree may take about 50 pounds of carbon dioxide per year, equivalent to the CO₂ emissions from driving a car about 50 miles.

CLEANER AIR

Trees absorb pollutants and filter particulates out of the air by trapping them on their leaves and bark.

CONNECTING WITH NEIGHBORS

Trees can encourage civic pride while tree plantings provide opportunities for community involvement.

FRESH FOOD

Trees provide food in the form of fruits and nuts.

HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES

Trees improve mental and physical health and wellbeing in many ways, including by decreasing respiratory illnesses, calming traffic, and encouraging outdoor recreation.

SAVING ENERGY

Shade trees can lower air conditioning costs, which in turn lowers carbon emissions.

BEAUTY

Trees add character to our communities with their colors, flowers, textures, and shapes.

SHADE AND COOLING

Trees provide not only shade but also cooling due to evapotranspiration from leaves.

WILDLIFE HABITAT

Trees support the lives of many wildlife and insect species and provide them with food, shelter, and nesting sites.

RAINWATER CAPTURE

Trees capture rainfall, recharging groundwater supplies and helping prevent stormwater from carrying pollutants to the ocean.

The Los Angeles County "Room to Grow" Community Forest Management Plan (CFMP), adopted in 2024, maps out how the County will maintain, protect, and expand the tree canopy in unincorporated communities. The plan sets a target to increase tree canopy equity by achieving at least 15% canopy cover in every unincorporated community and 20% coverage across all unincorporated areas in total.

The CFMP emphasizes selecting trees for long-term health, biodiversity value, climate resilience, and compatibility with site conditions. It outlines a commitment to protect existing tree canopy through a balanced approach that takes into consideration factors such as fire safety, equity and access, and regional coordination. It also identifies maintenance best practices, such as establishment watering for the first three years after planting, to maximize sustained cooling benefits and reduce risks from tree canopy.

The plan also emphasizes building local capacity through multiple workforce actions. This includes expanding career pathways for priority populations and youth while increasing staff capacity for current best management practices with adequate training and equipment.

Source: Community Forest Management Plan



GOAL 1: COOL OUTDOOR SPACES

What We Heard: Community Input on Advancing This Goal

[...] shade structures and hydration stations in public places like parks, transit hubs, and publicly accessible facilities will help people with disabilities who may have limited mobility or be more sensitive to heat."

"I'd like to see there be some focus on what trees provide shade, need less water, and are also less impactful on infrastructure."

"Support nature's ability to withstand and adapt to increasing temperatures"

"[...] integrate artist and youth development in shade structure designs"

Goal 1 Targets

Baseline	2030 Target	2035 Target	2045 Target
59% of bus stops had functional shade at 3 p.m. in 2025 Source: UCLA	Increase the percentage of bus stops with functional shade at 3 p.m. to 70%	Increase the percentage of bus stops with functional shade at 3 p.m. to 80%	Increase the percentage of bus stops with functional shade at 3 p.m. to 100%
Our County Targets Aligned with This Goal			
Unincorporated LA County had 15.9% urban tree canopy cover in 2020 Source: LA County Community Forest Management Plan		Achieve at least 18% canopy cover for all unincorporated areas combined	Achieve at least 20% canopy cover for all unincorporated areas combined
LA County has 271,415 acres of pavement Source: DepaveLA Assessment (ARLA, Hyphae)	Replace 500 acres of pavement at schools and in public spaces with multibenefit and nature-based solutions	Replace 1,000 acres of pavement at schools and in public spaces with multibenefit and nature-based solutions	Replace 1,600 acres of pavement at schools and in public spaces with multibenefit and nature-based solutions
Two public swimming pools per 100,000 residents, and one splash pad per 100,000 residents Source: Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation	Increase the number of public swimming pools to 2.25 per 100,000 residents and the number of splash pads to 1.25 per 100,000 residents	Increase the number of public swimming pools to 2.50 per 100,000 residents and the number of splash pads to 1.50 per 100,000 residents	Increase the number of public swimming pools to 2.75 per 100,000 residents and the number of splash pads to 1.75 per 100,000 residents

As compared to the general population, transit-dependent residents are more likely to be low-income²⁷ or to have a disability,²⁸ making it important to ensure shade access bus stops. Definitions and methodology for CHAP Targets can be found in Appendix C.



Strategies

Strategy 1.1 Improve shade equity in the public right-of-way to reduce overexposure to heat and promote vibrant street life.

Residents and workers navigating County streets and sidewalks outside the comfort of an air-conditioned vehicle must often contend with a high level of direct sun exposure due to limited shade. When people are exposed to direct sunlight, radiant heat from the sun can make them feel significantly hotter than the actual air temperature—sometimes more than 20 degrees hotter. This direct solar exposure poses immediate health risks and makes outdoor spaces uncomfortable or dangerous during heat events. Shade equity is not just a comfort issue; it is a matter of health, safety, and climate resilience.



This strategy focuses on expanding shade for streets and sidewalks through a range of approaches. Shade can come from trees, awnings, architectural projections (such as building overhangs, canopies, or awning extensions), or purpose-built structures such as pergolas and solar canopies. Trees are a valuable solution because of the additional benefits they can provide beyond shade (see “Benefits of Trees” on page 30); but in dense corridors or narrow sidewalks where tree planting is not feasible, the County will engage with community members and partners to explore innovative solutions like shade panels with culturally relevant designs and bifacial solar panels, which offer both cooling and energy benefits.

Many of the County’s hottest streets were designed in ways that limit greening potential, such as limited planting zones or utility conflicts. The CHAP acknowledges these barriers and calls for flexible design strategies. The County seeks to streamline its own approval processes, develop model templates for local adaptation, and pursue regional coordination to simplify permitting across jurisdictions.



GOAL 1: COOL OUTDOOR SPACES

"We're making Metro better for everyone - and that includes more shade and trees at thousands of bus stops served by Metro through the County Heat Action Plan, so people can have a comfortable and safe experience on our system. By integrating shade, trees, and cool materials into our streets and transit corridors, we're not just improving comfort—we're helping build the next generation of transit riders, helping us mitigate the impacts of climate change."

— **Stephanie Wiggins, Chief Executive Officer, Metro**

Equity in Implementation:

This strategy's focus on capital investments that will benefit heat-vulnerable groups the most—such as planting trees in communities with low canopy and installing shade for transit riders (who are more heat-exposed than people who use personal vehicles)—will advance distributional equity.

Outcomes Anticipated:

Cooler, safer pedestrian environments that promote walkability and community life. Enhanced shade at transit stops, faster implementation of shade interventions, and expanded access to public space for heat-vulnerable residents.

Actions

Action 1.1.a

Accelerate progress toward equitable tree canopy goals by evaluating streets that can be redesigned to create more room for trees, such as through the addition of bulbouts, addition or widening of parkways, and removal of parking spots.

Context & County Implementation: Existing street design can be a barrier to achieving equitable tree canopy, when factors such as lack of parkway and narrow sidewalks leave insufficient room for healthy tree growth. With research and planning support from CSO and DPH, Public Works will identify street improvement projects in its pipeline where the incorporation of new design elements can be incorporated to help overcome this barrier. PW will engage community members to ensure that community values are reflected in new designs.

Leads: CSO, PW

Partner: DPH

Action 1.1.b

Install bus shelters that provide shade at bus stops and coordinate with transit agencies to work toward providing real-time information on arrivals.

Context & County Implementation: Public Works is currently replacing and adding bus shelters in high-need areas where there is room for the standard shelter design. Real-time arrival (RTA) information would further support heat resilience because it can inform riders' decision-making about whether to wait in the heat; incorporating RTA signage into standard shelter design will require long-term coordination between regional transit service providers and local public works agencies.

Lead: PW

Partners: Arts & Culture, Metro and other transit agencies



GOAL 1: COOL OUTDOOR SPACES

Action 1.1.c

Prototype and pilot innovative, space-efficient shade structure designs for locations where trees and standard shelters are infeasible.

Context & County Implementation: There are transit stops and areas with high pedestrian activity in the right-of-way where it is impossible to install standard shade structures due to factors such as limited underground space for roots or a foundation. Public Works is coordinating with external design agencies and initiatives such as the ShadeLA design competition to identify potential new shade designs that can work around these key constraints.

Lead: PW

Partners: Arts & Culture, CSO

Action 1.1.d

Remove barriers to tree planting and shade installation such as by updating infrastructure spacing guidelines and revising codes and permit requirements/processes.

Context & County Implementation: Current codes and permitting processes are designed to ensure the functionality of existing infrastructure and accessibility; however, they may not be optimized to support shade and heat safety. Analysis of our codes, infrastructure spacing needs, and current design/permitting processes will help the County identify and remove unnecessary barriers to the expansion of shade coverage.

Lead: CSO

Partners: DRP, LACoFD, Metro, SCAG, PW

Action 1.1.e

Accelerate progress toward equitable tree canopy goals by evaluating streets that can be redesigned to create more room for trees, such as through the addition of bulbouts, addition or widening of parkways, and removal of parking spots.

Context & County Implementation: Existing street design can be a barrier to achieving equitable tree canopy, when factors such as lack of parkway and narrow sidewalks leave insufficient room for healthy tree growth. With research and planning support from CSO and DPH, Public Works will identify street improvement projects in its pipeline where the incorporation of new design elements can be incorporated to help overcome this barrier. PW will engage community members to ensure that community values are reflected in new designs.

Leads: CSO, PW

Partners: Cities, SCAG



GOAL 1: COOL OUTDOOR SPACES

Strategy 1.2 Alleviate chronic heat burden in highly paved urban areas through urban greening, design, and smart surfaces.

In many LA County neighborhoods, expanses of asphalt and concrete intensify urban heat and cause it to persist after sunset. Surface temperatures in highly paved areas can reach 120-150°F on hot days, elevating air temperatures and creating uncomfortable and hazardous conditions even after the sun sets. These temperature disparities often reflect a legacy of redlining and disinvestment, where historically marginalized communities lack trees and natural cooling features. Urban greening, design, and surface conversion approaches can undo this urban heat effect and lower air temperatures by up to 10 degrees with or without shade.

The County will pursue de-paving and surface conversion projects based on opportunity assessments, particularly in heat-vulnerable communities where surface temperature reductions can have the greatest benefits. Depaving interventions can offer multiple benefits besides cooling, such as capturing stormwater and providing habitat. They can also create opportunities for nature-based social activities such as community gardening, shown to promote food security, connectedness, and well-being.

The County will explore opportunities for vertical greening, such as the use of climbing vines on facades or modular panels, which can offer cooling benefits in constrained spaces. Finally, the County will also promote urban design strategies that keep spaces cool such as climate-appropriate building orientation, overshading of public spaces, and siting for air circulation.

The County will balance immediate opportunities with long-term sustainability goals, ensuring that all interventions reflect community priorities and consider maintenance requirements, fire safety, and water conservation needs.

"The County Heat Action Plan is more than a policy—it's a promise to invest in people and places. By centering community voices and lived experiences, it ensures that cooling strategies reflect what residents actually need: places to breathe, to gather, to thrive. When we cool our neighborhoods, we're not just lowering temperatures—we're raising the standard for what every community deserves."

— Veronica Padilla, Executive Director, Pacoima Beautiful

Equity in Implementation: The County will practice procedural equity by involving impacted communities in decision-making about, and operation of, public spaces.

Outcomes Anticipated: Reduced surface and ambient air temperatures, ecological connectivity, stormwater management, and overall livability of public spaces.



GOAL 1: COOL OUTDOOR SPACES

Photo credit: LA CEO



Heat Absorption and Cooling: Comparing Surface Materials

Material	Heat Retention	Cooling Potential	Notes
Native Vegetation	Low	High	Supports evapotranspiration and biodiversity
Permeable Pavement	Low	Moderate-High	Allows water infiltration and evapotranspiration
Climbing Vines	Low	Moderate	Can cool vertical surfaces with minimal footprint and water needs
Cool Pavement	Low-Medium	Moderate	Reflective surfaces lower temperature and energy use
Concrete	Medium-High	Low	Light-colored concrete may have higher albedo
Asphalt	High	None	Absorbs and radiates heat long after sunset
Artificial Turf	Very High	None	Can reach 160°F+ on hot days



GOAL 1: COOL OUTDOOR SPACES

Actions

Action 1.2.a

Seek opportunities to repurpose vacant property into green spaces for the community, including through innovative ownership and stewardship models.

Context & County Implementation: The Parks Needs Assessment is guiding LA County Parks' efforts to acquire and redevelop vacant land into parks and open space. The County will continue to identify and track opportunities as land uses change over time due to factors such as closure of oil wells.

Lead: LA County Parks

Partner: CSO

Action 1.2.b

Promote urban design strategies that reduce heat retention such as climate-appropriate building orientation, passive cooling through wind flow, reflective or porous materials, and vegetative features in public and private development.

Context & County Implementation: During discretionary review and permitting processes, the County can provide developers with guidance on how to promote heat resilience through the design and placement of buildings, infrastructure, and public amenities. Buildings in particular are a valuable source of shade; planners can reference solar orientation to identify opportunities for casting shade on pedestrian areas through multipurpose design and siting and minimize costs associated with purpose-built shade structures.

Lead: DRP



GOAL 1: COOL OUTDOOR SPACES



Action 1.2.c

Explore opportunities to replace asphalt, concrete, artificial turf, and rubberized areas with permeable, cool, or vegetated surfaces in strategic locations such as parking lots and playgrounds.

Context & County Implementation: Asphalt, concrete, artificial turf, and rubberized materials tend to have low reflectivity and/or low permeability; this makes them hot to the touch and causes them to store and re-release heat over time, creating an urban heat effect. The County will identify opportunities to replace or alter these surfaces to reduce surface temperature, and Departments that manage relevant sites will assess design options—such as removal of pavement or addition of a high-albedo coating—based on site conditions and community priorities.

Leads: CSO, DPH

Partners: All Departments, School Districts

Action 1.2.d

Evaluate potential sites and designs for vertical greening, including elements such as climbing vines and vegetation walls, in public facilities and infrastructure.

Context & County Implementation: The County will evaluate upcoming projects for opportunities to incorporate vines and other vegetative materials, which can be attached to vertical surfaces and elevated structures to provide cooling from evapotranspiration and shade. These features can also help beautify infrastructure, though they should only be sited in areas with low fire hazard.

Leads: CSO, PW

Partners: All Departments



GOAL 1: COOL OUTDOOR SPACES

Strategy 1.3 Integrate cooling features into outdoor recreational and gathering spaces.

Parks, schoolyards, transit hubs, and commercial corridors serve as critical gathering spaces for LA County residents, but too often, these places lack the shade, hydration, and cooling infrastructure needed to keep people safe during extreme heat. This strategy focuses on transforming these everyday environments into community cooling assets by expanding access to shade structures, drinking water, and nature-based design.

The County will develop inventories and maps to assess existing conditions and guide equitable investments. It will be important to monitor not only where cooling resources exist, but whether they are operational—and to plan for their long-term maintenance.

To further extend cooling access, the County will establish guidelines to promote heat safety at large outdoor events and coordinate with local businesses, tenants, and street vendors to expand shade coverage in commercial areas. The County will facilitate greater use of pop-up canopies, trees, parklets, and awnings such as through technical assistance and maintenance support. These investments will support the County's economic development goals as the region prepares to host global events like the 2026 FIFA World Cup and 2028 Summer Olympics and Paralympics.

Together, these efforts aim to make public and quasi-public spaces safer and more comfortable, especially in areas where heat risks are greatest and cooling amenities have historically been lacking.

Equity in Implementation:

Effective, equitable implementation of actions involving multiple sectors will require monitoring of potential unintended outcomes to optimize structural equity.

Outcomes Anticipated:

Improved hydration, shade access and increased use of public spaces on hot days, especially among children, older adults, and underserved communities.

Photo credit: LA CEO





GOAL 1: COOL OUTDOOR SPACES

Actions

Action 1.3.a

Develop inventories and maps of public access to drinking water and shade.

Context & County Implementation: Public infrastructure like hydration stations, trees, and shade structures can offer crucial heat relief for vulnerable populations. CSO is partnering with researchers and partners across the region to document the locations of these critical resources, identify areas with low access, and fundraise for planting/installation projects to improve access. CSO will also work to identify platforms through which the information can be made easily accessible for broader public awareness and use of the resources.

Lead: CSO

Partner: ISD

Action 1.3.b

Install and maintain additional shade structures, hydration stations, splash pads, and misters at parks, publicly accessible facilities, and transit hubs.

Context & County Implementation: LA County Parks has already compiled a thorough inventory of its cooling features and is actively fundraising to address the remaining needs; CSO will support these efforts and coordinate with other County Departments and partners to identify additional opportunities for installing cooling features to achieve more equitable public access.

Lead: LA County Parks

Partners: Arts & Culture, CSO, DBH, DHS, DMH, DPH, DPSS, ISD, LAAD, LACMA, Libraries, Metro and other transit agencies, NHM, PW

Action 1.3.c

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.

Context & County Implementation: Historically, public schools across the region have paved over their outdoor areas to minimize vegetation maintenance costs, without accounting for pavement's costs to student learning and community well-being. Now, some school districts and many community groups are reversing this trend through campus greening initiatives, and they are also giving more attention to the need for shade in campus designs and community access. The County can support these efforts such as by coordinating tours to promote the approach, helping to fundraise, identifying relevant training opportunities for facility managers, and facilitating agreements for joint use of the facilities.

Leads: CSO, LACOE

Partners: DPH, LA County Parks, School districts



GOAL 1: COOL OUTDOOR SPACES

Action 1.3.d

Develop emergency cooling, shade, water provision and heat safety guidelines for sporting and other special events.

Context & County Implementation: Los Angeles regularly hosts large-scale events with heightened heat risks during the summer, especially for athletes, staff, and vulnerable visitors unaccustomed to the region's climate. With major events like the FIFA World Cup and LA28 Olympics and Paralympics approaching, there is need to include heat preparedness and response into event planning. Taking guidance from existing state and federal regulations, research and practices guidelines, heat safety is being integrated into local plans.

Leads: CSO, DHS, DPH, LACoFD, Sheriff

Partner: Metro

Action 1.3.e

Explore partnerships with commercial landlords and tenants, street vendors, and business associations to support installation and maintenance of awnings, pop-up shade structures, trees, parklets, and other cooling amenities.

Context & County Implementation: Businesses and street vendors provide relief from the heat through awnings, storefront greenings, and pop-up shade structures. The LA County Department of Economic Opportunity already supports business and street vendors through programs such as Renovate which funds facade improvements. By scaling these programs, the County can expand shade infrastructure and provide relief from heat across a variety of spaces.

Lead: DEO

Partners: Arts & Culture, CSO, PW





GOAL 1: COOL OUTDOOR SPACES

Strategy 1.4 Ensure that County assets, especially trees and vegetation that provide cooling benefits in public corridors and gathering spaces, can thrive long-term in the face of rising temperatures.

Trees and vegetation across County-managed corridors, parks, and facilities serve as essential green infrastructure, delivering shade, reducing ambient temperatures, improving air quality, and enhancing the livability of public spaces. However, as climate change intensifies, these assets are increasingly vulnerable to drought stress, storms and flooding, pests, extreme heat, and wildfire exposure.

This strategy promotes long-term resilience of County vegetation through proactive management and thoughtful design. The County will implement emergency watering protocols to safeguard high-value vegetation during prolonged heat events, while expanding the use of drought-tolerant, fire-resilient, and native species that can thrive under changing climate conditions. The use of native and drought-tolerant vegetation helps to ensure that our landscapes can continue to thrive in hotter and drier weather. Coordination with the LA County Fire Department Forestry Division will guide integration of heat resilience and fire safety, including solutions that comply with defensible space requirements while maximizing canopy benefits in parks and corridors.

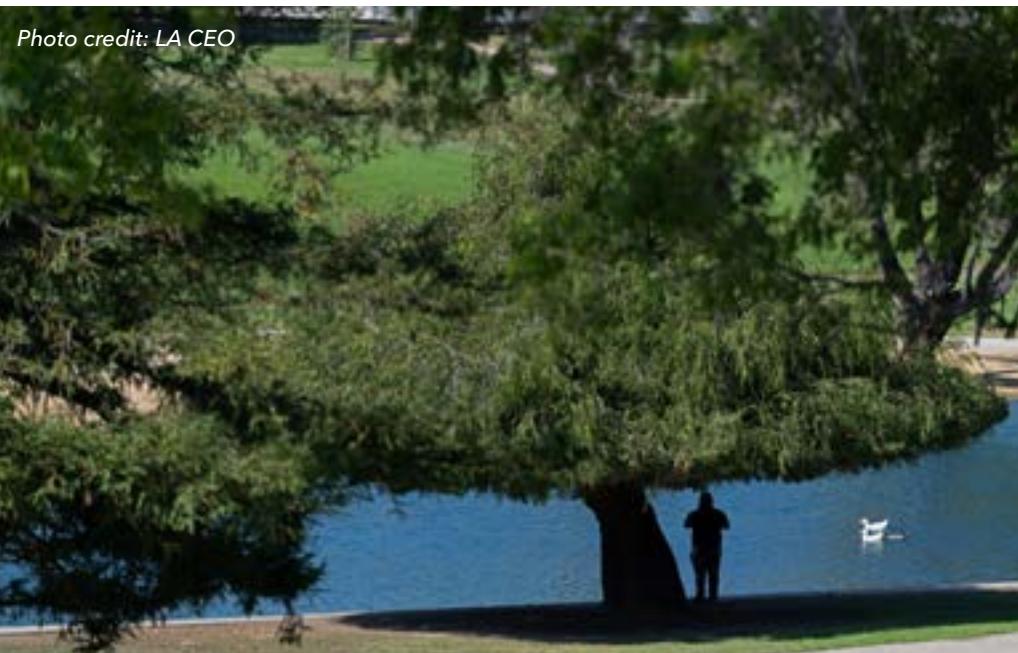
To support ecosystem function and connectivity, the County will scale up nature-based solutions such as green streets, green alleys, and restored urban waterways. These approaches are supported by existing Public Works master plans and will be embedded into capital improvement programs, ensuring ecological benefits are incorporated throughout County infrastructure. Maintaining park landscapes during heat and drought will remain water-intensive, which underscores the importance of conservation in other areas. Landscaping strategies will also include pollinator habitat, soil health improvements, and smart irrigation systems.

Equity in Implementation:

By ensuring that County vegetation assets can thrive for decades to come, this strategy supports transgenerational equity.

Outcomes Anticipated:

Increased resilience and survivability of County-managed tree canopy and vegetation, enhanced fire safety compliance, and ecological connectivity.





GOAL 1: COOL OUTDOOR SPACES

Actions

Action 1.4.a

Ensure all trees and plants receive sufficient water during periods of extreme heat, as deemed appropriate to their maturity and species.

Context & County Implementation: During extreme heat, trees and vegetation may need more water than usual in order to survive. The County has begun implementing new standards and using new technologies such as underground water storage and bubblers to ensure that these assets receive sufficient water to survive increasing temperatures; expanding upon these practices and implementing them even during times of drought may require additional funding and changes to water conservation practices during drought.

Leads: LA County Parks, PW
Partner: Water agencies

Action 1.4.b

Evaluate opportunities to improve ecological connectivity between fragmented green spaces and ecosystems by incorporating nature-based solutions into infrastructure, such as green alleys and waterways.

Context & County Implementation: When ecosystems are well-connected, flora and fauna are more resilient and better able to survive without human intervention. The County can leverage existing and emerging initiatives to green County streets, alleys, and waterways to not only mitigate urban heat, but also connect fragmented ecosystems and preserve our natural cooling assets.

Lead: PW
Partner: LA County Parks

Action 1.4.c

Select native plants, trees, and pollinator-friendly landscape features when developing or renovating public properties.

Context & County Implementation: Public facilities are distributed throughout the region and can bolster ecosystem connectivity and heat resilience if landscaped with native and climate-adapted plants. The County has begun to transition the landscaping approach at its own facilities, focusing first on new facilities and those with non-functional turf; expansion of this work will require additional training and capital investments.

Leads: ISD, LA County Parks
Partners: CSO, DBH, Library, NHM



GOAL 2:
Create Heat-Resilient
Indoor Spaces





Goal Statement

GOAL 2

Promote safe, efficient design and operations for the buildings where County residents live, work, and learn.

This goal focuses on protecting people from excessive indoor heat exposure while also minimizing overall energy use. Prolonged exposure to heat in the buildings where people spend most of their time, such as their homes, schools, and workplaces, can be just as harmful as outdoor heat exposure. Research has found that, nationwide, between 2003 and 2023, nearly half of all heat-related deaths occur at home.²⁹ High indoor temperatures not only create safety concerns but affect productivity and well-being in a host of ways, such as by impairing student learning.

Effective heat resilience requires a balance between keeping people safe and avoiding increased emissions that contribute to the problem. Many buildings can be kept cooler without the use of expensive mechanical systems. Passive cooling strategies such as reflective surfaces, better insulation, and enhanced natural ventilation help reduce indoor temperatures while lowering energy costs. Energy-efficient air conditioning is important for facilities serving vulnerable sensitive populations, such as daycares, nursing homes, and hospitals. Public incentives for passive and energy-efficient cooling features should be offered upfront or installed directly to ensure accessibility to low-income groups and an equitable impact. Higher-income communities, which tend to have greater energy use intensity, have an opportunity to lead by adopting energy-efficient solutions that relieve pressure on the power grid and demonstrate sustainable indoor cooling approaches.

A clean, reliable, and resilient energy system is crucial to advancing this goal. LA County government does not operate its own public utility; County residents are served by a combination of the Clean Power Alliance and investor-owned and municipal utilities, including Southern California Edison and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. The County must partner with these utilities to ensure equitable access to clean, affordable, and reliable energy. Similarly, while the County does not directly own most residential housing, it plays an important role in the housing landscape through building codes, zoning regulations, and landlord-tenant protections that can establish heat safety standards and support vulnerable renters.





GOAL 2: CREATE HEAT-RESILIENT INDOOR SPACES

What We Heard: Community Input on Advancing This Goal

"Financial support for retrofits needs to be no-cost, not reimbursements."

"[...]onsite solar with backup batteries at cool community refuges is particularly beneficial for people with disabilities who rely on medical equipment that requires consistent power"

"Promote induction stoves as a solution for cooler indoor spaces and safer restaurant workplaces"

"Work with community organizations to provide education on rights and responsibilities"

Goal 2 Targets

Baseline	2030 Target	2035 Target	2045 Target
41% of County residents reported trouble sleeping on very hot nights in 2025 Source: LABarometer	No increase	No increase	No increase

OurCounty Targets Aligned with This Goal

Average energy burden in LA County is 10% for extremely low-income households, 4% for very low income households, and 3% for lower income households Source: U.S. DOE LEAD Tool		Reduce average energy burden for low-income households to 6%	Reduce average energy burden for low-income households to 4%
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Disrupted sleep is more than an annoyance; it increases the risk of chronic disease³⁰ and mood disorders.³¹ Definitions and methodology for CHAP Targets can be found in Appendix C.



Strategies

Strategy 2.1 Protect renters and heat-vulnerable residents from excessive levels of heat in the home and congregate facilities.

Many people in Los Angeles County experience excessive indoor heat in settings where they have limited ability to control their environment or leave when conditions become burdensome or dangerous. Historically, renters in Los Angeles County faced a particular challenge because they did not have a legally recognized right to make cooling upgrades to their homes - and many of them live in older buildings that were not built to withstand extreme heat. A recent study found that renters are more likely than homeowners to require medical attention due to hot indoor.³² To address these risks, the County has expanded its Health and Safety Code. Beginning in September of 2025, landlords in unincorporated areas of the County are required to maintain indoor temperature at or below 82°F for rental units, the first policy of its kind to address indoor heat as a public health issue.

Developed through a process that included, and was informed by, stakeholder engagement, the ordinance promotes compliance through passive cooling strategies and does not mandate air conditioning. Tenants are also allowed to install portable cooling devices, after providing written notice, with protections from eviction, cost pass-throughs, additional charges, or retaliation. To promote equity and feasibility, the County will provide educational materials and resources, and links to technical guidance and financial assistance for both tenants and landlords. A new web platform designed to help landlords and tenants identify available cooling resources, coolhealthyhomes.org, features new and existing assistance programs such as the Clean Power Alliance upfront rebates for energy-efficient air conditioners. Enforcement will be phased in over time through the Public Health's Rental Housing Habitability Program.

The County will also engage with local, state, and federal entities to promote heat resilience in homes and institutions, including those where we cannot directly implement changes. For example, recognizing that many private institutions operate on narrow margins and lack the resources to implement large-scale upgrades, the County will explore partnerships to help facility managers overcome financial and logistical barriers.





GOAL 2: CREATE HEAT-RESILIENT INDOOR SPACES

"Housing is a health and human right. We need to ensure that as we pass policies and create plans to keep homes cool, that this does not lead to unintended consequences such as higher utility bills, and passing costs onto tenants. Through the County Heat Action Plan, we have the opportunity to create healthier and resilient homes in an equitable manner that protects tenants. We look forward to collaborating with the County to protect our frontline communities from the impacts of extreme heat."

**— Wendy Miranda, Policy Associate,
Esperanza Community Housing**

Equity in Implementation:
This strategy supports distributional equity by focusing on buildings where the risk of heat impacts is high due to the presence of a vulnerable population such as children, or because of the occupants' limited ability to make cooling upgrades themselves, such as renters.

Outcomes Anticipated: Safer indoor environments, reduced heat-related health risks, and expanded access to energy-efficient cooling resources without an increased risk of displacement.

Actions

Action 2.1.a

Protect the health of renters during heat waves.

Context & County Implementation: DPH will respond to reported violations of the County's newly adopted indoor maximum temperature ordinance. DPH's education-first approach to enforcement will connect renters and landlords with available resources that protect health and facilitate compliance with the ordinance. DPH will also coordinate with cities that are interested in adopting the ordinance into their own code.

Lead: DPH

Action 2.1.b

Advise landlords on strategies and resources available to help rental units stay cool.

Context & County Implementation: Following the passage of the Indoor Maximum Temperature Threshold Ordinance, departments are coordinating to develop resources that support landlord compliance. The County's Internal Services Department has developed a website that can help landlords understand how to meet the new requirements, and is exploring funding opportunities to provide more hands-on assistance.

Lead: ISD



GOAL 2: CREATE HEAT-RESILIENT INDOOR SPACES

Action 2.1.c

Support residents with navigating and accessing energy assistance and energy-efficient cooling resources.

Context & County Implementation: Energy-related resources for residents are made available through state and regional partners such as SoCal Edison and the Clean Power Alliance, but each program has its own unique set of eligibility requirements. LA County's Internal Services Department is exploring funding opportunities to offer new resources, and has developed a website that can help residents navigate all relevant resources.

Lead: ISD

Action 2.1.d

Honor tenant protections so that renters are able to exercise their right to heat-safe housing without harassment or retaliation.

Context & County Implementation: Tenant protections policies administered by Department of Consumer and Business Affairs (DCBA) will be in place for unincorporated LA County throughout the implementation of the Indoor Maximum Temperature Threshold Ordinance to prohibit harassment and unapproved rent increases or pass-through costs, including enacting eviction protections. DCBA will educate both tenants and landlords to address questions related to the new ordinance and accept complaints for alleged violations for tenant protection policies administered by the department.

Lead: DCBA

Action 2.1.e

Conduct outreach and raise awareness of rights and responsibilities related to renter heat safety.

Context & County Implementation: The County will develop materials in multiple languages and will leverage existing relationships and networks to share information about rights and responsibilities related to renter heat safety via social media, presentations, and other communications. The County will also seek funding to build a dedicated outreach network through community-based organizations.

Lead: ISD

Partners: CSO, DCBA, DPH

Action 2.1.f

Advocate for state and federal agencies to strengthen mobile and manufactured home construction standards for heat safety and to make cooling resources available for mobile and manufactured home residents.

Context & County Implementation: Most mobile and manufactured homes are in high heat areas of LA County and lack sufficient insulation to maintain cool temperatures. Given that mobile and manufactured homes are regulated primarily at the state and federal levels, the County will advocate for state and federal action to ensure that these residents are able to live in heat-safe homes.

Leads: CEO, CSO

Partners: DRP, LACoFD, Metro, SCAG, PW



GOAL 2: CREATE HEAT-RESILIENT INDOOR SPACES

Action 2.1.g

Advance the installation of new cooling features and retro-commissioning of existing equipment in sensitive facilities such as public housing, assisted living, and schools.

Context & County Implementation: Retro-commissioning equipment and fixing malfunctioning components can prolong use and maximize performance, while in small facilities, investments in heat pumps can provide efficient cooling benefits. The Internal Services Department can work with County Departments to upgrade County buildings serving heat-vulnerable populations and support external partners in securing funds to make needed improvements in other sensitive facilities.

Leads: DACC, ISD, LACDA, LACOE, PD, Sheriff

Partners: School Districts





GOAL 2: CREATE HEAT-RESILIENT INDOOR SPACES

Strategy 2.2 Maximize the adoption and use of passive cooling strategies and energy-efficient operations in both public and private buildings.

Buildings can achieve substantial cooling through passive design and improved energy operations. Cool materials, reflective coatings, shades, ventilation upgrades, insulation, and building operation improvements reduce indoor temperatures and lower energy demand. Furthermore, landscaping can cool a building through elements that provide shade, such as a tree whose canopy extends over the roof or a trellis that runs parallel to the side of a building. These approaches are particularly valuable in reducing electricity costs and preserving electrical grid capacity during high heat days.

County-owned buildings will serve as implementation models, integrating high-reflectivity surfaces, efficient window films, and optimized HVAC operations to reduce thermal loads. Reducing energy use at large public facilities plays a critical role in balancing regional demand and helps to minimize the risk of the region's grid becoming strained during heat emergencies. The County's Internal Service Department has a particularly large role in this work because it not only manages upgrades in County buildings, but also administers the Southern California Regional Energy Network, or SoCalREN - which provides energy-related services to residents, businesses, and public agencies throughout multiple counties.



Although these approaches are generally cost-efficient and can generate savings over time, they require upfront capital investments and training for the maintenance and operation workforce. The County will invest in not only its buildings, but its people, through workforce development and training that uplifts passive cooling and resilient operations.

"The County Heat Action Plan supports a more sustainable built environment by connecting climate resilient strategies to how we design, develop, retrofit, and operate our buildings. Every passive cooling strategy, energy efficiency system, and reduction in urban heat impacts brings us closer to a future where all Angelinos live and work in safe, healthy and climate resilient communities."

– Ben Stapleton, Executive Director, USGBC California

Equity in Implementation:

This strategy advances structural equity with an action that balances the dual goals to create workforce development opportunities for disadvantaged workers and improve energy efficiency.

Outcomes Anticipated:

Cooler indoor environments, lower energy bills, reduced peak load on the grid, and expanded job opportunities in climate-resilient construction.



Actions

Action 2.2.a

Support the upskilling of public facility managers and contractors to build capacity for maintaining energy efficient buildings and resilient landscaping.

Context & County Implementation: Facility managers need training and continuing education to stay up to date on best practices for energy-efficient and resilient operations. Some County Departments have begun offering such training opportunities, such as LA County Parks' partnership with the Theodore Payne Foundation to train grounds maintenance staff in maintaining vegetated spaces. The Department of Economic Opportunity and the Internal Services Department will have key roles in scaling these efforts given their responsibilities for workforce development and facility maintenance, respectively.

Leads: DEO, ISD, LA County, Parks

Partners: All Departments

Action 2.2.b

Ensure cooling strategies are efficient at existing public buildings and facilities by retro-commissioning existing cooling equipment and applying cool materials and features.

Context & County Implementation: County facility managers will incorporate energy-efficient practices and features when they have major renovations planned. This can range from small components such as solar window film and cool paint to larger changes such retro-commissioning of equipment for improved performance.

Lead: ISD

Partners: All Departments



GOAL 2: CREATE HEAT-RESILIENT INDOOR SPACES

Action 2.2.c

Update public building operations and controls to ensure energy-efficient thermal regulation that accounts for the needs of both staff and visitors, such as through air movement, regularly updated HVAC scheduling, and load flexibility.

Context & County Implementation: Demand response programs, such as those currently used by many County facilities, offer cost savings while helping reduce strain on the energy grid during peak demand periods. The Internal Services Department is already implementing emergency load reduction programs in 11 buildings and seeks to expand these efforts to maintain safe, cool environments while supporting grid reliability.

Lead: ISD

Partners: All Departments

Action 2.2.d

Pilot a cool surfaces program that provides paid training to disadvantaged workers while increasing reflectivity of roofs, walls, and pavements.

Context & County Implementation: This proposed program would involve partnering with community organizations to pay workers with barriers to employment - such as veterans and justice-involved individuals - to become trained in, and then implement, the coating or replacement of existing surfaces with cool materials.

Lead: DEO

Partner: CSO



GOAL 2: CREATE HEAT-RESILIENT INDOOR SPACES

Strategy 2.3 In coordination with utilities, promote electricity affordability, clean energy access, and energy resilience

Rising temperatures force residents to choose between cooling their homes and covering other basic needs. This strategy focuses on enhancing the reliability of cooling resources in County facilities in heat burdened communities and working with utilities and regulators to improve electricity affordability, grid reliability, and cooling accessibility. The County will support clean energy infrastructure at community-serving facilities by advancing the installation of solar panels paired with backup battery storage. This helps ensure uninterrupted service during outages or times of peak demand, which most frequently occur in conjunction with extreme heat events. These actions complement key OurCounty commitments to a clean and resilient energy system, including support for renewable energy technology, distributed energy resources, and battery storage.

At the household level, the County will expand programs such as the Equitable Building Decarbonization initiative. These efforts help low-income residents access energy-efficient cooling technologies while also reducing utility bills, improving indoor comfort, lowering greenhouse gas emissions, and supporting job creation in the clean energy sector.

In parallel, the County will coordinate with utility providers to enhance demand management, identify priority areas for mobile backup power, and explore policy options to prevent service disconnections during heat emergencies. At the state level, the County will advocate for programs that account for the broader public health, housing stability, and equity benefits of energy upgrades, not just their energy savings.

Equity in Implementation:

This strategy will advance structural equity by balancing efforts to address the economic and infrastructural challenges of increased energy usage with the need for active cooling.

Outcomes Anticipated:

Greater access to safe indoor temperatures, stronger local energy resilience, increased adoption of clean energy in critical areas, and better alignment between energy policies and public health outcomes.





GOAL 2: CREATE HEAT-RESILIENT INDOOR SPACES

Actions

Action 2.3.a

Support installation of onsite solar with back-up batteries in publicly accessible indoor cooling locations.

Context & County Implementation: Cool and independently operated spaces like community centers offer trusted alternatives to official public cooling centers. The Internal Services Department and the Chief Sustainability Office can support the community organizations that manage these spaces with seeking funding to build out their cooling features and energy resilience.

Lead: ISD

Partners: CSO, LA County Parks, Libraries, Utilities

Action 2.3.b

Expand the use of energy-efficient cooling strategies in low-income homes such as through the Equitable Building Decarbonization program.

Context & County Implementation: The Internal Services Department has received state funding for Equitable Building Decarbonization, through which they are supporting direct home installation of energy-efficient cooling equipment for vulnerable households. This type of support is crucial for making home cooling financially feasible for low-income households.

Lead: ISD

Action 2.3.c

Support improvements to energy systems to manage demand during heat waves.

Context & County Implementation: The County supports a variety of strategies that can help ensure clean energy availability and minimize unnecessary energy use during heat waves. In its role as administrator of SoCalREN, ISD offers services that advance battery storage and microgrid initiatives and runs demand-response and load-shifting programs for residential households and commercial, industrial, and community facilities.

Lead: ISD

Partners: Utilities



GOAL 2: CREATE HEAT-RESILIENT INDOOR SPACES

Action 2.3.d

Explore partnerships with electricity providers to pilot new emergency heat relief strategies, such as suspension of disconnections for non-payment during extreme heat or development of joint protocol for back-up power deployment.

Context & County Implementation: Electricity providers are uniquely positioned to prevent power outages and related challenges and burdens, which disproportionately affect low-income people and those who rely on electrically powered medical devices. The County will explore opportunities to partner with electricity providers on pilot programs that optimize energy resources for heat resilience and provide relief to vulnerable populations.

Leads: CSO, ISD

Partners: Utilities

Action 2.3.e

Advocate for State regulators to account for health and social impacts related to heat vulnerability and affordable cooling needs in the design of utility regulations and programming.

Context & County Implementation: The County engages with State regulators such as the California Public Utilities Commission when they are developing policy that will impact County residents. The County will identify additional opportunities to uplift the local health and social implications of energy regulations to ensure that State regulators can take local needs into consideration for decision-making.

Leads: CEO, CSO, ISD





GOAL 3:
Expand Heat Safety
Communications and Programs





GOAL 3: EXPAND HEAT SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS AND PROGRAMS

Goal Statement

GOAL 3 Build robust community networks and emergency management operations that promote heat safety and connect vulnerable people to cooling resources.

Relative to disasters such as flooding or fire, extreme heat receives far less public attention despite its serious health and safety consequences. In LA County, extreme heat increases mortality, emergency calls, and hospital visits, particularly among unhoused residents and older adults. With extreme heat events becoming more frequent and severe, improving emergency response and community preparedness is critical.

The strategies for Goal 3 build on existing County initiatives and efforts. The Department of Public Health (DPH) and Office of Emergency Management (OEM) coordinate the County's operational response during heat events, using the National Weather Service's HeatRisk tool to issue heat advisories and warnings. OEM also works with cities and Disaster Management Area Coordinators (DMACs), an important part of the County's ecosystem of coordinated efforts for disaster and preparedness, to open cooling centers and provide services throughout the County.

While cooling centers, libraries, and other facilities provide lifesaving relief, many residents face barriers such as limited hours, transportation, or low trust. This goal expands access to cooling through community-run and mobile options, while ensuring spaces feel welcoming and safe.

Equally important is culturally relevant heat safety messaging and services. Multilingual communications, shared through trusted channels such as healthcare workers and mutual aid groups, can help ensure vulnerable residents are able to stay safe. Training, resources, and coordination among community organizations and other partners will expand the collective capacity for protecting communities. The strategies and actions in this goal center the needs of the County's most vulnerable populations (described on page 26 and throughout the plan).

What Is Heat Risk?

HeatRisk is a color-coded index that was developed by the National Weather Service to illustrate the potential level of risk for heat-related impacts in the seven day forecast.

Category	Risk of Heat-Related Impacts
Green 0	Little to no risk from expected heat.
Yellow 1	Minor - Primarily affects those who are extremely sensitive to heat and without cooling/hydration
Orange 2	Moderate - Affects those who are sensitive to heat, especially those without cooling/hydration, and some health systems and industries.
Red 3	Major - Affects anyone without cooling/hydration as well as health systems and industries.
Magenta 4	Extreme - Rare and/or long-duration extreme heat with no overnight relief affecting anyone without cooling/hydration as well as health systems, industries, and infrastructure.

HeatRisk considers forecasted temperatures, historic temperatures, the duration of heat, and data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to determine level of health risk and issue community-specific risk warnings.

Explore HeatRisk here: www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov/heatrisk/



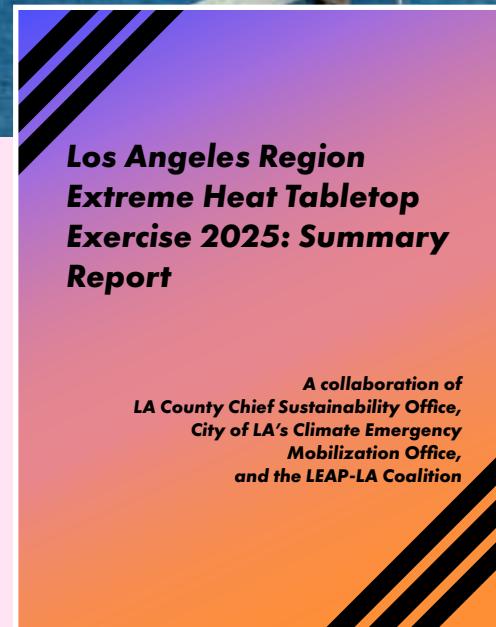
GOAL 3: EXPAND HEAT SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS AND PROGRAMS

LA Regional Extreme Heat Tabletop Exercise

On June 26, 2025, the County of Los Angeles's Chief Sustainability Office, City of LA's Climate Emergency Mobilization Office, and the LEAP-LA Coalition hosted the first-ever LA Regional Extreme Heat Tabletop Exercise.

Over 45 partners across local and regional government agencies, community organizations, services providers, academic groups, and other stakeholders, joined together to identify gaps and opportunities in mitigating and responding to the impacts of extreme heat on the most vulnerable communities across LA County.

During a three-part scenario exercise simulating cascading impacts from an extreme heat event, participants highlighted critical areas for improvement across communication, mobilization of resources, outreach and preparedness to better protect communities across LA. Information and ideas for action generated by this exercise will directly inform implementation of the CHAP. The full Summary Report from this tabletop exercise is available on the County's [CHAP website](#).





GOAL 3: EXPAND HEAT SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS AND PROGRAMS

What We Heard: Community Input on Advancing This Goal

"Trusted sites can include schools, gyms, YMCA, libraries, movie theatres, churches, parks, pools, programming at these sites"

"Increase cooling infrastructure in and around cooling centers, clinics, and healthcare centers to increase safe routes for these spaces"

"For short-term relief, we encourage the County partner with mobile shower and washing stations that provide hygienic aid to unhoused populations. However, the real solution to protect people from extreme heat is to provide adequate long-term housing."

"Recommend utilizing iconography rather than language for multilingual audiences."

"Work with connected CBOs for an effective and comprehensive approach"

Goal 3 Targets

Baseline	2030 Target	2035 Target	2045 Target
There were 179 Cooling Locations throughout the County in 2025 Source: ReadyLACounty.gov	10% increase	20% increase	30% increase

OurCounty Targets Aligned with This Goal

45% of LA County residents reported being very or somewhat prepared for a large-scale disaster or emergency in 2023 Source: LA County Health Survey, Department of Public Health	Increase self-reported household disaster preparedness to 50%	Increase self-reported household disaster preparedness to 55%	Increase self-reported household disaster preparedness to 60%
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As the County begins inviting community-run facilities to be included on the list and coordinating with them to promote awareness and use of cooling locations during extreme heat, the number of sites will increase along with resident awareness of them. Definitions and methodology for CHAP Targets can be found in Appendix C.



GOAL 3: EXPAND HEAT SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS AND PROGRAMS

Strategies

Strategy 3.1 Improve access to, and utilization of, cooling locations during extreme heat.

As temperatures rise, so does the urgency to provide community members with access to safe, cool spaces – including climate-controlled indoor cooling locations and cool outdoor spots. This strategy focuses on improving the experience at government-owned cooling centers and activating trusted, familiar places as additional indoor and outdoor cooling options. The County will also explore transit and mobility options to help residents reach cooling centers, swimming pools, beaches, and other spaces.

Ongoing efforts aimed at helping unhoused residents transition into housing will be critical for reducing heat exposure in that population; although those efforts are outside the scope of this plan, they are highlighted in the updated OurCounty Plan which includes commitments to invest in affordable housing.

Beyond physical infrastructure, this strategy will strengthen heat response capacity by enabling rapid resource deployment through a dedicated heat emergency activation fund. Cooling centers will integrate programming and wraparound services (which could potentially include utility assistance, medical/first aid support, and food/grocery assistance), supplemented by free admission to cultural and recreational facilities. Other actions, such as expanding weather shelter vouchers and mobile cooling centers and pet-friendly pop-up misting tents, will extend relief to unhoused populations and offer flexible, accessible protection.

Equity in Implementation:

This strategy supports distributional equity by ensuring that every vulnerable group has access to some form of heat relief.

Outcomes Anticipated:

Increased use of publicly accessible cooling locations, coordinated services, and a reduction in heat-related health incidents.

Actions

Action 3.1.a

Support and promote the use of trusted community spaces as indoor cooling locations during extreme heat.

Context & County Implementation: Heat vulnerable individuals may prefer to go to trusted local organizations—such as community centers, places of worship, or private businesses—over official government cooling centers. The County can support the use of these community spaces by featuring them in the regional cooling center list with their non-County status indicated. County staff can identify suitable locations with input from community partners.

Lead: OEM

Partners: CSO, HSH, ISD, LAAD



GOAL 3: EXPAND HEAT SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS AND PROGRAMS

Action 3.1.b

Assess options for promoting and expanding free admission to cultural and recreational facilities that are cool and safe during extreme heat.

Context & County Implementation: Cultural spaces like galleries, museums, and theaters can offer effective relief during extreme heat. Many of these facilities, such as the Natural History Museum or LA County Museum of Art already offer free admission during specified times for LA County residents. The County can promote these options and consider expanding them, feature free community arts organizations on County cooling center lists, and explore partnerships with businesses who may be able to offer free access to their cool spaces during extreme heat.

Leads: Arts & Culture, CSO, LACMA, NHM

Partner: LA County Parks

Action 3.1.c

Create an emergency activation fund to cover expenses associated with emergency response efforts and facilitate the testing of new ideas to prevent extreme heat impacts.

Context & County Implementation: Historically there have been no dedicated or guaranteed sources of funding to support emergency heat response activities of County agencies or partners. CSO will work to identify a funding source that could not only support the expansion of heat response activities but also improve the timeliness of funding disbursement for other types of disasters.

Lead: CSO

Partner: OEM





GOAL 3: EXPAND HEAT SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS AND PROGRAMS

Action 3.1.d

Explore partnerships to incorporate programming into government-owned cooling centers, including health services, resources such as housing and utility programs, youth and senior programming, and other social services both during, and prior to activations.

Context & County Implementation: Additional programming at existing cooling centers could help community members connect to resources and information to support them throughout the heat season. The County will explore potential Cross-departmental or County-community partnerships as a valuable way to offer services that better support vulnerable populations at cooling centers during extreme heat events.

Leads: CSO, LAAD, LA County Parks, Libraries, Utilities

Action 3.1.e

Expand accessible transportation options to publicly accessible indoor cooling locations and other cool recreational spaces such as pools and beaches during extreme heat.

Context & County Implementation: Heat vulnerable individuals often face transportation barriers to accessing cooling centers. The County has limited transportation services for people experiencing homelessness which could be expanded with additional funding or could be supplemented with additional types of transportation services for additional vulnerable populations. Potential new clients for these services can be quickly approved to receive them thanks to expedited County processing during emergencies.

Leads: CSO, DBH, HSH, LA County Parks, LAAD, Metro and other transit agencies, PW

Action 3.1.f

Pilot outdoor, pet-friendly cooling options for the unhoused population such as misting tents or mobile cooling services.

Context & County Implementation: Mobile cooling resources are effective solutions for people who are unable to access traditional cooling centers, such as unhoused individuals whose pets or belongings might be at risk if left behind. The Homeless Initiative and Department of Animal Care & Control seek to pilot mobile misting tents to serve these communities. Partnerships with organizations like health clinics and transit agencies, including Metro, can help scale these efforts and reach a broader population.

Lead: HSH

Partners: DACC, Metro

Action 3.1.g

Expand the availability & use of inclement weather shelter vouchers as a heat safety option for the unhoused population.

Context & County Implementation: LA County already offers shelter vouchers during extreme heat events primarily through the Emergency Response Program (ERP). By expanding and scaling this program through LA County's Department of Homeless Services and Housing, more vulnerable populations can be supported in accessing cool and safe spaces during the heat season.

Lead: HSH



GOAL 3: EXPAND HEAT SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS AND PROGRAMS

Strategy 3.2 Build the capacity of community organizations and other implementation partners to support resident and worker heat safety.

Extreme heat presents a distinct challenge for emergency response systems. Unlike other climate-related disasters such as floods or wildfires, heat events often unfold quietly, without dramatic damage. However, during heat emergencies, gaps in coordination, training, or resource delivery can result in preventable harm.

This strategy strengthens communitywide capacity to respond quickly, equitably, and effectively to extreme heat. Training is a central component of this strategy. Heat safety training for promotores—community-based health workers who offer healthcare education and facilitate access to health resources, often in historically underserved communities—home visiting programs, neighborhood groups, and staff at publicly accessible cooling locations equips frontline networks to recognize and respond to heat-related risks. Schools and childcare providers can adopt best practices to protect children and staff during high-heat days, strengthening preparedness to reduce heat-related illness at a population level. Protection for workers is also critical. Occupational safety is regulated at the federal and state levels, with the state of California recently adopting indoor heat safety protections in 2024 to augment existing protections for outdoor workers. The County can support these broader regulations and efforts through education, support for workers' rights, and County-led operations and initiatives focused on worker safety.

For all actions within this strategy, collaboration with other jurisdictions will share information and resources across the County and help to align and coordinate a more effective response effort. In addition, public agencies and community-based networks will be linked through shared communication channels and supply chains to ensure cohesive and comprehensive support during heat emergencies.

"We are living and breathing climate impacts daily. At Community Organized Relief Effort (CORE), we are dedicated to empowering communities. The incredible dedication demonstrated by the working group during the LA County Heat Action Plan process proves that communities and leaders can, together, harness collective skills and experience to secure a safe, livable future for all residents."

— **Nina Knierim, CA Area Manager, Climate Resilience: Mitigation + Adaptation + Preparation , CORE Community Organized Relief Effort**

Equity in Implementation:
This strategy advances procedural equity by supporting the involvement of non-governmental partners in emergency preparedness and response.

Outcomes Anticipated:
Quicker response to heat impacts; improved coordination between government and community organizations during emergencies.



GOAL 3: EXPAND HEAT SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS AND PROGRAMS

Actions

Action 3.2.a

Support schools and childcare providers with adoption of best practices for heat safety.

Context & County Implementation: The Department of Public Health has developed educational materials for schools on heat safety practices, which are being shared and disseminated to schools by multiple County divisions and partners. The LA County Office of Education can further support schools in becoming more heat resilient by providing guidance and support for capital improvements such as greening.

Lead: DPH

Partners: LACOE, School Districts

Action 3.2.b

Make heat safety training materials available and adaptable for various groups that serve vulnerable populations, such as promotores, home visiting programs, neighborhood councils, staff at cool refuges, and other networks of community service providers.

Context & County Implementation: Offering heat safety training and materials to community groups and leaders that interact with vulnerable community members, such as promotores and community service providers, may help ensure that the heat safety messages reach vulnerable individuals and are delivered in a way that resonates with the intended audience and supports heat safety practices at both the individual and organizational levels.

Leads: CSO, DPH

Partners: CEO, DBH, DPSS, DCFS, DMH, LA County Parks, LAAD, LACoFD, Libraries, OEM





GOAL 3: EXPAND HEAT SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS AND PROGRAMS

Action 3.2.c

Develop a system for coordinating outreach services and resources before and during extreme heat events among public agencies and community response groups to ensure cohesive and comprehensive heat management.

Context & County Implementation: Coordination among community groups, service providers, and public agencies before and during extreme heat events could be improved through convenings or the development of shared documents. The County can create these opportunities to exchange information and strategize about resource deployment.

Lead: OEM

Partner: Cities, DPH, HSH, LACoFD

Action 3.2.d

Enable adjustment of worker schedules or locations during extreme heat to prevent injury and illness.

Context & County Implementation: CEO and DHR support County Departments' discretion in identifying opportunities to adjust working hours, locations, and/or attire to minimize worker exposure during the hottest periods and locations of the day. CSO will assess whether the County has any mechanisms to facilitate similar actions for non-County workers.

Leads: CEO, CSO, DHR





GOAL 3: EXPAND HEAT SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS AND PROGRAMS

Strategy 3.3 Increase public awareness of heat risk and personal strategies for staying cool and safe.

Clear, timely, and inclusive communication is a critical component of public safety during extreme heat events. Many LA County residents may be unaware of dangerous heat conditions or lack information to protect themselves and their families. Communication gaps increase the risk of delayed action, prolonged exposure, and preventable health impacts, particularly for older adults, socially isolated individuals, and those who speak languages other than English—who may be harder to reach through traditional outreach methods.

Coordinated public education and emergency communication is essential. Effective messaging about heat-related risks and protective actions can save lives. This strategy builds a proactive and responsive communication infrastructure that can reach marginalized and vulnerable residents. Evidence-based communication practices, integrated within systems like HeatRisk and CalHeatScore, are the foundation of this approach. Multimodal outreach including digital alerts, television and radio messaging, signage at transit stops, and direct community engagement enhance broad and layered coverage.

Outreach to employers and at-risk workers—those who work outdoors, or who labor in warehouses or other non-air conditioned buildings—strengthens awareness of heat safety regulations and available protections. At the same time, advocacy at the state and federal levels elevates the importance of extreme heat and may unlock additional support for public communication and response.

"No single city or department can tackle heat alone. The County Heat Action Plan unites Los Angeles County's agencies, universities, and communities around a shared vision for resilience and regional cooperation."

— **Erin Coutts, Executive Director,
LA Regional Collaborative (LARC)**



Equity in Implementation:

This strategy supports procedural equity through tailored, multilingual, culturally relevant communication campaigns to reach historically underserved and heat-vulnerable communities.

Outcomes Anticipated:

Increased public awareness of heat safety risks and resources and more individual action to stay safe during extreme heat.



GOAL 3: EXPAND HEAT SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS AND PROGRAMS

Actions

Action 3.3.a

Utilize additional channels and methods of communication to maximize reach and effectiveness of heat safety communications.

Context & County Implementation: Many residents and workers do not see, receive, or understand County extreme heat alerts. The County will reference evidence-based communication strategies to improve reach, accessibility, and impact of heat messaging; this may include the use of multiple media and languages, tailoring of message tone and design, and the dissemination of information through trusted networks that reach vulnerable populations.

Leads: CSO, DPH

Partners: DCFS, DPSS, ISD, OEM

Action 3.3.b

Conduct outreach and education to at-risk workers and small, person of color-owned, and immigrant-owned businesses regarding heat safety regulations & resources.

Context & County Implementation: Occupational health and safety is regulated at the state and federal levels, but the practicing of extreme heat safety rights and responsibilities remains low in some vulnerable industries. The County will build on its existing public health council model to increase worker and employer awareness and fulfillment of extreme heat precautions, such as by offering training and resources and conducting outreach.

Lead: DPH

Partners: State agencies

Action 3.3.c

Update the County's Heat Event Protocol with information about newly developed response activities and make it publicly available.

Context & County Implementation: As new practices and resources are developed, the LA County Office of Emergency Management will update its Heat Event Protocol to accurately reflect any changes and make it publicly available to ensure transparency and facilitate coordination with regional partners.

Lead: OEM

Action 3.3.d

Coordinate with 211 and Public Health Infoline to ensure that the services and information they provide is aligned with County Heat Event Protocol.

Context & County Implementation: Public information channels like 211 and the Public Health Infoline exist to help guide LA county residents on the resources and information available to them. While these info lines are equipped to connect communities to cooling centers, additional resources and staffing can be provided to better connect communities to relevant resources during extreme heat events.

Lead: OEM

Partners: DPH, HSH



GOAL 3: EXPAND HEAT SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS AND PROGRAMS

Action 3.3.e

Advocate for state and federal resources to be made available for extreme heat disasters.

Context & County Implementation: Extreme heat is still not recognized as a disaster at either a national or state level, even though it leads to hundreds of deaths each year. The County will advocate for the recognition of extreme heat as a disaster and mobilization of resources to help the region recover more effectively from the escalating and ongoing impacts of hotter heat seasons.

Leads: CEO, CSO

Partners: LACoFD, OEM

Action 3.3.f

Improve public signage and wayfinding information for heat safety resources such as hydration stations.

Context & County Implementation: Wayfinding signage in strategic locations can help community members find and access hydration stations, shade structures, and cooling centers with augmented hours—though the need for this signage must be carefully balanced with the need to minimize signage clutter and overcrowding to ensure that messages can be easily perceived and understood.

Leads: LA County Parks, Metro, PW



Photo credit: South Bay Cities Council of Governments



GOAL 3: EXPAND HEAT SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS AND PROGRAMS

Strategy 3.4 Improve the capacity of the health system to mitigate, prepare for, and respond to heat risk.

Extreme heat presents an escalating threat to public health, particularly for vulnerable populations. Healthcare workers, including street and other outreach workers, are trusted messengers with a unique capacity in reaching at-risk residents and assessing their vulnerabilities and needs. By equipping frontline staff with training to recognize heat-related health risks, the health system can support earlier interventions and promote safer outcomes during heat events.



Healthcare on wheels mobile clinic (Photo credit: Homeless Initiative)

This strategy strengthens the health system's ability to prevent and identify heat-related illness through improved data, training, outreach, and coordination. Equipping healthcare providers, emergency responders, and care networks with the protocols needed to respond to heat risk will ensure more-effective healthcare response to heat impacts. Tracking heat-related health incidents and system performance during heat events enables continuous improvement and targeted interventions. Heat safety trainings and emergency protocols tailored for health service providers support recognition of symptoms, risk, and appropriate response.

These efforts are designed to operate across care settings, from hospitals and clinics to community-based programs and mobile units. Integrating data-driven planning, targeted training, and wider outreach improves the health system's ability to respond to extreme heat events.

Equity in Implementation:

This strategy advances structural equity through collaborations between emergency response and healthcare sectors to reach heat-vulnerable communities.

Outcomes Anticipated:

Earlier identification of heat-related illness, more effective care for vulnerable populations, and a stronger, more coordinated public health response across Los Angeles County.



GOAL 3: EXPAND HEAT SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS AND PROGRAMS

Actions

Action 3.4.a

Collect and analyze data on extreme heat events to improve future planning and response efforts.

Context & County Implementation: The Department of Public Health tracks emergency department visits related to heat illness and is working to strengthen its data collection and analysis capabilities. CSO will support these efforts by facilitating connections with the research community, identifying opportunities to build upon methodologies used in external or one-time studies, and bridging the analyses to heat planning and response efforts.

Lead: DPH

Partner: CSO

Action 3.4.b

Support the development of heat safety trainings and emergency heat protocol for health service providers, EMTs, in-home and adult care programs.

Context & County Implementation: The County will develop and distribute a heat preparedness toolkit and offer an introductory webinar for health service providers to improve their ability to recognize heat-related illnesses and provide quick and effective treatment.

Leads: DHS, DPH

Partner: DMH

Action 3.4.c

Increase street medicine outreach during extreme heat.

Context & County Implementation: Street medicine teams reach out to unhoused residents and provide direct relief in the form of water, ice, hydration kits, and even Naloxone in cases of overdose. County agencies including the Department of Health Services and LA Care run field teams that provide medical services, and could be expanded on to build capacity, including greater geographic coverage or activation of mobile clinics during extreme heat events.

Leads: DHS, LA CARE, HSH

Partner: DPH

Action 3.4.d

Develop protocol for notifying clients/patients of heat risk and personal safety practices based on pre-existing conditions and medications.

Context & County Implementation: Certain health conditions and medications put people at greater risk of heat-related health impacts. Healthcare providers are uniquely positioned to identify people with these risks and reach out to them with tailored information about how to mitigate the risks; with additional resources, the Department of Public Health can develop guidance for healthcare providers on effective strategies and County health service providers can use existing communication tools to do so.

Leads: DHS

Partners: DHS, LA Care



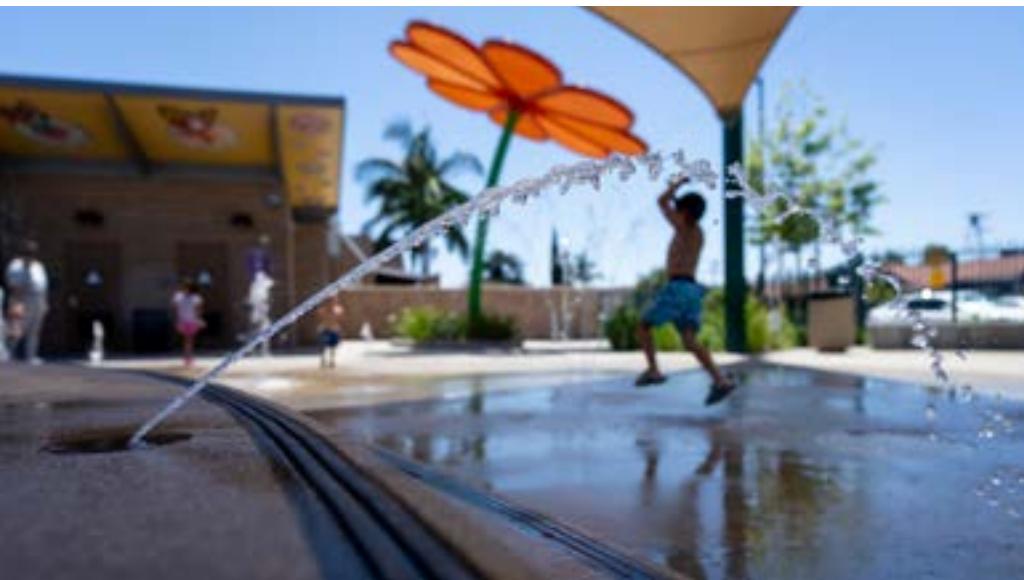
Implementation

The CHAP is not a one-time publication—it is a living framework designed to guide sustained, coordinated action across Los Angeles County. It clarifies County departmental leadership roles, outlines actionable next steps for priority items, and aligns policy, capital, operational, and programmatic investments across County agencies. It also establishes a shared implementation roadmap for regional and cross-sector partners. This structure enables transparency, supports coordinated decision-making, and serves as a foundational reference point for tracking progress and managing implementation across County departments and jurisdictions.

The CHAP is intentionally designed to go beyond County-led implementation. It sets out to provide easily accessible technical resources such as strategies, policy and design templates, guidance, and data. Local and Tribal governments, school districts, and regional partners can use these resources to streamline and strengthen their heat resilience efforts.

Resourcing Implementation of the Plan

Implementing the CHAP will require sustained investment across multiple funding sources and partners. While some actions build on existing County government programs and can be advanced through operational adjustments or policy changes, many strategies require substantial capital investments, new staffing capacity, or expanded programs that exceed current budget allocations.



Consistent with the OurCounty Sustainability Plan and Board-directed policy on sustainability, the County's commitment to the CHAP includes:

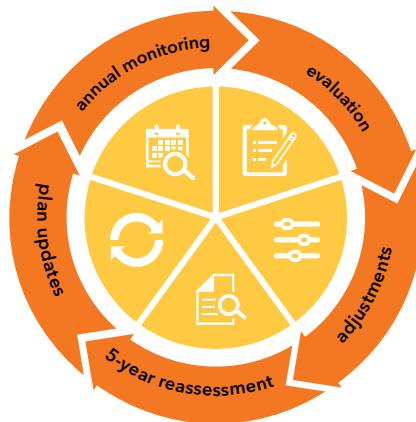
- **Integrating heat resilience into County operations:** the County will apply a resilience lens to capital improvement plans, policy decisions, and program design to ensure that investments advance CHAP goals when possible, maximizing impact within existing resource constraints.
- **Prioritizing CHAP implementation in budget planning:** the County will prioritize budget requests for CHAP actions through the annual budget process, as done for other sustainability-oriented budget requests.
- **Actively seeking external funding:** the County will pursue state and federal grants, philanthropic support, and public-private partnerships to supplement County resources.
- **Supporting partner resource mobilization:** the County will provide technical assistance to cities, community organizations, and other entities seeking funding for heat resilience projects that align with CHAP priorities. This may include grant writing support, letters of support for funding applications, and partnerships that strengthen competitive proposals.
- **Leveraging County authority and purchasing power:** where relevant, the County will use procurement practices, regulatory authority, and convening power to incentivize private investment in heat resilience and achieve economies of scale that reduce implementation costs.

Furthermore, the CHAP itself is a tool for resource mobilization. By clearly articulating the region's heat resilience needs, strategies, and implementation framework, the CHAP strengthens funding applications, aligns partner investments, and demonstrates to funders that LA County has both the commitment and capacity to deploy resources effectively and transparently. This pragmatic approach recognizes fiscal realities while maintaining ambitious long-term goals. Annual progress reports will transparently communicate both achievements and barriers, including resource constraints that limit implementation pace.

Monitoring and Reporting on Progress

Climate conditions, funding landscapes, and community needs will evolve over time. To ensure the CHAP remains relevant and actionable, the County will implement an adaptive management approach:

- Annual Progress Monitoring:** In alignment with the annual OurCounty reporting process, the County will provide yearly updates on County implementation of CHAP strategies and actions. The County will modify implementation steps based on monitoring and emerging research to ensure the CHAP adapts to new information and changing circumstances while maintaining long-term consistency in goals and direction.
- 5-Year Strategic Reassessment:** The County will calculate progress toward overarching and goal-level targets and conduct a formal review and potential update of CHAP goals, strategies, actions, and data resources to ensure the CHAP remains aligned with changing conditions and emerging best practices.



Combined Action Table

Table 2 serves as a reference tool for County staff, partners, and decision-makers. The fields labeled Context & County Implementation, Lead, Partners, Timeframe, Status, and Cost reflect the details of the LA County government's approach to implementing each action. County departments can—and already are—undertaking certain actions, while other actions will require new steps or resources. Partnership listings indicate where the County's implementation specifically requires collaboration with external entities, but do not represent all the organizations that might independently advance these actions across the region. Cities and other regional partners are encouraged to take the same actions within their jurisdictions, adapted as needed for their own governance structures.

The following graphic illustrates how to interpret each field of information about an action.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
Action #	Action	Context and County Implementation		Lead Dept(s)	Partners	Timeframe	Status	Cost Ranges
1.1.a	Accelerate progress toward equitable tree canopy goals by evaluating streets that can be redesigned to create more room for trees, such as through the addition of bulbouts, addition or widening of parkways, and removal of parking spots	Existing street design can be a barrier to achieving equitable tree canopy, when factors such as lack of parkway and narrow sidewalks leave insufficient room for healthy tree growth. With research and planning support from CSO and DPH, Public Works will identify street improvement projects in its pipeline where the incorporation of new design elements can be incorporated to help overcome this barrier. PW will engage community members to ensure that community values are reflected in new designs.	CSO, PW	DPH	Short-term (1-2 yrs)	New	\$\$\$ (1M-10M)	

1 Action: A policy, project, practice, or tool that can advance the strategy.

2 Context & County Implementation: Description of how the County will implement the action.

3 Lead: Department that will lead County implementation of the action.

4 Partner: County Department and/or type of external agency with which County Departments will need to coordinate. The list of partners is not inclusive of all Cities or local agencies who must take similar action in order for countywide goals and targets to be achieved.

5 Timeframe: Anticipated timeframe in which the action can be initiated, assuming relevant resources have been secured.

- Short: 1-2 years
- Medium: 3-5 years
- Long: 5+ years

6 Status: The current phase of the action, used to track maturity over time:

- New – A newly proposed action with no prior implementation.
- Sustaining – An action already in progress that requires continued investment or support.
- Scaling – An action that has been piloted or initiated and is now being expanded or replicated.

7 Cost: A rough cost range for County implementation.

- \$: Less than \$200,000
- \$\$: \$200,000 to \$1 million
- \$\$\$: \$1 - \$10 million
- \$\$\$\$: over \$10 million

Table 2. Combined Action Summary Table

Action #	Action	Context and County Implementation	Lead Dept(s)	Partners	Timeframe	Status	Cost Ranges
Goal 1: Cool Outdoor Spaces							
Strategy 1.1: Improve shade equity in the public right of way to reduce overexposure to heat and promote vibrant street life							
Alignment with existing initiatives							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LA County Community Forest Management Plan: Calls for expanded tree canopy in high-need communities. 							
PRIORITY STRATEGY: The County will report on its progress as represented by metrics such as tree stocking rate, number of new bus shelters installed in unincorporated areas, and new designs.							
1.1.a	Accelerate progress toward equitable tree canopy goals by evaluating streets that can be redesigned to create more room for trees, such as through the addition of bulbouts, addition or widening of parkways, and removal of parking spots	Existing street design can be a barrier to achieving equitable tree canopy, when factors such as lack of parkway and narrow sidewalks leave insufficient room for healthy tree growth. With research and planning support from CSO and DPH, Public Works will identify street improvement projects in its pipeline where the incorporation of new design elements can be incorporated to help overcome this barrier. PW will engage community members to ensure that community values are reflected in new designs.	CSO, PW	DPH	Short-term (1-2 yrs)	New	\$\$\$ (1M-10M)
1.1.b	Install bus shelters that provide shade at bus stops and coordinate with transit agencies to work toward providing real-time information on arrivals	Public Works is currently replacing and adding bus shelters in high-need areas where there is room for the standard shelter design. Real-time arrival (RTA) information would further support heat resilience because it can inform riders' decision-making about whether to wait in the heat; incorporating RTA signage into standard shelter design will require long-term coordination between regional transit service providers and local public works agencies.	PW	Arts & Culture, Metro and other transit agencies	Short-term (1-2 yrs)	Sustaining	\$\$\$\$ (10M+)

IMPLEMENTATION

Action #	Action	Context and County Implementation	Lead Dept(s)	Partners	Timeframe	Status	Cost Ranges
1.1.c	Prototype and pilot innovative, space-efficient shade structure designs for locations where trees and standard shelters are infeasible.	There are transit stops and areas with high pedestrian activity in the right-of-way where it is impossible to install standard shade structures due to factors such as limited underground space for roots or a foundation. Public Works is coordinating with external design agencies and initiatives such as the ShadeLA design competition to identify potential new shade designs that can work around these key constraints.	PW	Arts & Culture, CSO	Short-term (1-2 yrs)	New	\$\$\$ (1M-10M)
1.1.d	Remove barriers to tree planting and shade installation such as by updating infrastructure spacing guidelines and revising codes and permit requirements/processes	Current codes and permitting processes are designed to ensure the functionality of existing infrastructure and accessibility; however, they may not be optimized to support shade and heat safety. Analysis of our codes, infrastructure spacing needs, and current design/permitting processes will help the County identify and remove unnecessary barriers to the expansion of shade coverage.	CSO	DRP, LACoFD, Metro, SCAG, PW	Mid-term (3-5 yrs)	New	\$ (<200K)
1.1.e	Support cities and partner agencies in implementing cooling infrastructure by creating County-approved design templates, performance standards, and expedited permitting pathways for shade structures, parklets, and other innovative cooling investments.	Many cities throughout the County lack the capacity or expertise to design their own shade structures or permitting processes and would benefit from having County-approved models. The County can coordinate directly with cities as well as regional entities such as the Southern California Association of Government (SCAG) to share templates and lessons learned and to explore joint or expedited planning processes.	CSO, PW	Cities, SCAG	Mid-term (3-5 yrs)	New	\$\$ (200k-1M)

IMPLEMENTATION

Action #	Action	Context and County Implementation	Lead Dept(s)	Partners	Timeframe	Status	Cost Ranges
Strategy 1.2: Alleviate chronic heat burden in highly paved urban areas through urban greening, design, and smart surfaces							
Alignment with existing initiatives							
• PW Safe, Clean Water Program (Measure W): Funds stormwater initiatives that improve water quality, increase our local water supply, and provide community benefits such as green spaces and parks.							
1.2.a	Seek opportunities to repurpose vacant property into green spaces for the community, including through innovative ownership and stewardship models.	The Parks Needs Assessment is guiding LA County Parks' efforts to acquire and redevelop vacant land into parks and open space. The County will continue to identify and track opportunities as land uses change over time due to factors such as closure of oil wells.	LA County Parks	CSO	Mid-term (3-5 yrs)	Sustaining	\$\$\$\$ (10M+)
1.2.b	Promote urban design strategies that reduce heat retention such as climate-appropriate building orientation, passive cooling through wind flow, reflective or porous materials, and vegetative features in public and private development.	During discretionary review and permitting processes, the County can provide developers with guidance on how to promote heat resilience through the design and placement of buildings, infrastructure, and public amenities. Buildings in particular are a valuable source of shade; planners can reference solar orientation to identify opportunities for casting shade on pedestrian areas through multipurpose design and siting and minimize costs associated with purpose-built shade structures.	DRP		Short-term (1-2 yrs)	New	\$ (<200K)
1.2.c	Explore opportunities to replace asphalt, concrete, artificial turf, and rubberized areas with permeable, cool, or vegetated surfaces in strategic locations such as parking lots and playgrounds	Asphalt, concrete, artificial turf, and rubberized materials tend to have low reflectivity and/or low permeability; this makes them hot to the touch and causes them to store and re-release heat over time, creating an urban heat effect. The County will identify opportunities to replace or alter these surfaces to reduce surface temperature, and Departments that manage relevant sites will assess design options—such as removal of pavement or addition of a high-albedo coating—based on site conditions and community priorities.	CSO, DPH	All Departments, School Districts	Mid-term (3-5 yrs)	Scaling	\$\$\$\$ (10M+)

IMPLEMENTATION

Action #	Action	Context and County Implementation	Lead Dept(s)	Partners	Timeframe	Status	Cost Ranges
1.2.d	Evaluate potential sites and designs for vertical greening, including elements such as climbing vines and vegetation walls, in public facilities and infrastructure	The County will evaluate upcoming projects for opportunities to incorporate vines and other vegetative materials, which can be attached to vertical surfaces and elevated structures to provide cooling from evapotranspiration and shade. These features can also help beautify infrastructure, though they should only be sited in areas with low fire hazard.	CSO, PW	All Departments	Mid-term (3-5 yrs)	New	\$\$ (200k-1M)
Strategy 1.3: Integrate more cooling features into outdoor recreational and gathering spaces							
Alignment with existing initiatives							
• Park Needs Assessment Plus (PNA+):	Identifies gaps in shaded, safe recreational spaces and prioritizes investments in high-need communities.						
1.3.a	Develop inventories and maps of public access to drinking water and shade.	Public infrastructure like hydration stations, trees, and shade structures can offer crucial heat relief for vulnerable populations. CSO is partnering with researchers and partners across the region to document the locations of these critical resources, identify areas with low access, and fundraise for planting/installation projects to improve access. CSO will also work to identify platforms through which the information can be made easily accessible for broader public awareness and use of the resources.	CSO	ISD	Short-term (1-2 yrs)	New	\$ (<200K)
1.3.b	Install and maintain additional shade structures, hydration stations, splash pads, and misters at parks, publicly accessible facilities, and transit hubs	LA County Parks has already compiled a thorough inventory of its cooling features and is actively fundraising to address the remaining needs; CSO will support these efforts and coordinate with other County Departments and partners to identify additional opportunities for installing cooling features to achieve more equitable public access.	LA County Parks	Arts & Culture, CSO, DBH, DHS, DMH, DPH, DPSS, ISD, LAAD, LACMA, Libraries, Metro and other transit agencies, NHM, PW	Mid-term (3-5 yrs)	Scaling	\$\$\$ (10M+)

IMPLEMENTATION

Action #	Action	Context and County Implementation	Lead Dept(s)	Partners	Timeframe	Status	Cost Ranges
1.3.c	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.	Historically, public schools across the region have paved over their outdoor areas to minimize vegetation maintenance costs, without accounting for pavement's costs to student learning and community well-being. Now, some school districts and many community groups are reversing this trend through campus greening initiatives, and they are also giving more attention to the need for shade in campus designs and community access. The County can support these efforts such as by coordinating tours to promote the approach, helping to fundraise, identifying relevant training opportunities for facility managers, and facilitating agreements for joint use of the facilities.	CSO, LACOE	DPH, LA County Parks, School districts	Mid-term (3-5 yrs)	Scaling	\$ (<200K)
1.3.d	Develop emergency cooling, shade, water provision and heat safety guidelines for sporting and other special events.	Los Angeles regularly hosts large-scale events with heightened heat risks during the summer, especially for athletes, staff, and vulnerable visitors unaccustomed to the region's climate. With major events like the FIFA World Cup and LA28 Olympics and Paralympics approaching, there is need to include heat preparedness and response into event planning. Taking guidance from existing state and federal regulations, research and practices guidelines, heat safety is being integrated into local plans.	CSO, DHS, DPH, LACoFD, Sheriff	Metro	Short-term (1-2 yrs)	New	\$\$\$ (1M-10M)
1.3.e	Explore partnerships with commercial landlords and tenants, street vendors, and business associations to support installation and maintenance of awnings, pop-up shade structures, trees, parklets, and other cooling amenities.	Businesses and street vendors provide relief from the heat through awnings, storefront greenings, and pop-up shade structures. The LA County Department of Economic Opportunity already supports business and street vendors through programs such as Renovate which funds facade improvements. By scaling these programs, the County can expand shade infrastructure and provide relief from heat across a variety of spaces.	DEO	Arts & Culture, CSO, PW	Mid-term (3-5 yrs)	New	\$\$\$ (1M-10M)

IMPLEMENTATION

Action #	Action	Context and County Implementation	Lead Dept(s)	Partners	Timeframe	Status	Cost Ranges
Strategy 1.4: Ensure that County assets, especially trees and vegetation that provide cooling benefits in public corridors and gathering spaces, can thrive long-term in the face of rising temperatures							
Alignment with existing initiatives							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park Needs Assessment Plus (PNA+): Identifies gaps in shaded, safe recreational spaces and prioritizes investments in high-need communities. 							
1.4.a	Ensure all trees and plants receive sufficient water during periods of extreme heat, as deemed appropriate to their maturity and species.	During extreme heat, trees and vegetation may need more water than usual in order to survive. The County has begun implementing new standards and using new technologies such as underground water storage and bubblers to ensure that these assets receive sufficient water to survive increasing temperatures; expanding upon these practices and implementing them even during times of drought may require additional funding and changes to water conservation practices during drought.	LA County Parks, PW	Water agencies	Mid-term (3-5 yrs)	Scaling	\$\$\$ (1M-10M)
1.4.b	Evaluate opportunities to improve ecological connectivity between fragmented green spaces and ecosystems by incorporating nature-based solutions into infrastructure, such as green alleys and waterways	When ecosystems are well-connected, flora and fauna are more resilient and better able to survive without human intervention. The County can leverage existing and emerging initiatives to green County streets, alleys, and waterways to not only mitigate urban heat, but also connect fragmented ecosystems and preserve our natural cooling assets.	PW	LA County Parks	Short-term (1-2 yrs)	Sustaining	\$\$\$\$ (10M+)
1.4.c	Select native plants, trees, and pollinator-friendly landscape features when developing or renovating public properties.	Public facilities are distributed throughout the region and can bolster ecosystem connectivity and heat resilience if landscaped with native and climate-adapted plants. The County has begun to transition the landscaping approach at its own facilities, focusing first on new facilities and those with non-functional turf; expansion of this work will require additional training and capital investments.	ISD, LA County Parks	CSO, DBH, Library, NHM	Short-term (1-2 yrs)	Scaling	\$ (<200K)

IMPLEMENTATION

Action #	Action	Context and County Implementation	Lead Dept(s)	Partners	Timeframe	Status	Cost Ranges
Goal 2: Create Heat-Resilient Indoor Spaces							
Strategy 2.1: Protect renters and heat-vulnerable residents from harmful excessive levels of heat in the home and congregate facilities							
Alignment with existing initiatives							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ISD Energy and Retrofit Programs: Support passive and active cooling measures in County-led housing and retrofit initiatives. DPH Rental Housing Habitability Program: Ensures rental units comply with habitability standards, supports property owners in maintaining property values, and promotes safe living conditions. 							
PRIORITY STRATEGY: The County will report on its progress as represented by metrics such as the number of people who have accessed relevant services and resources, and the number of complaints responded to.							
2.1.a	Protect the health of renters during heat waves.	DPH will respond to reported violations of the County's newly adopted indoor maximum temperature ordinance. DPH's education-first approach to enforcement will connect renters and landlords with available resources that protect health and facilitate compliance with the ordinance. DPH will also coordinate with cities that are interested in adopting the ordinance into their own code.	DPH		Short-term (1-2 yrs)	New	\$\$ (200k-1M)
2.1.b	Advise landlords on strategies and resources available to help rental units stay cool.	Following the passage of the Indoor Maximum Temperature Threshold Ordinance, departments are coordinating to develop resources that support landlord compliance. The County's Internal Services Department has developed a website that can help landlords understand how to meet the new requirements and is exploring funding opportunities to provide more hands-on assistance.	ISD		Short-term (1-2 yrs)	New	\$ (<200K)
2.1.c	Support residents with navigating and accessing energy assistance and energy-efficient cooling resources.	Energy-related resources for residents are made available through state and regional partners such as SoCal Edison and the Clean Power Alliance, but each program has its own unique set of eligibility requirements. LA County's Internal Services Department is exploring funding opportunities to offer new resources and has developed a website that can help residents navigate all relevant resources.	ISD		Short-term (1-2 yrs)	Scaling	\$\$ (200k-1M)

IMPLEMENTATION

Action #	Action	Context and County Implementation	Lead Dept(s)	Partners	Timeframe	Status	Cost Ranges
2.1.d	Honor tenant protections so that renters are able to exercise their right to heat-safe housing without harassment or retaliation.	Tenant protections policies administered by Department of Consumer and Business Affairs (DCBA) will be in place for unincorporated LA County throughout the implementation of the Indoor Maximum Temperature Threshold Ordinance to prohibit harassment and unapproved rent increases or pass-through costs, including enacting eviction protections. DCBA will educate both tenants and landlords to address questions related to the new ordinance and accept complaints for alleged violations for tenant protection policies administered by the department.	DCBA		Short-term (1-2 yrs)	Sustaining	\$ (<200K)
2.1.e	Conduct outreach and raise awareness of rights and responsibilities related to renter heat safety.	The County will develop materials in multiple languages and will leverage existing relationships and networks to share information about rights and responsibilities related to renter heat safety via social media, presentations, and other communications. The County will also seek funding to build a dedicated outreach network through community-based organizations.	ISD	CSO, DCBA, DPH	Short-term (1-2 yrs)	New	\$\$ (200k-1M)
2.1.f	Advocate for state and federal agencies to strengthen mobile and manufactured home construction standards for heat safety and to make cooling resources available for mobile and manufactured home residents.	Most mobile and manufactured homes are in high heat areas of LA County and lack sufficient insulation to maintain cool temperatures. Given that mobile and manufactured homes are regulated primarily at the state and federal levels, the County will advocate for state and federal action to ensure that these residents are able to live in heat-safe homes.	CEO, CSO		Short-term (1-2 yrs)	new	\$ (<200K)

IMPLEMENTATION

Action #	Action	Context and County Implementation	Lead Dept(s)	Partners	Timeframe	Status	Cost Ranges
2.1.g	Advance the installation of new cooling features and retro-commissioning of existing equipment in sensitive facilities such as public housing, assisted living, and schools	Retro-commissioning equipment and fixing malfunctioning components can prolong use and maximize performance, while in small facilities, investments in heat pumps can provide efficient cooling benefits. The Internal Services Department can work with County Departments to upgrade County buildings serving heat-vulnerable populations and support external partners in securing funds to make needed improvements in other sensitive facilities.	DACC, ISD, LACDA, LACOE, PD, Sheriff	School Districts	Mid-term (3-5 yrs)	Scaling	\$\$\$ (1M-10M)

Strategy 2.2: Maximize the adoption and use of passive cooling strategies and energy-efficient operations in both public and private buildings

Alignment with existing initiatives

- ISD Energy and Retrofit Programs: Support passive and active cooling measures in County-led housing and retrofit initiatives.
- Cool Roof Ordinance: Requires reflective roofing materials on new and retrofitted buildings to reduce heat absorption.

2.2.a	Support the upskilling of public facility managers and contractors to build capacity for maintaining energy efficient buildings and resilient landscaping	Facility managers need training and continuing education to stay up to date on best practices for energy-efficient and resilient operations. Some County Departments have begun offering such training opportunities, such as LA County Parks' partnership with the Theodore Payne Foundation to train grounds maintenance staff in maintaining vegetated spaces. The Department of Economic Opportunity and the Internal Services Department will have key roles in scaling these efforts given their responsibilities for workforce development and facility maintenance, respectively.	DEO, ISD, LA County, Parks	All Departments	Short-term (1-2 yrs)	Scaling	\$\$ (200k-1M)
2.2.b	Ensure cooling strategies are efficient at existing public buildings and facilities by retro-commissioning existing cooling equipment and applying cool materials and features.	County facility managers will incorporate energy-efficient practices and features when they have major renovations planned. This can range from small components such as solar window film and cool paint to larger changes such retro-commissioning of equipment for improved performance.	ISD	All Departments	Mid-term (3-5 yrs)	Scaling	\$\$\$ (1M-10M)

IMPLEMENTATION

Action #	Action	Context and County Implementation	Lead Dept(s)	Partners	Timeframe	Status	Cost Ranges
2.2.c	Update public building operations and controls to ensure energy-efficient thermal regulation that accounts for the needs of both staff and visitors, such as through air movement, regularly updated HVAC scheduling, and load flexibility	Demand response programs, such as those currently used by many County facilities, offer cost savings while helping reduce strain on the energy grid during peak demand periods. The Internal Services Department is already implementing emergency load reduction programs in 11 buildings and seeks to expand these efforts to maintain safe, cool environments while supporting grid reliability.	ISD	All Departments	Short-term (1-2 yrs)	Scaling	\$\$ (200k-1M)
2.2.d	Pilot a cool surfaces program that provides paid training to disadvantaged workers while increasing reflectivity of roofs, walls, and pavements	This proposed program would involve partnering with community organizations to pay workers with barriers to employment - such as veterans and justice-involved individuals - to become trained in, and then implement, the coating or replacement of existing surfaces with cool materials.	DEO	CSO	Mid-term (3-5 yrs)	New	\$\$ (200k-1M)

Strategy 2.3: In coordination with utilities, promote electricity affordability, clean energy access, and energy resilience for heat-vulnerable communities

Alignment with existing initiatives

- ISD Energy and Retrofit Programs: Support passive and active cooling measures in County-led housing and retrofit initiatives.

2.3.a	Support installation of onsite solar with back-up batteries in publicly accessible indoor cooling locations.	Cool and independently operated spaces like community centers offer trusted alternatives to official public cooling centers. The Internal Services Department and the Chief Sustainability Office can support the community organizations that manage these spaces with seeking funding to build out their cooling features and energy resilience.	ISD	CSO, LA County Parks, Libraries, Utilities	Mid-term (3-5 yrs)	Scaling	\$\$ (200k-1M)
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IMPLEMENTATION

Action #	Action	Context and County Implementation	Lead Dept(s)	Partners	Timeframe	Status	Cost Ranges
2.3.b	Expand the use of energy-efficient cooling strategies in low-income homes such as through the Equitable Building Decarbonization program	The Internal Services Department has received state funding for Equitable Building Decarbonization, through which they are supporting direct home installation of energy-efficient cooling equipment for vulnerable households. This type of support is crucial for making home cooling financially feasible for low-income households.	ISD		Short-term (1-2 yrs)	Sustaining	\$\$\$\$ (10M+)
2.3.c	Support improvements to energy systems to manage demand during heat waves	The County supports a variety of strategies that can help ensure clean energy availability and minimize unnecessary energy use during heat waves. In its role as administrator of SoCalREN, ISD offers services that advance battery storage and microgrid initiatives and runs demand-response and load-shifting programs for residential households and commercial, industrial, and community facilities.	ISD	Utilities	Short-term (1-2 yrs)	Scaling	\$ (<200K)
2.3.d	Explore partnerships with electricity providers to pilot new emergency heat relief strategies, such as suspension of disconnections for non-payment during extreme heat or development of joint protocol for back-up power deployment	Electricity providers are uniquely positioned to prevent power outages and related challenges and burdens, which disproportionately affect low-income people and those who rely on electrically powered medical devices. The County will explore opportunities to partner with electricity providers on pilot programs that optimize energy resources for heat resilience and provide relief to vulnerable populations.	CSO, ISD	Utilities	Short-term (1-2 yrs)	New	\$ (<200K)
2.3.e	Advocate for State regulators to account for health and social impacts related to heat vulnerability and affordable cooling needs in the design of utility regulations and programming	The County engages with State regulators such as the California Public Utilities Commission when they are developing policy that will impact County residents. The County will identify additional opportunities to uplift the local health and social implications of energy regulations to ensure that State regulators can take local needs into consideration for decision-making.	CEO, CSO, ISD		Short-term (1-2 yrs)	New	\$ (<200K)

IMPLEMENTATION

Action #	Action	Context and County Implementation	Lead Dept(s)	Partners	Timeframe	Status	Cost Ranges
Goal 3: Expand Heat Safety Communications and Programs							
Strategy 3.1: Improve access to, and utilization of, cooling locations during extreme heat							
Alignment with existing initiatives							
• Ready LA County “Excessive Heat” Cooling Center interactive map: an online tool that can be used to easily reference where County cooling centers are located with links to additional heat action resources including pools, splash pads, and educational materials.							
3.1.a	Support and promote the use of trusted community spaces as indoor cooling locations during extreme heat	Heat vulnerable individuals may prefer to go to trusted local organizations—such as community centers, places of worship, or private businesses—over official government cooling centers. The County can support the use of these community spaces by featuring them in the regional cooling center list with their non-County status indicated. County staff can identify suitable locations with input from community partners.	OEM	CSO, HSH, ISD, LAAD	Short-term (1-2 yrs)	New	\$ (<200K)
3.1.b	Assess options for promoting and expanding free admission to cultural and recreational facilities that are cool and safe during extreme heat.	Cultural spaces like galleries, museums, and theaters can offer effective relief during extreme heat. Many of these facilities, such as the Natural History Museum or LA County Museum of Art already offer free admission during specified times for LA County residents. The County can promote these options and consider expanding them, feature free community arts organizations on County cooling center lists, and explore partnerships with businesses who may be able to offer free access to their cool spaces during extreme heat.	Arts & Culture, CSO, LACMA, NHM	LA County Parks	Short-term (1-2 yrs)	New	\$ (<200K)
3.1.c	Create an emergency activation fund to cover expenses associated with emergency response efforts and facilitate the testing of new ideas to prevent extreme heat impacts	Historically there have been no dedicated or guaranteed sources of funding to support emergency heat response activities of County agencies or partners. CSO will work to identify a funding source that could not only support the expansion of heat response activities but also improve the timeliness of funding disbursement for other types of disasters.	CSO	OEM	Mid-term (3-5 yrs)	New	\$\$ (200k-1M)

IMPLEMENTATION

Action #	Action	Context and County Implementation	Lead Dept(s)	Partners	Timeframe	Status	Cost Ranges
3.1.d	Explore partnerships to incorporate programming into government-owned cooling centers, including health services, resources such as housing and utility programs, youth and senior programming, and other social services both during, and prior to activations	Additional programming at existing cooling centers could help community members connect to resources and information to support them throughout the heat season. The County will explore potential Cross-departmental or County-community partnerships as a valuable way to offer services that better support vulnerable populations at cooling centers during extreme heat events.	CSO, LAAD, LA County Parks, Libraries, Utilities		Long-term (5+ yrs)	New	\$\$ (200k-1M)
3.1.e	Expand accessible transportation options to publicly accessible indoor cooling locations and other cool recreational spaces such as pools and beaches during extreme heat	Heat vulnerable individuals often face transportation barriers to accessing cooling centers. The County has limited transportation services for people experiencing homelessness which could be expanded with additional funding or could be supplemented with additional types of transportation services for additional vulnerable populations. Potential new clients for these services can be quickly approved to receive them thanks to expedited County processing during emergencies.	CSO, DBH, HSH, LA County Parks, LAAD, Metro and other transit agencies, PW		Mid-term (3-5 yrs)	Scaling	\$\$ (200k-1M)
3.1.f	Pilot outdoor, pet-friendly cooling options for the unhoused population such as misting tents or mobile cooling services	Mobile cooling resources are effective solutions for people who are unable to access traditional cooling centers, such as unhoused individuals whose pets or belongings might be at risk if left behind. The Homeless Initiative and Department of Animal Care & Control seek to pilot mobile misting tents to serve these communities. Partnerships with organizations like health clinics and transit agencies, including Metro, can help scale these efforts and reach a broader population.	HSH	DACC, Metro	Short-term (1-2 yrs)	New	\$\$ (200k-1M)

IMPLEMENTATION

Action #	Action	Context and County Implementation	Lead Dept(s)	Partners	Timeframe	Status	Cost Ranges
3.1.g	Expand the availability & use of inclement weather shelter vouchers as a heat safety option for the unhoused population	LA County already offers shelter vouchers during extreme heat events primarily through the Emergency Response Program (ERP). By expanding and scaling this program through LA County's Department of Homeless Services and Housing, more vulnerable populations can be supported in accessing cool and safe spaces during the heat season.	HSH		Short-term (1-2 yrs)	Scaling	\$\$\$ (1M-10M)

Strategy 3.2: Build the capacity of community organizations and other implementation partners to support resident and worker heat safety

Alignment with existing initiatives

- Health Education, Ambassadors and Training: A 30-month collaboration between DPH, the LA Regional Collaborative for Climate Action and Sustainability, Rising Communities, and the Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians to train community health workers to provide heat education and resources through door-to-door outreach and community engagement.
- DPH Extreme Heat Toolkit for School Campuses: Offers resources and strategies to reference related to extreme heat.

3.2.a	Support schools and childcare providers with adoption of best practices for heat safety	The Department of Public Health has developed educational materials for schools on heat safety practices, which are being shared and disseminated to schools by multiple County divisions and partners. The LA County Office of Education can further support schools in becoming more heat resilient by providing guidance and support for capital improvements such as greening.	DPH	LACOE, School Districts	Short-term (1-2 yrs)	Sustaining	\$ (<200K)
3.2.b	Make heat safety training materials available and adaptable for various groups that serve vulnerable populations, such as promotores, home visiting programs, neighborhood councils, staff at cool refuges, and other networks of community service providers.	Offering heat safety training and materials to community groups and leaders that interact with vulnerable community members, such as promotores and community service providers, may help ensure that the heat safety messages reach vulnerable individuals and are delivered in a way that resonates with the intended audience and supports heat safety practices at both the individual and organizational levels.	CSO, DPH	CEO, DBH, DPSS, DCFS, DMH, LA County Parks, LAAD, LACoFD, Libraries, OEM	Short-term (1-2 yrs)	Scaling	\$\$ (200k-1M)

IMPLEMENTATION

Action #	Action	Context and County Implementation	Lead Dept(s)	Partners	Timeframe	Status	Cost Ranges
3.2.c	Develop a system for coordinating outreach services and resources before and during extreme heat events among public agencies and community response groups to ensure cohesive and comprehensive heat management	Coordination among community groups, service providers, and public agencies before and during extreme heat events could be improved through convenings or the development of shared documents. The County can create these opportunities to exchange information and strategize about resource deployment.	OEM	Cities, DPH, HSH, LACoFD	Mid-term (3-5 yrs)	New	\$ (<200K)
3.2.d	Enable adjustment of worker schedules or locations during extreme heat to prevent injury and illness.	CEO and DHR support County Departments' discretion in identifying opportunities to adjust working hours, locations, and/or attire to minimize worker exposure during the hottest periods and locations of the day. CSO will assess whether the County has any mechanisms to facilitate similar actions for non-County workers.	CEO, CSO, DHR	All Departments	Short-term (1-2 yrs)	Sustaining	\$ (<200K)

Strategy 3.3: Increase public awareness of heat risk and personal strategies for staying cool and safe

PRIORITY STRATEGY: The County will report on its progress as represented by metrics such as number of communication partners, channels used, and engagement with posts.

3.3.a	Utilize additional channels and methods of communication to maximize reach and effectiveness of heat safety communications	Many residents and workers do not see, receive, or understand County extreme heat alerts. The County will reference evidence-based communication strategies to improve reach, accessibility, and impact of heat messaging; this may include the use of multiple media and languages, tailoring of message tone and design, and the dissemination of information through trusted networks that reach vulnerable populations.	CSO, DPH	DCFS, DPSS, ISD, OEM	Short-term (1-2 yrs)	New	\$\$ (200k-1M)
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IMPLEMENTATION

Action #	Action	Context and County Implementation	Lead Dept(s)	Partners	Timeframe	Status	Cost Ranges
3.3.b	Conduct outreach and education to at-risk workers and small, person of color-owned, and immigrant-owned businesses regarding heat safety regulations & resources	Occupational health and safety is regulated at the state and federal levels, but the practicing of extreme heat safety rights and responsibilities remains low in some vulnerable industries. The County will build on its existing public health council model to increase worker and employer awareness and fulfillment of extreme heat precautions, such as by offering training and resources and conducting outreach.	DPH	State agencies	Mid-term (3-5 yrs)	New	\$\$\$ (1M-10M)
3.3.c	Update the County's Heat Event Protocol with information about newly developed response activities and make it publicly available	As new practices and resources are developed, the LA County Office of Emergency Management will update its Heat Event Protocol to accurately reflect any changes and make it publicly available to ensure transparency and facilitate coordination with regional partners.	OEM		Short-term (1-2 yrs)	Sustaining	\$ (<200K)
3.3.d	Coordinate with 211 and Public Health Infoline to ensure that the services and information they provide is aligned with County Heat Event Protocol	Public information channels like 211 and the Public Health Infoline exist to help guide LA county residents on the resources and information available to them. While these info lines are equipped to connect communities to cooling centers, additional resources and staffing can be provided to better connect communities to relevant resources during extreme heat events.	OEM	DPH, HSH	Short-term (1-2 yrs)	Sustaining	\$ (<200K)
3.3.e	Advocate for state and federal resources to be made available for extreme heat disasters	Extreme heat is still not recognized as a disaster at either a national or state level, even though it leads to hundreds of deaths each year. The County will advocate for the recognition of extreme heat as a disaster and mobilization of resources to help the region recover more effectively from the escalating and ongoing impacts of hotter heat seasons.	CEO, CSO	LACoFD, OEM	Mid-term (3-5 yrs)	New	\$ (<200K)

IMPLEMENTATION

Action #	Action	Context and County Implementation	Lead Dept(s)	Partners	Timeframe	Status	Cost Ranges
3.3.f	Improve public signage and wayfinding information for heat safety resources such as hydration stations	Wayfinding signage in strategic locations can help community members find and access hydration stations, shade structures, and cooling centers with augmented hours—though the need for this signage must be carefully balanced with the need to minimize signage clutter and overcrowding to ensure that messages can be easily perceived and understood.	LA County Parks, Metro, PW		Mid-term (3-5 yrs)	New	\$\$ (200k-1M)

Strategy 3.4: Improve the capacity of the health system to mitigate, prepare for, and respond to heat risk

Alignment with existing initiatives

- Los Angeles County Department of Health multidisciplinary teams and street medicine program supports physical and mental health, substance abuse, and case management.
- DPH Heat Preparedness Guide: A resource being developed and piloted with healthcare partners in three high-risk communities in the eastern, northwest, and southern parts of the County.

3.4.a	Collect and analyze data on extreme heat events to improve future planning and response efforts	The Department of Public Health tracks emergency department visits related to heat illness and is working to strengthen its data collection and analysis capabilities. CSO will support these efforts by facilitating connections with the research community, identifying opportunities to build upon methodologies used in external or one-time studies, and bridging the analyses to heat planning and response efforts.	DPH	CSO	Mid-term (3-5 yrs)	Scaling	\$\$ (200k-1M)
3.4.b	Support the development of heat safety trainings and emergency heat protocol for health service providers, EMTs, in-home and adult care programs	The County will develop and distribute a heat preparedness toolkit and offer an introductory webinar for health service providers to improve their ability to recognize heat-related illnesses and provide quick and effective treatment.	DHS, DPH	DMH	Short-term (1-2 yrs)	New	\$ (<200K)

IMPLEMENTATION

Action #	Action	Context and County Implementation	Lead Dept(s)	Partners	Timeframe	Status	Cost Ranges
3.4.c	Increase street medicine outreach during extreme heat	Street medicine teams reach out to unhoused residents and provide direct relief in the form of water, ice, hydration kits, and even Naloxone in cases of overdose. County agencies including the Department of Health Services and LA Care run field teams that provide medical services, and could be expanded on to build capacity, including greater geographic coverage or activation of mobile clinics during extreme heat events.	DHS, LA CARE, HSH	DPH	Mid-term (3-5 yrs)	Scaling	\$\$ (200k-1M)
3.4.d	Develop protocol for notifying clients/patients of heat risk and personal safety practices based on pre-existing conditions and medications	Certain health conditions and medications put people at greater risk of heat-related health impacts. Healthcare providers are uniquely positioned to identify people with these risks and reach out to them with tailored information about how to mitigate the risks; with additional resources, the Department of Public Health can develop guidance for healthcare providers on effective strategies and County health service providers can use existing communication tools to do so.	DPH	DHS, LA Care	Mid-term (3-5 yrs)	New	\$ (<200K)

A photograph of a sunset over a city skyline. The sky is a warm orange and yellow, with the sun low on the horizon. Silhouettes of palm trees are in the foreground, and the city's buildings are visible in the background.

Acknowledgments

APPENDIX

A

APPENDIX A: ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Developing the Los Angeles County Heat Action Plan would not have been possible without the leadership, dedication, and collaboration of numerous individuals and organizations throughout Los Angeles County. As author of this plan, the Chief Sustainability Office (CSO) is grateful to the members of the Board of Supervisors for their commitment to advancing climate resilience and ensuring that the protection of residents from extreme heat remains a County priority.

CSO is thankful to the members of the Steering Committee and Goal-specific Workgroups, composed of representatives from County departments, cities, regional agencies, utilities, academic institutions, and community-based organizations. Their insight, technical expertise, and lived experience shaped the strategies and actions of this plan and ensured that it reflects the needs and priorities of those most affected by extreme heat.

CSO would also like to acknowledge the contributions of the consultant team—Paradigm, AECOM, and Environmental Science Associates—whose technical support and facilitation were invaluable to the planning process.

Finally, CSO is especially grateful to the many stakeholders and community members who participated in workshops, surveys, and consultations. Their knowledge, perspectives, and lived experiences grounded the CHAP in community realities and strengthened its capacity to serve as a practical and accountable framework for protecting the residents of Los Angeles County from extreme heat.

Board of Supervisors

Supervisor Hilda L. Solis | Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell | Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath | Supervisor Janice Hahn | Supervisor Kathryn Barger

Chief Sustainability Office

Rita Kampalath, Chief Sustainability Officer | Raj Dhillon | Rebecca Ferdman | Ali Fazzini | Matt Gonser | Julie Gomez | Andres Gonzalez | Clement Lau | Jaida Nabayan | Victoria Simon | Martha Velasco

Steering Committee and Workgroup Members

Steering Committee

Antelope Valley Partners for Health | Climate Resolve | Gateway Cities Council of Governments | LA City Climate Emergency Mobilization Office | LA County Department of Public Health | LA County Public Works | LA Metro | LEAP-LA Coalition, represented by Physicians for Social Responsibility Los Angeles and Pacoima Beautiful | Los Angeles Regional Collaborative for Climate Action and Sustainability | ReDesignLA, represented by the Council for Watershed Health | San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments | South Bay Cities Council of Governments | Southern California Association of Governments | UCLA Institute of the Environment and Sustainability | UCLA Luskin Center for Innovation

Goal 1 Workgroup

Active San Gabriel Valley | Antelope Valley Partners for Health | City of Pomona | Climate Resolve | Council for Watershed Health | LA County Department of Regional Planning | LA County Public Works | LA Metro | LA Waterkeeper on behalf of Infrastructure Justice LA | LA City Climate Emergency Mobilization Office | Longcore Lab at UCLA Institute of the Environment and Sustainability | Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy | Pacoima Beautiful | Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains | Southern California Association of Governments | TreePeople | UCLA Luskin Center for Innovation

Goal 2 Workgroup

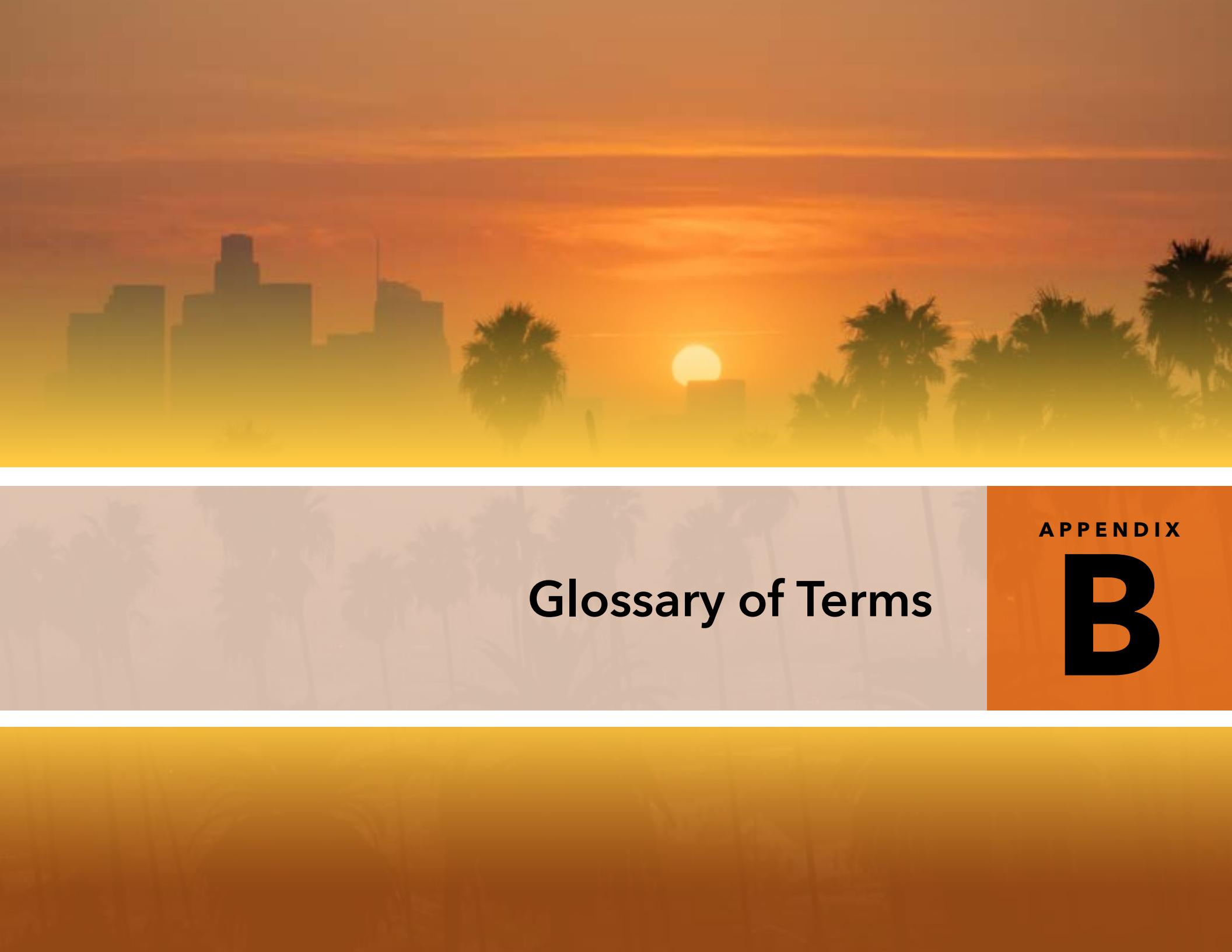
AARP Los Angeles | Clean Power Alliance | Climate Resolve | Communities for a Better Environment | Esperanza Community Housing | LA County Department of Public Health | LA County Internal Services Department | Lawrence Berkeley National Lab | Physicians for Social Responsibility Los Angeles | San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments | Southern California Edison | Strategic Actions for a Just Economy | The Greenlining Institute | US Green Building Council California

Goal 3 Workgroup

AltaMed | Antelope Valley Partners for Health | Asian Pacific Environmental Network | Community Organized Relief Effort | Emergency Network Los Angeles | Instituto de Educación Popular del Sur de California | LA Care | LA County Office of Emergency Management | LA City Climate Emergency Mobilization Office | LA County Aging and Disabilities Department | LA County Department of Public Health | LA County Medical Association | Los Angeles Regional Collaborative for Climate Action and Sustainability | UCLA Center for Healthy Climate Solutions | Voces Unidas en Pacoima

Consultant Team



A photograph of a sunset over a city skyline. The sky is filled with warm orange and yellow hues, with the sun partially visible behind buildings. In the foreground, the silhouettes of palm trees are visible against the bright sky.

Glossary of Terms

APPENDIX

B

Key Heat Resilience Terms

Adaptive Capacity: The ability to adjust to climate change, to moderate potential damages, to take advantage of opportunities, or to cope with consequences.

Air Temperature: The temperature of the air as measured by a thermometer in a shaded and ventilated location. Influenced by wind flow, humidity, and surrounding surfaces.

Extreme Heat: A prolonged period of very hot weather, often with high humidity. There are many different approaches for identifying when heat has become extreme, including specific temperatures (e.g., 95+ degrees Fahrenheit) or heat index equivalent; LA County uses the National Weather Service HeatRisk tool, which identifies daily thresholds that are unique for each location and date to account for local climatic differences and acclimation.

Heat Exposure: The amount of heat that people, systems, or environments experience—factoring in both intensity and duration.

Heat Exhaustion: A heat-related illness where blood flow to vital organs decreases, leading to dizziness, weakness, and dehydration.

Heat Risk: The potential for adverse health effects and other impacts resulting from exposure to extreme heat. It encompasses a range of factors, including the severity and duration of heat, individual vulnerability, and the environment.

Heat-Related Illness: Illnesses triggered by high temperatures and humidity, including heat rash, heat cramps, exhaustion, and heat stroke.

Heat Sensitivity: The degree to which people or systems are affected by exposure to heat.

Heat Stress: Physical strain caused by heat exposure. Prolonged heat stress increases the risk of illness or injury.

Heat Stroke: A life-threatening condition where the body's temperature regulation fails, potentially leading to death if untreated.

Heat Vulnerability: Likelihood that a person, group, or system will experience impacts from heat, based on exposure, sensitivity, and adaptive capacity.

Heat-Vulnerable Communities: Neighborhoods and groups of people that have an elevated risk of heat impacts. The UCLA Heat Map identifies heat-vulnerable communities by zip code, based on high rates of heat-related health illnesses among residents; however, it is also possible to identify and support heat-vulnerable communities and populations whose vulnerability is driven by characteristics such as transit dependence or occupation.

Passive Cooling Strategies: Building design techniques and practices that reduce indoor temperatures and improve thermal comfort without relying on mechanical air conditioning systems. Examples include reflective roofing materials, improved insulation, enhanced natural ventilation, strategic window treatments, shading devices, and building orientation that minimizes heat gain.

Radiant Heat: Heat emitted in the form of infrared radiation, which travels through the air and warms objects and people directly without needing to heat the surrounding air. Common sources of radiant heat in outdoor environments include sunlight, asphalt, buildings, and other surfaces that absorb and re-radiate solar energy. Radiant heat can significantly increase perceived heat exposure even when air temperatures remain constant.

Urban Heat Effect: Urban areas that experience higher temperatures than surrounding rural areas due to heat-absorbing surfaces like asphalt and concrete that increase levels of radiant heat at ground level, especially at nighttime.

Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Definition
Arts & Culture	Los Angeles County Department of Arts & Culture
CEO	Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office
CSO	Los Angeles County Chief Sustainability Office
DACC	Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care and Control
DBH	Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors
DCBA	Los Angeles County Department of Consumer and Business Affairs
DCFS	Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services
DEO	Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity
DHS	Los Angeles County Department of Health Services
DMH	Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health
DPH	Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
DPSS	Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services
DRP	Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning
HSH	Los Angeles County Department of Homeless Services and Housing

Abbreviation	Definition
ISD	Los Angeles County Internal Services Department
LA County Parks	Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation
LAAD	Los Angeles County Aging & Disabilities Department
LACDA	Los Angeles County Los Angeles County Development Authority
LACMA	Los Angeles County Los Angeles County Museum of Art
LACOE	Los Angeles County Los Angeles County Office of Education
LACoFD	Los Angeles County Fire Department
NHM	Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County
OEM	Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management
PD	Los Angeles County Probation Department
PW	Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
SCAG	Southern California Association of Governments
Sheriff	Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

A photograph of a city skyline at sunset. The sky is a warm orange and yellow, with the sun low on the horizon. Silhouettes of buildings and palm trees are visible against the bright sky.

Methodology for CHAP Targets

APPENDIX

C

APPENDIX C: METHODOLOGY FOR CHAP TARGETS

This appendix documents the rationale, data sources, and analytical methods used to develop the targets associated with the County Heat Action Plan (CHAP) goals. Targets were designed to be measurable, repeatable over time, and aligned with available datasets while supporting the Plan's equity and resilience objectives. Alternative targets were evaluated but not selected due to data limitations, methodological constraints, or misalignment with outcome-focused tracking.

Planwide Target

By 2045, prevent 30% of projected heat-related ER visits.

Target rationale

As noted in "How to Use The CHAP," a failure to adapt and prepare for more extreme heat would likely lead to an increase in heat-related ER visits due to rising temperatures. The overarching purpose of this plan is to prevent the negative impacts of rising temperatures, especially the impacts on health and well-being which can be represented by health outcome data.

Baseline Data Sources

Annual Emergency Department (ED) and Patient Discharge Data (PDD) datasets from the California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI).

Methodology/Approach

The LA County Department of Public Health analyzed cases of heat-related conditions, identified by selected International Classification of Diseases Revision 9 (ICD-9) for years 2005 – 2015 and 10 (ICD-10) codes starting October 2015 – 2022 in primary or other diagnoses. 2016-2018 heat-related illness hospital admissions estimates have been updated to include heat-related illness in infants and other corrections; 2005-2015 estimates do not include cases of newborn environmental hyperthermia because of the limitation of ICD-9 codes. Additional information on the methodology can be found here: http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/docs/about/heat-related-illness-data_brief.pdf.

Alignment

These targets are included in the OurCounty Plan and represent fulfillment of the commitment outlined in that plan to develop and implement a County Heat Action Plan.

Goal 1: Cool Outdoor Spaces

Target

By 2045, increase the percentage of bus stops with functional shade at 3:00 p.m. to 100 percent.

Target Rationale

This target represents reduction in heat exposure within the public right-of-way for transit users, a population that disproportionately includes lower-income residents and other vulnerable groups. Transit users are stationary and exposed when waiting at bus stops during peak heat conditions. 3:00 p.m. typically corresponds with the highest daily air temperatures and relatively low amounts of shade due to the angle of the sun. The County identified 20 square feet as the minimum amount of shade coverage for the shade to be considered functional.

Several alternative target concepts were evaluated, including corridor-based shade metrics and total shade coverage. These options were not selected due to unresolved methodological challenges related to corridor definition and pedestrian data availability.

Baseline Data Sources

Baseline analysis was conducted by the UCLA Luskin Center for Innovation using bus stop inventories available from by LA Metro and LA County Public Works and USGS Airborne point cloud data showing the amount of shade cast on the ground, from any source, at the identified locations at 3pm on a summer day in 2023.

APPENDIX C: METHODOLOGY FOR CHAP TARGETS

Methodology / Approach

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) point cloud (LiDAR) data was retrieved from Amazon Web Services (AWS). The point cloud data were then used to generate a Full Digital Surface Model (FDSM), Digital Elevation Model (DEM), and a Full Canopy Height Model. Building footprint data from Microsoft was then used to mask FDSM to generate a building and ground surface model (BSM) and to reverse-mask FCHM to generate vegetation canopies only, setting areas covered by buildings to zero (CDSM). Additionally, CDSM pixels with values less than 1.3 m were set to zero, as they are not high enough to generate shade. The BSM, CDSM, and DEM were then used to model shadows from buildings and trees at noon, 3 PM, and 6 PM (see Buo et al. (2023) for further details). The bus stop location data were then used to compute the shaded area within a three-meter radius.

Buo, I., Sagris, V., Jaagus, J., & Middel, A. (2023). High-resolution thermal exposure and shade maps for cool corridor planning. *Sustainable Cities and Society*, 93, 104499. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scs.2023.104499>

Alignment

This target complements Countywide initiatives to expand urban tree canopy, increase access to recreational cooling assets, and reduce heat exposure in highly paved corridors. It reinforces a layered cooling strategy that combines long-term landscape investments with targeted, site-specific interventions at high-use locations.

Goal 2: Create Heat-Resilient Indoor Spaces

Target

No increase in residents reporting trouble sleeping on very hot nights.

Target Rationale

Sleep disruption during hot nights is a documented outcome of indoor heat exposure and is associated with adverse physical and mental health outcomes. Progress toward this target will reflect whether indoor conditions and protective factors are improving sufficiently to offset rising temperatures. A “no increase” target was selected to acknowledge the influence of multiple factors beyond direct CHAP implementation.

Other potential targets related to cool roofs, building performance, renter protections, power outages, and facility-specific indoor conditions were evaluated but not selected due to insufficient baseline data, inconsistent inventories across jurisdictions, or the need for new policy adoption prior to meaningful trend tracking.

Baseline Data Sources

Baseline conditions are drawn from the 2025 LABarometer Mobility & Sustainability survey.

Methodology / Approach

The LABarometer survey is regularly administered to the LABarometer panel, a probabilitybased Internet survey panel of approximately 2,000 adults randomly selected from households throughout Los Angeles County. Additional information about the survey content and methods can be found at the University of Southern California's Center for Economic and Social Research website [here](#).

Alignment

This target complements the OurCounty Sustainability Plan’s energy burden reduction goals by linking upstream economic and infrastructure conditions to downstream lived experience. While energy burden measures affordability constraints, sleep disruption reflects whether households can effectively maintain safe indoor conditions during extreme heat events.

Goal 3: Expand Heat Safety Communications and Programs

Target

By 2045, increase the number of cooling locations on the ReadyLACounty map by 30%.

Target Rationale

The ReadyLACounty map includes cooling center sites directly managed by the County as well as those managed by Cities. However these are not the only types of sites that can provide valuable cooling to community members; as outlined in CHAP Strategy 3.1, the County will begin supporting and promoting trusted community-run sites as key cooling locations. By providing support and increasing awareness for these sites, the County aims to increase their utilization among vulnerable populations. Other potential targets related to transportation services, programming, communications reach, workforce training, and heat-related health incidents were evaluated but not selected due to data gaps, weaker alignment with goal strategies, or an emphasis on process rather than measurable outcomes.

Baseline Data Sources

County cooling center data is provided each year by County Departments and City cooling center data is provided by City staff.

Alignment

This target supports the broader strategy within the OurCounty Sustainability Plan to develop community capacity to respond to climate emergencies, and the corresponding targets related to household disaster preparedness.

A photograph of a city skyline at sunset. The sky is a warm orange and yellow, with the sun low on the horizon. In the foreground, the silhouettes of palm trees are visible. The city buildings are dark against the bright sky.

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APPENDIX

D

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