



COOL RETROSPECTIVE: Cool Surfaces in the News

Each quarter, the Global Cool Cities Alliance (GCCA) compiles reports covering cool roofs, cool pavements, and a wide range of urban heat island-related issues in a report we call *Cool Retrospective*. In this issue, we take a look back at the summer of 2014.

Further Evidence That Cool Roofs Make Cooler Cities

A team of researchers from the Georgia Institute of Technology [studied heat waves](#) in Philadelphia, Atlanta and Phoenix, and found that using combinations of vegetation and reflectance could offset projected increases in heat-related mortality by 40 to 99%.

Researchers at [Yale reviewed data](#) for 65 US cities and found humidity and other factors that impact a city's ability to move heat are important contributors to the UHI effect.

Researchers at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratories have developed [a new map](#) to help Californians understand if their roof [contributes to or helps to solve the problem](#) of urban heat.

Latest Studies Link Urban Heat and Climate Change

Climate Central [collected temperature data](#) on 60 US cities from 1970 to date, and found that nearly all of them have heat islands that are accelerating urban warming trends.

The US Centers for Disease Control released a report linking [Climate Change and Extreme Heat](#). From 1999 through 2009, extreme heat caused

over 7,800 deaths in the United States. Heat waves are becoming more frequent, more severe, and are lasting longer. This report explains how cities can prepare for these extreme heat events.

Cool Roofs Making Strides in Asia

Working with scientists in China, researchers at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory found that cool roofs help reduce Chinese energy use and lower greenhouse gas emissions. [This study](#) was led by GCCA Board member, Ronnen Levinson.

Seoul, South Korea launches a cool roofs initiative with [a campaign](#) to help people paint their roofs white.

New Reports Link Extreme Heat with Danger to Human Health – Confirm Need for Urgent Action

A [recent report](#) from the World Meteorological Organization notes that extreme heat is now the number one weather-related killer worldwide.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control released a new [set of guidelines](#) to help communities deal with the health problems brought on by climate change.

The World Health Organization convened the first [global conference](#) to bring together health officials and meteorologists, and identified [extreme heat](#) as a significant contributor to bad air and health problems.

A recent [heat wave hit Japan](#), killing 11, sending 1,900 to hospitals, and breaking heat records in 14 Japanese cities.

Low Income Communities Hit Hardest by Extreme Heat and Pollution

EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy, [discusses the impact](#) of climate change - pollution, superstorms and extreme heat - on poor communities.

[A recent report](#) by the Center for American Progress notes that low-income communities are hardest hit by extreme weather, and offers guidelines to help these communities become more climate resilient.

In Brief

A [recent study](#) reveals that the urban heat island effect in London has been underestimated by as much as forty-five percent, due to the location of the data collection points around the city.

A bipartisan group of mayors has approved [a resolution](#) that encourages cities to use nature to "protect freshwater supplies, defend the nation's coastlines, maintain a healthy tree and green space cover and protect air quality."

LA's [Cool Roof Rebates](#) make conserving energy more affordable as local their [cool roof ordinance](#) goes into effect.

GCCA in the News

GCCA Executive Director, Kurt Shickman [appeared on WAMU's Metro Connection](#), to discuss the dangers of extreme heat, and explained how cool roofs can lower temperatures.

Kurt Shickman also recently [talked with KCRW's Madeleine Brand](#) about urban heat islands and cool roofs.

Contact GCCA

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