Overview of EPA's Heat Island Reduction Program

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Sustainable Communities Conference

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Outline

- EPA Heat Island Program
- Key Program Outreach Features
  - Heat Island Database
  - Reducing Urban Heat Islands: Compendium of Strategies
  - Webcasts

EPA Urban Heat Island (UHI) Program

Program Objective

- Communicate scientific advancements to policymakers, program designers and program implementers (most often at the local level)

  Examples of scientific developments:
  - Heat island science, modeling, and measurement
  - Innovative mitigation technologies in areas such as cool pavements, cool roofs, green roofs, and trees and vegetation

Program Community

- Policymakers, program designers and program implementers
- Researchers/academia
- Industry, developers of new technology
- General public (e.g., K-12 students and teachers, coaches)
- Media

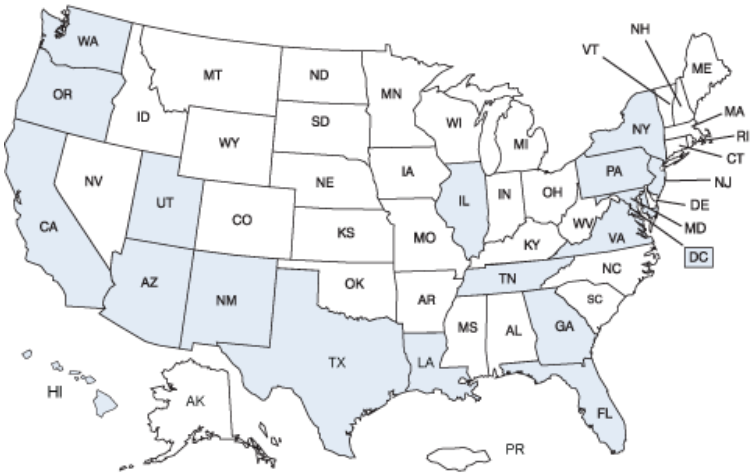
Key Heat Island Program Features

- **Website**, recently re-launched website, New features include user-friendly format, updated content, calendar of events, heat island in the news, featured webcast, updated database
- **Database**, "Where You Live"
  - Provides info on more than 75 local and statewide initiatives to reduce heat islands and achieve related benefits *(more on upcoming slide)*
- **Compendium** of Strategies: Reducing Urban Heat Islands
  - Document describes the causes and impacts of summertime urban heat islands and promotes strategies for lowering temperatures *(more on upcoming slide)*
- **Webcasts**, www.epa.gov/heatislands/resources/webcasts.htm
  - Quarterly online meetings for our diverse program audience spotlighting local/regional urban heat island programs, new scientific findings, and upcoming meetings
- **Listserve**, email EPA_heatisland_subscribe@icfi.com
  - Disseminates info to heat island community, e.g., funding opportunities, conference call for papers, webcasts, and more

EPA Heat Island Database

- Actions listed in the database are some efforts underway to cool communities while saving energy, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving air quality

- Each entry in the database includes a description of the activity, its current status, and a link to a website (if available) for more information.



- The database can be searched by:
  - Clicking on U.S. map (diagram on right)
  - State and locality
  - Initiative Type
  - Strategy

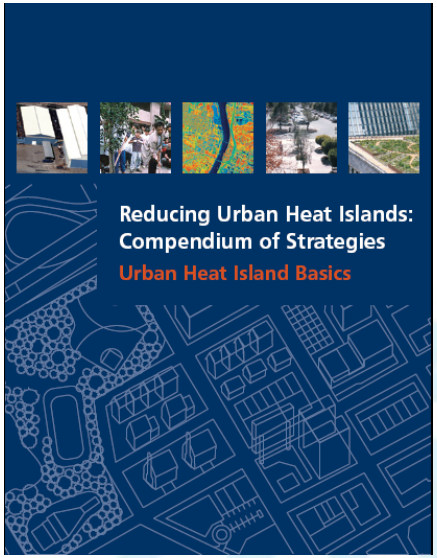
- If you are aware of heat island initiatives, please submit through our website.

http://yosemite.epa.gov/gw/statepolicyactions.nsf/webpages/HIRI_Initiatives.html

EPA Heat Island Compendium

Reducing Urban Heat Islands: Compendium of Strategies

- Provides an overview of latest science, mitigation strategies, case studies, and recommendations for additional resources
- Chapters
  - Heat Island Basics
  - Trees and Vegetation (Mitigation Strategy)
  - Green Roofs (Mitigation Strategy)
  - Cool Roofs (Mitigation Strategy)
  - Cool Pavements (Mitigation Strategy)
  - Heat Island Reduction Activities



www.epa.gov/heatislands/resources/compendium.htm

EPA Heat Island Webcasts

- EPA holds free, national, quarterly urban heat island webcasts.
- Stakeholders from around the country inform each other of their urban heat island-related work.
- Scientists, practitioners, industry representatives, and government officials and staff all participate.
- Webcasts cover topics such as:
  - Measuring and Modeling Urban Heat Islands
  - Heat Island Impacts (e.g., air, water quality)
  - Mitigation (e.g., strategies, technologies, activities)
- Upcoming Webcast: Pavements, end of March

http://www.epa.gov/heatisland/resources/webcasts.htm

EPA Heat Island Program

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Main Website:

www.epa.gov/heatislands