

EXTREME HEAT CALL TO ACTION

A PARTNERSHIP TO ACHIEVE A
HEAT-RESILIENT NATION

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THE WHITE HOUSE
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A Partnership to Achieve a Heat-Resilient Nation

In communities across the United States, extreme heat is becoming more frequent and more severe. In many cities and towns, high temperatures now persist overnight, and multi-day heat waves are reaching higher peak temperatures and lasting longer. Major cities had an average of two heat waves per year in the 1960s, while today, [the average is six](#). These extreme heat events have significant impacts on economies, ecosystems, infrastructure, and overall health and wellbeing—especially in [historically marginalized](#) communities.

- In the **workplace**, extreme heat can be a hazard to both indoor and outdoor workers, [including](#) firefighters, bakery workers, farmers, construction workers, miners, boiler room workers, factory workers, public works employees, farmworkers, waste management workers, transportation and warehouse workers, utility workers, roofers, and many others. Increased heat outdoors can also worsen conditions for workers inside, including by making it harder to cool down indoor environments.
- In our **communities**, extreme heat is raising costs for American families. Not only does extreme heat send many Americans to emergency rooms and urgent care clinics, it also disrupts food supplies; warps roads, bridges, railways, and other critical infrastructure; and spikes air conditioning, electricity, and insurance bills in American homes and businesses. Extreme heat has also led to power outages and productivity losses, creating additional costs and hazards in our communities.
- In the **natural environment**, extreme heat is stressing our forests, oceans, and other ecosystems. Heat is forcing species to migrate, and is creating unprecedented drought and wildfire conditions, particularly in the West. In our oceans, rising temperatures are leading to mass die-offs, breaking food chains, and harming sensitive coral reef ecosystems.
- And of course, extreme heat affects our **health and wellbeing**. Extreme heat can lead to health emergencies like heat stroke, and can make chronic conditions like heart disease and asthma worse, including by lowering outdoor air quality. Heat in our schools affects our children, worsening the learning environment, creating risks for student athletes, cancelling classes, and lowering test scores.

While climate change continues to drive temperatures higher, leaders in every community and at every level of government have critical roles to play in protecting our communities from the dangerous effects of extreme heat. Federal agencies, the United States Congress, states, Tribes, Territories, local governments, businesses, religious institutions, non-governmental organizations, and others must work together to prepare and protect our communities from the worst effects of extreme heat.

The Biden-Harris Administration has worked hard to address the climate crisis, lower cooling costs, harden our infrastructure, and invest in innovative cooling strategies across America. The federal government is developing [new forecasting tools](#), [adapting our grid](#), [retrofitting](#) and [weatherizing](#) homes, [protecting workers](#), creating [heat-mitigating green spaces](#), [building community capacity](#), and more. Even so, communities across the country are still at risk—which



is why the Biden-Harris Administration is doubling down on its commitment to build a climate resilient Nation through the [National Climate Resilience Framework](#) and the [National Heat Strategy](#), including:

- Aligning and strengthening Federal capacity, capabilities, and resources to ensure the Nation is resilient to heat.
- Fostering engagement, collaboration, support, and joint activities among and with state, local, Tribal, and Territorial governments, and other non-Federal partners to build a heat-resilient Nation and promote heat resilience globally.

To achieve these goals, and fulfill the objectives of the National Climate Resilience Framework, the Biden-Harris Administration is launching an **Extreme Heat Call to Action** on behalf of the American people to invest in building a thriving, heat-resilient Nation.

Climate Resilience Goals

In partnership with federal efforts, the **Extreme Heat Call to Action** encourages communities to commit to these resilience goals set by the [National Climate Resilience Framework](#). [These goals address various hazards that affect communities, including extreme heat:](#)

- Embed climate resilience into planning and management.
- Increase resilience of the built environment to both acute climate shocks and chronic stressors.
- Mobilize capital, investment, and innovation to advance climate resilience at scale.
- Equip communities with the information and resources needed to assess their climate risks and develop the climate resilience solutions most appropriate for them.
- Protect and sustainably manage lands and waters to enhance resilience while providing numerous other benefits.
- Help communities become not only more resilient, but also safer, healthier, and more equitable and economically strong.

Tools, Methods, and Approaches to Address Extreme Heat

Participants in the **Extreme Heat Call to Action** are encouraged to lead by example and use all of the tools at their disposal to protect their communities from extreme heat, in advance of the 2025 heat season. There is no one-size fits all approach to combating the adverse effects of heat, and the following resources are examples of the types of approaches that might be employed by a participating state, Tribe, territory, local government, business, or non-governmental organization include, but are not limited to, actions highlighted in the [U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit](#) and the following, taken and adapted from Appendix A of the [National Heat Strategy](#):

- **Long-Term Adaptation and Resilience Actions**
 - Improving tree canopy and heat-mitigating vegetation.
 - Installing new cooling infrastructure, including cooling centers, heat-reflective roofs and pavements, misting stations, shade structures, cool transit stops, water fountains, outdoor pools, and splash pads.



- Updating policies, programs, and laws to account for extreme heat such as home energy efficiency programs, home weatherization programs, energy codes, cooling cost subsidies and no-shut-off programs, and maximum safe indoor temperature standards.
 - Establishing or expanding programs to reduce homelessness and inadequate housing, and create air-conditioned temporary housing options, especially during the hottest months of the year.
 - Providing long-term support for Resilience Hubs, including by installing air conditioning and backup solar and battery systems, ensuring access to water during heat events, and coordinating community programming at safe indoor spaces during heat events.
 - Developing, revising, or supporting state, Tribal, Territorial, and community-level goals on extreme heat.
 - Expanding or establishing new partnerships between Tribal Nations, states or Territories, and local communities with environmental justice concerns to address extreme heat.
 - Making information and tools relevant to extreme heat—including climate and heat data, hazard assessments, geospatial tools, [predictive data](#), and federal resources—more widely available, actionable, and accessible at the local level.
 - Procuring clean mobile power (i.e., battery storage or solar generators) to deploy as necessary during extreme heat events.
 - Appointing a Chief Heat Officer.
- **Planning Actions**
 - Establishing new heat action plans and heat-health alert thresholds for heat action.
 - Mapping urban heat islands and heat-affected populations.
 - Running heat tabletop exercises to test and improve existing plans.
 - Developing or expanding programs that encourage people to check on neighbors, friends, and family during disasters such as heat waves.
 - Using existing seasonal forecasts in new or innovative ways, and supporting research in heat forecasting to determine the timing and intensity of heat events.
 - Working with trusted community partners to establish phone trees and community-check-in programs.
- **Preparedness Actions**
 - Conducting new public heat awareness education and communication campaigns.
 - Providing heat information in additional languages, formats, and platforms.
 - Equipping emergency responders and healthcare providers with new resources to address extreme heat, and pre-positioning key assets before heat events.
- **Response Actions**
 - Providing new rapid-response and mobile cooling resources like air-conditioned buses or vans, hydration stations, portable air-conditioned tents, cooling towel and ice pack distribution stations, and surging medical and first response units.
 - Opening new Resilience Hubs or cooling centers during extreme heat events.



- Taking new steps to amplify and communicate broadcasts and warnings alerting people about life-threatening temperatures, actions they should take to stay safe, and local services available to support them.
- Supporting surveillance and monitoring of heat events and their impacts.
- **Recovery Actions**
 - Supporting research into the effectiveness of heat response efforts and new ideas for improving heat preparedness and response.
 - Tracking progress on key heat and health metrics.
 - Accounting for and measuring damages associated with extreme heat events.
 - Cataloguing best practices and debriefing lessons learned from extreme heat events.
 - Sharing lessons learned, best practices, and areas of improvement identified widely with both governmental and non-governmental partners.

Participating in the Extreme Heat Call to Action

The Biden-Harris Administration invites interested organizations to submit a commitment for the Extreme Heat Call to Action. The White House will collect submissions for the Call to Action through November 1st, which may include information about the goals that communities have set and the new actions they are planning in advance of next year's heat season.

Please submit your commitment [here](#).