

Comprehensive Cooling: Strategies for a Heat Resilient Future

Overview

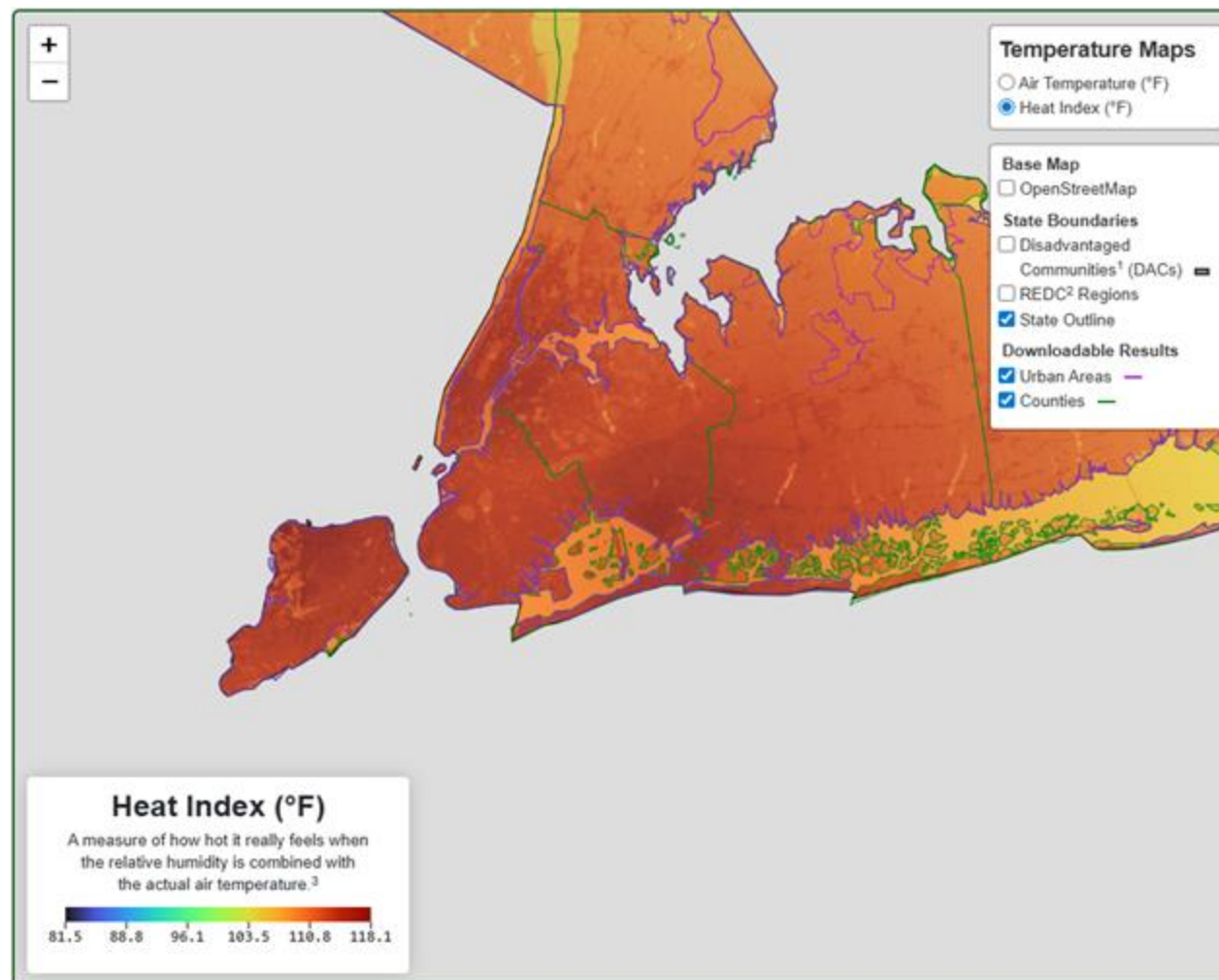
- WE ACT'S Mission
- Heat Risk
- Policy Interventions
- Strategic Priorities

WE ACT's Mission

Since 1988, we have worked to build healthy communities by ensuring that people of color and/or low income participate meaningfully in the creation of sound and fair environmental health and protection policies and practices.



Risk in the Built Environment



From: Vant-Hull B, Ramamurthy P, Havlik B, et al. The Harlem Heat Project: A Unique Media–Community Collaboration to Study Indoor Heat Waves. *Bull. Amer. Meteor. Soc.* 2018;99(12):2491-2506. doi:10.1175/BAMS-D-16-0280.1

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1175/BAMS-D-16-0280.1>

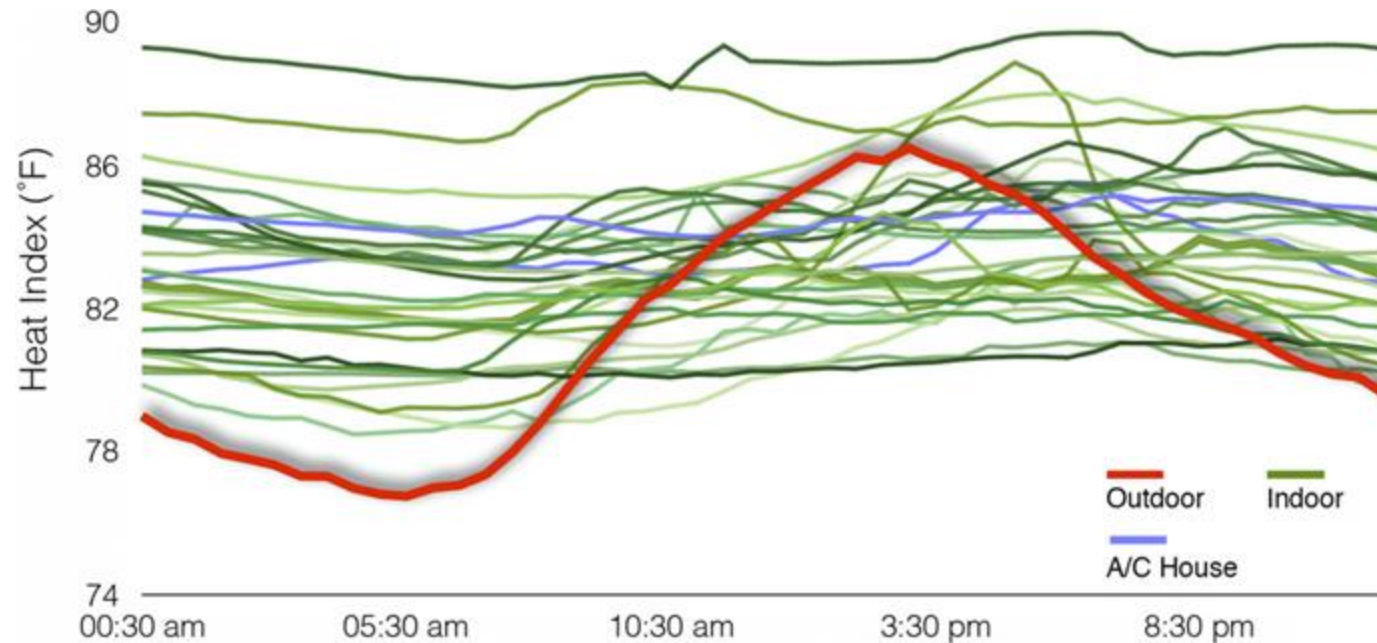
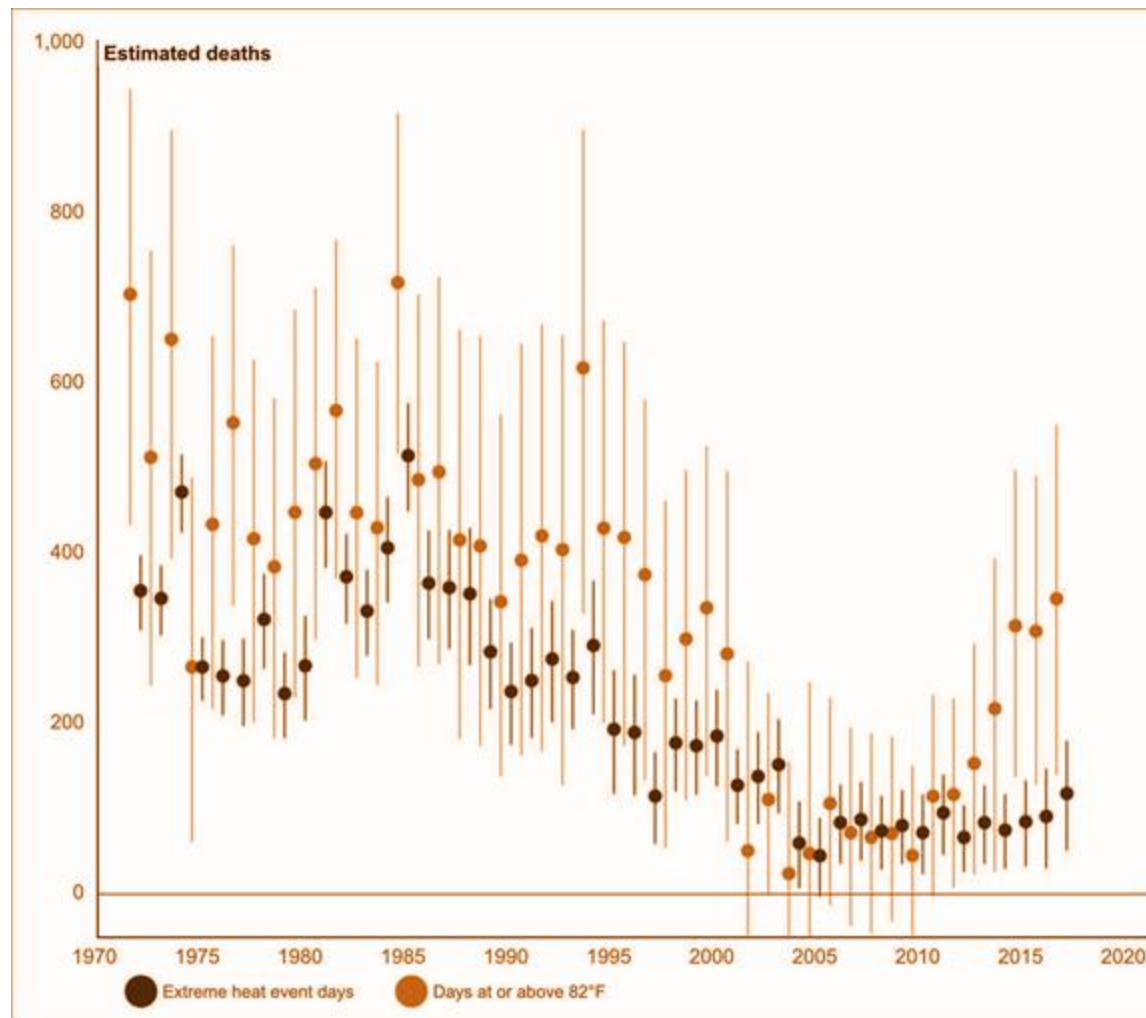


Fig. 4. Average diurnal variation of heat index, indoor vs outdoor for multiple residences. Green lines indicate homes with no AC or window units in a room separate from the sensor. Blue lines indicate residences with AC in the same room as the sensor.

Public Health Risk

- More persistent humid heat
- Temperatures below Extreme Heat thresholds more deadly
- Preventable, but underestimated



Annual average heat-exacerbated deaths for extreme heat event (EHE) days, and days reaching a maximum temperature of 82°F or higher, including EHE days, in 5-year moving time windows, 1971–2020, New York City. EHE days were defined as at least 2 consecutive days with 95°F or higher daily maximum heat index (HI) or any day with a maximum HI of 100°F or higher. The EHE and days at or above 82°F estimates come from separate regression models. *Source:* 2023 New York City Heat-Related Mortality Report.^{3, 25}

Ann NY Acad Sci, Volume: 1539, Issue: 1, Pages: 185-240, First published: 25 June 2024, DOI: (10.1111/nyas.15115)

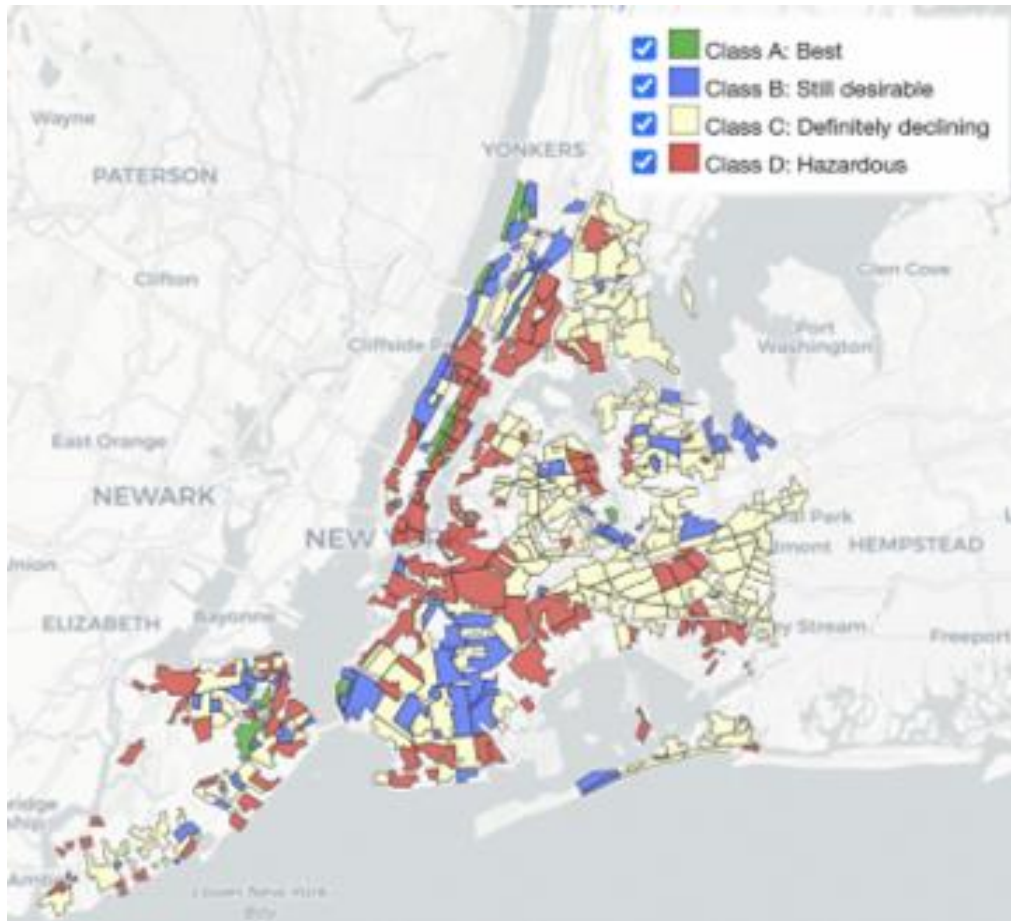
Climate Projections

NPCC Heat Wave Projections

		2050s		2080s	
Heat Waves	Baseline (1981– 2010)	Middle Range (25th–75th percentile)	High End (90th percentile)	Middle Range (26th–75th percentile)	High End (90th percentile)
Number of days per year at or above 90 °F	17	38–62	69	46–85	108
Number of heat waves per year	2	5–8	9	6–9	10
Average duration (days)	4	5–6	6	5–8	10

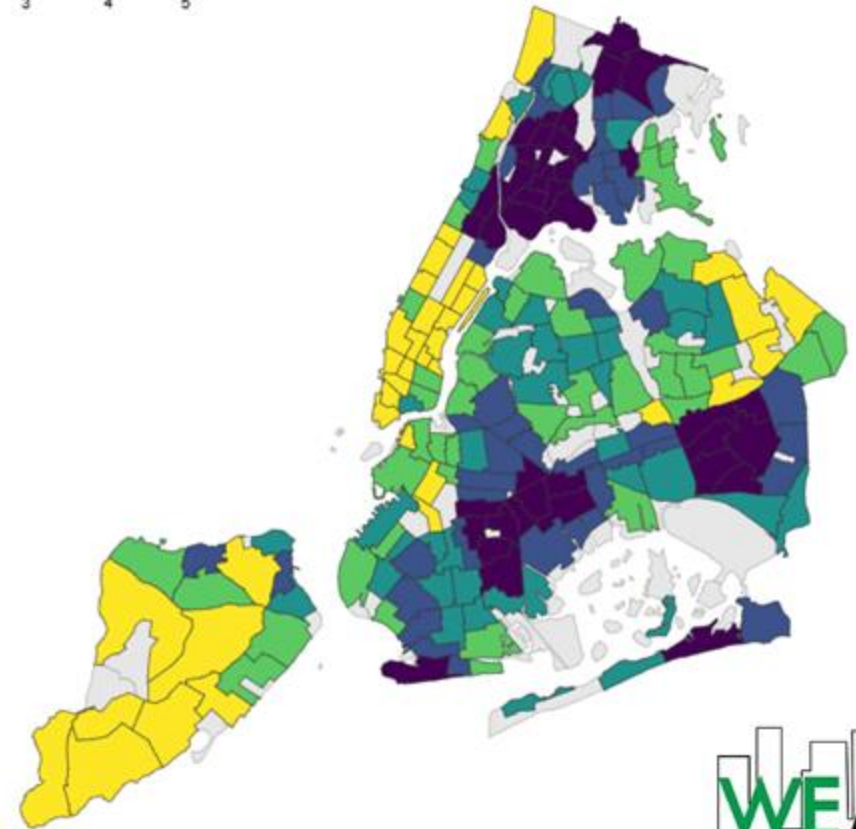
Source: NPCC, 2024.

Temperature Apartheid



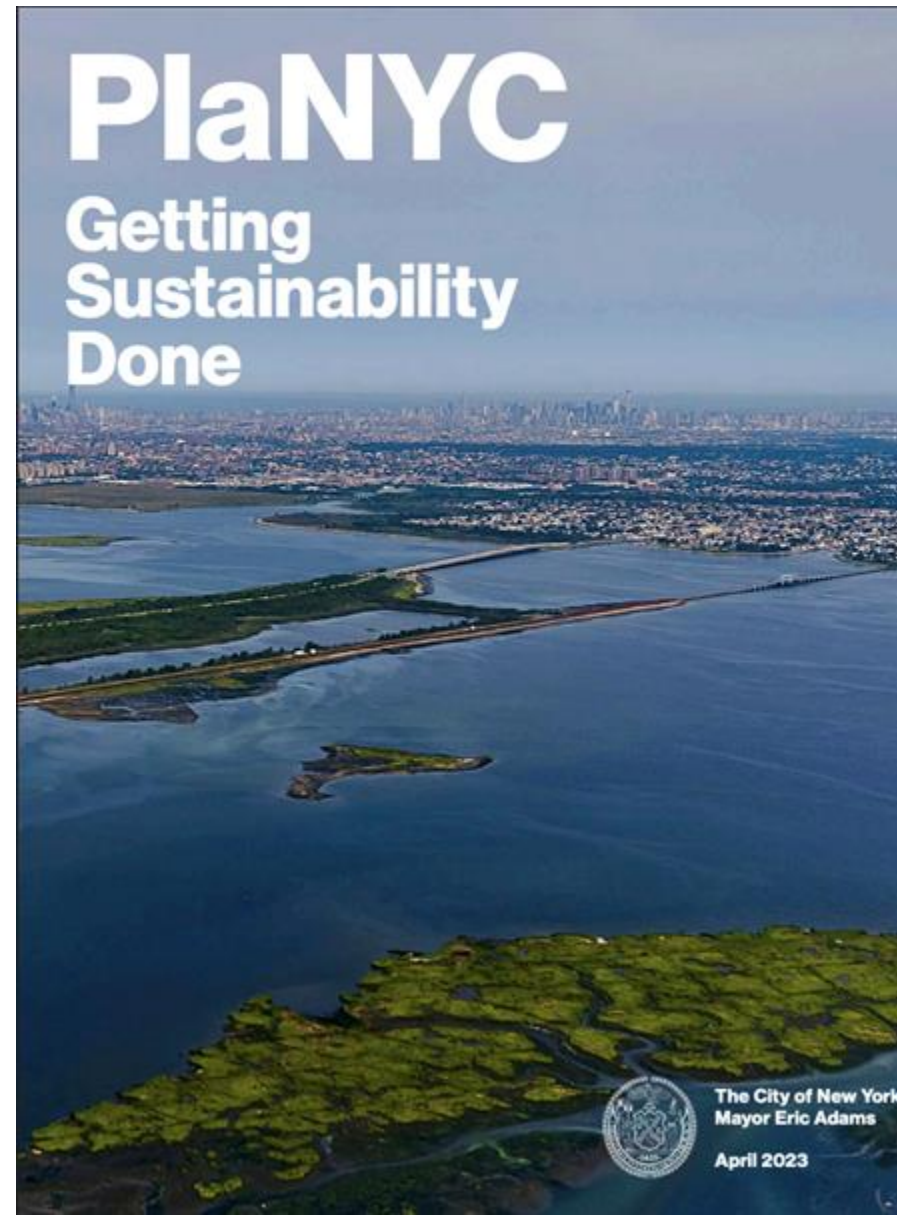
Heat vulnerability index (NTA)

Score (out of 5)

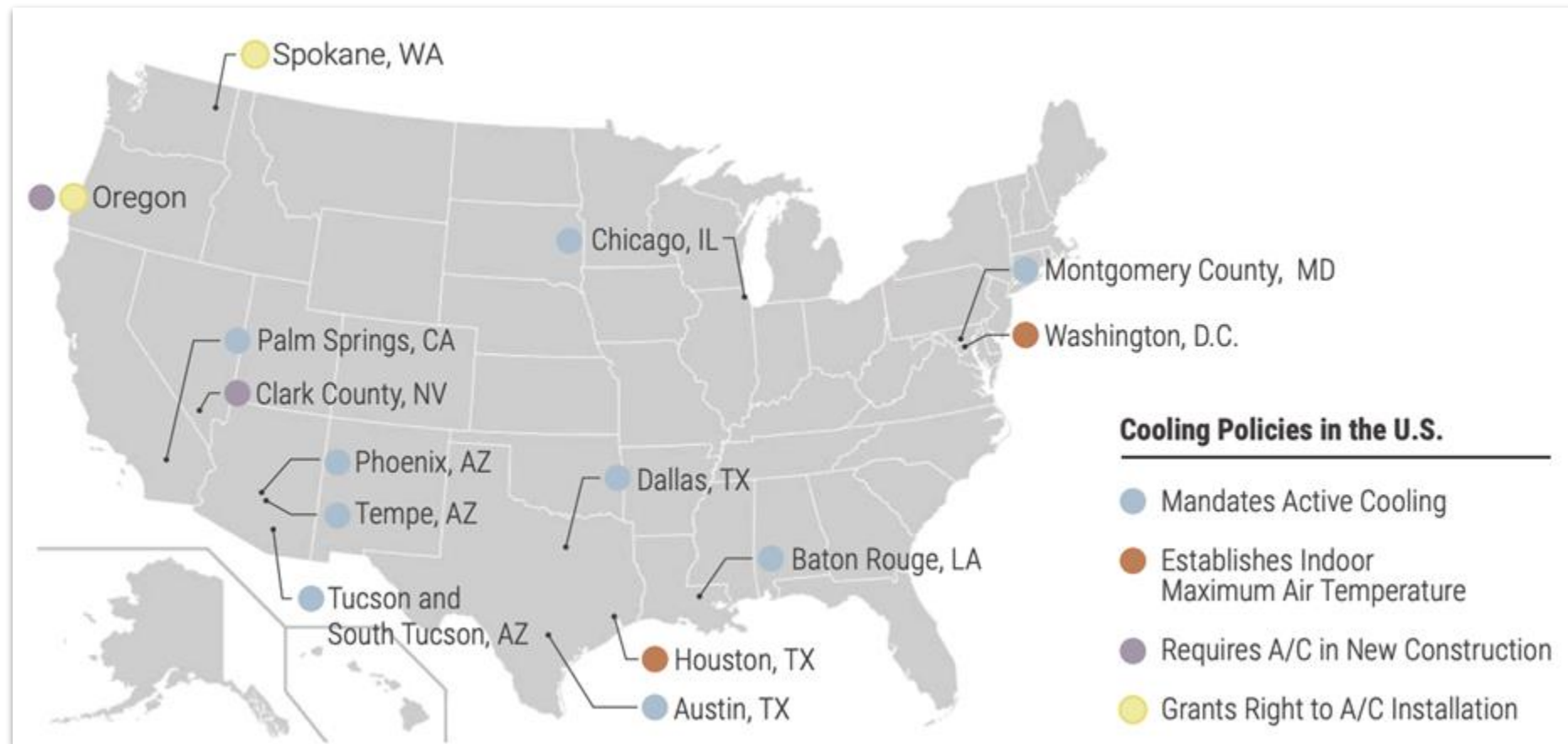


Policy Interventions So Far

- Cool Roof NYC
- Urban Forest Plan
- Codifying Cooling Centers
- New York State Extreme Heat Action Plan



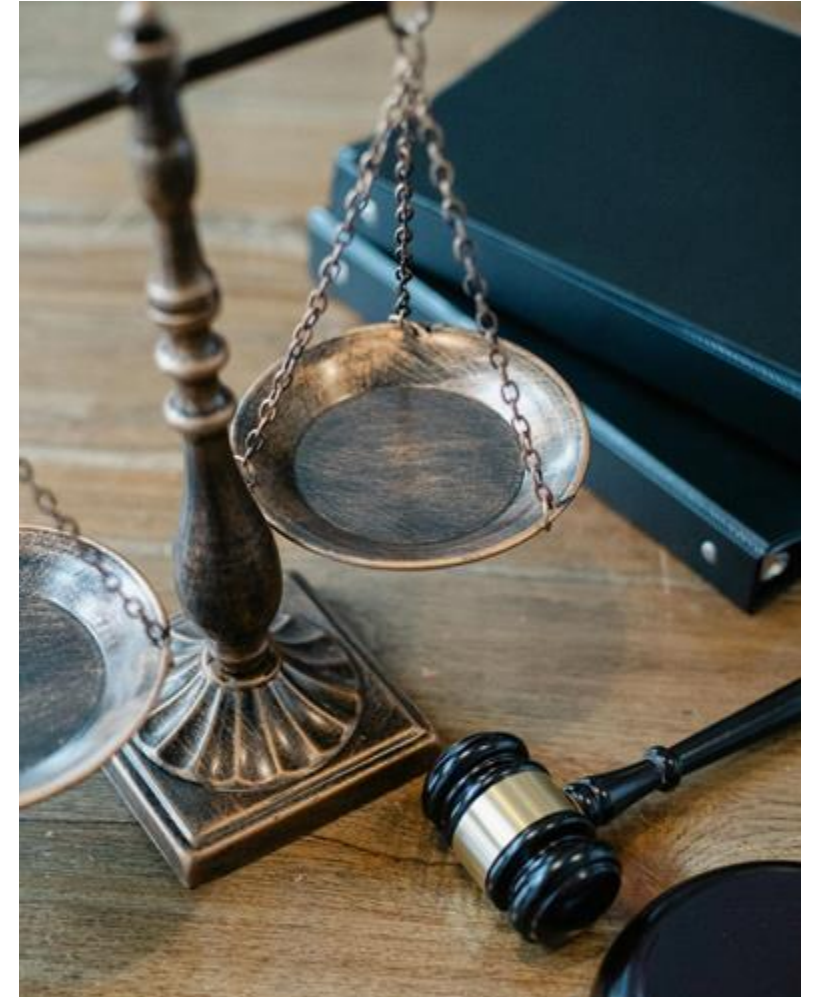
National Policy Landscape



“A Renters’ Right to Cooling Addressing Extreme Heat in Rental Housing”, Strategic Actions for a Just Economy, 2025

Warranty of Habitability and Building Codes

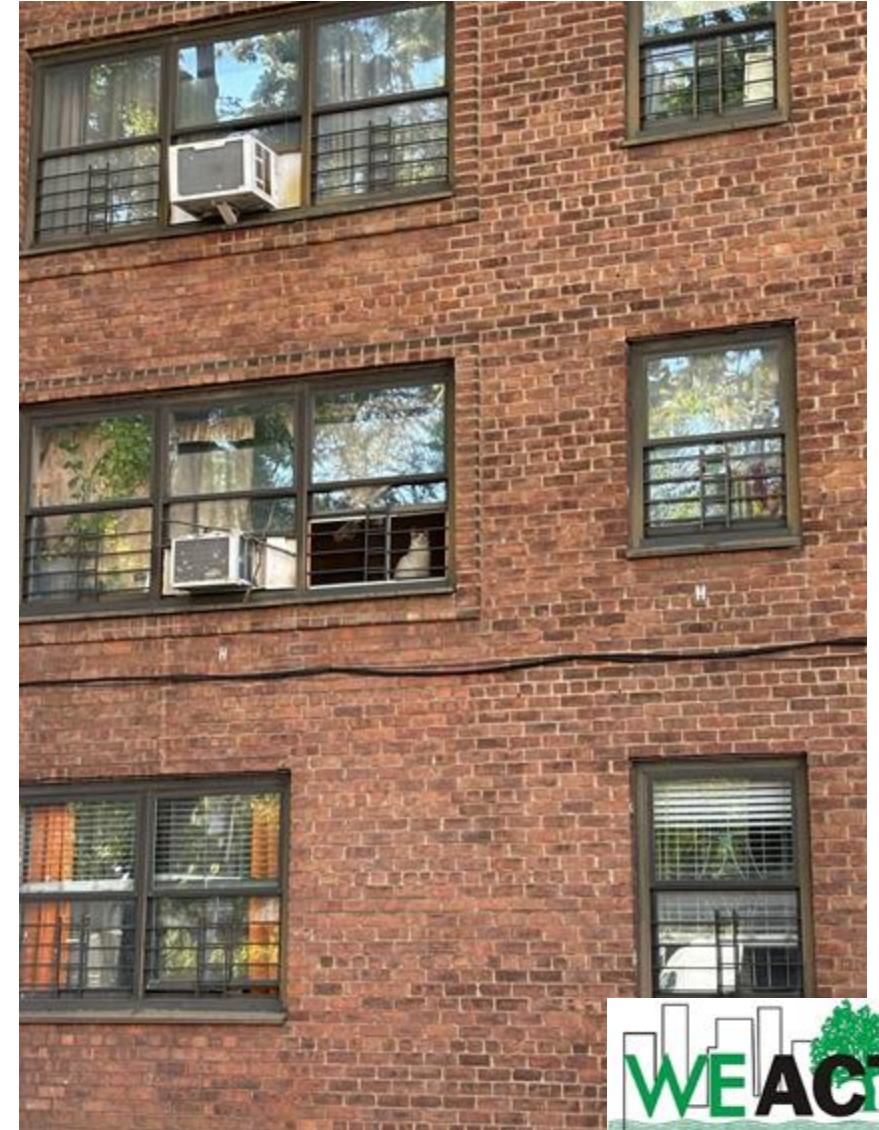
- Legal precedents from Arizona
 - Residential Rental Inspection Program, 2006
 - Residential Landlord and Tenant Act
 - Maintenance requirements



Intro 994-2024

WHO: NYC Landlords, Property Supervisors with enforcement by Housing Preservation and Development

WHAT: Landlords will provide cooling/dehumidifying devices that can sustain 78°F and their supervisors are responsible for ensuring that all cooling devices are installed and maintained to reach the temperature threshold as efficiently as possible



Strategic Priorities

1. Energy Affordability Credits
2. Equitable Rate Design
3. Building Performance Standards
4. Resiliency Retrofit Funding

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THANK YOU