HEAT RISK: How to Take Action in Your Community

Community-level solutions matter! Many people acting together to reduce heat risk in their community is more powerful than one person acting alone. Plus, engaging residents to find solutions can help empower the community, create ownership and buy-in, and support cohesion, which ultimately builds community resilience.

There are different ways to take action around heat risk in your community. Here are some steps for taking action through community projects.

STEP 1: Connect with Interested Residents & Potential Partners

Connect with interested residents and potential partners and identify how they can support taking action around heat risk, for example:
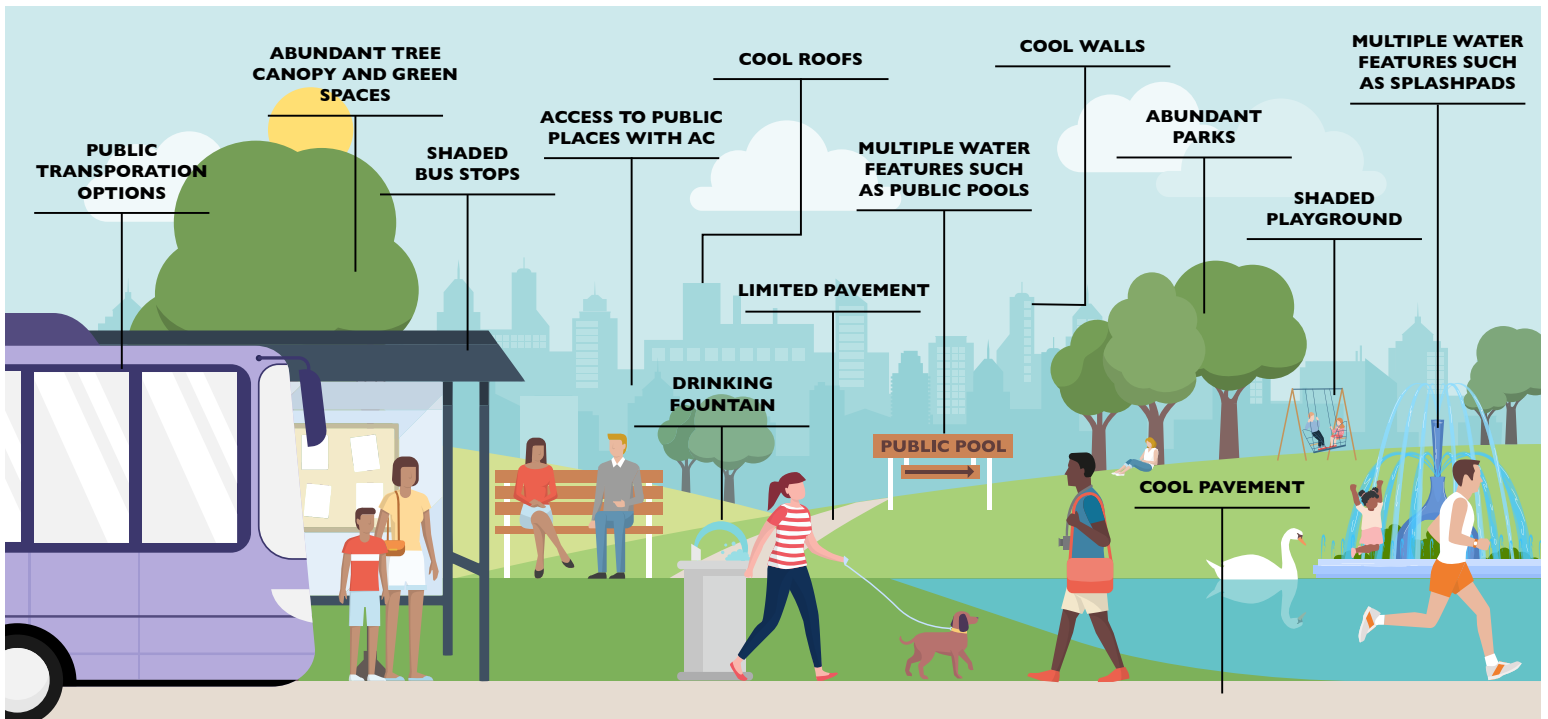
- What are their interests around heat risk and community design?
- What are their skills and expertise?
- What is their availability?

STEP 2: Identify Needs & Opportunities

Work collaboratively to identify needs and opportunities, for example:

- Assess the presence/absence of "cool" design features in your community
- Identify community design initiatives that may be planned or underway, and determine whether they include "cool" design features
- Identify potential new projects that could include "cool" design features
- Identify key decision-makers that drive design initiatives in your community

EXAMPLES OF "COOL" DESIGN FEATURES

STEP 3: Prioritize the Needs & Opportunities Identified

Work collaboratively to prioritize the needs and opportunities identified, for example:

- What "cool" features would most benefit the community?
- Would most residents support the change?
- Who, if anyone, might be opposed to the change, and why?
- What costs would be associated with making the change?

STEP 4: Create an Action Plan

Create an action plan and/or key messages to share with decision-makers, for example:

- Define what at-risk groups are in your community
- Explain what "cool" design features are needed in your community and why
- Propose how "cool" design features could be included in current and/or planned community design initiatives
- Suggest what potential new projects could include "cool" design features

TAKE ACTION

STEP 5: Take Action!

- Meet with county/local planners and other decision-makers to present your action plan
- Convey support for your action plan from interested residents and partners
- Be persistent, patient, and report back