



Technical Advisory Council

Item 9: Extreme Heat Case Study from Climate Resolve

May 16, 2025

Introduction

For fifteen years, Climate Resolve has directly worked in Southern California neighborhoods to protect residents from extreme heat. Recognizing that local residents possess invaluable insights, we prioritize community leadership in developing tailored solutions. Our role involves providing technical expertise and assisting in securing appropriate funding to implement these strategies. This approach has yielded several innovative on-the-ground projects that are flexible, inclusive, multi-beneficial and involve solutions from many different sectors. A small sample of projects include:

- Back in 2012, Climate Resolve's cool roof demonstration projects led the City of Los Angeles, and later LA County, to adopt building reach codes, in increasing the minimum albedo of steep-slope roofs. Today, there are 100k-plus cool roofs in the region.
- Helping to create a resilience hub in Boyle Heights.
- Facilitating the development of a resilience plan for the South LA adjacent Baldwin Hills & Urban Watersheds Conservancy.
- Building a "Living Street" in South El Monte that incorporates stormwater capture, complete streets for transportation and cool streets for keeping temperatures low.
- Advocating for the deployment of new bus shelters in the areas where they're needed most.

Our on-the-ground approach to extreme heat resilience has both informed and benefited from our advocacy at the local, regional and state level. Our community organizers have built a strong community base to advocate for local, regional and state extreme heat initiatives. Our policy team has built strong statewide collaboratives to advocate for an extreme heat adaptation agenda at the state level. Together, we are positioning extreme heat as a serious, visible and actionable threat to public health and safety in California. Here are some of those extreme heat initiatives at the state level:

- Developed the multisectoral Integrated Climate Committee on Extreme Heat Collaborative – composed of labor, public health, community organizations and private industry members – to advocate for statewide initiatives that reduce extreme heat illness and mortality
- Educated legislators about the threat of extreme heat and climate resilience
- Collaborated with labor and workforce protection organizations to adopt the indoor worker heat standard
- Worked with the California Housing and Community Development Department to make policy recommendations to the legislature on an indoor residential heat standard
- Enacted state law increasing extreme heat funding for local jurisdictions from the federal government
- Recommended a Syndromic Surveillance program at the California Department of Public Health

Presentation Outline

1. Introduction - Jonathan Parfrey
2. Community Engagement - Catherine Baltazar
 - a. Boyle Heights Buffer Zone
 - i. Will highlight robust community engagement, multi-beneficial outcomes including urban greening, economic benefits, air quality improvements, and cooling.
3. Innovation and Policy - Enrique Huerta
 - a. A brief case study of the Cool Community Project in Pacoima
 - b. How that local project has led to the global Shine On initiative
4. Wrap-up – Jonathan Parfrey

Discussion Questions

- There are many ways to help Californians avoid injury from extreme heat. With limited resources, what do you think are the strategies that yield the biggest “bang for the buck”?
- Which California agencies currently address the Earth’s energy imbalance, the fundamental climate change problem of “solar forcing?”