



SESSION DESCRIPTION

B2 New methods and action plans for climate-related heat and health risks

Presentations

Date: Thursday, May 29, 2014

Time: 16:45-18:15

Rooms: S01-02

Language: English

ICLEI contact: Franziska Schreiber/ Laura Kavanaugh

Organized by: ICLEI

OBJECTIVE

Integrated adaptation approaches serve to reduce the health implications of climate change, including those associated with more extreme temperatures. This session will provide innovative methods for measuring and visualizing urban heat risks and vulnerabilities, which help to inform decision-making. It will also look at different strategies and action plans to reduce climate-related health impacts and build capacity for healthy, resilient cities.

This session will open with a discussion of how visualized information and communication tools can help decision makers to better understand and manage heat risks. This will be informed by the initial outcomes of a collaborative research project, which maps and visualizes heat risk vulnerabilities in London. Focusing on ways to reduce climate-related health impacts, the City of Shimla will discuss potential strategies and introduce specific interventions that have been adopted to tackle key health risks in the city and the Himalayan region. The last presentation will introduce an action plan for heat waves, focused on the elderly as most vulnerable group, which has been piloted in two cities in Scania, Sweden. The initial results of the implementation will be shared and the extended application of the plan to other cities will be addressed.

OUTCOMES

- Participants will learn about strategies and actions plans to build resilience to and awareness of climate-related health implications;
- Through the examples, participants will be informed about innovative methods and approaches to measure and visualize heat risks; and
- They will be able to take this knowledge with them to apply in their own cities and regions.

METHODOLOGY

- The facilitator will provide an overall introduction to the session topic and contributors. **(5 minutes)**
- Each presentation will be allotted 10 minutes. **(3 x 15 minutes)**
- The facilitator will manage questions and answers. **(35 minutes)**
- Closing remarks by the facilitator. **(5 minutes)**



CONTRIBUTORS

Facilitator *Anthony Socci, Senior Advisor on Climate and Energy, US Environmental Protection Agency, Washington D.C., USA*

Presenters *Polly Turton, Senior Consultant, Arup, London, UK*
Anna Coppel, Engineer, Arup, London, UK

Urban heat risk mapping and visualization in London, UK

The outcomes of the Heat Thresholds Project, a study commissioned by the city of London to analyse hot weather-related thresholds for the city, suggest the need for urban heat risk mapping and the identification of vulnerable assets and people. Following this, a collaborative research project has been set up to produce information and communication tools to inform decision makers with regard to understanding and managing heat risk in the city. This presentation will outline initial outputs, such as maps depicting the spatial and temporal distribution of land surface and air temperatures in the city. With the help of different project partners the foundations for a comprehensive GIS database have been developed, along with clear and simple communication tools to analyse urban heat risk factors and identify approaches to address them. These will be presented and discussed as means to guide relevant policy and decision makers.

Presenter *Tikender Singh Panwar, Deputy Mayor, Shimla Municipal Corporation, India*

Strategies and approaches for minimizing climate-related health impacts in Shimla and the Himalayan Region

The Himalayas are a critical ecosystem not only from a regional perspective but also from an international one. The impacts of climate change are being experienced in this fragile mountain system in several spheres, with adverse impacts on the health and well-being of communities living there being a significant one. The presentation will touch upon key health impacts that are being experienced in Shimla city and the Himalayan region, and exacerbated by a changing climate. Beyond broad strategies that could be implemented to reduce such health impacts, the Shimla Municipal Corporation has adopted specific interventions to address some of the root causes of health risks and to create a healthier and more liveable city.

Presenter *Magnus Qvant, Secretary General, Resilient Regions Association, Malmö, Sweden*
Peter Groth, Pubic Health Strategist, Skåne Regional Council, Sweden

Heat waves in the Nordic countries: An action plan to meet the new challenge in Sweden

Heat waves are a relatively new phenomenon in Sweden and there are neither local contingency plans nor information and training available for the public and city staff. This presentation will showcase a pilot action plan for heat waves, focused on the elderly as the most vulnerable group, which has been tested by two municipalities in Scania. The results of the preliminary project assessment will be shared and the



extended application to other vulnerable groups and potentially other urban areas will be discussed.

Further recommended reading

Resilient Regions Association

www.resilientregions.org
