

EHAP PROGRESS UPDATE



Extreme Heat Action Planning

July 2024 – June 2025

Extreme Heat Action Plan. State agencies made significant progress in the first year of implementing the State’s Extreme Heat Action Plan. New and enhanced resources are available to help protect communities from extreme heat, including **improved access to affordable cooling at home**, investments in **cooling and clean air upgrades at schools**, **new guidance to protect workers**, scaled **funding to mitigate urban heat**, and **new data and tools to address urban heat islands (UHIs)**.

New and Enhanced Resources

New resources help communities be extreme-heat-ready: A range of new, enhanced resources are available for individuals, local governments, and community-based organizations. Highlights are listed below. Explore the following pages to learn about all milestones and new resources in detail.

NEW SUPPORT FOR COOLING AT HOME With the [new Essential Plan Cooling program](#), NY State of Health will provide eligible Essential Plan members a free air conditioner to help keep their homes cool. This will complement assistance available in 2025 through the [HEAP Cooling program](#) which served 23,104 households in 2024.

BETTER ACCESS TO COOLING CENTERS New resources are available to help connect New Yorkers with safe spaces for cooling. DOH and DHSES will continue to coordinate with local health departments and emergency managers to update the [Cooling Center Finder](#) throughout summer 2025. DOH offers new resources to provide information about best practices for setting up cooling centers and how these locations could serve as clean air centers. The Climate Smart Communities program offers funding to establish cooling centers.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR COOL BUILDINGS Funding [supports weatherization and clean and efficient heating and cooling](#) that can improve extreme heat resilience at homes, community anchor institutions, schools, and more. The new [Decarbonization and Climate Resiliency Design Guide](#) was released for new and majorly renovated State building projects to assess and reduce climate risk (including extreme heat and UHI) through proactive design.

NEW INVESTMENTS IN COOL SCHOOLS The Education Law newly requires public school districts and BOCES to develop [an extreme heat policy, which establishes certain temperature thresholds](#). The State offers [additional funding to install clean cooling and heating at schools](#), for example through the [Clean Green Schools program](#) using [Bond Act](#) funds.

ENHANCED TOOLS, FUNDING FOR COOL COMMUNITIES [Preliminary extreme heat exposure maps](#) and the [Heat Vulnerability Index](#) help communities understand exposure and vulnerabilities. Programs such as [Climate Smart Communities](#) fund communities in planning, designing, and implementation solutions. New and expanded funding supports nature-based

solutions such as [urban forests](#), [urban farms](#), and [community gardens](#) to cool neighborhoods and mitigate heat islands. Governor Hochul’s New York Statewide Investment in More Swimming (NY SWIMS) initiative expanded outdoor swimming through the [Connect Kids to Swimming Instruction Transportation grant program](#) and advanced capital projects for swimming facilities in underserved communities.

Important Resources

To support heat health and help communities and individuals adapt to extreme heat, New York State maintains a wide range of informational resources, individual assistance, grant funding and tools, and data. Selected important resources are listed and linked below.

HEAT AND HEALTH

- DOH [Extreme Heat Advice](#)
- DHSES [Extreme Heat Safety](#)
- DOL [Protecting Outdoor Workers from Extreme Heat](#)

EXTREME HEAT MONITORING

- NOAA/CDC [HeatRisk Tool](#)
- NOAA/NWS [2-week Probabilistic Extremes Forecast](#)
- CDC [Heat & Health Tracker](#)
- DOH [Heat Surveillance Report](#)

INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE

- OTDA [HEAP Cooling Assistance Benefit](#)
- DOH [Empire Essential Cooling Program](#)
- NYSERDA [Empower+ Grant Program](#)
- NYS [Clean Heat](#)
- HCR [Weatherization Assistance Program](#)
- DOL [Extreme Weather Guidance Hub](#)

GRANT FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY ACTION

- DEC [Bond Act Funding Finder](#)
- AGM [Urban Farms and Community Gardens Grant Program](#)
- DHSES [Hazard Mitigation Grant Program](#)
- DEC [CSC Grants Program](#)
- DEC [Urban and Community Forestry Program](#)
- DEC [Environmental Justice Grants](#)

TOOLS AND DATA

- DOH [Heat Vulnerability Index](#) (NYC has its own HVI)
- DEC [Preliminary Extreme Heat Exposure Maps](#)
- NYS [Climate Impacts Assessment](#)

LEARN MORE

[ON.NY.GOV/EXTREMEHEAT](https://on.ny.gov/extremeheat)

Contact us at extreme-heat@dec.ny.gov

EXTREME HEAT IN NEW YORK STATE

New York experienced its hottest year on record in 2024, and July was Albany’s hottest month since records at the current airport reporting site began in 1874.¹ The table below offers an overview of some extreme-heat-related statistics for 2024. Detailed statistics for New York State regions are available from the [National Weather Service](#).

Extreme Heat in New York State in 2024 ²	Days > 90°F	Days > 95°F	Heat waves
Albany, NY	13 (+4)	1 (+0.1)	3 (+2.1)
Buffalo	1 (-2)	0 (-0.3)	0 (-0.2)
New York City	15 (-2)	0 (-4)	4 (+2)
Syracuse	15 (+6)	1	4 (+3.2)
Watertown	0 (-3)	0 (-0.1)	0 (-0.1)

From May 1 to September 29, 2024, extreme heat resulted in 3,014 heat-related emergency department (ED) visits in New York State (excluding New York City, which reports data separately³), compared to the historical baseline of 2,576 visits (average cumulative visits from May 1-September 29 for the years 2019-2023, excluding 2020).⁴ Additional heat health data is available at heatreports.health.ny.gov. New York City reported 784 total heat-related ED-visits for 2024.

Emergent Challenges and Opportunities. Agencies made significant progress across all action tracks and reported no major implementation delays. New tools and resources made available as part of EHAP implementation are providing a strong foundation for continued implementation in the coming year. Uncertainty related to changes in federal policies and associated shifts in funding may present new challenges and increase the risk for delays in the future. Agencies anticipate continued progress in implementing EHAP.

¹ <https://cbs6albany.com/weather/weather-extra/the-capital-region-year-in-weather-and-climate-2024>

² Data reflect regions used in the NYS Climate Impacts Assessment (CIA); see appendix, https://nysclimateimpacts.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Appendix-Projections_Tables-1.pdf. Deviations from baselines are shown in parentheses. Baseline data are for the 1981 to 2010 base period and are from the NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI). Heat waves are defined as three or more consecutive days with maximum temperatures at or above 90°F.

³ New York City reports environment- and health-related data at <https://a816-dohbesp.nyc.gov/IndicatorPublic/>

⁴ Heat health outcomes for 2024 exclude NYC, based on Department of Health Heat Surveillance Report (<https://heatreports.health.ny.gov/>). New York City reports their own data at <https://a816-dohbesp.nyc.gov/IndicatorPublic/>

2024 IN REVIEW: HEAT ADAPTATION IN ACTION

EHAPWG member agencies reported significant progress across all **49 actions** in all **four action tracks** with no major delays, thereby advancing the **five overarching goals** of the plan.⁵

2024 HEAT ADAPTATION SUCCESSES BY THE NUMBERS

GOAL 1

PROMOTE COMMUNITY HEALTH, WELL-BEING

- **23,104 households** served by the HEAP Cooling program in 2024.
- **64 worksite visits** for extreme heat compliance assistance and enforcement actions related to the OSHA National Emphasis program on Heat (from June 2024 to May 2025).
- New employer guidance released by DOL to prevent heat-related injury and illness with more than **3,500 unique visitors** to DOL's new extreme weather guidance hub.

GOAL 2

BUILD LOCAL CAPACITY TO EQUITABLY ADAPT

- **\$1 million to 22 organizations** to support urban farms and community gardens through the Urban Farms and Community Garden Grant program.
- **\$12.5 million** in 23 grant awards for community forest management plan implementation and ash tree management in disadvantaged communities.
- **\$1 million available to local health departments**, to be distributed based on successful completion of Performance Incentive program.
- **\$50,000 in technical assistance awards to ten local health departments** to work with partners to “move-the-needle” on climate and health adaptation priorities.

GOAL 3

SUPPORT A RESILIENT BUILT ENVIRONMENT

- Facility upgrades underway for **20 schools** through Green Clean Schools.
- HCR served **over 3,500 housing units** using Climate Friendly Homes, Weatherization, and Sustainable Energy Resources for Consumers (SERC) funds for heat resilience, energy efficiency.
- In 2024, over **23,000 households were served by Empower+**, helping low- and moderate-income households save energy and money toward energy improvements in their primary residence.

GOAL 4

STRENGTHEN LIFELINE INFRASTRUCTURE

- **79MW of storage capacity** and **1,200MW of solar capacity** added in 2024.
- MTA deployed **60 new, all-electric buses** at four bus depot locations across New York City.

GOAL 5

PROMOTE ACCESS TO ECOSYSTEM BENEFITS

- **\$15 million** in grant awards for resilient reforestation through the Community Reforestation (CoRe) program, under Governor Hochul's 25 Million Trees by 2033 initiative.
- **\$2 million** for 32 tree planting and tree maintenance projects funded by the Urban and Community Forestry program.
- **\$25 million** invested in the Colonel William F. Fox Memorial Saratoga Tree Nursery to expand availability for tree plantings.

⁵ See [Extreme Heat Action Plan](#) p. 21



EXPANDING ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE CLEAN COOLING AT HOME

Track: 3 – Support Resilient Built Environments **Actions:** T3.01, T3.02, T3.03, T3.06

Involved Agencies: OTDA, DOH, NYSERDA, HCR

Summary: Access to safe and affordable cooling at home is critical in keeping New Yorkers safe during extreme heat events.

New York State is taking a multi-pronged approach to ensure New Yorkers have access to cooling during the hottest days of the year. OTDA administers the [Home Energy Assistance program](#) (HEAP), which served 87,000 New Yorkers through the Cooling Assistance component over the past five years. Additionally, DOH is expanding Essential Plan coverage to include the purchase and installation of cooling equipment for eligible low-income households with certain pre-existing conditions.

The affordability of clean cooling at home is a major challenge for low- and medium-income households. OTDA, in collaboration with NYSERDA and HCR, offers funding for weatherization to help replace or repair heating and cooling equipment and improve [building insulation to reduce cooling and heating costs](#). Resources are also available to support the transition to [clean heating and cooling](#) in [multi-family and single-family homes across the state](#).

Available Resources:

- ODTA [HEAP Cooling Assistance](#)
- DOH [Essential Plan Cooling Program](#)
- NYSERDA [Empower+](#)
- NYSERDA [Multi-Family Programs](#)
- NYS [Clean Heat Program](#)
- HCR [Weatherization Assistance Program](#)
- HCR [Climate Friendly Homes Fund](#)

ENHANCING PUBLIC SPACES FOR COOLING AND CLEAN AIR

Track: 2 – Preparedness, Communication, and Workers’ Safety **Actions:** T2.02, T2.04, T2.05, T2.06

Involved Agencies: DOH, DHSES, DEC

Summary: The State is investing in cool, accessible, comfortable and inviting spaces that can provide people with cooling relief during extreme heat events. DOH continues to make improvements to the [Cooling Center Finder](#), which provides information about the locations of operational cooling centers, their opening hours, and transit options to the cooling centers. DOH is also working closely with local county and municipal governments to make sure information about new and existing cooling centers is up to date and communicated clearly. DOH also runs an extreme heat awareness media campaign that provides information about heat risks, promotes key assistance programs, and more. In addition, DOH developed new guides for local communities on how to set up cooling centers, including best practices for making cooling centers inviting and accessible, and how cooling centers can operate as clean air centers.

DHSES is funding local hazard mitigation projects, including to address extreme heat. Examples for current projects include an analysis of four neighborhood types to explore cool corridors between residential areas and cooling centers in New York City and an ongoing project to install alternative power sources and cooling systems in a hospital to address extreme heat in Mount Sinai.

To help local governments expand their networks of cooling centers, DEC provides funding through the [Climate Smart Communities \(CSC\) grants program](#) to establish cooling centers and to replace existing HVAC equipment with new, low-global-warming-potential (GWP) cooling systems. The [CSC certification program](#) also awards points for establishing cooling centers and transportation to and from cooling centers.

Available Resources:

- DOH [Cooling Center Finder](#)
- DOH [Heat Vulnerability Index](#)
- DHSES [Hazard Mitigation Grant Program](#)
- DEC [Climate Smart Communities Program](#)

GREENING NEIGHBORHOODS TO MITIGATE HEAT ISLANDS

Track: 4 – Prioritize Ecosystem-based Adaptation **Actions:** T4.03, T4.04, T4.05, T4.07

Involved Agencies: DEC, AGM

Summary: DEC offers a range of planning resources, tools, and funding for local communities to address urban heat islands and help green and cool their neighborhoods. DEC’s Division of Lands and Forests is in the process of developing a Statewide Reforestation Plan to serve as a call to action for reforestation, as recommended in the Climate Act Scoping Plan. Under the Governor’s 25 Million Trees by 2033 initiative, DEC’s Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) program released a \$15 million grant opportunity for Community Reforestation (CoRe) projects in and near urban areas to address extreme heat. The Department of Agriculture and Markets (AGM) funded 22 organizations across the

state to support urban farms and community gardens, which play an important role in reducing urban heat. DEC's Division of Lands and Forests, the DEC Office of Sustainability, and Five Rivers Environmental Education Center are partnering to install a Miyawaki pocket forest demonstration site at Fiver Rivers Environmental Education Center.

Available Resources:

- AGM [Community Gardens Program](#)
- AGM [Urban Farms and Community Gardens Grant Program](#)
- DEC [Urban and Community Forestry Program](#)
- DEC [Environmental Justice Grants Programs](#)

HELPING LOCAL COMMUNITIES PLAN FOR EXTREME HEAT

Track: 1 – Build Capacity for Local Action **Actions:** T1.01, T1.03, T1.04, T1.07

Involved Agencies: DEC, DOH, DHSES

Summary: Effective and equitable local extreme heat action relies on communities' ability to anticipate and prepare for extreme heat impacts, identify vulnerabilities, and understand available solutions to adapt. State assistance is available for local governments to understand their exposure to risks, identify vulnerabilities, develop plans, and implement tangible solutions. The State supports community planning and adaptation to extreme heat by helping communities

- **understand impacts:** DEC, in partnership with SUNY ESF and Davey Tree, released [preliminary maps](#) to help local communities understand their exposure to extreme heat and the urban heat island effect. DOH's [Heat Vulnerability Index \(HVI\)](#) allows communities to identify areas with increased vulnerability based on certain socio-demographic characteristics.
- **develop local plans:** DEC, DOH and DHSES offer funding to develop local heat action plans through [grants to local health departments](#), through the [Climate Smart Communities program](#), or as part of [county hazard mitigation plan](#) development.
- **design and implement solutions:** The [Climate Smart Communities grant program](#) provides funding for local governments to develop heat action plans and implement solutions to address extreme heat and adapt to other climate impacts. The grant program now also funds design and engineering feasibility studies pursuant to developing prospective implementation projects.

Resources for Implementation:

- DEC [Preliminary Extreme Heat Exposure Maps](#)
- DHSES [Extreme Heat Safety](#)
- NOAA and CDC [HeatRisk Tool](#)
- DOH [Climate and Health Program](#)
- DEC [Climate Smart Communities Certification Program](#) PE7 Actions (e.g., [Heat Action Plans](#), [Cooling Centers](#), [Shade Structures Policy](#))
- DEC [Climate Smart Communities Grant Program](#)

KEEPING SCHOOLS COOL

Track: 3 – Support Resilient Built Environments

Actions: T3.12, T3.13, T3.14

Involved Agencies: NYSED, NYSERDA, DOH

Summary: As temperatures rise and extreme heat impacts communities, it is important for schools to be safe and comfortable spaces for children to learn and grow. Through an interagency effort, the State is working in partnership with schools to help protect students, teachers and staff from extreme heat impacts. Governor Hochul signed into law [a new amendment to the Education Law](#) that requires all public schools and BOCES to develop extreme heat policies. Such policies shall include a plan to remove students and staff from occupied spaces where practicable when educational and support service spaces reach 88 degrees. The law also requires that at 82 degrees schools take action to relieve heat-related discomfort.

NYSERDA is funding facility upgrades at schools to install clean cooling and heating through the [Clean Green Schools program](#) with funds from the [Clean Water, Clean Air and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act](#). Upgrades funded through this program are currently underway at 20 high-needs schools.

Resources for Implementation:

- DOH [New York State School Environmental Health Program](#)
- NYSERDA [P-12 Initiative](#)

ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2024

PROTECTING WORKERS FROM EXTREME HEAT

Track: 2 **Action:** T2.08 – Prevent heat-related injury, illness through guidance, recommendations

Lead agency: DOL **Involved Agency:** DOH

In summer 2024, DOL released [employer guidance to prevent heat-related injury and illness](#) among outdoor workers. DOL released additional guidance on how to best protect workers from other extreme weather hazards, including cold, precipitation, and wildfire smoke. All guidance documents are available in English and Spanish. DOL’s Extreme Weather Guidance Hub also includes lists of templates, training materials, worksite posters, and additional resources for both employers and workers. For example, DOL has created a Heat Injury & Illness Prevention Plan template for employers to utilize. The plan can include their own workplace specifics and provide structure in achieving protections from heat illnesses.

PRELIMINARY EXTREME HEAT EXPOSURE MAPS

Track: 1 **Action:** T1.03 – Publish statewide high-resolution extreme heat exposure maps

Lead agency: DEC **Involved Agencies:** SUNY ESF

SUNY ESF and Davey Tree, in collaboration with and funded through DEC, released [preliminary extreme heat exposure maps](#) as non-decisional, informational resources. Together with other tools and data, the maps can help communities better understand, plan for, and adapt to extreme heat

exposures on the neighborhood level. The preliminary maps use historic data (2010-2020) to identify peaks in extreme heat exposure under current conditions. Final maps, expected in 2026, will incorporate future-looking data and will include duration and frequency of extreme heat events, in addition to their intensity as currently shown.

CSC GRANTS FUND ENGINEERING AND DESIGN FEASIBILITY STUDIES

Track: 1 **Action:** T1.01 – Support scaled implementation; T1.04 – Decision support tools, services

Lead agency: DEC

[DEC's Climate Smart Communities grants program](#) includes a new project category, engineering and design feasibility studies, to help communities advance adaptation and resilience projects. This new funding category will help close an important gap for local communities by provide additional capacity to advance project ideas to the funding-ready stage. Feasibility studies can explicitly support important design work to enable facility upgrades to install cooling or other facility upgrades pursuant to establishing cooling centers and resilience hubs. This action also supports planning for refrigerant management, including for communities that seek to replace old and install new cooling equipment in order to establish cooling centers.

GREEN COOLING SOLUTIONS

Track: 1 **Action:** T1.09 – Support innovation for passive, resilient, and safe cooling

Lead agency: NYSERDA **Involved Agencies:** DEC

[NYSERDA's Natural Carbon Solutions innovation challenge](#) has supported the development of six innovative green cooling technologies. These technologies include modular cooling centers, living building surfaces, novel heat island modeling, circular economy for urban forestry, enhanced street tree irrigation, and modeling for passive cooling.

NEW NYS PSC PROCEEDING

Track: 3 **Action:** T3.18 – Explore options for strengthening consumer protections

Lead agency: DPS

The New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) instituted a proceeding to examine procedures and practices regarding customer protections during extreme heat events at all major New York electric utilities and major private water utilities on January 23, 2025. DPS staff subsequently held several stakeholder meetings to obtain input and on May 20, 2025, issued a staff report and set of recommendations on standardized protections for residential utility customers who are at risk of service termination during extreme heat events. The staff report and recommendations are subject to a public comment process, which closes on August 4, 2025. More information on this proceeding can be found in the [Document and Matter Management System, under Case 24-M-0586](#).

OTHER MILESTONES

Milestone	Action	Summary
Engagement with climate youth organizations	T1.05	DEC participated in and contributed to several climate youth summits across the State. Staff engaged young leaders to discuss extreme heat, its impacts, and explore solutions.
Improved and better coordinated communications	T2.06	DHSES continues to lead information sharing and coordinates the State's emergency response. DHSES coordinated State agencies in improving their communications and eliminating jargon, including in emergency messages.
Improved and better coordinated communications	T2.06	DHSES created a heat awareness dashboard in New York Responds to support county and State response activities.
New and updated thresholds for subscriber-based heat alerts	T2.06	The division threshold for emergency alerts includes heat. For example, when the National Weather Service issues extreme heat warnings, subscriber-based notifications are sent to the public. Thresholds related to power outages and air quality are also included.
Extreme heat media campaign	T2.06	DOH continues its annual extreme heat media campaign to increase awareness of extreme heat, promote the Cooling Center Finder, distribute emergency messaging, and promote OTDA's HEAP Cooling benefit.
Continued collaboration between ODTA and NYSERDA	T3.01 T3.02 T3.03	This collaboration expands coordination to help fund emergency heating equipment repairs and replacements, weatherization, and other upgrades that support thermal resilience.
Improved access to State programs	T3.03	Cross-program referral processes were improved to more easily refer WAP participants to HEAP.
Renter protection programs help prevent cost-shifting	T3.04	HCR incorporated protection for cooling-related cost-shifting into existing renter protection programs.
Climate resilience and home energy assessments	T3.06	Integration of climate resilience considerations into home energy assessments continues, starting with FlexTech energy audits for multi-family buildings.
Resilience checklist	T3.06	HCR is releasing updated Sustainability Guidelines , which include a resilience checklist tool.
Decarbonization and climate resiliency design guide	T3.11	The new design guide has been developed by OGS, NYSERDA, and NYPA along with other State Affected Entities, which includes design criteria to improve resilience to extreme heat. Agencies will use the guide on new and majorly renovated State building projects.
25 million trees tracker	T4.02 T4.05	DEC launched the 25 million trees tracker to encourage the public to document progress toward the goal of planting 25 million trees by 2033.