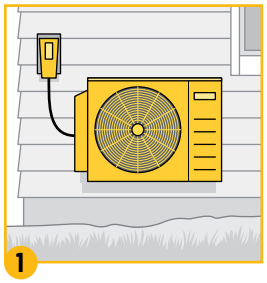
Three Levels of a Heat-Ready Community

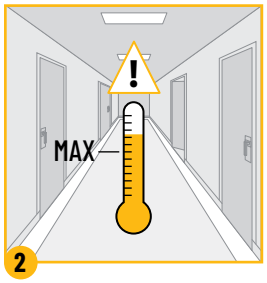
Communities can reduce illness, death, and discomfort during extreme heat events by integrating heat-ready features into building design, emergency planning, public spaces, and community programs. Through collaboration with health agencies, community organizations and residents, municipalities can better assess local heat risks, protect vulnerable populations, and create cooler, safer neighbourhoods.

Level 1: Homes and Buildings



1

Support incentives and upgrades that keep indoor spaces safer during extreme heat, such as heat pumps and shade trees.



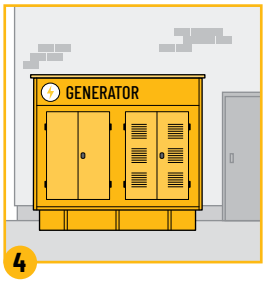
2

Cap maximum indoor temperature to protect residents from unsafe heat.



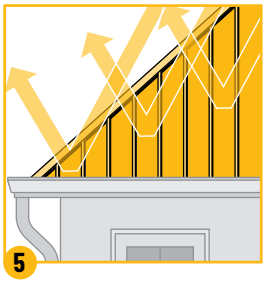
3

Ensure long-term care homes and community facilities have reliable cooling.



4

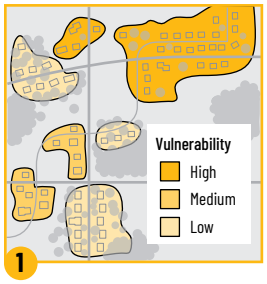
Plan for back-up power, with adequate fuel supply, during outages in multi-unit buildings and critical facilities.



5

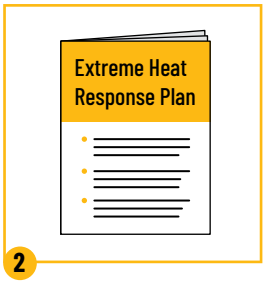
Install cool roofs, shading, and efficient cooling systems.

Level 2: Community-Based Heat Risk Management



1

Assess and map exposure and vulnerability to extreme heat.



2

Develop, implement, and review an Extreme Heat Response Plan annually.



3

Communicate clear heat alerts and practical protective actions to residents, municipal staff, and community partners.



4

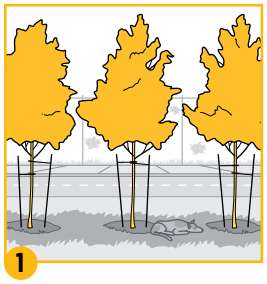
Coordinate heat check-ins with public health agencies and community organizations such as Red Cross, Meals on Wheels, Salvation Army.



5

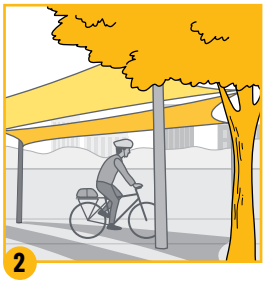
Open and promote cooling centres, pools, splash pads, libraries, and other cooling spaces.

Level 3: Neighbourhood and Urban Cooling



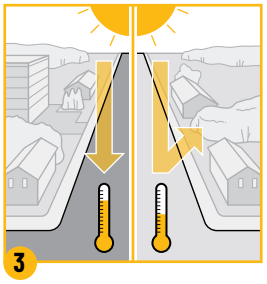
1

Grow and protect urban tree canopy, prioritizing heat-exposed neighbourhoods.



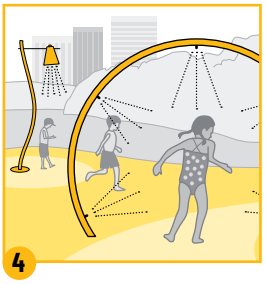
2

Build shaded walking, cycling, and transit routes.



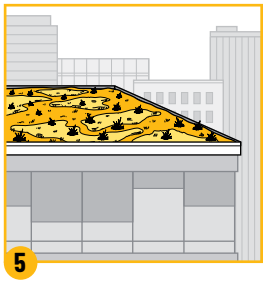
3

Install cool, reflective, or permeable surfaces to reduce heat from asphalt and parking lots.



4

Install water-based cooling features, such as splash pads, misting stations, and drinking fountains.



5

Require heat-resilient urban planning, including green roofs, urban shade, reflective surfaces, and cooler public spaces.

Note: The guidance in this document is voluntary and provided for educational purposes only, it does not constitute legal, engineering or other professional advice. Completion of actions should not conflict with applicable building codes, public health requirements, or municipal bylaws. Heat-ready communities can reduce but not eliminate risk.

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