



EXCESS URBAN HEAT MITIGATION ACT (H.R. 7534)

Talking Points

- Climate change is intensifying heat frequency, duration, and temperatures, which affect public health and air quality, infrastructure maintenance, the frequency of natural disasters, and more.
- Urban areas are most impacted by increased temperatures because of the prevalence of impervious spaces and the lack of natural landscapes that absorb heat.
- Extreme heat is a leading weather-related cause of death in the United States.
- Underserved communities—including low-income, minorities, tribal, and indigenous peoples—are disproportionately impacted by extreme heat because of less tree coverage and higher surface temperatures.
- Landscape architects are the leading professionals responsible for planning and designing solutions to mitigate extreme heat in urban areas including green roofs, tree plantings and other green infrastructure projects, shade and cooling structures, porous pavements, and others.
- Green roofs mitigate heat and other climate impacts because their vegetation absorbs carbon. Green roof economic benefits include lower energy costs due to 30-40% lower surface temperatures, reduced stormwater runoff rates by up to 65%, improved health benefits from increased air quality, and job opportunities.
- The Journal of Forestry reports that urban trees remove 822,000 tons of air pollution per year in the U.S. Also, trees can help reduce the roughly 40% of U.S. energy consumption generated by residential and commercial buildings.
- H.R. 7534, the Excess Urban Heat Mitigation Act, establishes a grant program to provide communities with access to solutions that help mitigate some of the impacts of urban heat, including landscape architecture solutions like green roofs, tree planting, bus and transit shelters, and other cooling techniques.
- The bill gives priority to low-income and Environmental Justice communities when awarding grants. The bill also calls for grant recipients to participate in a robust engagement plan with communities, a process in which landscape architects are leaders.
- The bill establishes an oversight board to help select grant recipients and review grant progress. The oversight board includes persons experienced in urban heat mitigation, environmental justice matters, or related areas.
- The Inflation Reduction Act is a great first step in addressing the climate crisis. Additional policies and resources are still needed to make real progress in halting the climate emergency.
- **The ASK** — House of Representatives: Cosponsor H.R. 7534, the Excess Urban Heat Mitigation Act, so that landscape architects may bring real climate solutions to communities across the nation.
- **The ASK** — Senate: Please consider introducing the Senate companion to H.R. 7534, the Excess Urban Heat Mitigation Act, so that landscape architects may bring real climate solutions to communities across the nation.