

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



HIRI NEWS

EPA seeks feedback on draft HIRI web site layout; Salt Lake City and Miami plant trees in their communities

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Urban Heat Island Pilot Project and Cool Community updates

Sacramento

Web site

Lisa Gartland (PositivEnergy) is revising Sacramento's Cool Community web site (www.energy.ca.gov/coolcommunity) to add reference materials and update the site with new information. She would like to post links to other pilot cities and cool communities, and asked the city coordinators to send her web site links.

Outreach

Lisa has given several presentations to various community groups on heat island reduction strategies. In her powerpoint presentation, she discusses the Cool Community program and its underlying goal. In addition, she displays a thermal map of the community where she is speaking, and discusses good and bad

examples of urban planning by showing photos of specific areas of development. Lisa will e-mail her powerpoint presentation to Virginia and will post the presentation on Sacramento's Cool Community web site.

Grant proposals

Sacramento has submitted proposals that are pending with EPA's Challenge Grant Program and the Environmental Education Grant. Sacramento had also submitted a proposal with the Davis Energy Group to the California Energy Commission for peer funding. Although this proposal was not funded, Lisa is working on submitting additional proposals.

Martha Turner's (Sacramento Tree Foundation) contract has expired. Any questions or e-mails to Sacramento should be sent to Lisa or Ray Tretheway (Sacramento Tree Foundation).

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Ray noted that Martha participated in the Green Buildings Product Showcase with pavement companies and Sacramento's municipal utility district. Sacramento had a cool communities booth and handed out posters and brochures on their program.

Salt Lake City

Cool Spaces 2002

Meryl Redisch (Tree Utah) spoke about Salt Lake City's effort to plant trees under its Cool Spaces 2002 program. The Cool Communities program was given half a million dollars of federal funds, in association with the 2002 Olympics, to implement the Cool Spaces 2002 program. The program's partners include the Department of Natural Resources, the Forest Service, the Salt Lake Organizing Community, Salt Lake City, and the Utah Office of Energy Services. Salt Lake City will use data from thermal maps to determine where tree planting is feasible and beneficial. Beth Murphy (Geoscience and Energy Institute, University of Utah) is providing detailed maps of Salt Lake City that help citizens and the Cool Communities program identify areas to plant trees. The Cool Communities program has also presented the Cool Spaces 2002 program to various communities, encouraging them to incorporate heat island reduction strategies by using NASA fly-over data.

Meryl is seeking Department of Environmental Quality grant money for planting trees and implementing heat island reduction strategies. Camille Russell (Utah Office of Energy Services) has also received a few \$10,000 grants for trees.

Meryl had asked Maury Estes (NASA) for an electronic version of a poster NASA produced. This poster shows cityscapes and thermal maps of four cities. Meryl plans on using a version of this poster in cool communities exhibits and on Tree Utah's web site. Virginia will ask Maury for an electronic version of the poster to distribute to city coordinators.

Atlanta

Outreach

Lucie Griggs (American Forests) has given various cool communities presentations to civic groups. She noted recent interest in preserving trees, revising ordinances, and drafting new county ordinances. The final hearing on the State Implementation Plan was also held last month. Issues of concern in Atlanta include funding and demonstration sites. The Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority has agreed to a demonstration site and will hold a meeting with Atlanta within the next few weeks to discuss this issue.

Three-year strategic plan

Lucie finished a draft three-year strategic plan for Atlanta's Cool Communities program. Lucie noted that she made some aggressive assumptions about funding in the plan.

Lucie asked if any city coordinators attended the Smart Growth Conference. Jim Durrett (Metropolitan Atlanta Chamber of Commerce) presented on Atlanta's growth issues and gave an overview of the Cool Communities program strategies,

and she was interested in knowing how he was received.

Baton Rouge

GIS day

Fran Stewart (Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, DEQ) said that Baton Rouge hosted a successful GIS Day on November 19, 1999. At the DEQ, high school students learned about GIS, CityGreen, and urban heat island data. The DEQ is working with a few high schools in implementing GIS and CityGreen in the classroom. Students will begin by preparing inventories of the trees on their campuses.

DOE grant proposal

Baton Rouge is drafting a grant proposal to DOE. DOE is offering 18 million dollars to sponsor research and development on effective strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions through carbon sequestration. The deadline for the proposal is May 2000.

Miami/Dade County

Funding

American Forests hired Stacey Mandell for its Cool Communities program. However, Stacey noted that American Forests is pulling its funding from the Cool Communities program, so she is seeking other funds to keep the program going in Miami/Dade County. Stacey has received a grant through the Department of Agriculture to staff a member of Tremendous Miami, a group started by Nancy Masterson. The Department of Environmental Resources Management has also

allotted funds for Miami's Cool Communities program.

Stacey is also seeking funding for Leisure City and South Dade, which were both hit by Hurricane Andrew. These cities have a 1% tree canopy, the lowest in Dade County.

Comprehensive urban forestry plan

Stacey has also received funds from the South Florida Urban Resources Partnership to develop a comprehensive urban forestry plan for the Eastward Ho Corridor, which consists of Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach Counties.

Tree planting

The Cool Communities program has planted over 100 trees in Liberty City, Florida. Over 100 shade trees 6-10 feet in size were planted at Liberty Square, a large-scale housing project. This effort was part of the Weed and Seed program funded by the Department of Justice designed to "green" inner cities. The goal is to plant over 3,000 trees in the Liberty City area.

The Department of Environmental Resources Management, along with American Forests and Treemendous Miami, are establishing a neighborhood tree grant program of \$100,000. A request for proposal will be issued for a tree organization to implement and administer 26 neighborhood tree grants. The program will begin early next year.

Stacey is also part of the Green Coalition, and is interested in receiving Lisa's cool communities powerpoint presentation.

Houston

Urban ecological analysis coalition

In Houston, a coalition on urban ecological analysis has formed using \$75,000 in US Forest Service funds. Ten to fifteen organizations are involved in this coalition headed by Jan Eliosa (GASP). Tina Davies (Houston Environmental Insight) has spoken with Alice Ewen (American Forests) regarding working with CityGreen software. Houston will look at a 100-mile radius and fly-over data, and will conduct field studies in the next year.

Chicago

Alexandra Holt (Chicago Department of Environmental Health) was unable to participate in the conference call, but e-mailed the coordinators an update on Chicago's activities.

Projects

Chicago has awarded several grants for urban heat island projects. Projects involve parking lot landscaping and shading at a community arts center, white roofing on a commercial strip, solar lighting at a community garden planted on a vacant lot/parking lot, and a rooftop garden on a renovated commercial building along the el tracks.

Rooftop garden

Chicago has received the bids on the City Hall rooftop garden project. The rooftop garden will be developed in the spring of 2000. Initial construction work on the roof has already started.

Outreach

Chicago has developed a public outreach piece on urban heat islands, focusing on rooftop gardens. The outreach material will include permitting requirements and planting information.

NPR segment

NPR's *All Things Considered* hosted a radio segment on heat island reduction initiatives on November 29, 1999. Virginia spoke about reflective roofing and pavement and energy savings. Hashem spoke about heat island reduction initiatives in Los Angeles. Virginia noted that the segment is found on the NPR web site (www.npr.com). Lisa noted that the radio segment treated cool roofing and garden roofing as being the same, although they are different.

Tucson

Lisa mentioned that the city of Tucson, Arizona, is interested in doing an integrated cool community retrofit of the city's administration building. The city plans on implementing cool roofing, cool pavement, and trees and vegetation around one city building. Virginia will contact Vinnie Hunt (City of Tucson, Department of Operations) or Joan Lionetti (Tucson Clean and Beautiful, Trees for Tucson Program) regarding participating in the monthly conference calls.