

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



# HIRI NEWS

## Los Angeles will complete air quality modeling; Baton Rouge prepares for DOE grant proposal

### Call participants

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### Urban Heat Island Pilot Project and Cool Community updates

Virginia Gorsevski (EPA) began by saying that her last day with EPA would be March 24, 2000. She thanked everyone for participating in the monthly conference calls. Edgar Mercado (EPA) will now be coordinating the monthly calls. He can be reached at 202-564-1069.

### *Air quality workshop*

EPA held an air quality workshop March 6-7, 2000, in Washington, DC, to discuss air quality modeling studies. Haider Taha (LBNL) presented the results of the pilot city studies, and Sharon Douglas (ICF Consulting) presented information on a northeastern United States study. There were approximately 30 workshop participants from federal, state, and local agencies. During a moderated discussion, participants offered comments on streamlining the modeling process. Edgar will review the comments and determine what the next steps are for conducting modeling and sensitivity analyses.

Virginia offered to send the workshop materials to anyone who is interested.

### *Pavement outreach*

Virginia met with John Sullivan (American Portland Cement Alliance) and Steve Zote (Southeastern Cement Association) to discuss ways to promote urban heat island mitigation. EPA will also meet

with members of two concrete associations and the W.R. Grace pavement company on March 30, 2000.

### *Pavement life-cycle costs*

Mike Ting (LBNL) will conduct pavement life-cycle cost analyses. LBNL and EPA are soliciting feedback on the life-cycle cost analysis workplan from concrete, asphalt, engineering, and consultants contacts.

Jeanne Briskin (EPA) and Camille Russell (Utah Office of Energy Services) will participate in a pavement workshop in Skokie, Illinois. They will discuss the heat island mitigation efforts on the national and community levels.

EPA has hired an intern, Jeremy Castle, to help prepare the HIRI website. Virginia will provide Jeremy with the coordinators' contact information regarding potential links for the website.

### **Los Angeles**

Gary Gero (Los Angeles Department of Environmental Health) said that by the end of March, Los Angeles will complete air quality modeling for two cases

(peak ozone concentration and the maximum effect in the Los Angeles basin). The modeling has shown a 1-2 ppb peak ozone concentration reduction and larger reductions throughout the basin.

They will also conduct sensitivity analyses and plans to show the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) how the modeling results affect various factors. Los Angeles will run the sensitivity analysis using a year 2010 scenario with the application of all future measures except advanced technology.

Los Angeles will prepare a modeling presentation package for the local regulators. The city will present the modeling results to the SCAQMD, the California Air Quality Resources Board, and EPA. When available, Gary will distribute the presentation package to the group.

The city plans to look for the effects of cool, flat commercial roofing to use in developing a regulatory program.

Los Angeles is working with Lisa Gartland (PositivEnergy) and the Natural Resources Defense Council on a grant for funding based on California's \$10 billion budget surplus. The funding would be for a program similar to the Cool Communities program.

### **Salt Lake City**

#### *Land-cover analysis*

Camille spoke with Hashem Akbari (LBNL) regarding LBNL's land-cover analysis for Sacramento. Camille is working on a grant proposal for funding to work with LBNL on a historical land-cover analysis for Salt Lake City using remote sensing data. Camille said that the land-cover analysis data for

Sacramento can be used to streamline the Salt Lake City land-cover analysis.

Camille said that the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) is preparing a Best Practices guidebook for communities that includes heat island mitigation strategies. Camille also said that ICLEI's Toronto's office is preparing for a climate change conference this month.

### **Baton Rouge**

Fran Stewart (Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality) said that Baton Rouge continues to work on arranging demonstration projects, such as a new transportation building and new roofing and pavement surfaces for the Department of Environmental Quality building.

#### *Grant*

Fran is applying for an \$18 million Department of Energy (DOE) grant. The funding would be for carbon dioxide sequestration from terrestrial ecosystems. The proposal is due May 5, 2000. Fran will propose to take an inventory of land-use, land-cover classifications for Baton Rouge using remote sensing techniques.

Fran suggested that the communities work together to apply for grants, such as by writing letters of support and by stressing the importance of urban fabric analyses. She is willing to work with other cities on the DOE grant proposal. Camille was interested in collaborating with Fran on the proposal and will also contact Lucie Griggs (American Forests)

about collaborating. Fran has spoken to David Nowak (University of California/Davis) and Greg McPherson (U.S. Department of Agriculture) about terrestrial ecosystems and carbon sequestration.

### **Houston**

#### *CityGreen analysis*

Tina Davies (Houston Environmental Insight) said that a coalition of organizations is working on the CityGreen analysis. The coalition includes the U.S. Forest Service, the Houston Advanced Research Center, Reliant Energy, and the Utah School of Public Health.

Houston plans on conducting a demonstration project involving the roof of the Houston Advanced Research Center. Virginia noted that LBNL has grant money for monitoring roofs before and after roofing is constructed.

Virginia said she spoke with Mary Shane (Enron) regarding heat island mitigation strategies. Virginia will send Tina Mary's phone number.

### **Chicago**

Alex Holt (Chicago Department of Environmental Health) was not able to participate in the conference call, but she e-mailed the coordinators an update on Chicago's activities.

*Rooftop gardens*

Chicago opened bids on the City Hall rooftop garden this week, and anticipates starting construction on the roof in April. Chicago's Department of Health is drafting a guidebook on rooftop garden construction in urban areas.

Chicago has begun 20 heat island reduction projects in four community areas. The city has also submitted the draft building code for public review.

**Next steps**

- C Virginia will send Tina the air quality workshop materials.
- C When it is available, Gary will send the group a briefing package on Los Angeles' urban airshed modeling efforts.
- C Camille will contact Lucie regarding collaborating on the DOE proposal with Fran.
- C Virginia will send Tina Mary's phone number.

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**The next conference call is scheduled for Thursday, April 27, 2000, from 3:30 to 4:30 pm EST. The call-in number is (202) 260-8330, access code 6990#.**

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