

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

HIRI NEWS

APA Annual Meeting a success; NASA creating interactive temperature profiles; Cool Space 2002

Call participants

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Urban Heat Island Pilot Project (UHIPP)/Cool Community updates

Salt Lake City

"Cool Space 2002"

Camille Russell (Utah Office of Energy Services) reported that the Salt Lake Organizing Committee (SLOC) will be locating areas to plant trees based on Salt Lake City heat island research. It was

recently announced that the community-based tree planting project will be called "Cool Space 2002." SLOC has received a \$1 million congressional appropriation to plant trees, and NASA's heat island data will aid SLOC in the decision making process. SLOC will launch "Cool Space 2002" on May 22, 1999. Camille noted that Meryl Redisch (TreeUtah) will be responsible for Cool Space 2002 and Jeff Luvall (NASA) will be participating.

County-wide planning meeting

Camille became interested in the idea of a county-wide planning meeting after last month's conference call. She is planning a meeting that will focus on the pivotal role planners can have in heat island reduction. The Planning and Policy Committee has set the meeting for early June and is looking to the American Planning Association (APA) for sponsorship.

Life cycle cost analysis

Lucy Griggs (American Forests) raised the issue of the inaccuracy of the life cycle cost analysis comparing concrete and asphalt. A new analysis might be beneficial for the Atlanta area because the

Georgia Concrete and Paving Association has expressed interest in Atlanta's Cool Communities program.

Camille explained that concrete is more cost effective than asphalt when its life cycle is taken into consideration. However, the report was misleading in that it appeared to state that the initial cost of concrete is less, which is an inaccurate statement.

Paving conference

Camille indicated that she and Meryl are planning to host a paving conference similar to that recently conducted by Sacramento Cool Communities. She would like to address the options available when using asphalt (e.g., light-colored aggregates). She requested assistance from those on the call to support the planning effort.

Sacramento

Lisa Gartland (PositivEnergy) reported that she is currently writing Sacramento's two-year Strategic Plan. She is hoping to develop an outreach effort with the Sacramento Steering Committee that addresses the barriers to implementing HIRI measures. She also expressed interest in

developing a parking lot demonstration analyzing the impact of various paving materials. Maury Estes (NASA) will provide SMUD with a full set of thermal color maps of Sacramento later in May.

Baton Rouge

Fran Stewart (LA Department of Environmental Quality) said that Baton Rouge is conducting a preliminary analysis of temperature data. The purpose of the analysis is to encourage participation in the project and to anticipate LBNL's results. She asserted that the thermal images will be very helpful in communicating the benefits associated with the project.

Fran has just completed a 12-slide summary PowerPoint presentation on the HIRI program. In addition, she is organizing a Steering Committee for Baton Rouge.

Atlanta

Maury Estes provided an overview of Project Atlanta/Atlanta's Cool Community program for the new UHIPP call participants.

Statewide initiative

Lucy reported that Atlanta's Cool Communities Steering Group recently merged with the Project Atlanta taskforce because there was significant overlap in participants. Atlanta is continuing to work toward a statewide initiative, for which they have the Georgia Governor's endorsement. Lucy said the current focus is on Atlanta because of its status as a nonattainment area. She noted that ideas for cooling Atlanta (e.g., new ordinances) have been well-received.

Atlanta is planning a meeting with the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia to present its plan for a statewide initiative. Atlanta recommends model ordinances related to air quality issues to the newly created Georgia Regional Transportation Authority.

Technical tool kit

Atlanta is developing technical tool kits, in conjunction with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division. The kits contain technical information on HIRI strategies and model ordinances. The information kits are flexible in their organization and content, so they can be tailored to different audiences.

Demonstration Projects

Lucy hopes to conduct several large-scale demonstration projects. Atlanta is working with the Metropolitan Atlanta Regional Transit Authority to look at several park-and-ride lots, and the Atlanta Airport, which is constructing a large parking lot facility.

In addition, Lucy made slides of thermal images generated during the NASA flyovers. The slides are close-up images of Cumberland Mall and a surrounding office park. These images dramatically identify hot and cool spots within the small geographic area.

Temperature Profiles

Maury reports that NASA is developing temperature profiles for all the plot lines and data sets generated during the NASA flyovers. The profiles would allow GIS queries of any building or parcel of land to obtain temperature

data for that site. NASA has also developed a preliminary land-cover classification scheme using the Atlanta plot. The distinct land-cover classes include deciduous cover, evergreen cover, grassy cover, concrete, asphalt, urban cover, and water. Temperature data could then be available through GIS queries by land-cover type. Atlanta's land-cover data should be ready for distribution in June.

New Coordinators

Lisa Gartland is replacing Alan Hirsch as the Sacramento Cool Community Coordinator. Alan Hirsch will remain with the program as a member of the steering committee. Lisa has substantial experience with reflective roofs and welcomes participants to call her with questions.

Stacey Mandell is taking over Nancy Masterson's position as the Cool Community Coordinator for South Florida.

Virginia Gorsevski (EPA) provided a history of the HIRI program and an overview of the associated UHPPs and Cool Communities programs. She also highlighted the roles of EPA, DOE, NASA, and the LBNL.

New Pilot Cities/ Programs

Virginia announced that two new pilot cities, Chicago and Houston, joined Salt Lake City, Baton Rouge, and Sacramento as part of the UHIPP.

Virginia, Lucy, Dale Quattouchi (NASA) and Jeff Luvall are giving a presentation in Houston in May on

HIRI and Project Atlanta. The city of Houston recently signed an MOU with EPA to become a pilot city and are now underway to organize a working group.

APA Annual Meeting

Camille, Maury, and Virginia presented a one and one half hour workshop on HIRI at the APA's Annual Meeting in Seattle on April 25, 1999. They discussed how their three different perspectives (Virginia's federal managerial viewpoint, Maury's science-based and organizational viewpoint, and Camille's local implementation viewpoint) affect their approach to the project.

Camille reported that the workshop was successful, although attendance was lower than anticipated. Maury noted that their paper was accepted into the conference proceedings.

Interviews and Articles

USA Today is developing an article on Chicago's pilot program. Virginia said that Chicago's rooftop garden program has generated a lot of interest. They contacted Fran and Camille about their pilot programs. The article is expected to appear in the June 8 issue of USA Today.

John Neilson from National Public Radio interviewed Maury about Atlanta's Cool Communities program. Mr. Neilson is also planning to conduct an interview with Virginia. An individual from National Public radio's "Beyond Computers" program interviewed Lisa Gartland, Haider Taha, and Bob Bornstein.

Fox 4 News from Dallas interviewed Lucy and Marsha Banesly from Trees Atlanta.

Monthly mailing

Each month Virginia sends out a mailing with information that UHIPP coordinators submit to her to help cities share information.

Next steps

- C Participants will think about how and if to coordinate a paving conference hosted by Salt Lake City.
- C Lisa will send Camille information from the Sacramento paving conference.

The next EPA/Pilot City conference call is scheduled for Thursday, June 10, 1999, from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. EDT.
