



For Immediate Release

Contact

Erin Beck, Assistant Director, ebbeck@columbus.gov, 614-645-3122

[Web](#) – [Facebook](#) - [Twitter](#) - [Instagram](#)

NOAA Heat Map Campaign Reveals Columbus-Area Hotspots

Results of national heat mapping campaign show disparities in how neighborhoods experience heat

[Columbus, OH] – The results of a summer heat mapping campaign reveal temperatures in Columbus neighborhoods can vary by up to 13 degrees at the same time of day. The report, released by Sustainable Columbus in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) and CAPA Strategies, demonstrates how some parts of the community are warmer than others.

“Rising heat levels and their impact on our neighborhoods represent an urgent equity and environmental justice issue,” said City of Columbus Mayor Andrew J. Ginther. “We have the data, we know the facts, and now we will incorporate what we have learned into our ongoing efforts to implement the Columbus Climate Action Plan.”

This past August 12, 78 volunteers equipped their cars with heat sensors provided by CAPA Strategies and drove 22 predetermined routes throughout the day. The sensors collected data along those routes which was compiled and analyzed for the final report.

“This critical data and analysis could not have happened without the participation and support of our community,” said Councilmember Emmanuel Remy, Chair of the Environment Committee. “Thank you to every resident who volunteered their time and energy to make this campaign happen and help create a stronger, more climate resilient Columbus community.”

The data shows which areas of the community are experiencing increased heat during the day, while the evening mapping data revealed a maximum 13.2 degree differential. Warmer nighttime temperatures increase stress on the body, especially for those who do not have adequate household cooling. Prolonged heat stress into the overnight hours can lead to trouble sleeping, dehydration, the exacerbation of pre-existing health conditions such as heart or kidney problems, and even the onset of heat exhaustion or stroke.

“Franklin County Public Health was excited at the opportunity to partner with Sustainable Columbus and support this important report,” said Franklin County Public Health Commissioner, Joe Mazzola. “This report will be one of multiple data sets guiding our work to address the social determinants of health and other heat-related illness attributed to climate and the environment.”

This data will further inform the implementation of the community-wide Columbus Climate Action Plan, particularly those areas relating to environmental justice and building climate resiliency. It will also shape actions such as creating a regional climate hazards alert system, establishing a network of resiliency hubs, and increasing equitable tree canopy and access to green space. The city's participation was highlighted along with four other communities on a NOAA Urban Heat Island webinar, which can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fvNDH25z6KM>. To view the Columbus Area Heat Map report visit [Urban Heat Island study \(columbus.gov\)](http://Urban Heat Island study (columbus.gov)).

Project Partners:

Other local project partners who helped make this initiative a success included:

- Bronzeville Growers Market
- Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center at The Ohio State University
- Columbus City Council
- Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed
- Franklin County Public Health
- Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District
- Green Columbus
- Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

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