SESSION DESCRIPTION

B1 Towards the implementation of a comprehensive urban cooling strategy to adapt to climate change

Panel discussion

Date: Wednesday, July 6, 2016
Time: 16:45- 18:15
Room: S25-26

Language: English
Contact: Marie Gantois
E-mail/web: marie.gantois@paris.fr
www.planclimat.paris.fr
Organized by: City of Paris

OBJECTIVE

This session explored how the City of Paris developed and is now implementing its comprehensive urban cooling strategy to mitigate the negative impacts of heat waves in the context of climate change. Panelists highlighted other urban cooling strategies that diverse cities have developed across the globe to highlight similarities and discuss differences in applying strategies to the same end.

Development of the policy: Paris recently adopted its Adaptation Strategy facing climate change and resource scarcity. It was built up from various projects, including local climate projections, a comprehensive vulnerability and opportunity study, a research on the Urban Heat Island (UHI) phenomenon in Paris, public consultation, and an inventory of climate-related existing policies and how they would be impacted by climate change. It appears that vulnerability to heat is one of the main challenges for such a densely built and populated city as Paris facing climate change in the short term.

Implementation of the cooling strategy: from crisis management (improving the heat wave emergency plan, spray water in the city, etc) to urban planning (in particular, with the ambitious greening program and “the cooling pathways” initiative), including the mobilization of civil society to boost solidarity and foster new lifestyles, and a reflection on resources (and especially water) scarcity, a panel of actions carried out by the city was discussed. The relevance of the comprehensive strategy, particularly by integrating diverse types and levels of actions, was highlighted.

OUTCOMES

Participants gained a better understanding of:

- Methods for adapting to heat in different urban environments;
- How research can be used to identity Urban Heat Islands and develop urban cool islands and “cooling pathways”; and
- City level experiences in responding to the challenge of heat waves by integrating multi-level and innovative practices.

METHODOLOGY

- The facilitator opened the session with a short introduction of herself and each speaker. **(5 minutes)**
- The key city speaker introduced the topic and discuss relevant details **(15 minutes)**
- Each speaker was given time to describe their work, showing maps or other illustrations as needed **(3 x 10 minutes)**
- The remainder of the session was organized around the guiding questions, with each panelist given time to respond to individual questions, and to respond to comments made by other panelists **(15 minutes)**
- The facilitator managed questions and answers from the audience. **(20 minutes)**
- The facilitator concluded with closing remarks. **(5 minutes)**

Guiding questions:

1. How do heat waves impact diverse urban environments?
2. How to develop a comprehensive heat wave strategy at the city level?
3. Adapting urban planning to anticipate heat waves: how can research help?
4. What feedback from implementing a comprehensive urban cooling strategy, and what recommendations to give for cities moving forward to mitigate heat waves?

CONTRIBUTORS

Facilitator — *Marie Gantois, Leader on Climate Change Strategy, City of Paris, Paris, France*

The facilitator introduced the topic and frame the discussion to follow.

Key speaker — *Marie Gantois, Leader on Climate Change Strategy, City of Paris, Paris, France*

Ms. Gantois introduced the Paris Adaptation strategy – development and implementation. Following that, the presenter invited the other speakers to share their experiences on the topic presented (i.e. Urban Heat Island mitigation strategy in Paris and planning an adaptation strategy for a large-sized European city).

Panelist — *Marc Barra, Ecological Engineer, Natureparif, Pantin, France*

- Nature-based solutions to address global resilience in Paris region – further elaborating on other strategies that could be/should be integrated to enhance resilience in Paris;
- Discussing cost-effectiveness of green/gray infrastructure and unveiling the costs of different options to help decision-makers make informed choices;
- Ecosystem and biodiversity as a key concept for resilient buildings – discussing a framework for designing resilient buildings, based on a biodiversity and ecosystem-based approach.

Panelist — *Chantal Pacteau, Deputy Director at the Paris Consortium Climate-Environment-Society and Researcher at the National Center for Scientific Research CNRS, Paris,*

France

- Discussing relevant architectural findings from the Roofscape program and feeding the conversation with lessons from Chicago and Montreal;
- Presenting relevant findings from the Second Assessment Report on Climate Change and Cities (ARC3-2)

Panelist *Gregory Richardson, Policy Analyst, Climate Change and Innovation Bureau, Government of Canada, Ottawa, Canada*

Tackling the Urban Heat Island Effect in Canadian communities

This presentation highlighted the results from an Urban Heat Island (UHI) inventory study implemented with the 30 most populous communities in Canada. Best local practices to reduce the UHI effect were shared, including architectural and green infrastructure solutions. These include, for example, installing reflective surfaces and improving energy efficiency in buildings to reduce waste heat and expanding city green spaces. The findings aim to assist communities developing their own urban heat island mitigation plans and actions.

Further recommended reading

- Paris Adaptation Strategy: Towards a more resilient city: https://api-site.paris.fr/images/76271
- Webpage on the Parisian Adaptation Strategy: http://www.paris.fr/actualites/an-adaptation-roadmap-to-anticipate-climate-change-in-paris-3140