

Climate Ready DC 2.0

Updating the District of Columbia's
Climate Resilience Plan

**Regional Public Transportation (RPTS) & Regional
Transportation Resilience (RTRS) Subcommittees**

Tuesday, February 25, 2025



★ ★ ★ DEPARTMENT
OF ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENT

GOVERNMENT OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

Introduction



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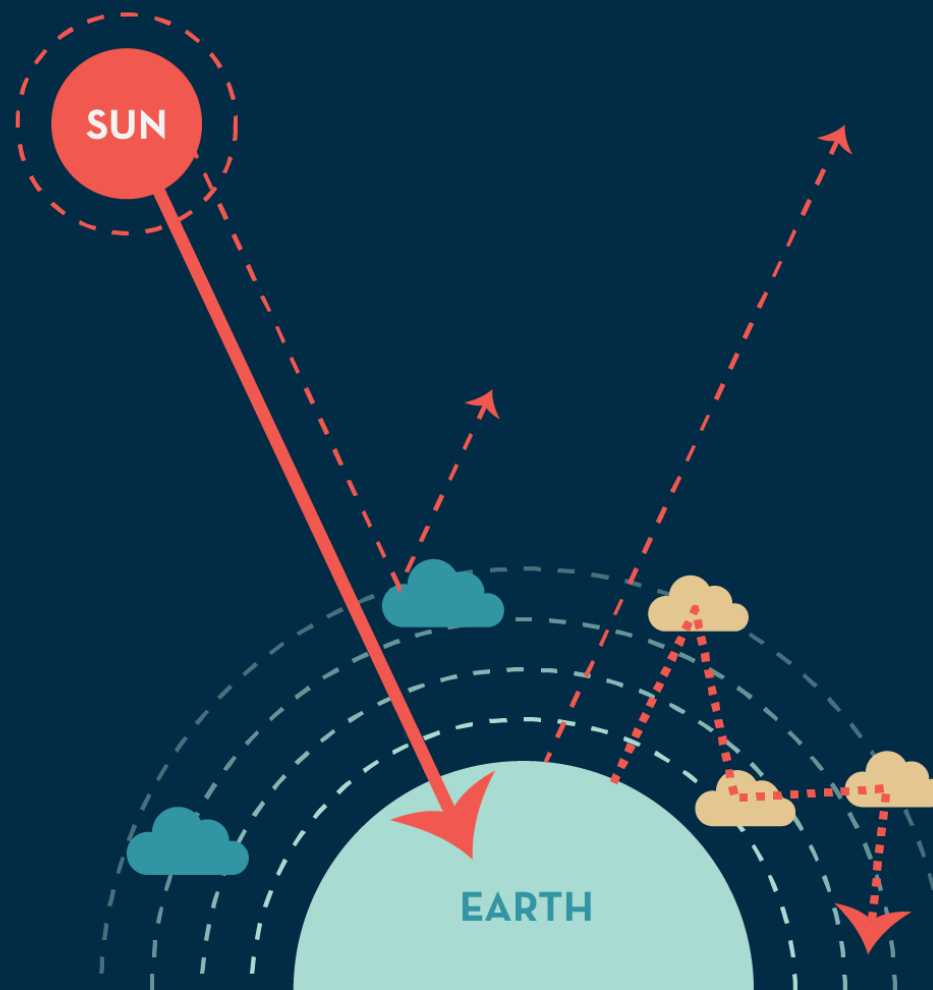


Contents

1. Climate change projections
2. An interagency approach to updating Climate Ready DC
3. Transportation-related actions



2024
Updated Climate
Projections



The District will experience in the future...

HOTTER



Annual average and summer **temperatures will continue to increase.**

Heat waves will become more intense and will last for longer periods of time.

WETTER



The **frequency** and **intensity** of **extreme precipitation events** are expected to **increase.**



Sea level rise is expected to continue and **will accelerate in the future** due to global ice sheet melting.

WILDER

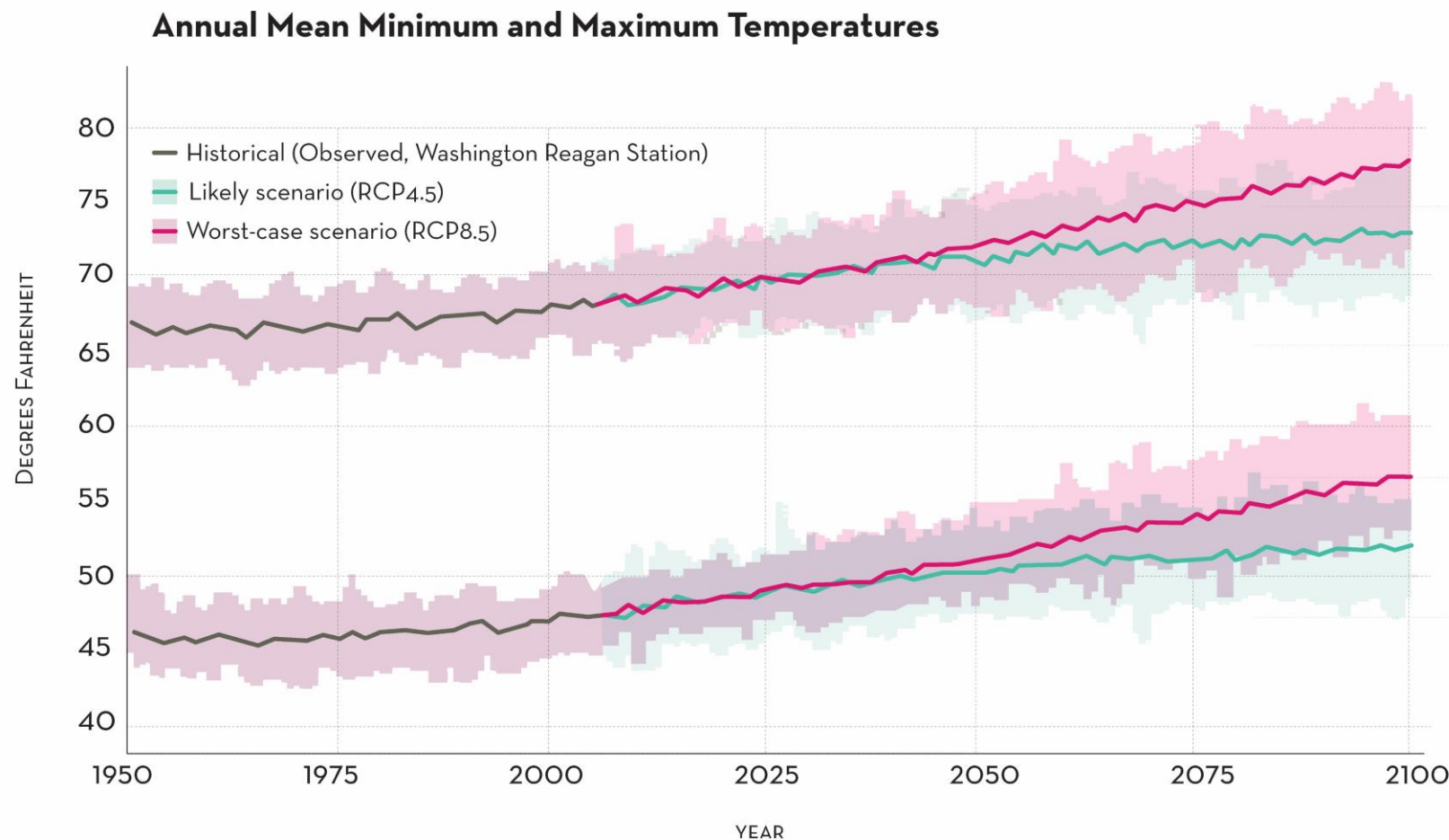


The **intensity of extreme storms** like derechos and hurricanes is likely to **increase.**

Unseasonably warm or cold days in the shoulder seasons will become more likely.

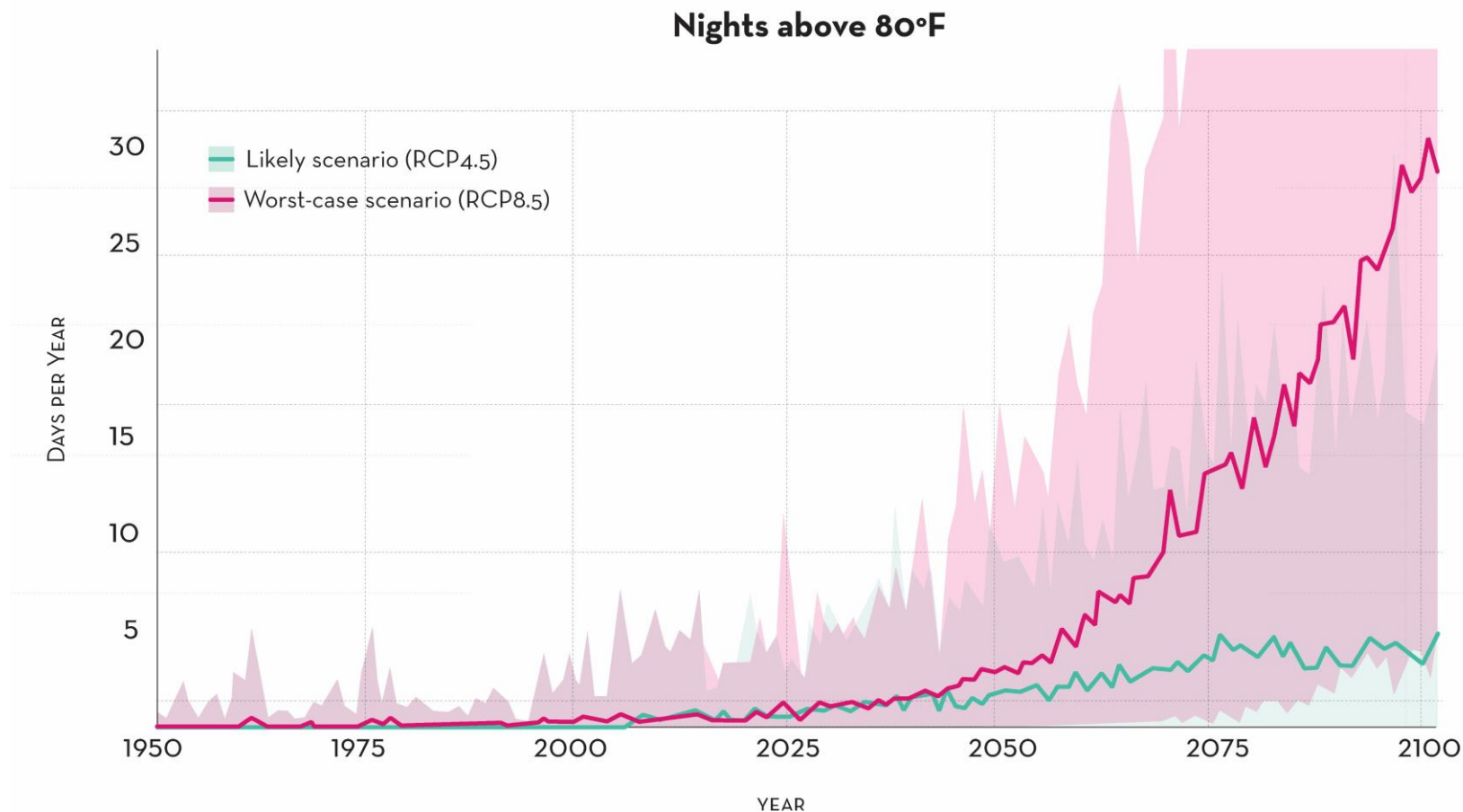


Extreme heat





Extreme heat

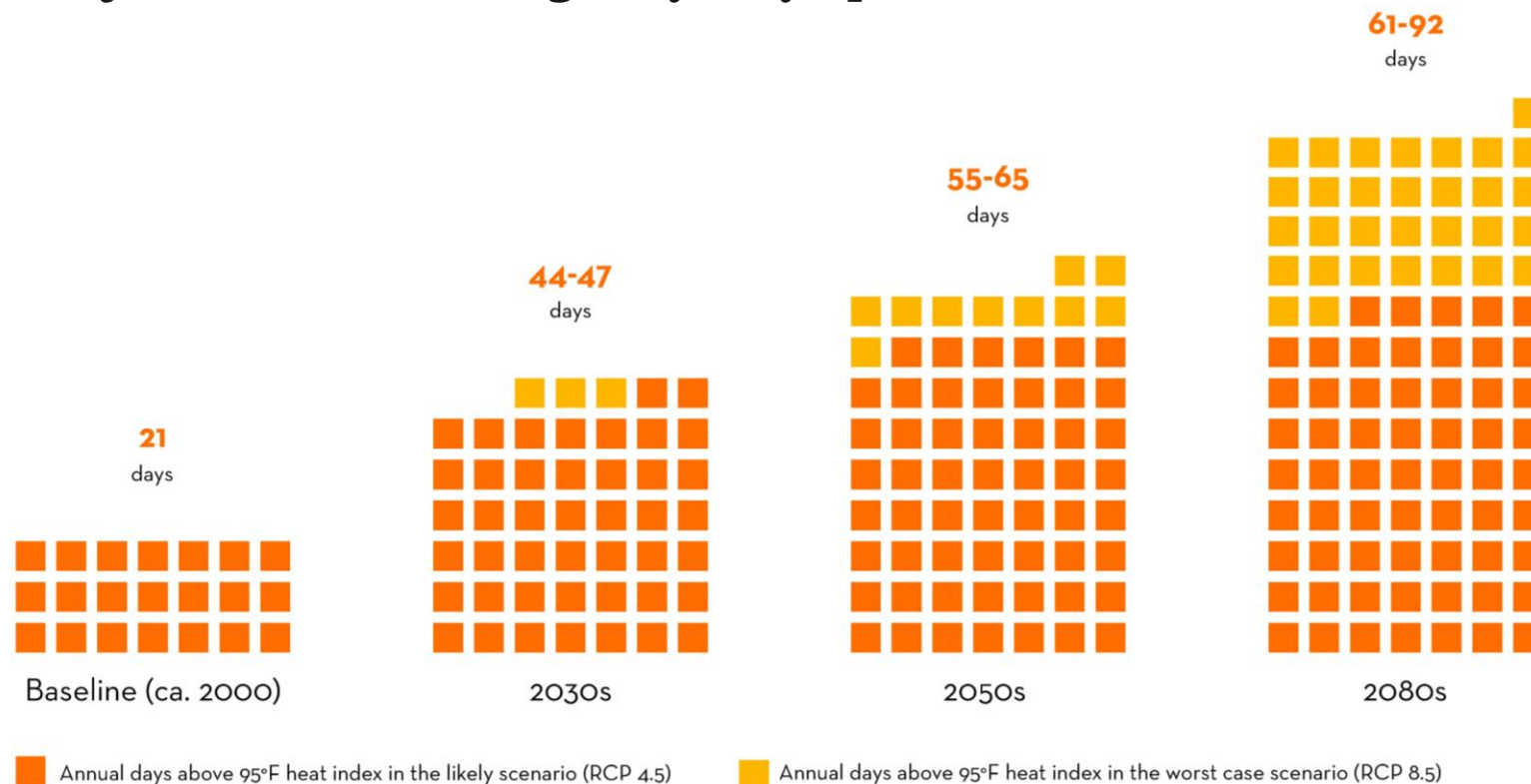


The new **Nights Above 80°F** metric could be considered in planning for human health risks for residents who are unhoused or who do not have access to air conditioning.



Extreme heat

Projected Heat Emergency Days per Year



1900s

1950s

2000s

2050s

2100s

Dawn



Born: 1935.



In 2015, Dawn is 80. She doesn't like going outside in the heat.

Mary



Born: 1963
(baby boomer)



In 2043, Mary is 80 years old. She is considering moving north to escape the heat as she ages.

Michelle



Born: 1991
(millennial)



In 2071, Michelle is 80 years old. Frequent heat emergencies make it unsafe for her to leave the house in the summer.

Casey



Born: 2023
(gen alpha)

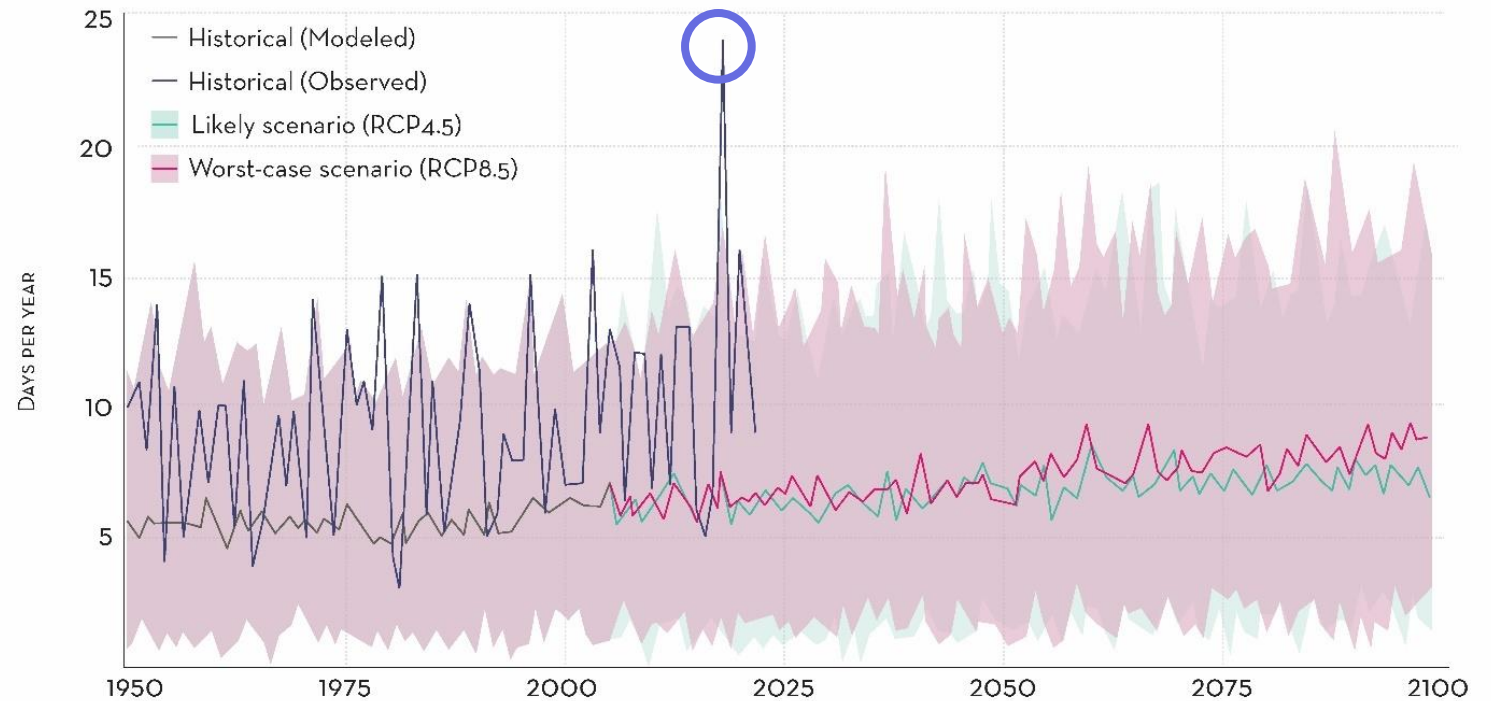


In 2103, Casey is 80 years old. The District is in a state of heat emergency for the majority of the summer and he in constant danger of heat-related illness.

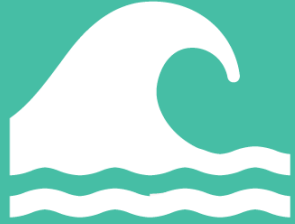


Precipitation

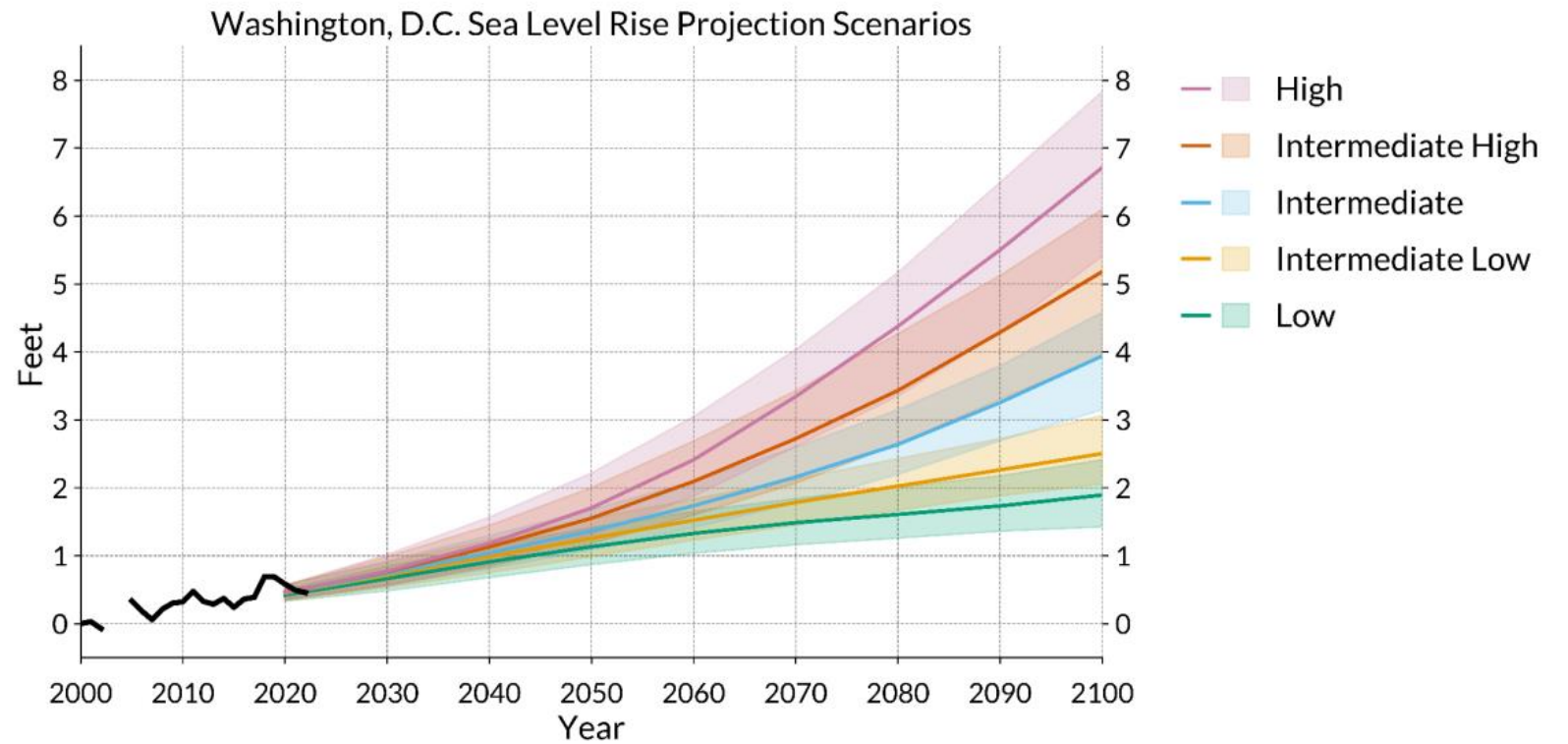
Days with at least 1 inch of rainfall



2018, the wettest year in observed District history, received 24 days with at least one inch of rain. This exceeds even the maximum of the worst-case warming scenario projections by the year 2100, indicating that this model should be understood as a conservative estimate.



Sea level rise



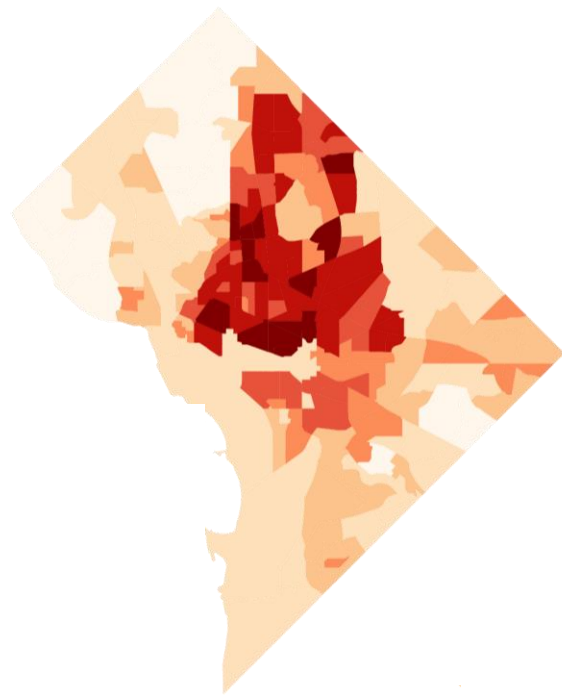
Data: 2022 Sea Level Rise and Coastal
Flood Hazard Scenarios and Tools
Interagency Task Force report



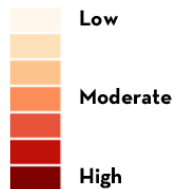
Extreme Weather

- Storms of all types are expected to get more intense in the future
- Weather is expected to become more volatile and more difficult to predict.

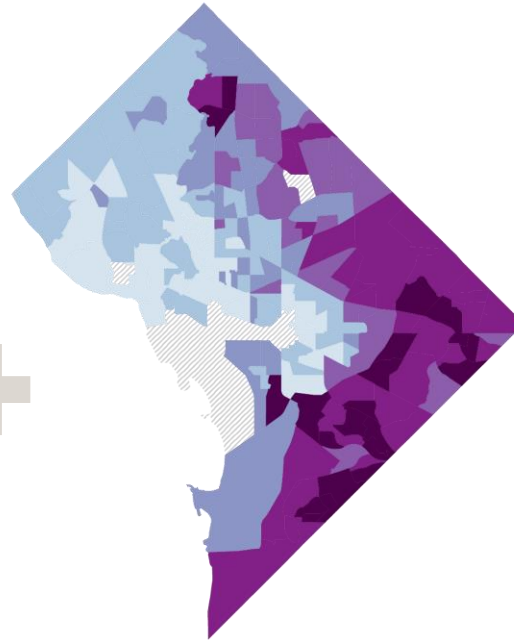
Understanding Climate Risk: Heat



Heat Exposure Index



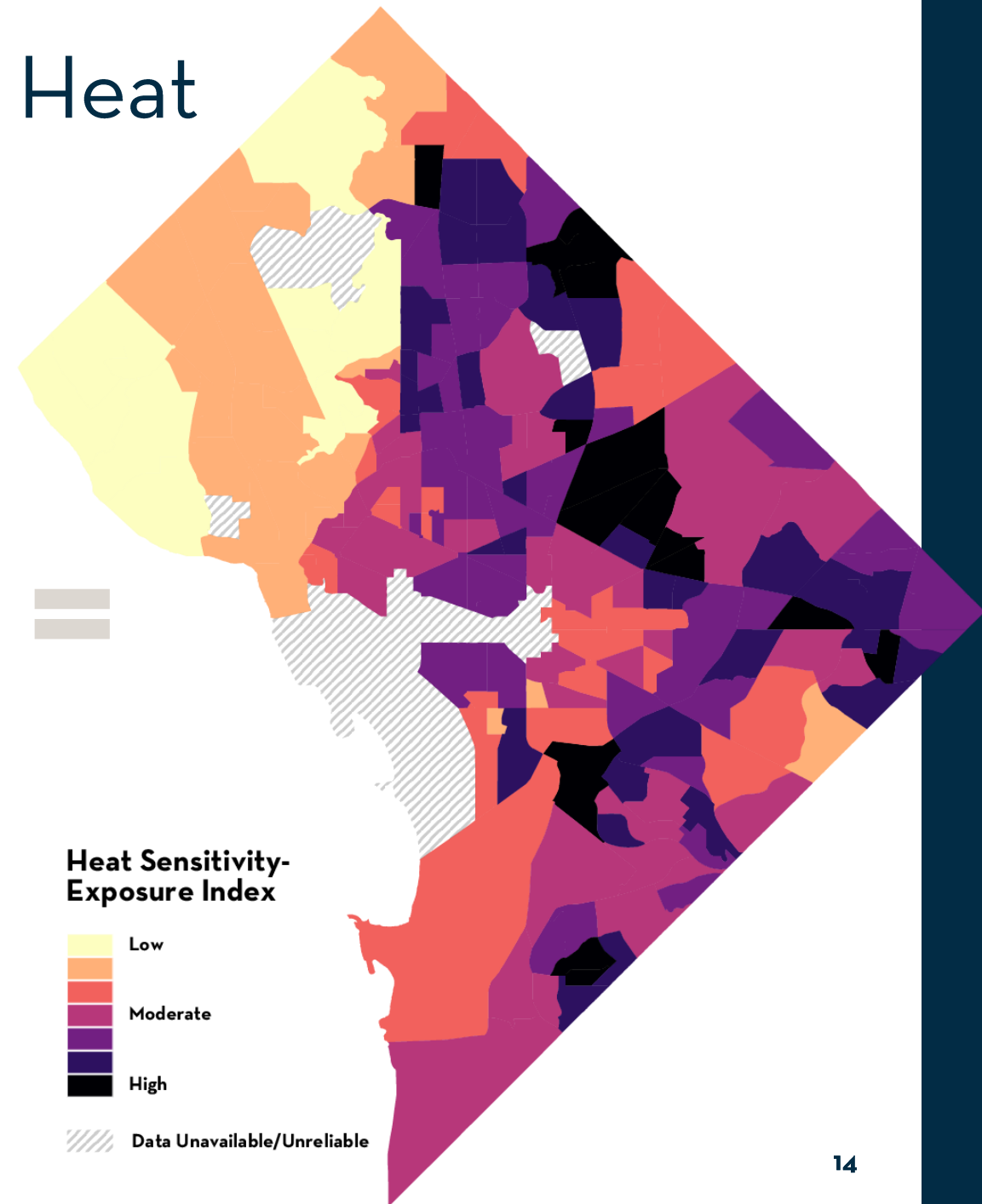
+



Heat Sensitivity Index



=



Heat Sensitivity-Exposure Index



/// Data Unavailable/Unreliable

Understanding Climate Risk: Flooding

Climate Risk Exposure



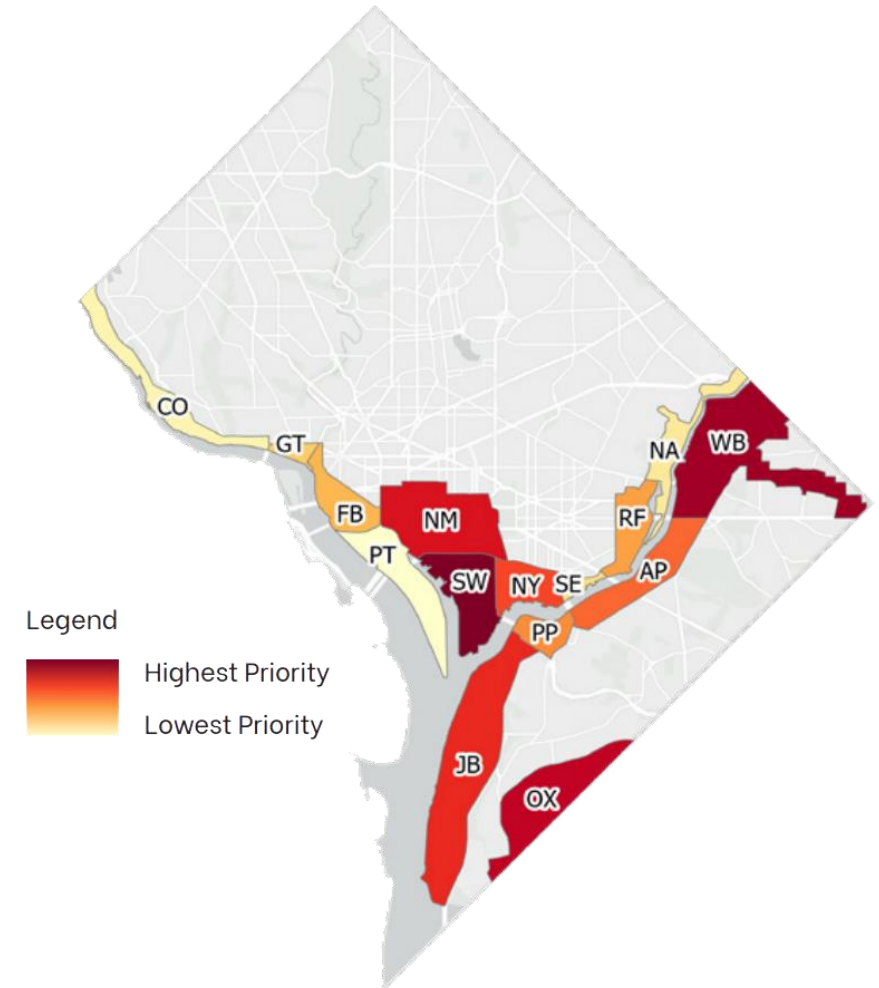
Socio-economic Sensitivity



Actionability



Flood Resilience Focus Areas



An interagency approach to updating

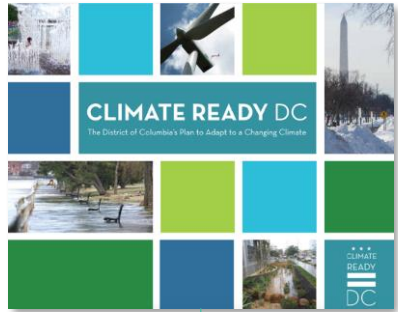
Climate Ready DC



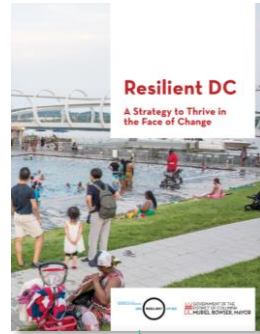
Districtwide Climate-related Plans:



Districtwide Climate-related Plans:



Mayor's 2016
plan to adapt
to changing
climate



DC's 2019
strategy to
thrive in the
face of
change



CONSOLIDATE

Climate Ready DC 2.0
Citywide Climate Resilience Plan

Interagency Workshops

Workshop #1 *December 12, 2023*

- Identify successes and barriers to implementing Climate Ready DC

Workshop #2 *February 27, 2024*

- Discuss mechanisms for implementation, inter-agency collaboration, and what support is needed.

Workshop #3 *June 25, 2024*

- Identify strategies to center racial equity in climate resilience planning in the District

Workshop #4 *October 29, 2024*

- Recap of community engagement and review of proposed goals, objectives, actions

Interagency Workshops



40-50 participants per workshop

17+ entities represented

Interagency Advisory Group

- Working group for 14+ District agencies
- Quarterly meetings
 - Coordinate efforts
 - Advise on CRDC update

CRDC 2.0



Transportation-related **Resilience Actions**



Goals

1

Support District residents to become more climate ready.

2

Protect buildings & infrastructure from climate impacts

3

Institutionalize climate change preparedness in District government.

4

Use the best available science & tools to understand climate risks.

High Priority S.M.A.R.T. actions

1

Support District residents to become more climate ready.

2

Protect buildings & infrastructure from climate impacts

3

Institutionalize climate change preparedness in District government.

4

Use the best available science & tools to understand climate risks.

1.1

1.2

1.3

1.4

1.5

1.6

1.7

S.M.A.R.T.:

- a **specific (S)** step to take that builds from momentum or best practice
- a **measurable (M)** indicator of success, which will be tracked by DOEE and HSEMA
- an **achievable (A)** target
- a **relevant (R)** action that works toward the Goal, and
- a **timeline (T)** for hitting the target within the 5-year implementation period.

Support District residents to become more climate

- 1.5 Develop “**cool corridors**” in neighborhoods vulnerable to extreme heat.
- 1.6 Expand the number of **shaded bus shelters** in heat vulnerable communities and pilot new design strategies for DDOT-managed bus shelters to provide better protection from extreme heat.
- 1.7 Add additional tree shade or shade structures along heavily used **pedestrian and bicycle trails**.

Protect **buildings & infrastructure** from climate

- 2.2** Develop a climate risk screening tool and a **climate resilience cost benefit analysis tool** to be used before project costs are estimated and put into the Capital Improvement Plan.
- 2.3** Develop language related to climate resilience and incorporate it into **capital improvement scopes of work** (SOWs) and **requests for proposals** (RFPs) for District of Columbia funded projects.
- 2.4** Design and implement **neighborhood-scale blue-green infrastructure networks.**
- 2.5** Incorporate shade analysis and **higher shade standards** into planning and design.

3

Institutionalize climate change preparedness in District government.

- 3.3 Establish a **Climate Champion** in each agency and establish a broader Climate Cohort that staff in any agency may join.
- 3.4 Create a **chief heat officer** position.

4

Use the best available **science & tools** to understand climate risks.

- 4.5 Conduct a **cost-of-inaction study** to better understand the District's climate risk in financial terms.

