



COOL RETROSPECTIVE: Cool Surfaces in the News

The Global Cool Cities Alliance (GCCA) compiles news covering cool roofs, cool pavements, and a wide range of urban heat island-related issues in a report we call *Cool Retrospective*. In this issue, we take a look back at the first half of 2015.

“Cool Rooftop House” Program in Seoul Painting Roofs White for Free

The city of Seoul, South Korea has launched a campaign to [paint roofs white](#) to mitigate the heat island effect and save energy on the city’s homes. City officials also plan to provide low-cost loans to help install more cool roofs.

American Institute of Architects Touts the Benefits of Cool Roofs

Robert Ivy, CEO of the American Institute of Architects, discusses the benefits of installing cool roof benefits in this [Washington Post guest column](#). He also talks about a recent analysis and model by GCCA Board Member Greg Kats that [studies the health benefits](#) of cool roofs on Washington DC municipal buildings.

White Roof Workshops in Arizona

Extreme heat is an equal opportunity killer and people are starting to understand that white roofs help us all. That’s why they’re holding events at community centers in places like [Scottsdale Arizona](#), to discuss how cool roofs can bring down temperatures and save lives.

White Roofs Conserve Energy and Save Money

This [US News and World Report](#) article notes the money-saving advantages of white roofs.

LBLN Develops a Method to Speed up White Roof Aged Testing

Scientists at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory have come up with a simulated soiling and weathering process that reproduces in only a few days the effects of aging roofing products for three years outside. “What we’ve created is essentially a cool roof time machine,” said Ronnen Levinson of LBNL’s Heat Island Group. Once adopted, the method will significantly enhance innovation and help move roofing products to market more quickly. You can [read more here](#).

Green Roofs to the Rescue in France!

A new law in France requires a green roof or solar panels on any new commercial construction – nationwide! You can read about it [here](#) and [here](#).



Paris, France – Flickr Creative Commons

Australian Researchers Develop New Cool Roof Technology

Researchers have developed a roofing material that will stay cooler than the air around it, even under the mid-summer Australian sun. This new

surface stayed 11 degrees cooler than a nearby white roof because it absorbs only 3 percent of the sunlight hitting it. You can [read more here](#).

Record Setting Heat Continues Around the World

A team of scientists in India and the U.S. recently reviewed data from 217 cities around the world, and issued a report showing that the number of extreme heat events have been [steadily climbing since 1973](#) with the largest number of heat waves occurring during the most recent decade. They also noted that these heat waves will become more frequent and deadly in the coming years.

Extreme Heat – the Silent Killer

Last year may have been the hottest on record, but [2015 is on track](#) to beat last year's heat. Extreme heat events are happening all over the world and this heat is killing thousands. [India's heat wave](#) killed approximately 2,500 people – other extreme heat events are proving to be nearly as deadly. Here are just a [few examples](#).

Record Heat Tied to Climate Change

The Climate Council of Australia issued [a report](#) noting that record-setting temperatures in 2013 would not have occurred if not for climate change, and calls for immediate action on emissions reductions. The author noted that “If we don't get on top of this, what you consider an extreme heat event now would be a normal summer by the middle of the century...” Read more [here](#).

The [Guardian newspaper](#) notes that record heat in Europe in 2014 was made 35 times more likely by climate change. The [Guardian also notes](#) that the heat wave that killed 70,000 in 2003 could occur twice per decade as our planet heats up.

Productivity Falls When Temperatures Go Up

Extreme heat is costing lives, but it is also costly in worker productivity. [Researchers in Australia](#) found 70% of working adults had worked less efficiently at some point over the past year due to heat - 7% had missed at least one day of work because of high temperatures. This reduced productivity cost the Australian economy US\$6.2 billion.

Cities are Taking Action on Extreme Heat

Dark roofs and pavement add to the urban heat island of Louisville, KY – the fastest-warming city in the US. City planners are using trees and lighter surfaces to address the problem. Local experts estimate that one-third of downtown Louisville is dedicated to parking. Reflective coating on the parking lots would be the cheapest and easiest way to beat the heat. You can read about it [here](#) and [here](#).

Contact GCCA

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