



Institute *for* Climate, Water, *and the* Environment

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Climate Resilience Project

The Climate Resilience Project supports communities in the Inland Northwest in understanding, preparing for, and responding to climate-driven events. In collaboration with diverse regional partners and informed by intentional community engagement, we work to create equitable human societies within flourishing ecological communities in the face of a changing climate.

- Beat the Heat
- Smoke Ready Spokane
- Community Resilience Hubs



Beat the Heat

Goal

Help our
community **understand**
and **respond** to the
impacts of **extreme**
summer heat

Key Partners

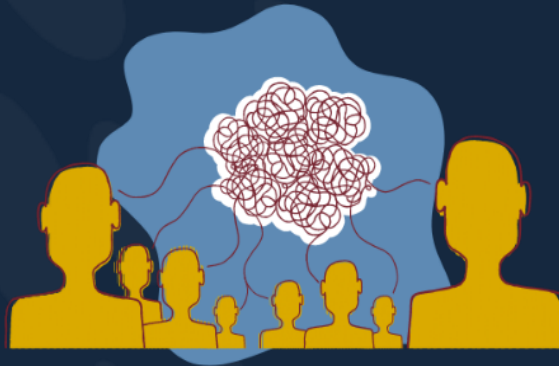
- Washington State Department of Health
- Spokane City
Emergency Management
- Spokane Regional Health District
- University of Washington
Collaborative on Extreme Event
Resilience (CEER)



Beat the Heat



Urban Heat Island
Mapping



Perceptions & Experiences
of Extreme Heat



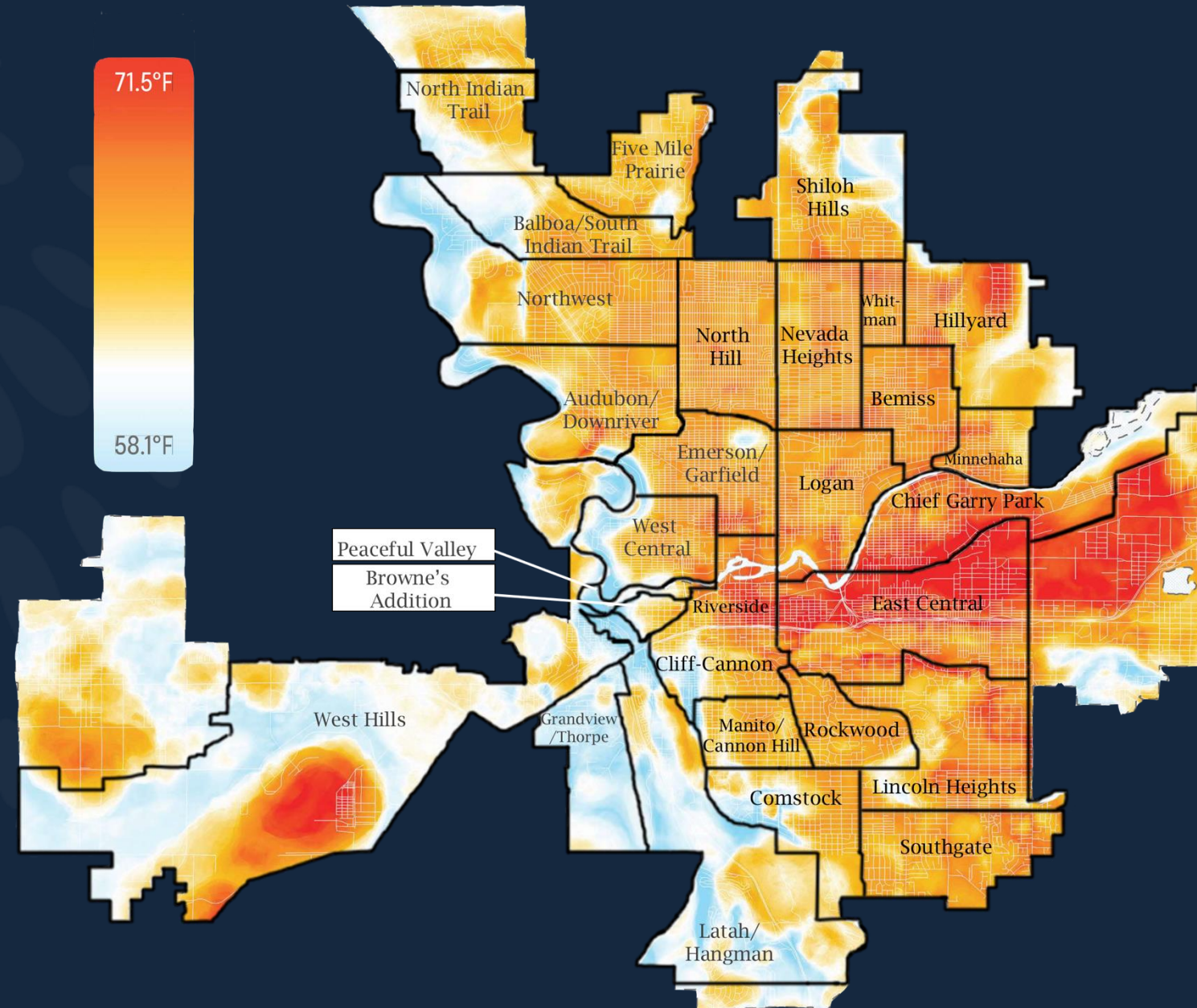
Heat Education and Awareness



Urban Heat Island Mapping

Urban Heat Island Effect

- Almost **14°F** difference in Spokane neighborhoods at the same time of day



Perceptions and Experiences of Extreme Heat

- Community Heat Survey 2022
 - 1,799 responses
 - Results:
 - 53.5% said high heat events are a “severe” or “moderate” threat to Spokane community.
 - 57.3% responded they would not use a public cooling center this summer.
 - 22.8% respondents reported limitations to use of home cooling
 - 80% cited cost as a limitation
- Extreme Heat Symposium 2023
 - Stakeholders in Spokane discussed relevant topics such as barriers to extreme heat resilience, the importance of community connectedness, and the importance of collaboration across agencies.



Heat Education and Awareness

Spokane Regional Health District Collaboration -> Heat Education Campaign



Interviews with Public
Health and Community
Experts



Infographics, Factsheets,
Ads, Videos, and Social
Media



Web Content, Press
Releases, and Blogs



Smoke Ready Spokane

Goal

Help our
community **understand**
and **respond** to the
impacts of **wildfire**
smoke

Key Partners

- Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency
- City of Spokane
Emergency Management
- UW Collaborative on Extreme
Event Resilience
- Spokane Regional Health District



Understanding Wildfire Smoke

EPA Wildfire Smoke Preparedness Grant

- \$1.1M, 2024-2027
- **Community survey** to gauge the perceptions and impacts of wildfire smoke
- One-day **stakeholder symposium** convened stakeholders including academia; state and local agencies; tribal communities; and community-based organizations



Responding to Wildfire Smoke

EPA Wildfire Smoke Preparedness Grant

- Developing smoke readiness and response plans
- Increasing indoor air quality monitoring and improving community centers to provide safer air
- Conducting a smoke health education campaign



Community Resilience Hubs

Goal

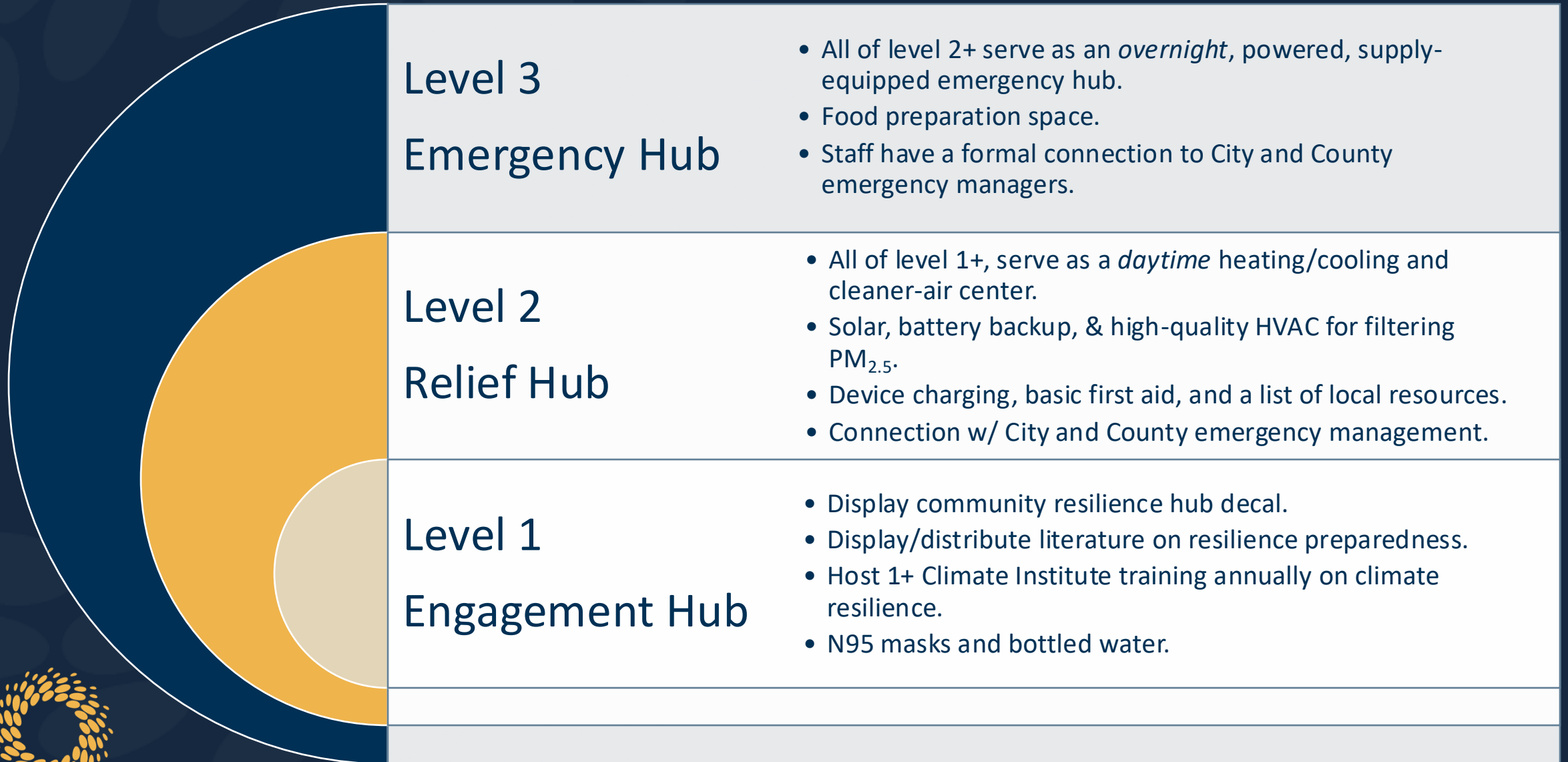
**Stenghtening
trusted community
facilities to
enhance resilience**

Key Partners

- **Climate Health Adaptation Initiative (CHAI)**
- **Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency**
- **City of Spokane Emergency Management**
- **WA Department of Health**
- **UW Collaborative for Extreme Event Resilience**



Spokane Community Resilience Network



THE

CARL MAXEY CENTER



Carl Maxey Center Community Resilience Project

Amount: \$95k (CCA funded)

Project Dates: May 2024-April 2025

Goal: The Gonzaga Institute for Climate, Water, and the Environment is partnering with the Carl Maxey Center in East Central Spokane to facilitate a community-informed process of establishing the center as a community resilience hub during extreme weather events.



Carl Maxey Center Community Resilience Project

Scope of Work:

- Install indoor and outdoor air quality monitors at CMC
 - Real-time dashboard will show air quality data to visitors
 - Consultant will be hired to aid in developing plans for further infrastructure improvements.
- Create and distribute a community survey
 - Four different languages
 - Gathering residents' perceptions of heat and smoke events and how CMC can keep people safe.



Carl Maxey Center Community Resilience Project

Scope of Work Cont.:

- Distribute **culturally informed outreach materials** promoting safety measures around wildfire smoke and extreme heat
- The Climate Institute and CMC will host a **symposium event** to expand education around risks of extreme weather and gather more community feedback.
- All feedback will be analyzed and used to develop **climate readiness plans** for CMC as well as **trainings and materials** for CMC staff.





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