

From: [Nancy Morris](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: [Chris Roberts](#); [Keith Scully](#); [Doris McConnell](#); [Eben Pobee](#); [John Ramsdell](#); [Laura Mork](#); [Betsy Robertson](#); [Cameron Reed](#); [Elise Keim](#); [Alisa Nguyen](#); [Constance Perenyi](#); [Rachael Markle](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Heat Island Effects in the Transportation Master Plan Agenda Item 9a - comment presented to City Council July 18 2022
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Importance: High

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Attention Mayor Scully, Deputy Mayor Robertson, Councilmembers, and colleagues:

Due to recent federal policy changes, climate issues will largely be left up to states and local governments and why decisions by this City Council on the local level are of utmost importance (Reference 1 and 2).

My comment pertains to Climate Resiliency as one of the Goals in the Transportation Plan. It is disconcerting that only 2 points are ascribed to the Urban Heat Island effect! That doesn't seem to add up.

How is this reconciled with the work the City of Shoreline Environmental Department is undertaking and in fact, recommending the adoption by Council of a Resolution on [August 15](#) declaring a Climate Emergency?

Shoreline's own publication "[Climate Change and the City of Shoreline](#)" calls attention to the rising temperature in the Puget Sound area. Heat islands are caused by roofs, pavement, and hard surfaces that absorb heat, specifically in areas devoid of the protection and shade of mature trees (Reference 3). This publication includes a map of heat islands in Shoreline.

As stated in this publication, heat related illnesses are a public health hazard. Therefore Climate Resiliency and the topic of heat island effects in Shoreline specifically relates to the location of these heat islands and the residents who live there.

These are reasons why established mature trees in Shoreline neighborhoods are critical to preserve. These trees mitigate heat island effects. And established trees are a cost-effective solution. Top scientists from around the world and

our own University of Washington continually repeat that mature trees along with saving our major forests and saving urban forests are vitally important to mitigate climate emergencies (Reference 3 and 4). Data and metrics can be skewed, perhaps unintentionally, to promote a conclusion as in this Transportation Master Plan showing less emphasis on heat-island effects, which will have unintended consequences for the years ahead. The metrics applied to Climate Resiliency need to be adjusted to take Urban Heat Island effects into greater consideration. Thank you.

Regards,
Nancy Morris
Shoreline resident

REFERENCES:

1. "What Does West Virginia v. EPA Mean for Climate Action?" EarthJustice https://earthjustice.org/blog/2022-july/what-does-west-virginia-v-epa-mean-for-climate-action?utm_source=crm&utm_medium=email&utm_term=newsletter&utm_campaign=220717_ForTheRecord_July2022&utm_content=ReadMore&curation=newsletter&emci=7c75c82f-d402-ed11-b47a-281878b83d8a&emdi=c9459e98-d205-ed11-b47a-281878b83d8a&ceid=2696148 . . . "States and local governments are also critical to addressing climate change, especially in light of the *West Virginia v. EPA* decision. While the decision impacts the EPA, it does nothing to hamper state and local authority. States and local governments have the ability to implement local zoning standards that take into account climate resiliency or ban new buildings from gas hookups while passing laws that enshrine their own climate goals to protect their future." . . .

2. "A Wilting Climate Response As another heat wave descends, the U.S. federal government is pulling back from the climate fight. What now?" **New YorkTimes July 18, 2022**

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/07/18/briefing/extreme-heat-climate-fight-us-government.html> ". . . Yet in the face of these mounting signs and costs of climate change, the U.S. federal government is choosing not to address the problem. Last week, President Biden's package of policies to reduce climate-warming pollution collapsed, after Senator Joe Manchin of West Virginia withdrew his support. Last month, the Supreme Court restricted the Environmental Protection Agency's authority to reduce pollution at power plants." . . .

3. "Learn About Heat Islands," EPA report <https://www.epa.gov/heatislands/learn-about-heat-islands>

3(a). "Reduce Urban Heat Island Effect," EPA Report - <https://www.epa.gov/green-infrastructure/reduce-urban-heat-island-effect>).

4. [Letter from 134 Scientists Conserve Mature Forests and Large Trees \(PDF\)](#)

Reference source: **Climate Forests:** <https://www.nrdc.org/resources/climate-forests#undefined> . . . On the importance of conserving mature forests and large trees. All forest canopy is so vitally important now in our urban environments. The letter has signatures from some scientists at our own University of Washington.

5. "What Technology Could Reduce Heat Deaths? Trees. At a time when climate change is making heat waves more frequent and more severe, trees are stationary superheroes: They can lower urban temperatures 10 lifesaving degrees, scientists say." *New York Times*

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/07/02/climate/trees-cities-heat-waves.html>

5(a). "Trees save lives in heat, so why aren't we saving trees?" *Seattle Times*, (same as above under title as published in New York Times July 2, 2021)

<https://www.seattletimes.com/nation-world/trees-save-lives-in-heat-s-so-why-arent-we-saving-trees/>