

HEALTHY STREETS PROGRAM

What Is It?

The Healthy Streets program, authorized in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, works to reduce flooding, improve air quality, and mitigate the urban heat island effect within communities of color and low income communities by providing grants to state and local governments, as well as nonprofits, to both plant trees and deploy Smart Surfaces, such as reflective pavement in urban heat islands and porous pavement in flood prone areas. The program requires engagement with and support by community leaders.

What It Does

This bill funds a state, tribal or local government or nonprofit to:

- ✔ Expand tree cover by purchasing and planting trees, site preparation, ongoing maintenance and monitoring of trees, and repairing of storm damage to trees.
- ✔ Deploy Smart Surfaces—surfaces that more effectively manage the sun and rain such as green, porous, and reflective surfaces, trees, solar PV, and combined solutions—to improve air quality and reduce summer heat in low-income communities.
- ✔ The program also requires local community buy-in for such investment.

Why It Matters

- ✔ Surface decisions in cities are traditionally made using lowest first or initial cost, which most of the time are dark impervious surfaces. These dark impervious surfaces absorb roughly 90% of incoming heat and contribute to increased water runoff, which means cities are becoming increasingly hot, less equitable, and more prone to flooding.
- ✔ Low-income neighborhoods are typically 8-10 degrees fahrenheit warmer than surrounding areas, a trend caused by historical redlining, underinvestment in green space, and a lack of tree planting.
- ✔ This report shows that Smart Surfaces adoption by Baltimore would deliver 4.3 F degrees cooling to downtown Baltimore, create thousands of full time jobs, address climate, health, and equity, all while delivering \$13 billion net present value, with a more than 10:1 benefit cost ratio.
- ✔ The US Forest Service has recognized that urban tree canopies work with Smart Surfaces to mitigate stormwater runoff and control pollution by intercepting rain and reducing its intensity, allowing water retained on foliage and branches to delay runoff or evaporate rather than overwhelm stormwater systems. Further, tree roots biologically and chemically condition soil to store greater volumes of water.
- ✔ Scientific studies also demonstrate that urban tree canopies calm traffic, encourage walking and biking, decrease aggressive driving, reduce traffic noise and extend the life of pavement.

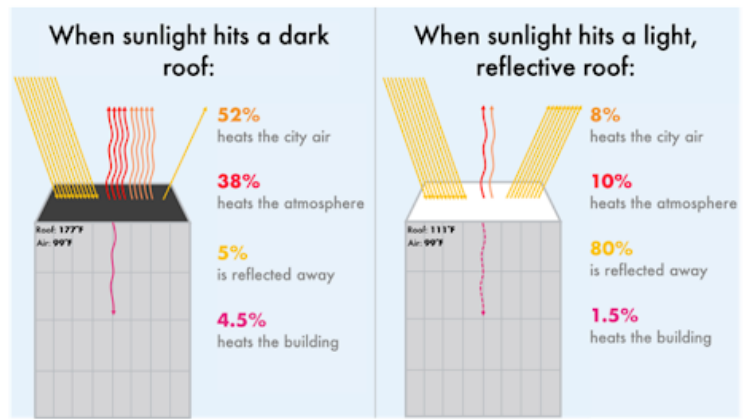
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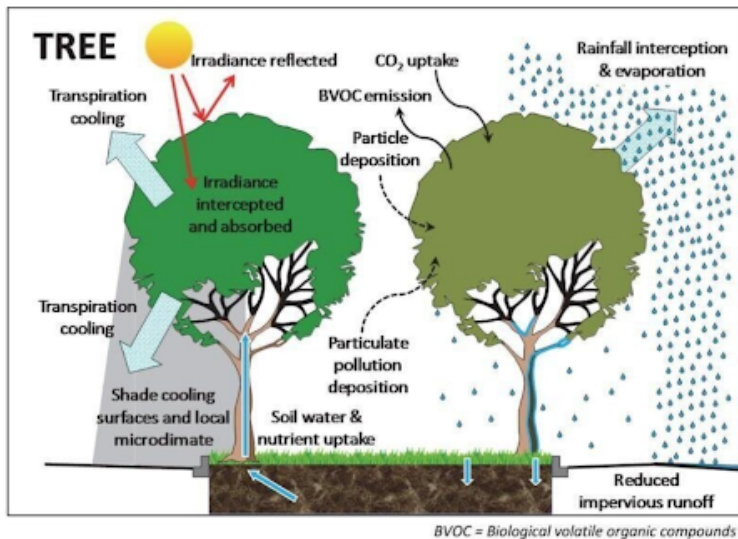
CASE STUDIES

Phoenix Cool Corridors Project

The City of Phoenix Street Transportation Department selected portions of eight neighborhoods and one city park to receive cool pavement treatments with the goal of creating a network of cool corridors in vulnerable communities. Cool pavement is lighter in color than traditional asphalt or other seal coatings. Cool pavement reflects back the sunlight that hits it rather than retaining heat, offsetting rising nighttime temperatures in Phoenix.



Data source: Lawrence Berkeley National Lab ([here](#) and [here](#))



Source: Journal of Environmental Quality ([here](#))

Miami-Dade SHADE Project

A collaborative effort between residents, non-profits, universities, government, foundations and others aimed at engaging two tree-deprived communities, the SHADE (Shaping Healthy Active Deep-rooted Environments) project improved public access to transit stops and routes by identifying areas to plant trees to provide protection from Miami's extreme weather. From this pilot, project proponents created a scalable plan for providing tree canopy at bus stops within historically underserved health-burdened communities regionwide.

Reading, PA Complete Streets Policy

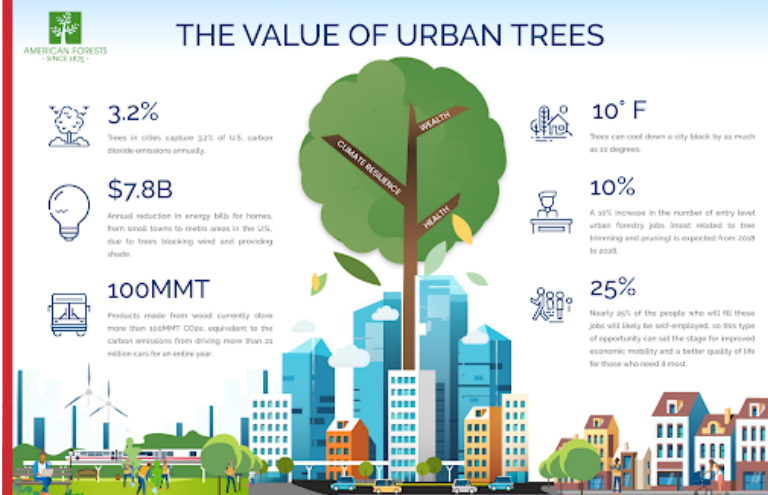
During the height of the recession in 2010, the midsize city of Reading, PA, was measured as the most impoverished city in the United States. Yet, its city managers are leading the way in implementing Complete Streets policies, which aim to sustainably accommodate all street users, whether they travel by car, bus, bicycle or on foot, and incorporate green infrastructure for stormwater management, and prioritize aesthetics to encourage walking and biking—ensuring mobility options and a clean environment for all residents, regardless of whether or not they can afford a car.



Source: Soil Science Society of America ([here](#))

Organizations Supporting Funding for the Healthy Streets Program

- ✓ American Forests
- ✓ League of American Bicyclists
- ✓ Safe Routes Partnership
- ✓ Smart Surfaces Coalition
- ✓ America Walks
- ✓ American Heart Association
- ✓ American Planning Association
- ✓ American Public Health Association
- ✓ Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals (APBP)
- ✓ Climate Equity Policy Center
- ✓ Environmental Law and Policy Center
- ✓ Global Cool Cities Alliance
- ✓ Green Latinos
- ✓ Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Church
- ✓ National Association of Chronic Disease Directors
- ✓ National Association of City Transportation Officials
- ✓ National League of Cities
- ✓ National Recreation and Park Association
- ✓ North American Bikeshare and Scootershare Association
- ✓ Rails-to-Trails Conservancy
- ✓ Transportation for America



More Facts to Consider: Report from Britain's Office of National Statistics estimates tree cover saved the capital more than 5 billion pounds (\$6.56 billion) from 2014 to 2018 through air cooling alone. In addition, study of 97 US cities estimates urban tree cover nationwide supplies heat-reduction services worth \$5.3 to 12.1 billion per year.