



# A Chicago Regional Climate Plan Climate Impacts & Hazards

## Adaptation Webinar 2

May 29, 2020





# Welcome

Kevin Burns, Mayor, City of Geneva

Chairman, Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Environment  
Committee and Energy Sub Committee



 Metropolitan  
Mayors  
*Caucus*



## Speakers



### Ned Gardiner, PhD

Engagement Manager  
NOAA Climate Program Office &  
U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit  
[ned.gardiner@noaa.gov](mailto:ned.gardiner@noaa.gov)



### Jim Fox

Sr. Resilience Analyst  
NEMAC-Fernleaf & U.S. Climate  
Resilience Toolkit  
[jfox@nemacfernleaf.com](mailto:jfox@nemacfernleaf.com)



Practical Guidance for

# Chicago Region Climate Planning

Climate Impacts and Hazards

May 29, 2020

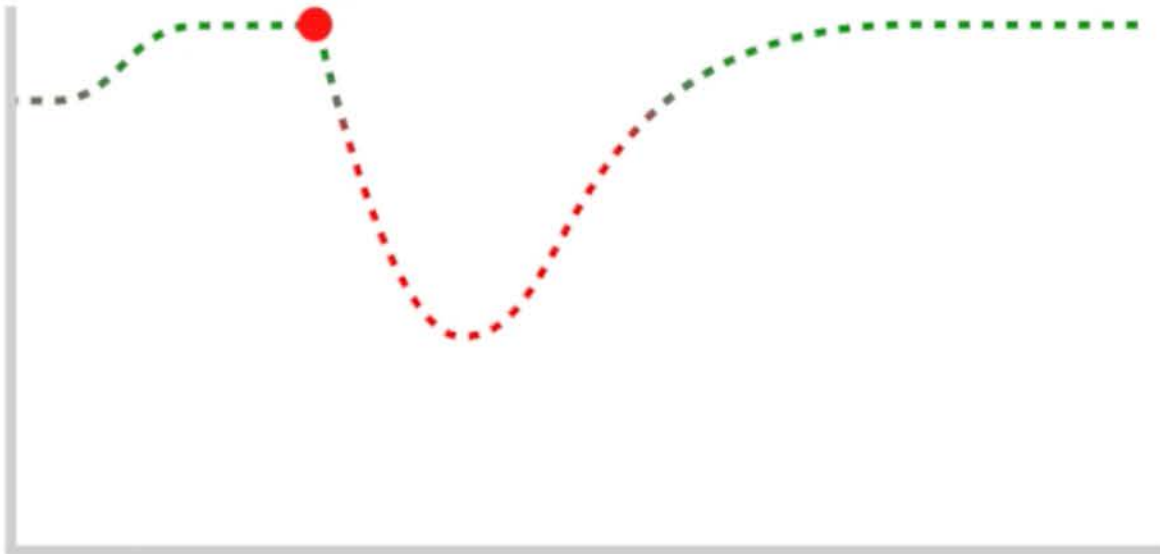




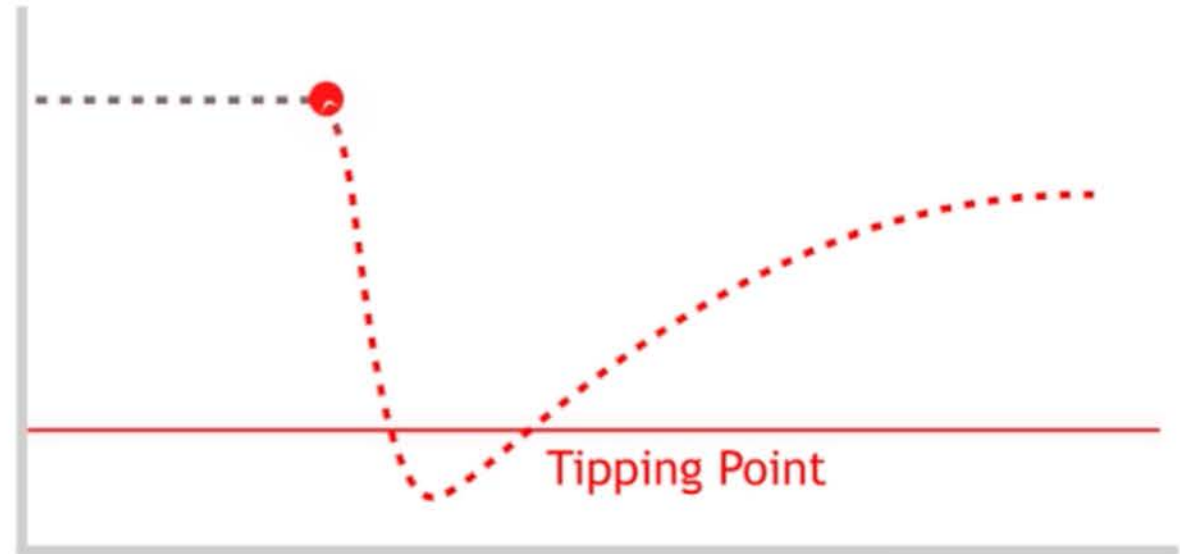
# What is Resilience?

The ability of the natural, human, built or economic system to recover from and withstand impacts from *hazards*

More Resilient



Less Resilient



# **\$17 Billion impact** of Hurricane Florence (North Carolina)

---

**\$5.7 billion**

---

on businesses (commercial properties)

**\$5.6 billion**

---

on homes (residential properties)

**\$2.4 billion**

---

on agriculture

**\$3.3 billion**

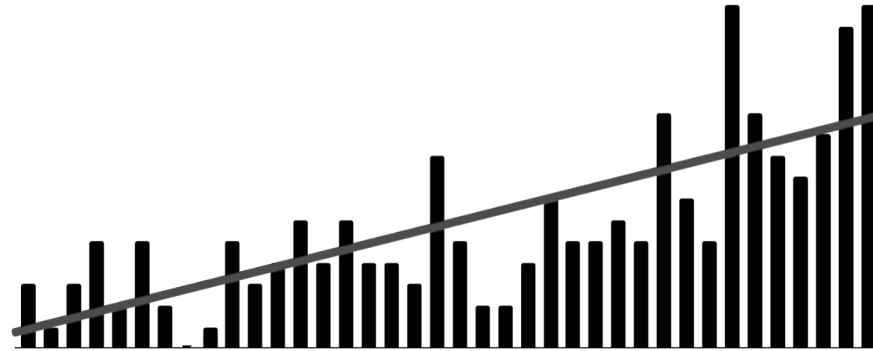
---

on other properties

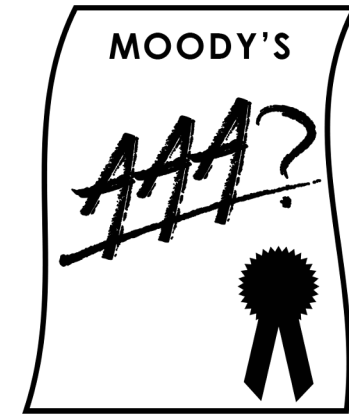
# Most costs of recovery are borne locally



GROWTH



BILLION DOLLAR DISASTERS



RISKIER INVESTMENTS

**\$17 Billion impact to NC**

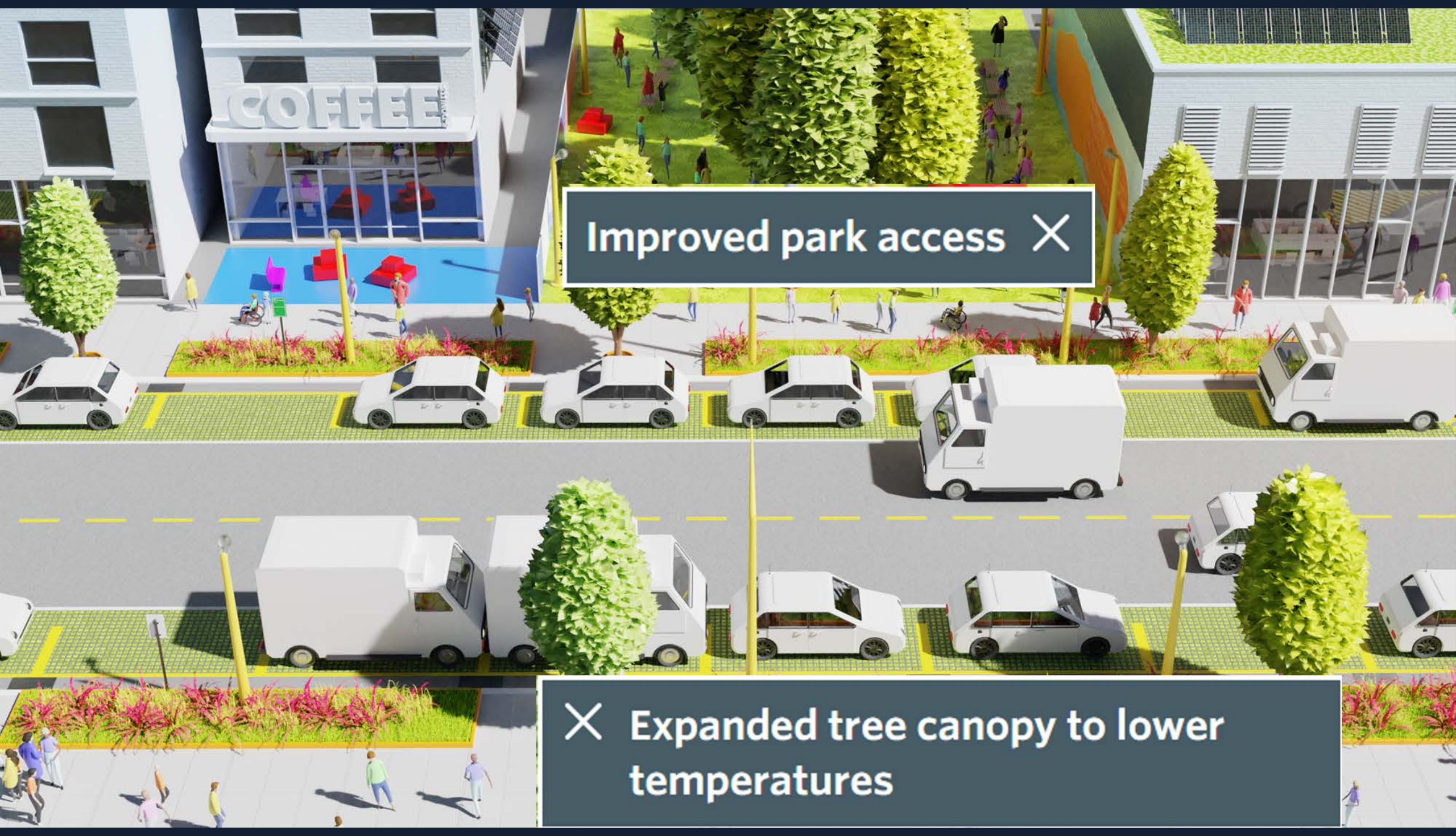
**\$3.3 Covered by Federal  
and State**

**\$4.8 Covered by Private  
Insurance**

**SHORTFALL  
(INSURERS)**

**\$8.8 CURRENTLY NOT COVERED**





Improved park access ✕

✕ Expanded tree canopy to lower temperatures



# **Use the Steps to Resilience to Assess the Impacts of Climate Change on Chicago**

... from data to decisions to inform adaptation strategies

**Climate  
Stressors**

```
graph TD; A[Climate Stressors] --> B((Hazards)); B --> C[Assets  
(People, Infrastructure,  
and Programs)];
```

The diagram illustrates a three-stage process. It begins with 'Climate Stressors' in a light blue rounded rectangle. An arrow points down to 'Hazards' in a purple oval. Another arrow points down to 'Assets (People, Infrastructure, and Programs)' in a light red rectangle. To the right of each stage is a corresponding list of examples in a matching color box.

- Temperature Variability and Change
- Extreme Precipitation
- Drought

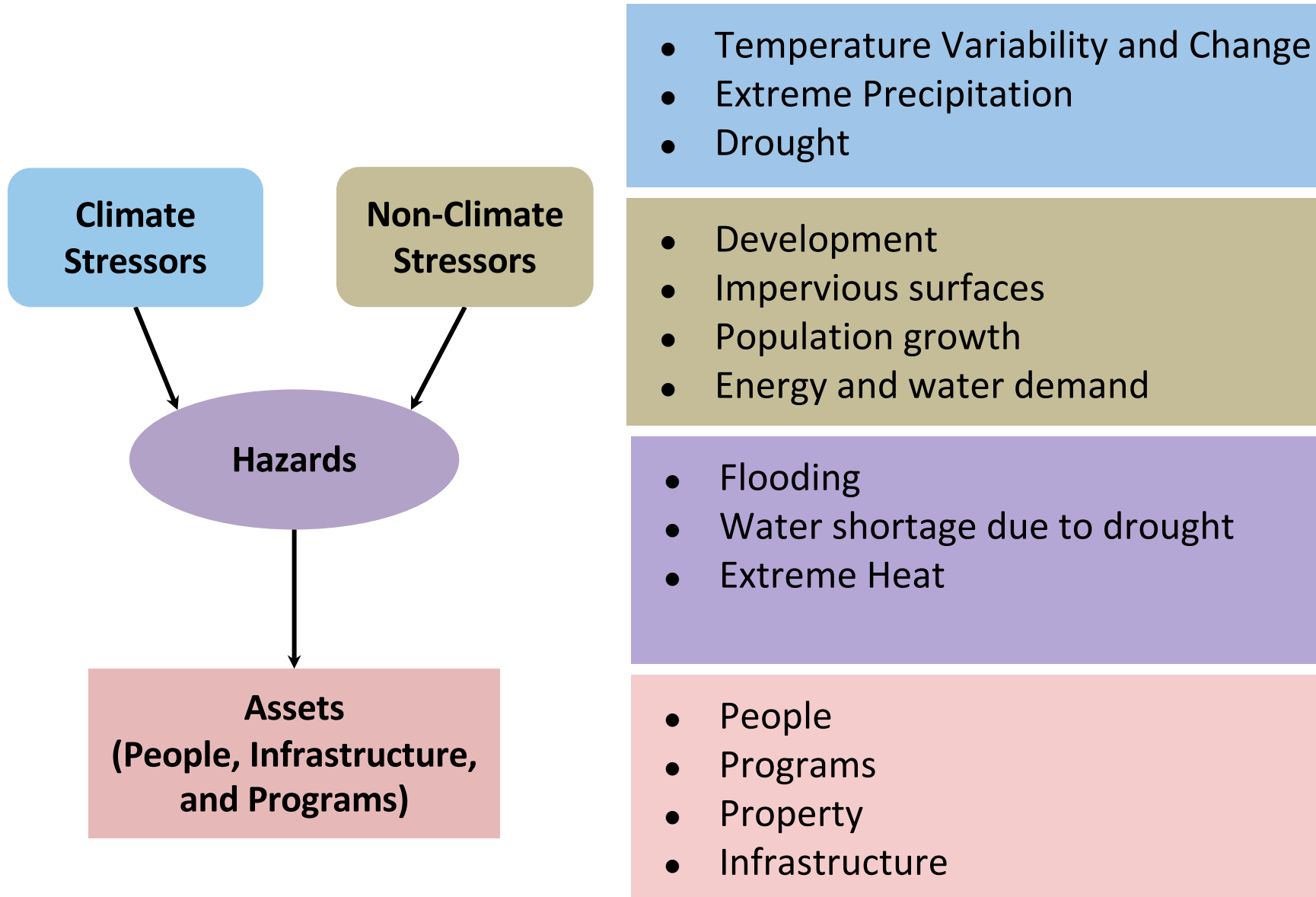
**Hazards**

- Flooding
- Water shortage due to drought
- Extreme Heat

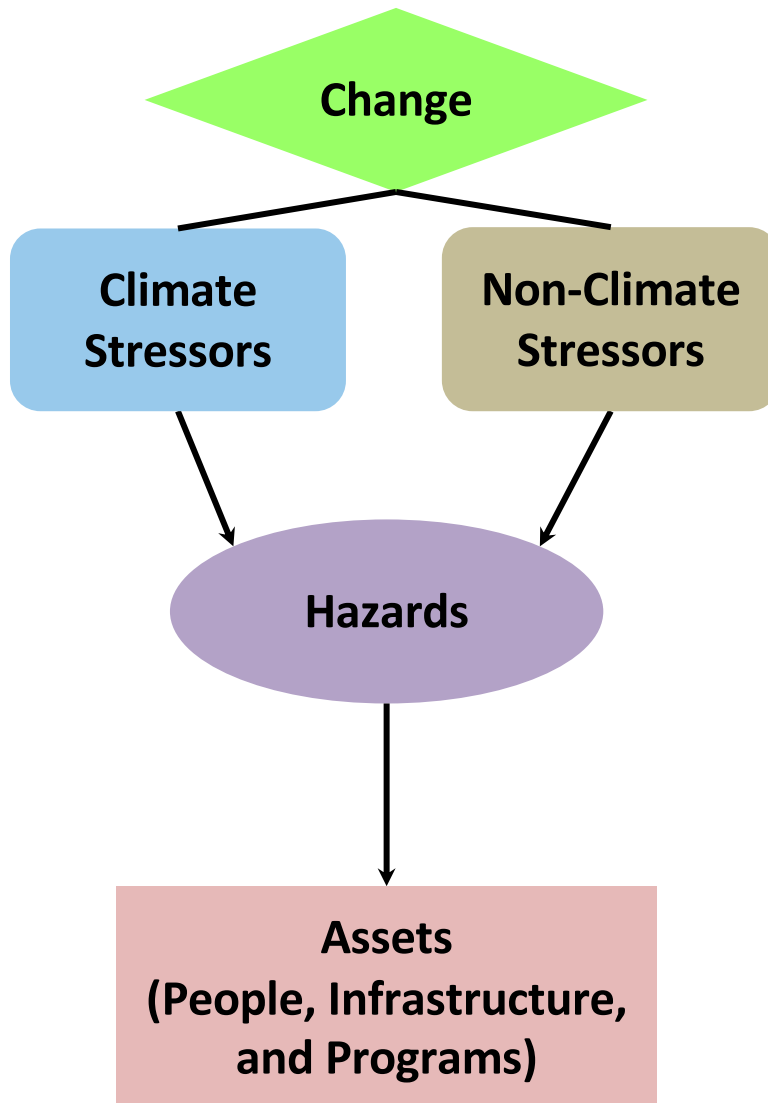
**Assets  
(People, Infrastructure,  
and Programs)**

- People
- Programs
- Property
- Infrastructure









- Temperature Variability and Change
- Extreme Precipitation
- Drought

- Development
- Impervious surfaces
- Population growth
- Energy and water demand

- Flooding
- Water shortage due to drought
- Extreme Heat

- People
- Programs
- Property
- Infrastructure



# Climate trajectories



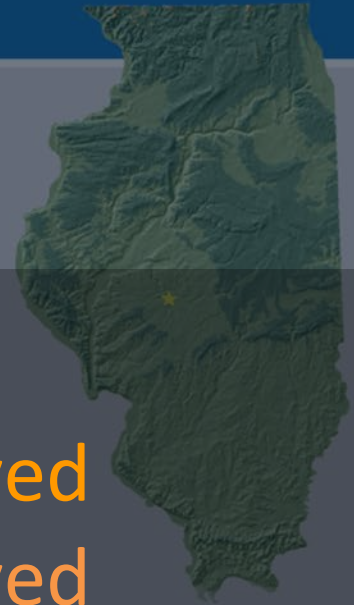
NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information | State Summaries 149-IL

## ILLINOIS

### KEY MESSAGES

- Increased average temperature **observed**
- Increased spring temperature **observed**
- More spring & summer precipitation **observed**
- Winter/spring precip. increase **projected**
- Flooding & drought **observed & anticipated**

Severe flooding and drought have occurred periodically in recent years. Future increases in extreme precipitation events and in evaporation rates may increase the intensity of both floods and droughts.





# Climate and **impact** assessments

## Climate

describes the frequency and severity of **hazards**

Climate



Hazard



Population or Asset

## **Impacts**

involve both a **hazard** and an **asset**



# Climate and **impact** assessments

## Climate

describes the frequency and severity of **hazards**

Climate

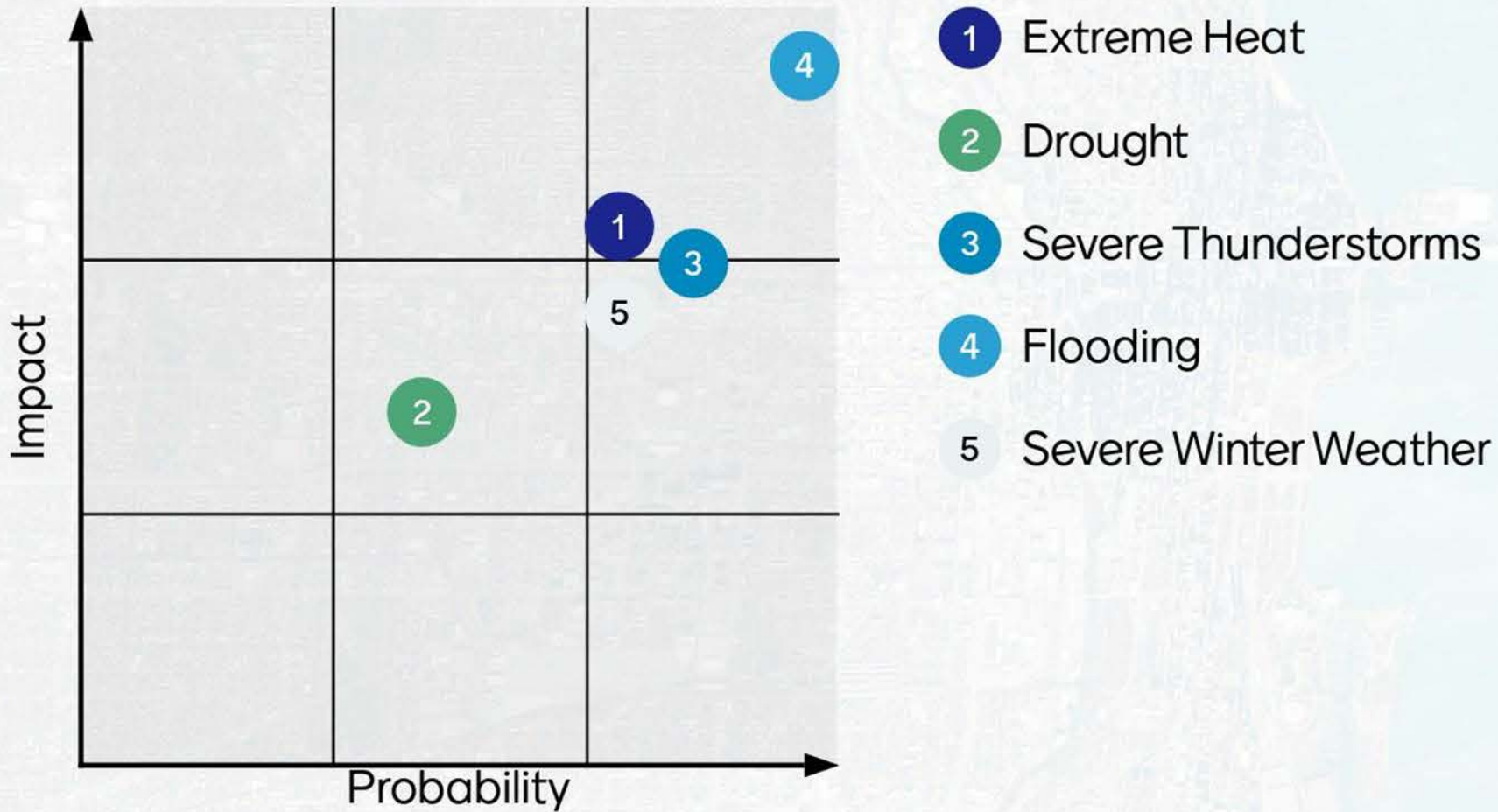
Hazard

Population or  
Asset

## **Impacts**

involve both a **hazard** and an **asset**

# Primary Hazards





## Assets

## Things we Value



Residents & Residential Property



Commercial Property



Community Services



Roads & mobility



Go to [www.menti.com](https://www.menti.com) and use the code 85 49 73



# What impacts (hazards and assets) concern you?


Go to [menti.com](https://www.menti.com)  
Enter code 85 49 73

Press ENTER to pause scroll



## Flooding

Understand how climate variability and change might impact the region

- 1 Explore Hazards 
- 2 Assess Vulnerability & Risks
- 3 Investigate Options
- 4 Prioritize & Plan
- 5 Take Action



## Climate Stressors

- *Four distinct seasons*
- *Variable weather patterns*
- *Precipitation greatest in spring and summer*

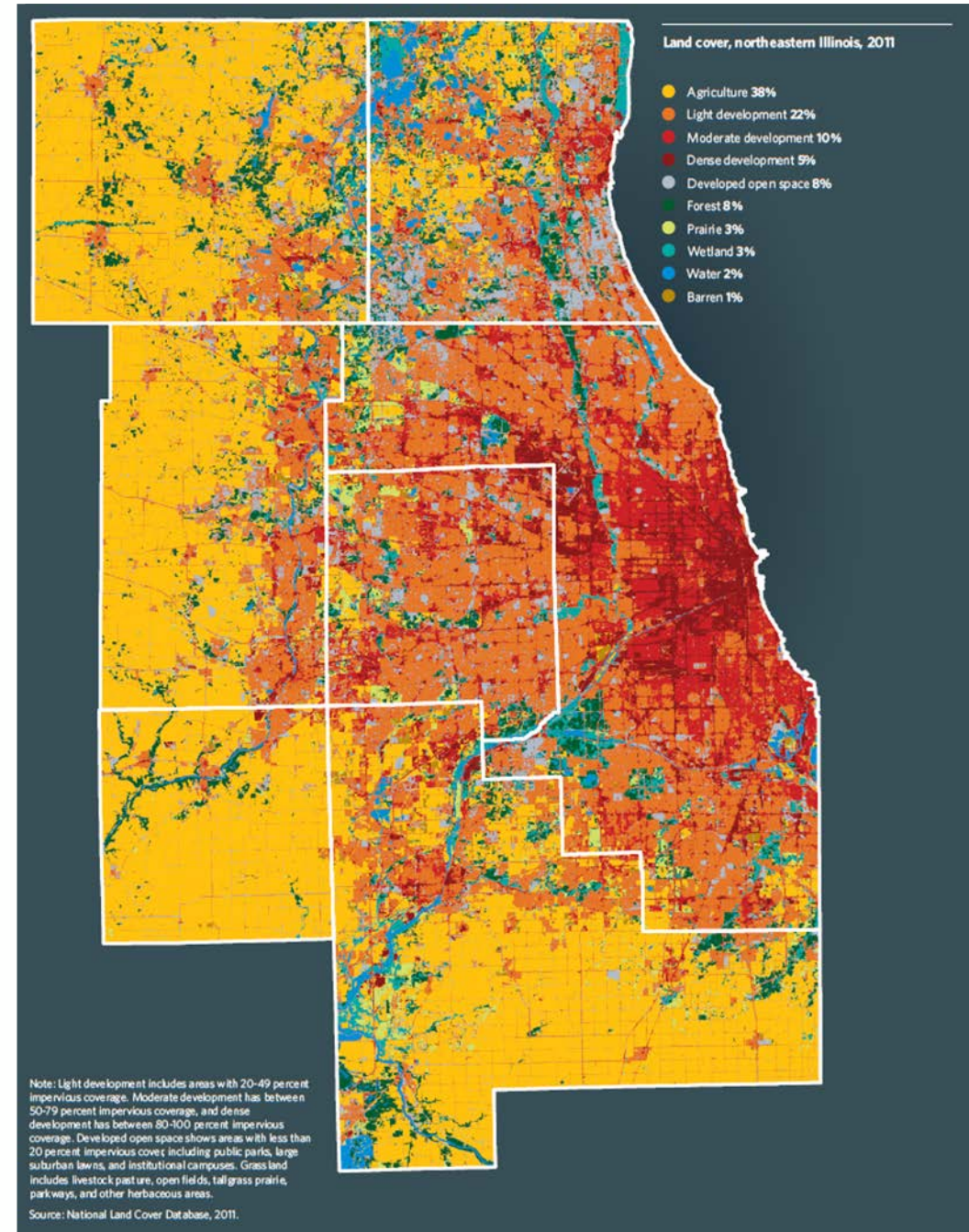
## Non-Climate Stressors

### *Topography*

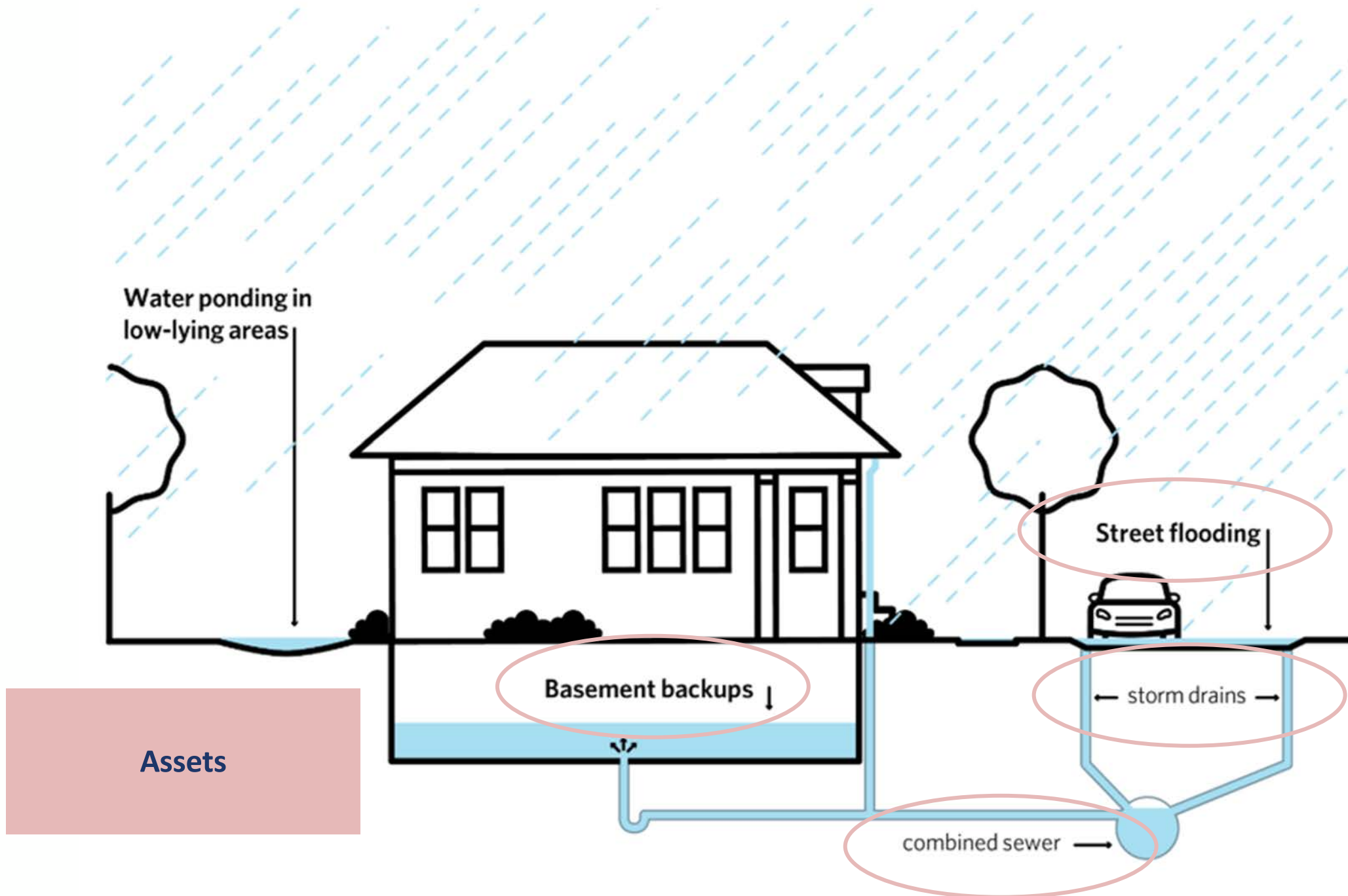
- *Limited elevation change*
- *Clay soils*

### *Land use*

- *Heavily developed*








## Extreme Heat

Understand how climate variability and change might threaten the region

- 1 Explore Hazards 
- 2 Assess Vulnerability & Risks
- 3 Investigate Options
- 4 Prioritize & Plan
- 5 Take Action



# Days/year temperature > 95°F (Geneva)



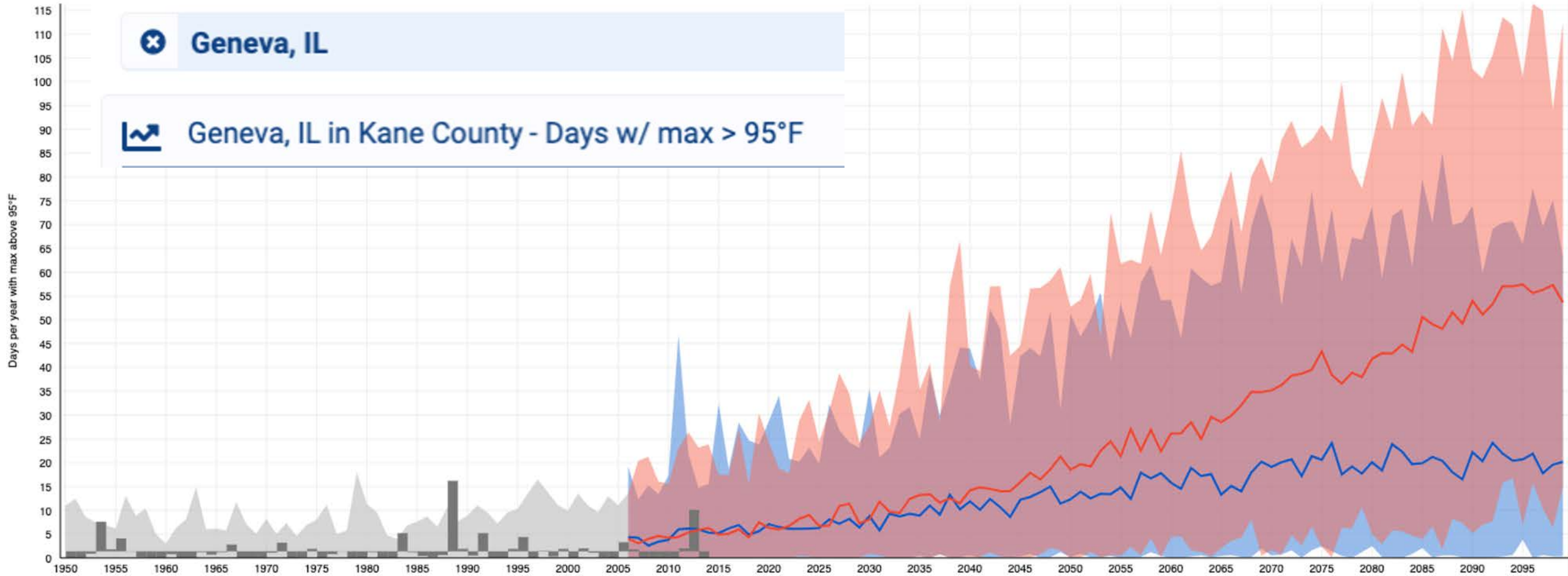
## The Climate Explorer



Geneva, IL



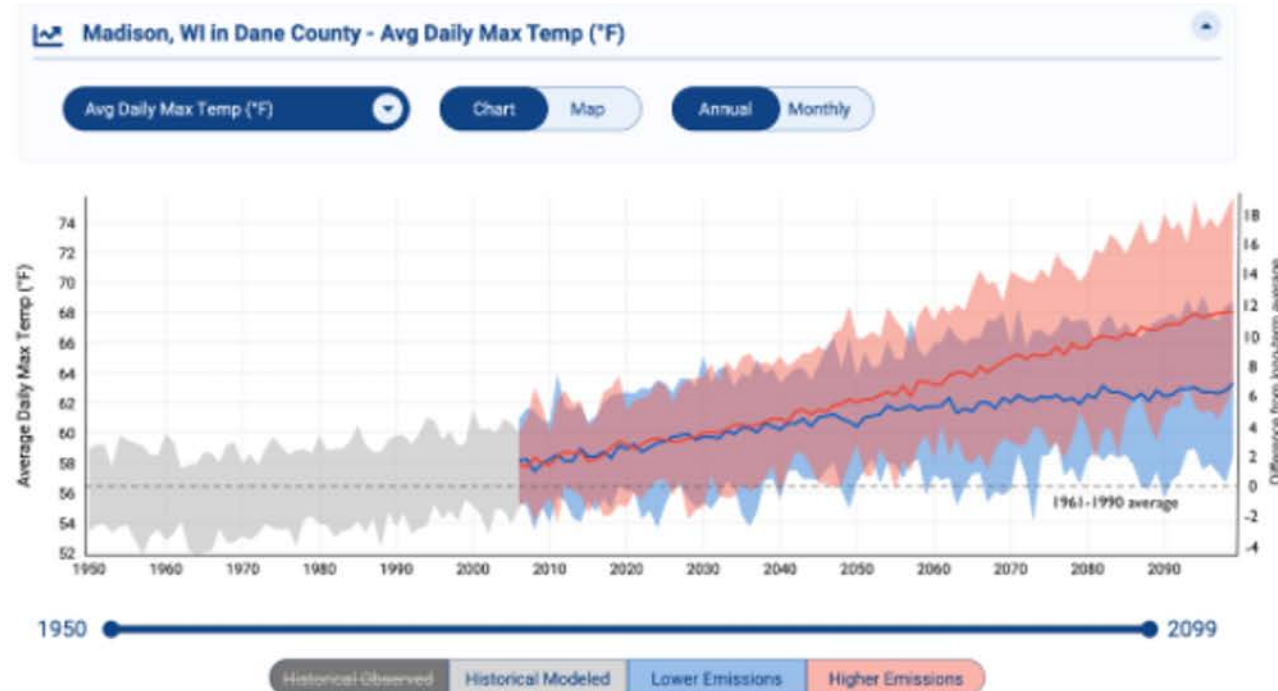
Geneva, IL in Kane County - Days w/ max > 95°F





Follow the exercise in your handout

Launch Climate Explorer using the link at the bottom of *toolkit.climate.gov*



LAUNCH THE CLIMATE EXPLORER >

LEARN MORE ABOUT CLIMATE EXPLORER >



# The Climate Explorer

Explore graphs and maps of historical and projected climate variables for any county in the contiguous United States.

**New!**

Climate projection charts are now available for boroughs in Alaska.

Enter the name of the town, county, or zip code you're interested in investigating further

Geneva



📍 Geneva IL, USA


📍 Geneva NY, USA

📍 Geneva AL, USA

📍 Geneva OH, USA


📍 Geneva FL, USA

powered by Google

 Geneva, IL




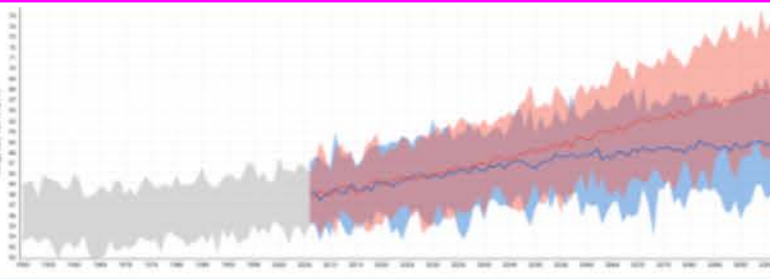
Select one of the following for Geneva, IL in Kane County



### Climate Maps


Compare past and projected future conditions in your county.

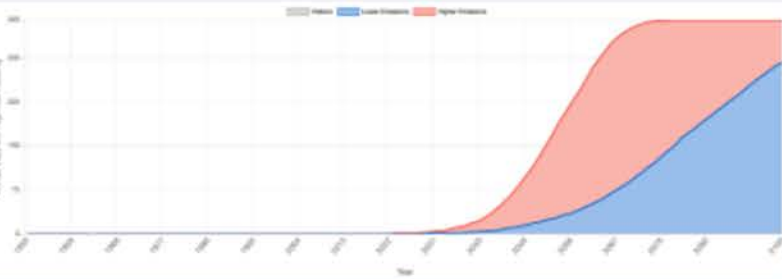




### Climate Charts


Check past and projected values for climate variables.






### High-Tide Flooding


View the number of high-tide floods in the past and projected for the future.






### Historical Weather Data


Compare daily weather at local observing stations to long-term climate.





### Historical Thresholds

Check how often temperature or precipitation has exceeded user-defined values.



Choose “Climate Charts” to query downscaled climate data for your region of interest



Geneva, IL



Stations

Geneva, IL in Kane County - Avg Daily Max Temp (°F)

Avg Daily Max Temp (°F)



Chart

Map

Annual

Monthly

Downloads



About the graph

Temperature

Avg Daily Max Temp (°F)



Avg Daily Min Temp (°F)



Days w/ max > 90°F



Days w/ max > 95°F



Days w/ max > 100°F



Days w/ max > 105°F



Days w/ max < 32°F



Days w/ min < 32°F



Choose "Days w/ max > 95°F"

Average Daily Max Temp (°F)

58  
57  
56  
55

1950 1955 1960 1965 1970 1975 1980 1985 1990 1995 2000 2005 2010 2015 2020 2025 2030 2035 2040 2045 2050 2055 2060 2065 2070 2075 2080 2085 2090 2095

1950

2099

Historical Observed

Historical Modeled

Lower Emissions

Higher Emissions



Cards Home



Climate Charts



Climate Maps



Historical Weather Data



Historical Thresholds



High-Tide Flooding







Geneva, IL



Stations



Geneva, IL in Kane County - Days w/ max > 95°F



Days w/ max > 95°F



Chart

Map

Annual

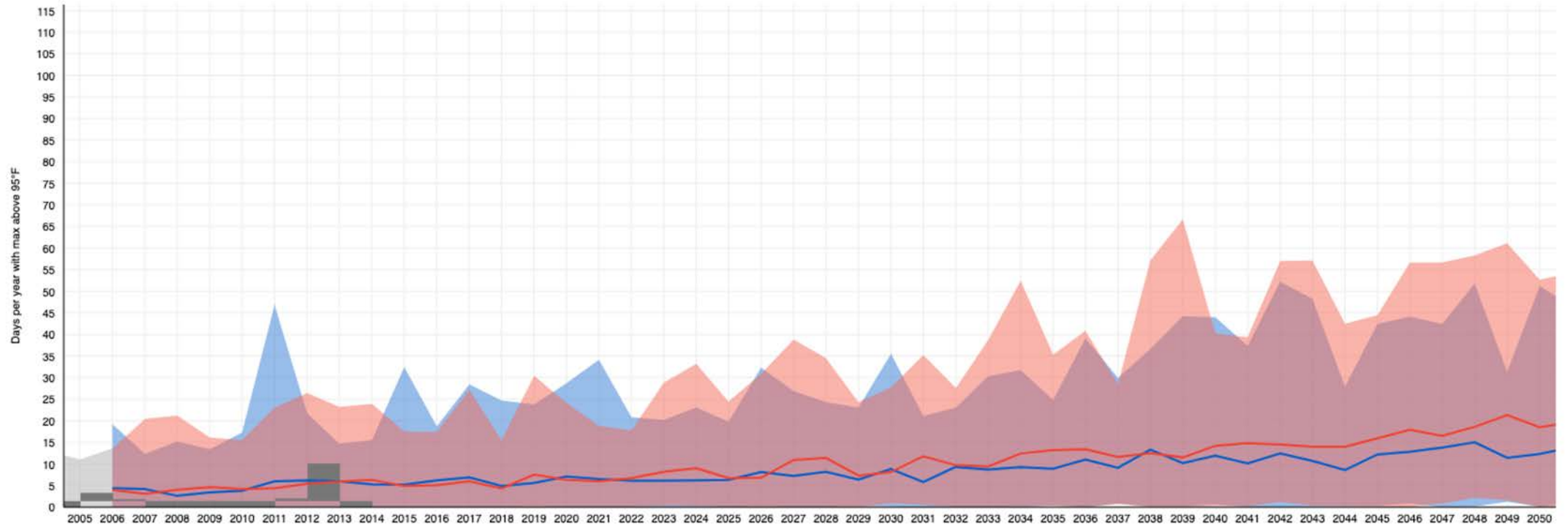
Monthly



Downloads



About the graph



2005

2050

Historical Observed



Historical Modeled



Lower Emissions



Higher Emissions



An aerial photograph of a coastal city, likely San Francisco, with a grid overlay. The grid consists of a vertical line, a horizontal line, and two vertical lines on the sides. A circle with a horizontal line through its center is positioned at the bottom center of the grid.

# Go to [menti.com](https://menti.com)

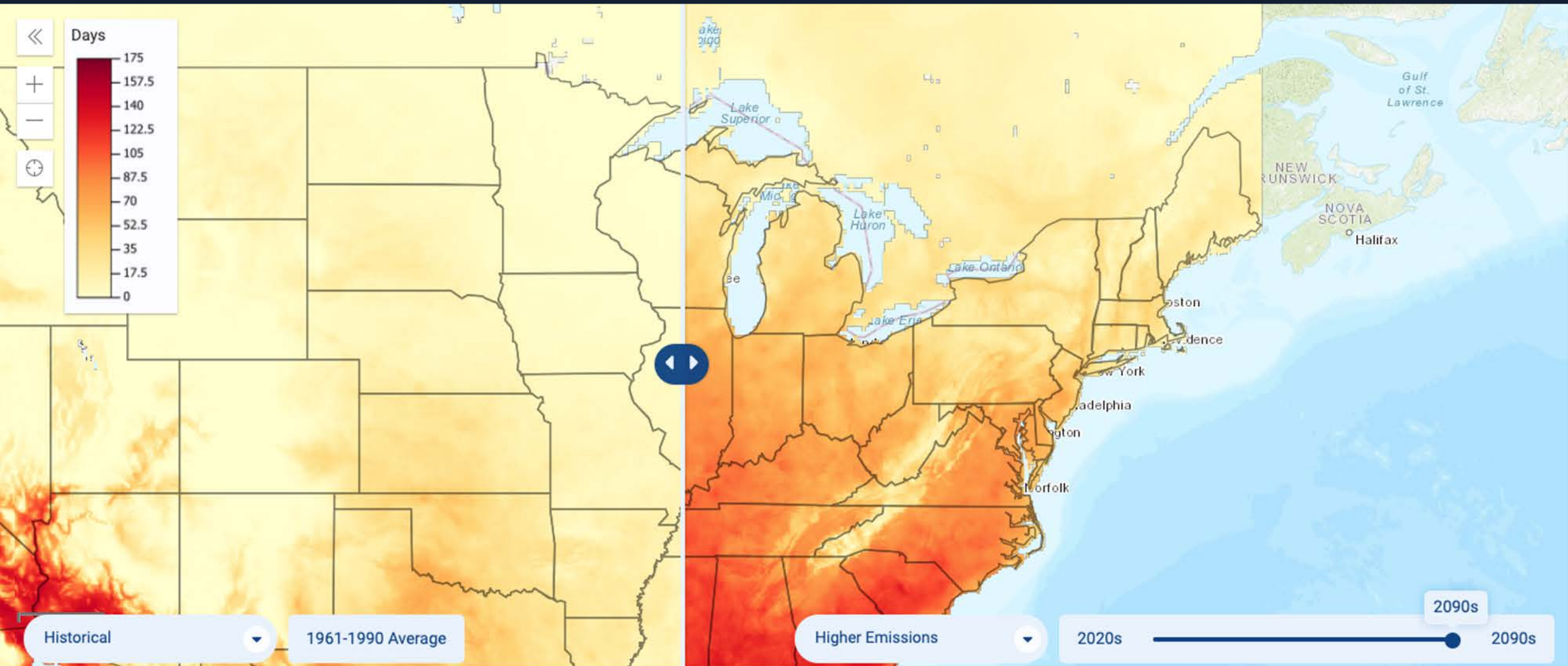
## Enter code 85 49 73

About how many days more of 95-degree temperature  
by 2050?



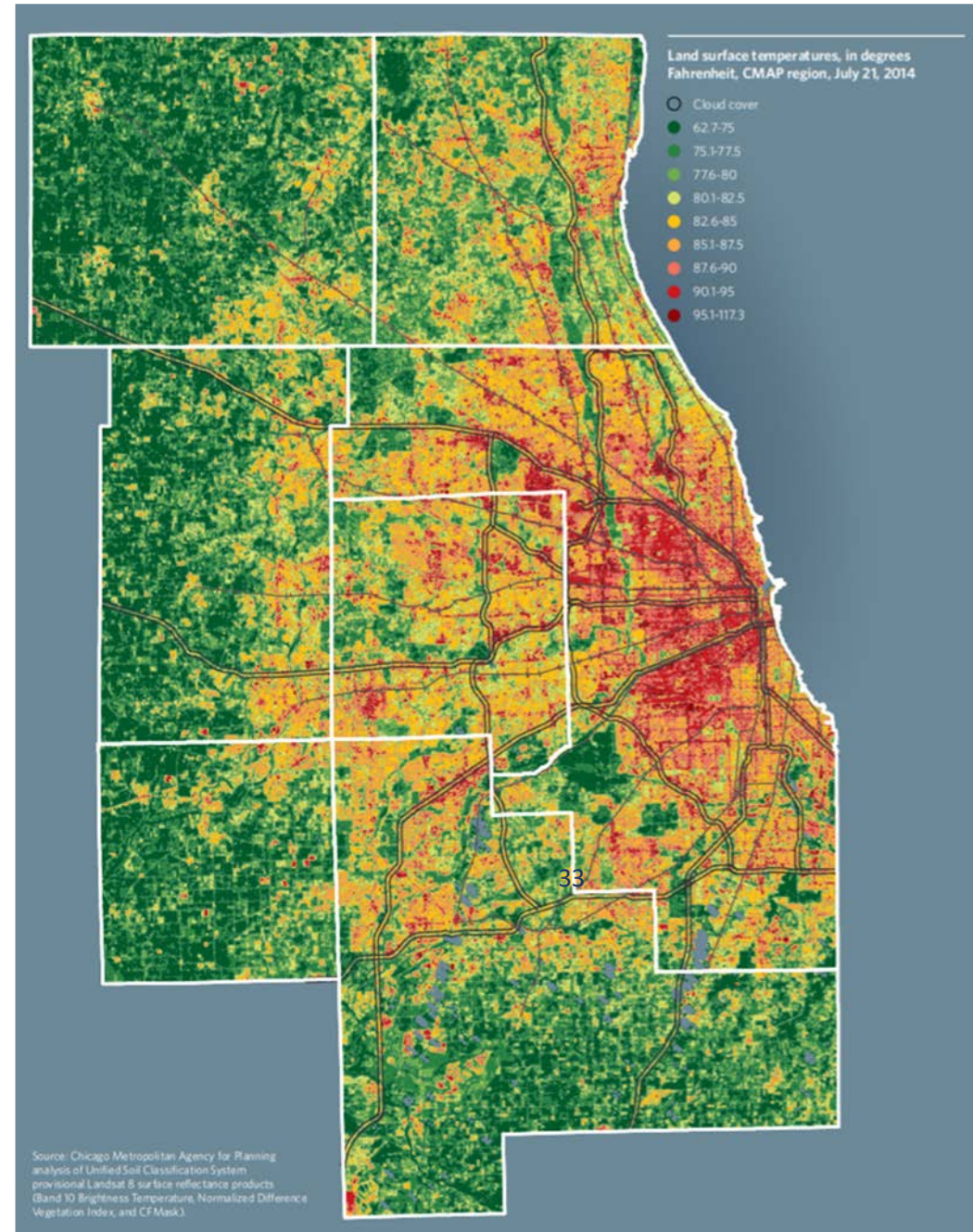


# Demonstration: regional climate change



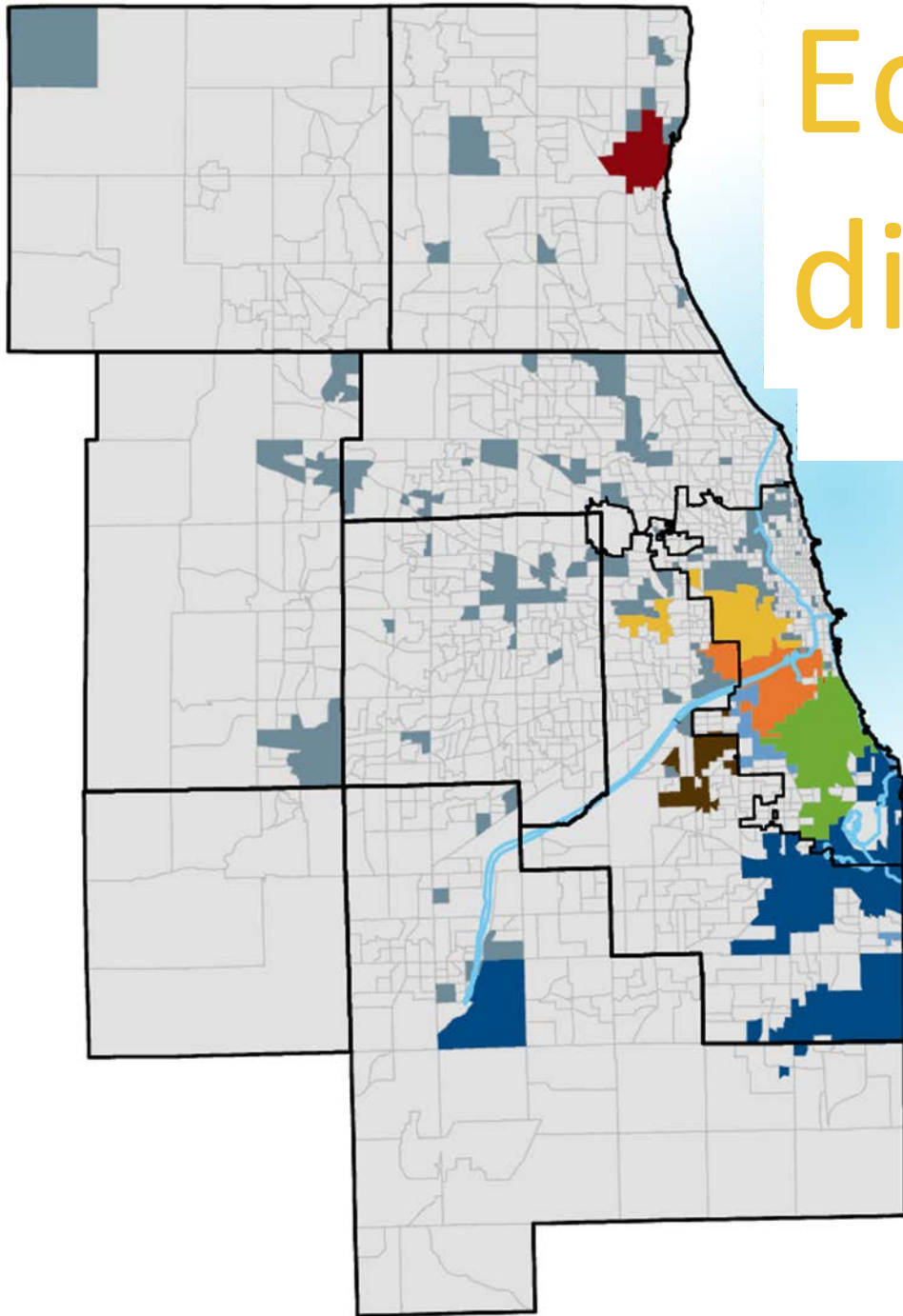
# Extreme heat

- Heat island is closely linked to development intensity and design
  - Impervious surfaces
  - Dark surfaces
- Occurs in summer and winter



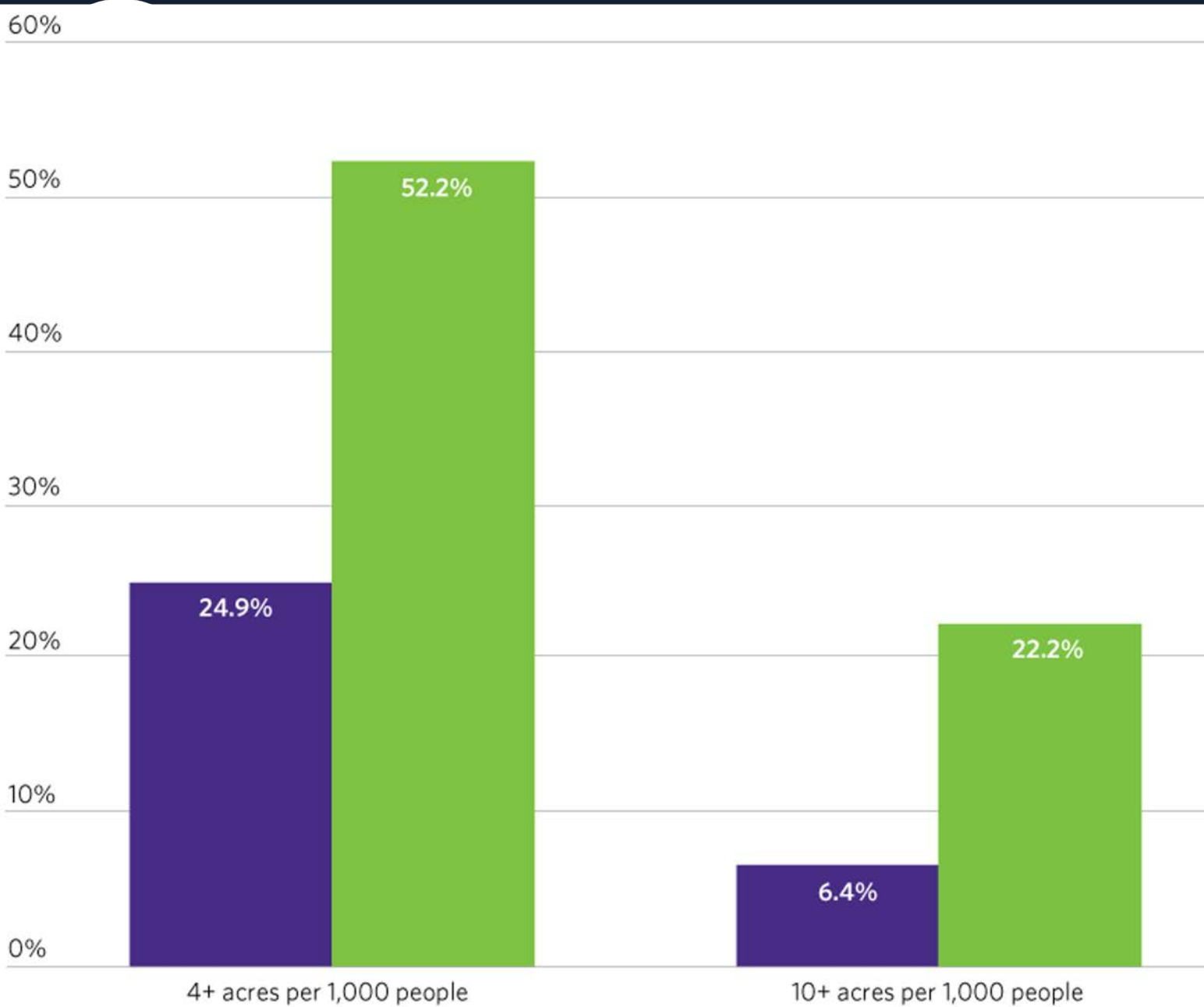


# Economically disconnected areas



- Waukegan area (Cluster 1)
- SW suburbs (Cluster 2)
- S. Chicago (Cluster 3)
- SW Chicago (Cluster 4)
- W. Chicago (Cluster 5)
- S. suburbs and Joliet (Cluster 6)
- NW Chicago and remaining collar counties (Cluster 7)
- Tracts

# Population, Equity, Heat Islands: Access to Parks within Region



## Key

- Population in EDAs and Disinvested Areas
- Population in rest of the region

## Source

CMAP analysis of data from the CMAP Land Use Inventory and the United States Census Bureau's 2010 Census.



# Explore Hazards

- *Gather a team of people who want to protect local assets.*
- *Check past weather events and future climate trends.*
- *List the things you value that could be damaged.*
- *Determine which of your assets are exposed to harm.*

*Do weather and climate represent a hazard to things you value?*



# Climate and **impact** assessments

## Climate

describes the frequency and severity of **hazards**

Climate

Hazard

Population or  
Asset

## **Impacts**

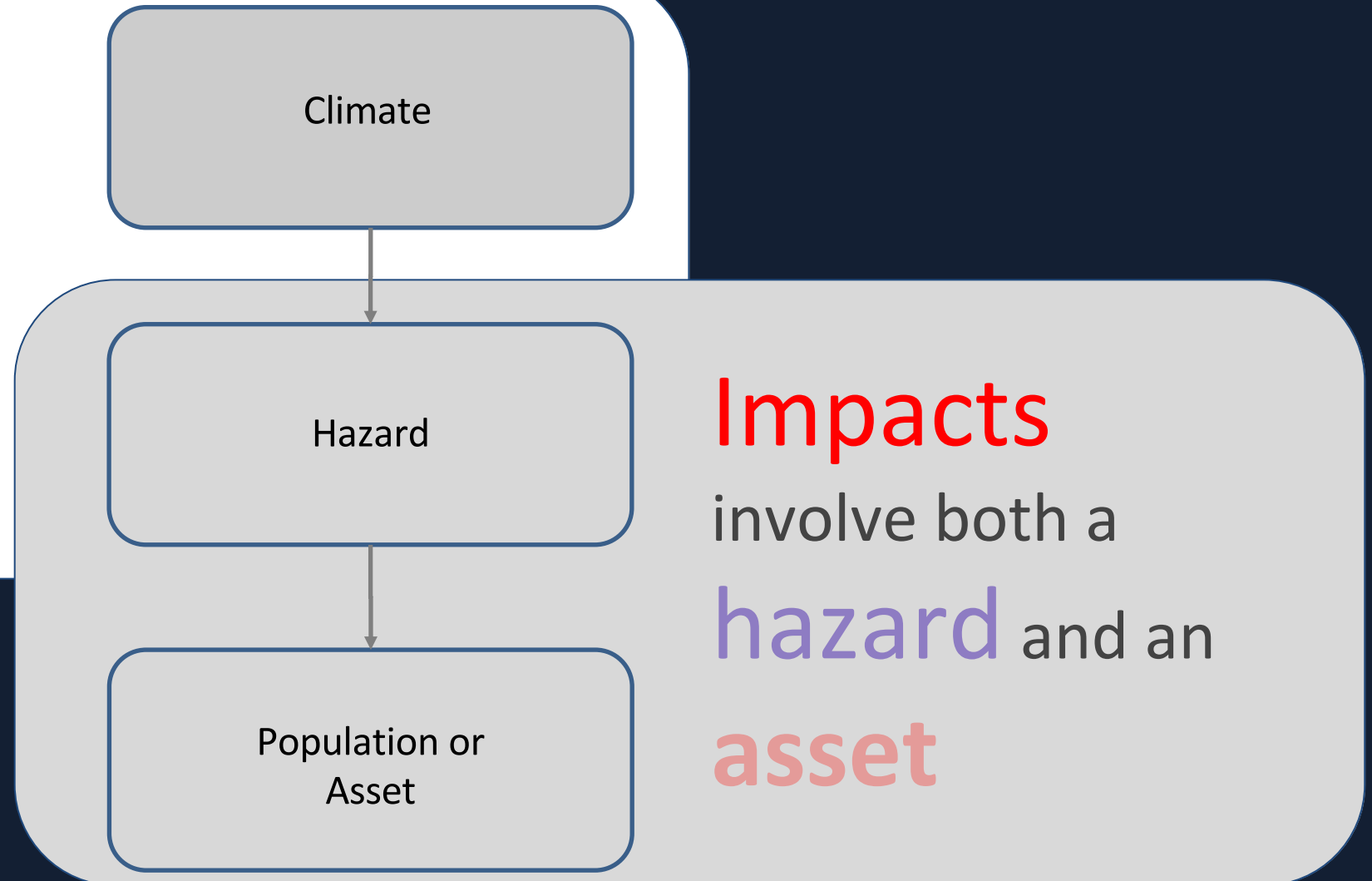
involve both a **hazard** and an **asset**



# Climate and **impact** assessments

## Climate

describes the frequency and severity of **hazards**







# Climate Impacts on the Chicago Metropolitan Region

## Downscaling



**Dr. Rao Kotamarthi**

Chief Scientist, Environmental Sciences Division  
Argonne National Lab



ENVIRONMENTAL  
SCIENCE  
DIVISION

# Downscaling

**RAO KOTAMARTHI**

Chief Scientist  
Environmental Science Division



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

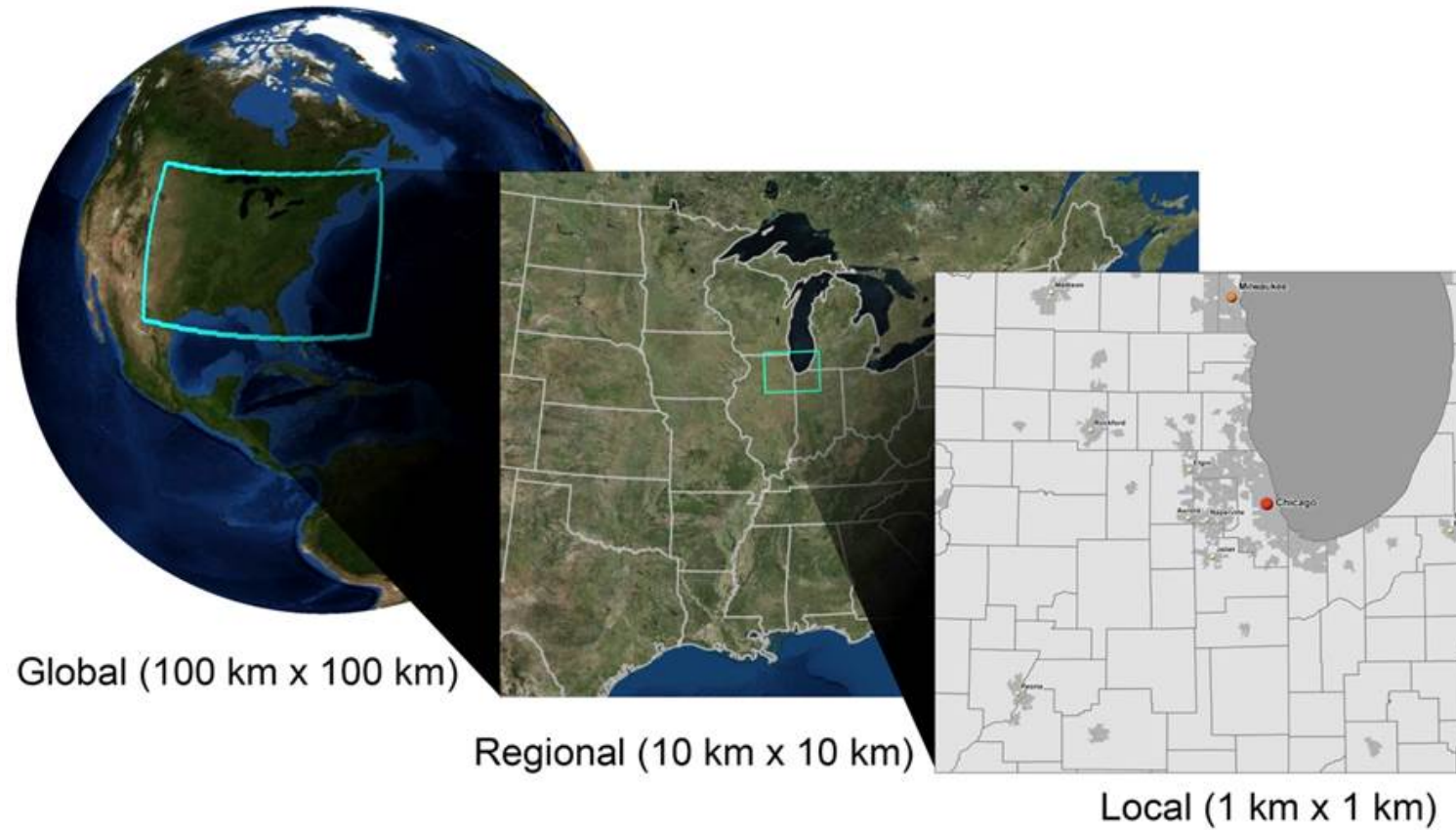
Argonne National Laboratory is a  
U.S. Department of Energy laboratory  
managed by UChicago Argonne, LLC.

Argonne   
NATIONAL LABORATORY





# Spatial Scales For Climate Modeling



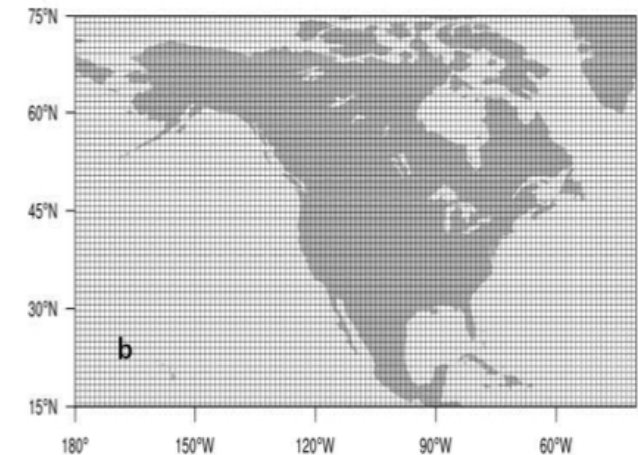
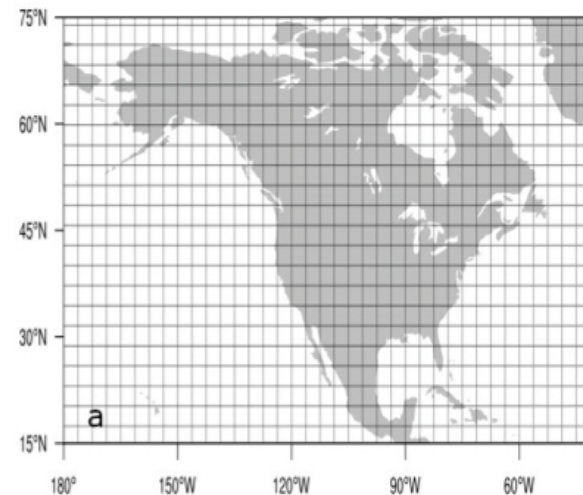


# What is downscaling?

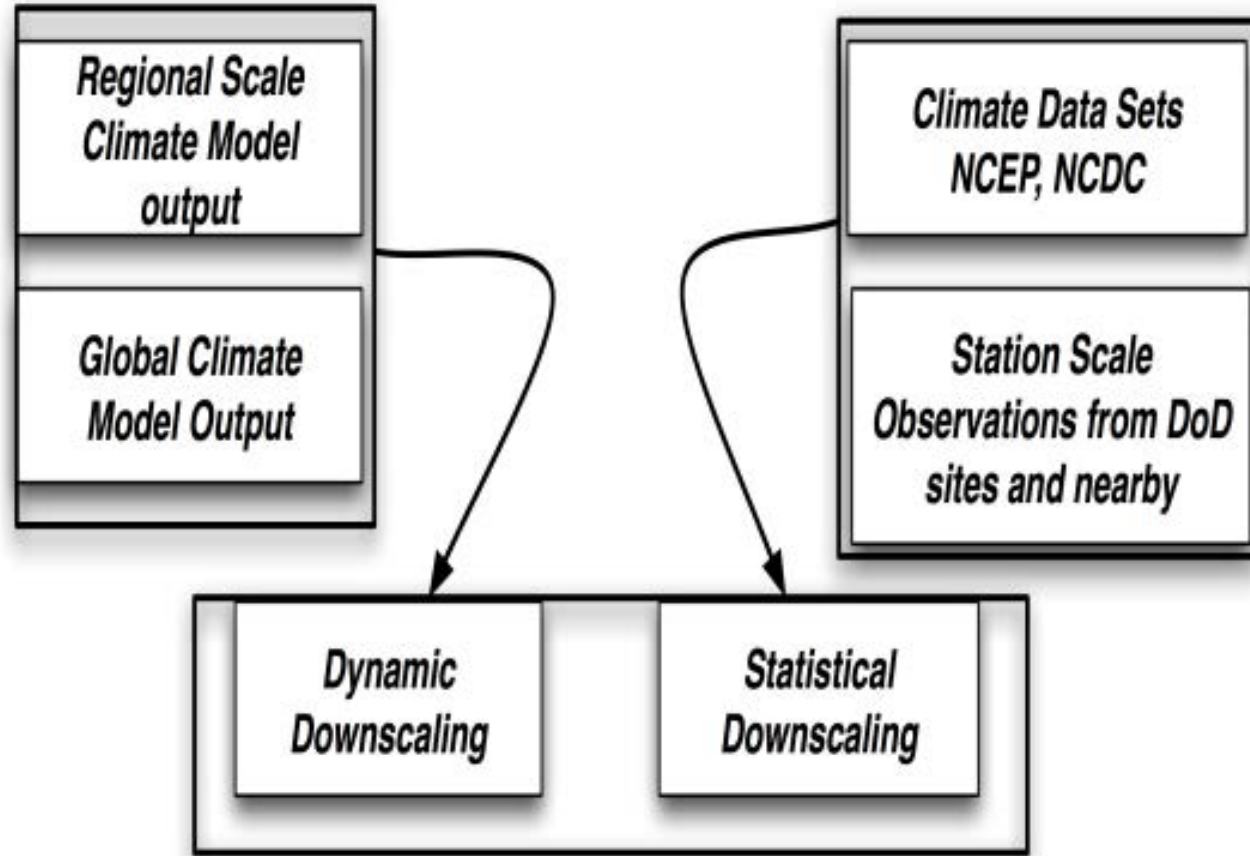
Downscaling is a process of rescaling coarse resolution (space and time) to a desired spatial and time scales for use in climate assessments and adaptation needs.

Downscaling approaches are selected based on their ability to reduce differences between model and observations (bias) and add new information to the dataset that is not available from a GCM output

The new information is gained by performing either a (1) using a higher resolution modeling of physical processes, or (2) correcting model bias using historical observations and carrying that forward.



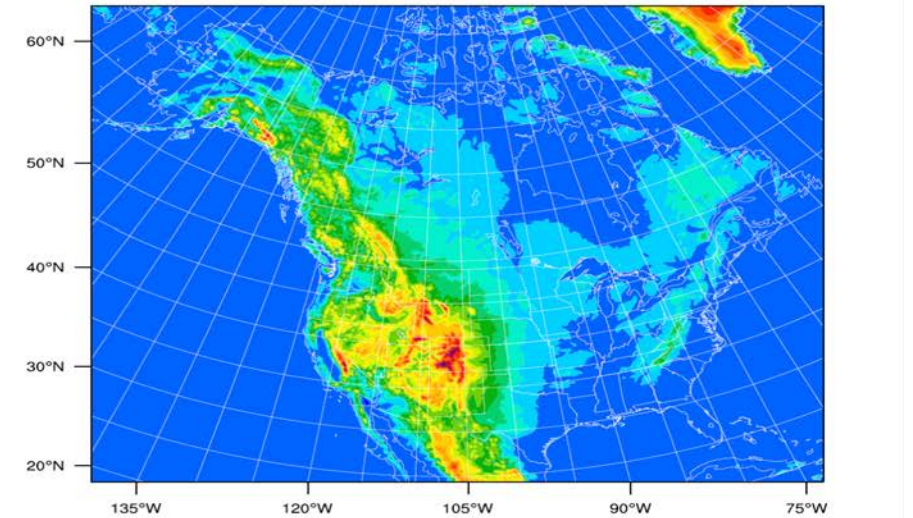
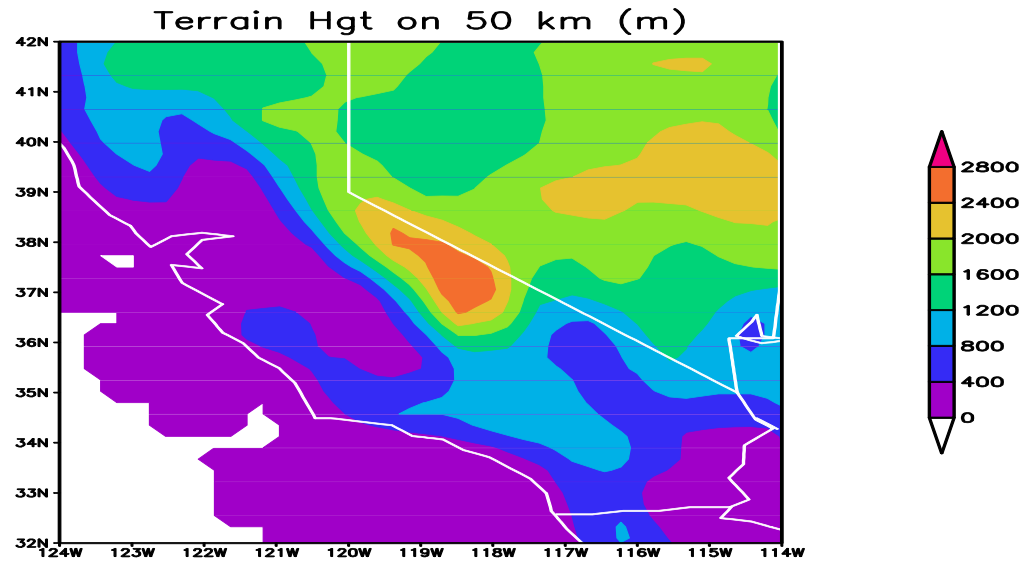
# Two approaches to downscaling



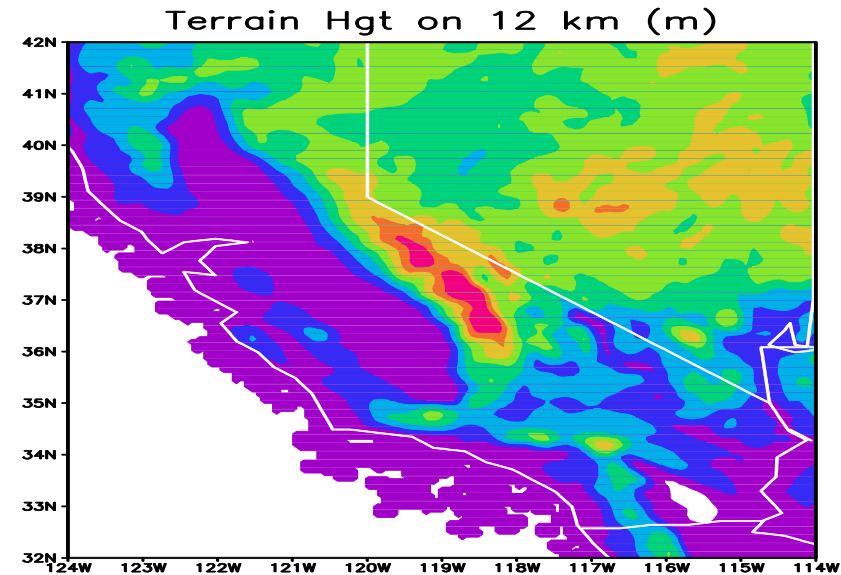
More info from higher-  
resolution modeling

More info from  
historical observations

# Dynamic Downscaling



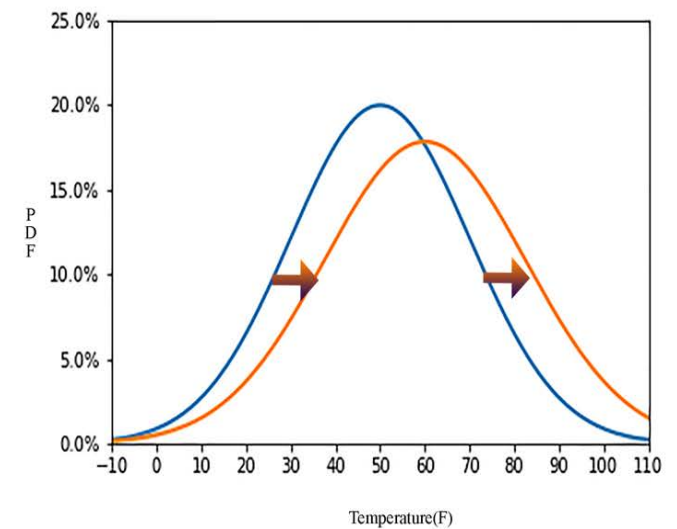
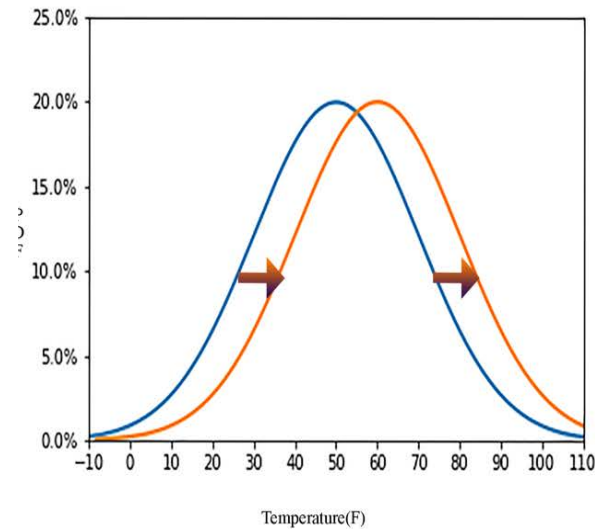
Model Covers North America/CONUS



Needs High  
Performance  
Computing  
Resources

# Empirical-Statistical Downscaling Models

- Encompass a broad range of techniques
- Develop statistical relationships between historical GCM and OBS
- Use these relationships to downscale future GCM projections
- Generate projections at spatial scale of observations, including both grids and individual weather stations



A conceptual diagram illustrating the delta approaches to statistical downscaling where (a) a single mean change factor, and (b) a change factor plus a scaling factor derived from a GCM simulation is applied to the observed historical distribution (blue) to create future projections (range) at the spatial and temporal scale of the observations.

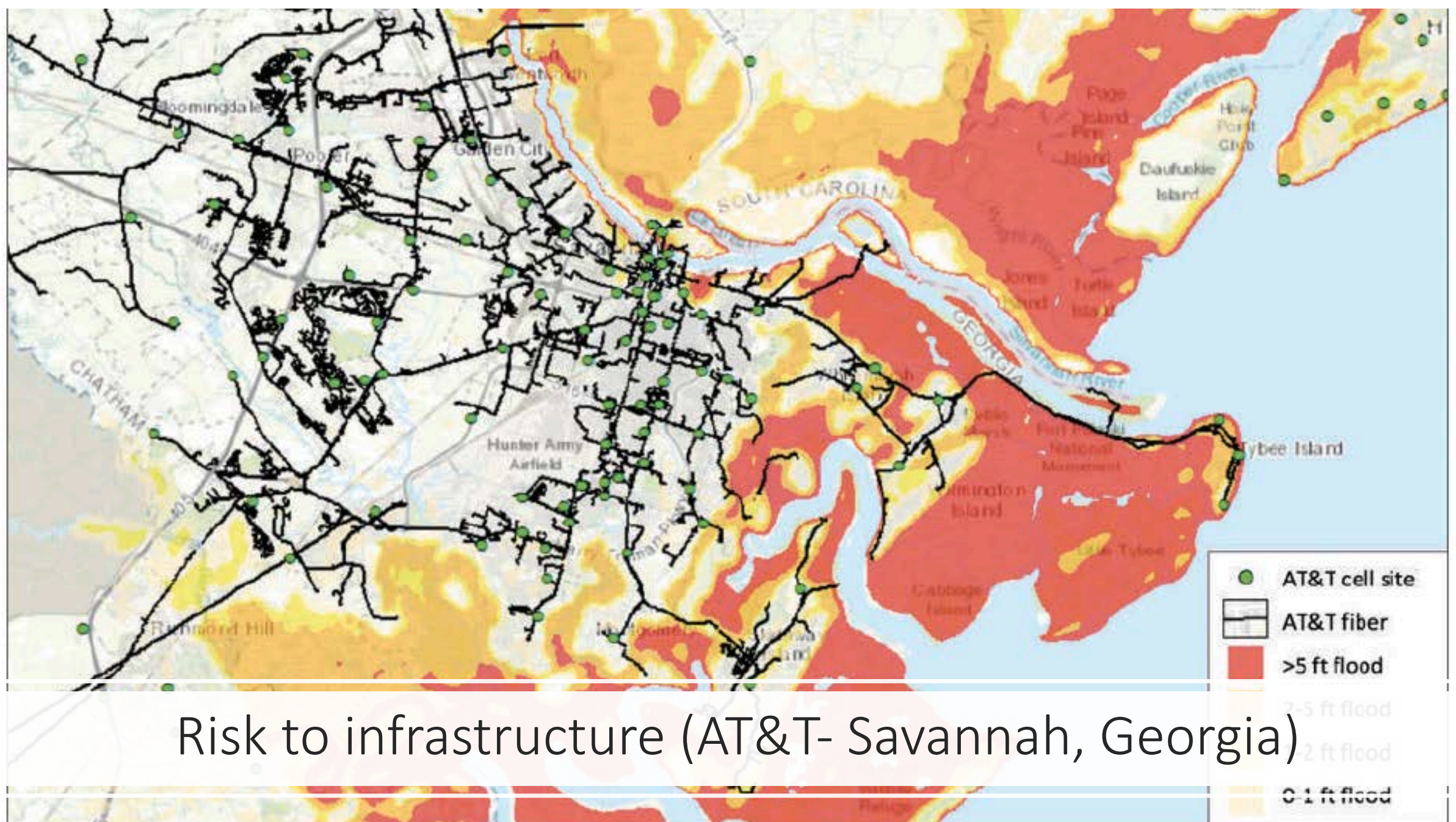


## DYNAMIC

- Many variables
- Computationally expensive
- Require additional bias correction
- Can be used even if observations lacking
- Don't need to assume stationarity at scale of resolved processes

## STATISTICAL

- Often limited to T,P
- More computationally affordable
- Incorporate bias correction into model
- Limited by available observations
- Assume GCM-OBS relationship holds in the future



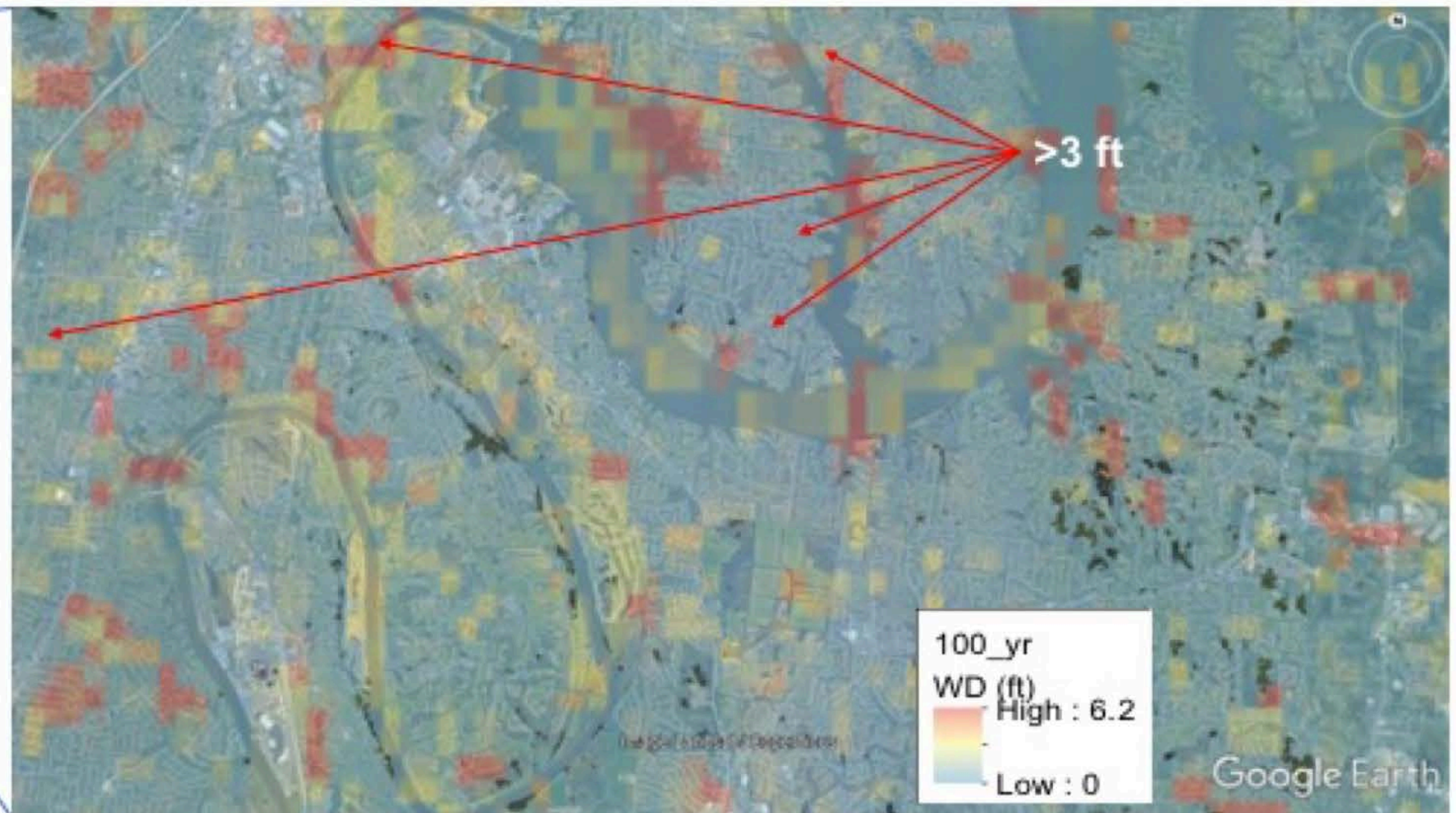
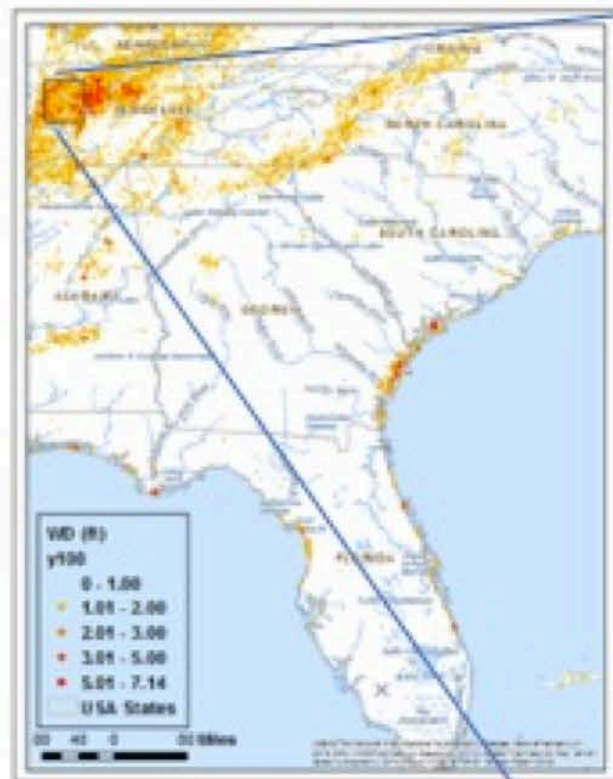
## Risk to infrastructure (AT&T- Savannah, Georgia)

*Visualization of flooding data overlaid on AT&T fiber and cell sites.*



# Risk Projections at Neighborhood scale

## Predicted inland 100-yr water depth

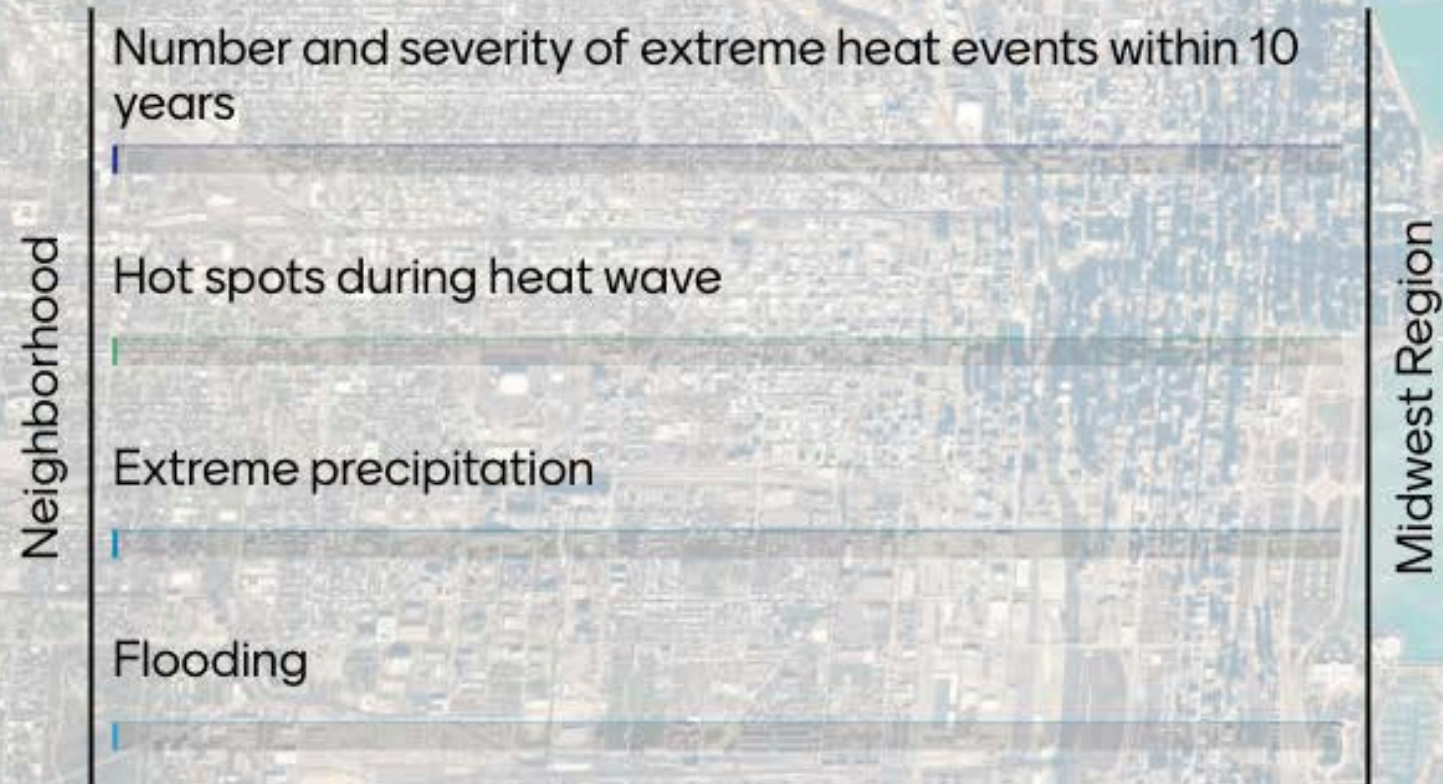


Thanks



Go to [menti.com](https://menti.com) Enter code 85 49 73

What scale of data do you need for adaptation planning?





# Climate Impacts

## Climate Change in the Chicago Region



Donald J. Wuebbles, PhD.

The Harry E. Preble Professor of Atmospheric Sciences  
& Presidential Fellow,  
University of Illinois







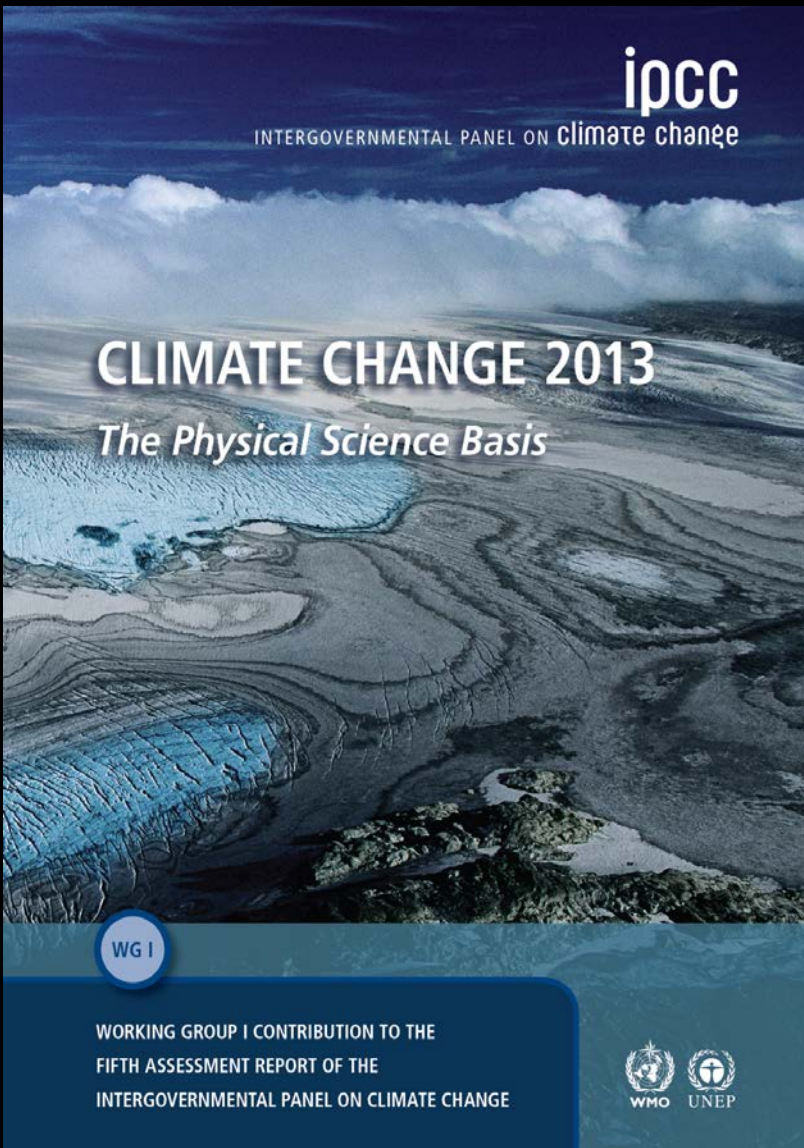
# Climate Change in the Chicago Region

---

Don Wuebbles  
University of Illinois  
Urbana, IL



# Every 4-6 Years Scientists Assess the Science of the Changing Climate and its Societal Impacts



Volume 1: [science2017.globalchange.gov](https://science2017.globalchange.gov)  
Volume 2: [nca2018.globalchange.gov](https://nca2018.globalchange.gov)

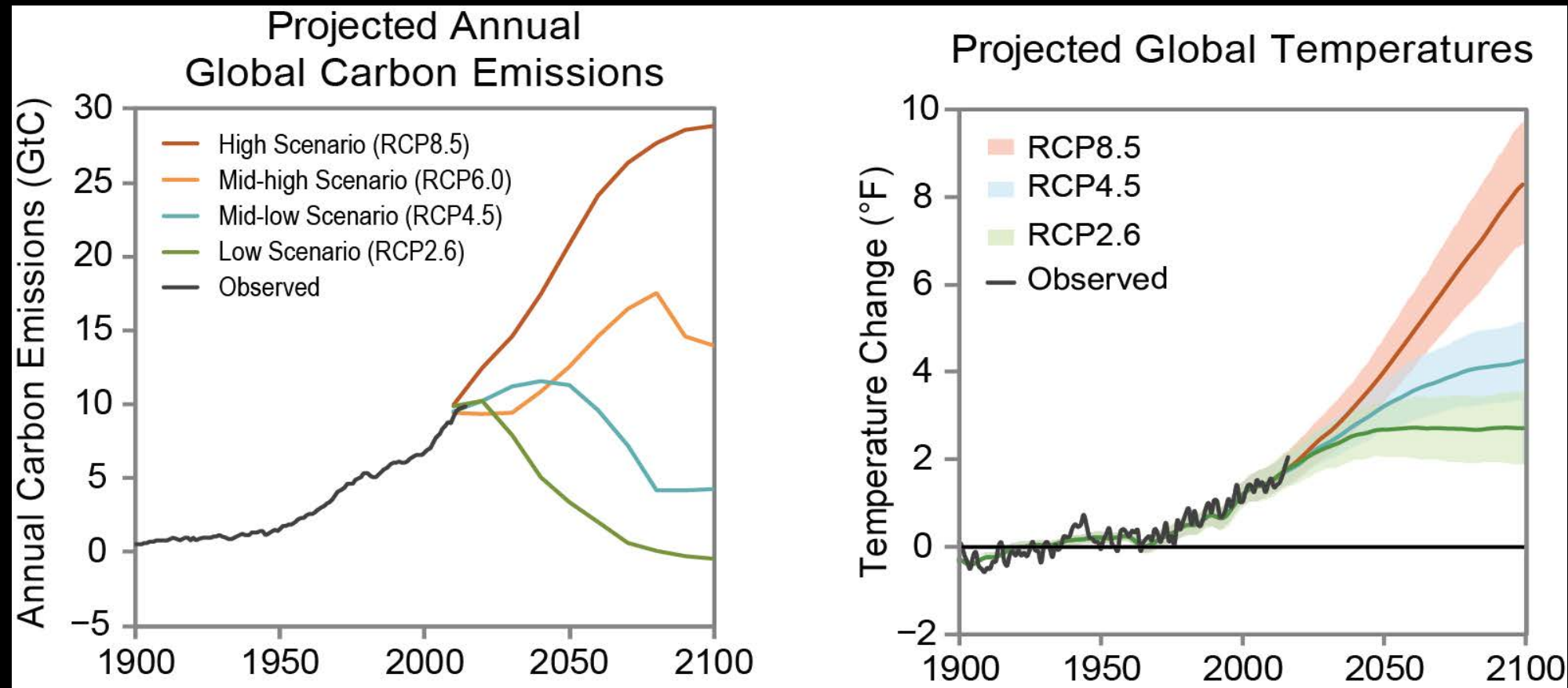


# The Science: The Bottom Line

- Our climate is changing,
  - It is happening now;
  - It is happening extremely rapidly;
- Severe weather is becoming more intense;
- Sea levels are rising and oceans affected;
- It is largely happening because of human activities and associated pollution;
- The climate will continue to change over the coming decades.

# The Forecast: Climate will Continue to Change

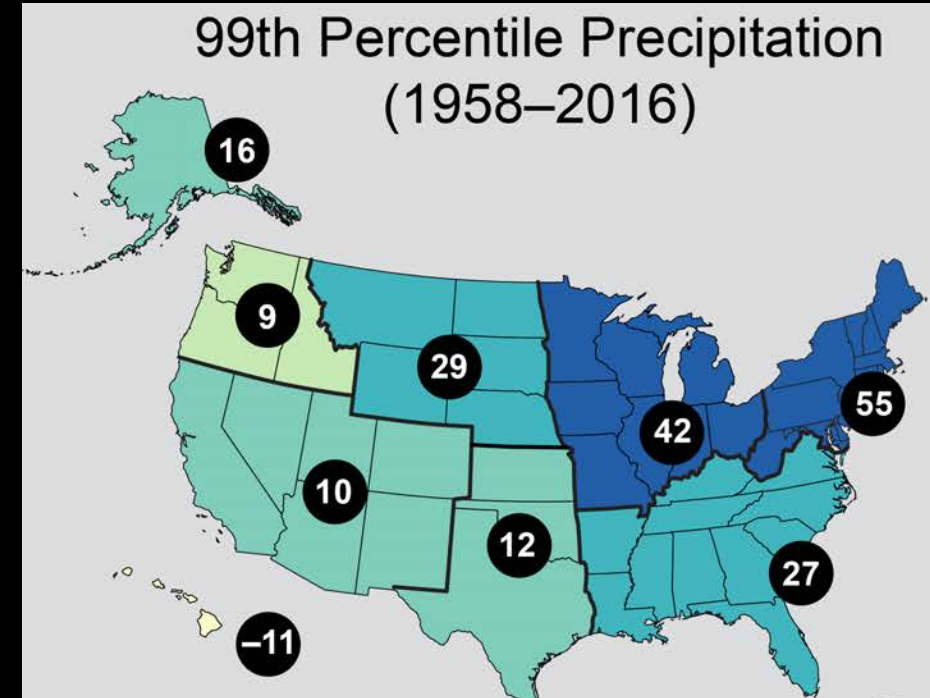
**Climate change** beyond the next few decades depends primarily on the **heat-trapping gases emitted** and the remaining uncertainty in the **sensitivity of Earth's climate** to those emissions.



# Certain Types of Extreme Events Show Important Trends Globally and in United States

- Heat waves are generally increasing in number and intensity;
- Cold waves are decreasing.
- More precipitation coming as larger events.
- Increasing risk of floods (NE, MW).
- Increasing intensity of droughts (SW, SE).
- Incidence of large wildfires has increased (esp. West, Alaska)
- Increasing intensity of hurricanes expected.
- Tornado activity more variable – increase in outbreaks.

**These trends are expected to continue.**





## An Assessment of the Impacts of Climate Change on the Great Lakes

by Scientists and Experts from Universities and  
Institutions in the Great Lakes Region



# More Recent Assessment

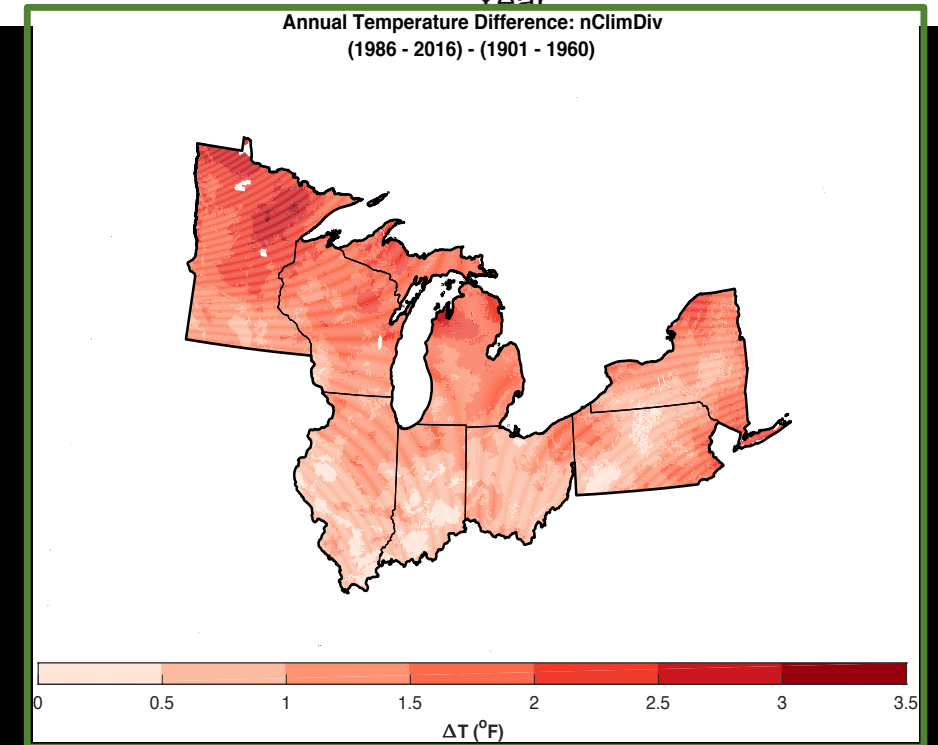
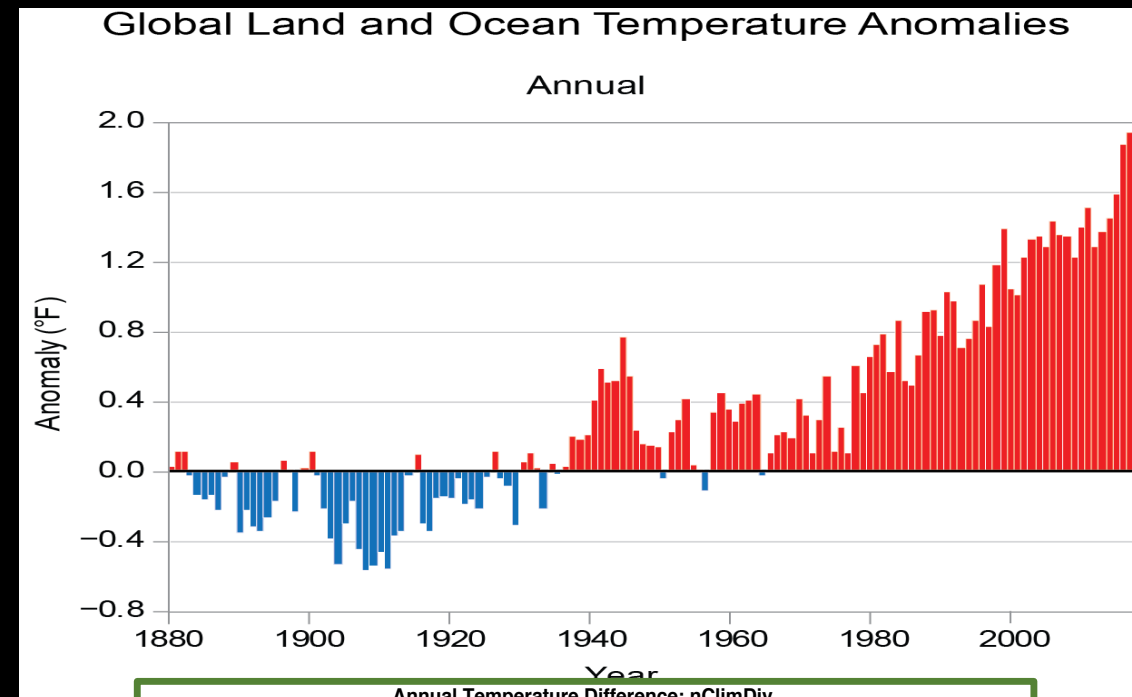
Assessment of the Great Lakes  
Region published in March 2019

Ongoing Assessment of Illinois  
being done for TNC to be  
published later this year.



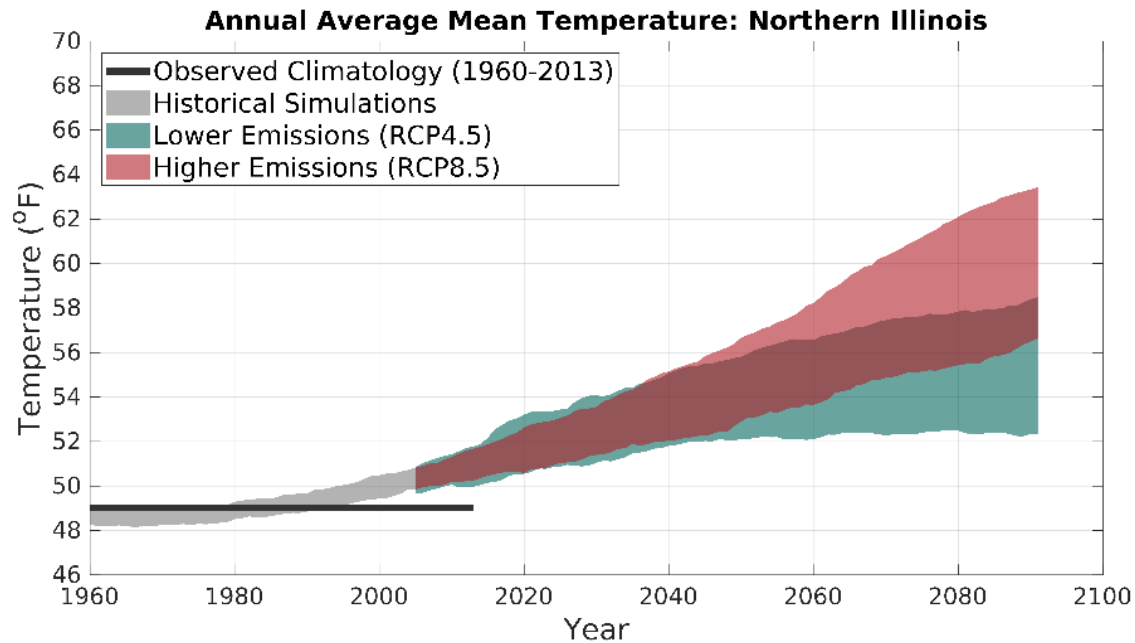
# Temperature in Great Lakes Region

- Climate change is already affecting both the climate of the Great Lakes region and the physical behavior of the Great Lakes themselves.
- Since 1901, temperature has increased 1.8°F since 1901.
- Temperature in U.S. part of the Great Lakes region has changed by 1.4°F for 1985-2016 relative to 1901-1960.



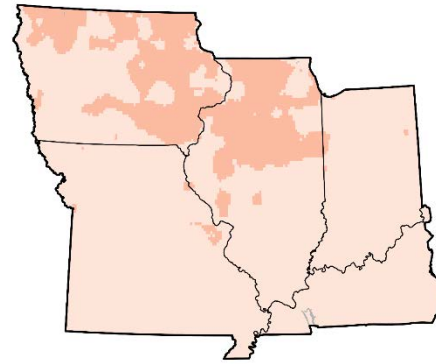
# Projected Annual Average Temperature

## Northern Illinois



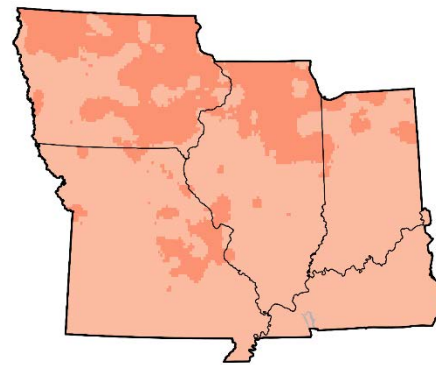
### Mid-21<sup>st</sup> Century

Change in Annual Average Mean Temperature  
Lower Emissions (RCP4.5): 1990 - 2019 to 2036 - 2065



2.5 3.5 4.5 5.5 6.5 7.5 8.5 9.5  
 $\Delta$  Temperature (°F)

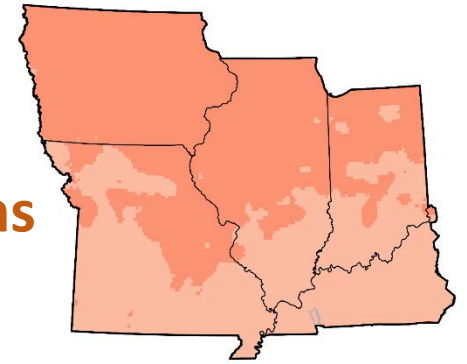
Change in Annual Average Mean Temperature  
Higher Emissions (RCP8.5): 1990 - 2019 to 2036 - 2065



2.5 3.5 4.5 5.5 6.5 7.5 8.5 9.5  
 $\Delta$  Temperature (°F)

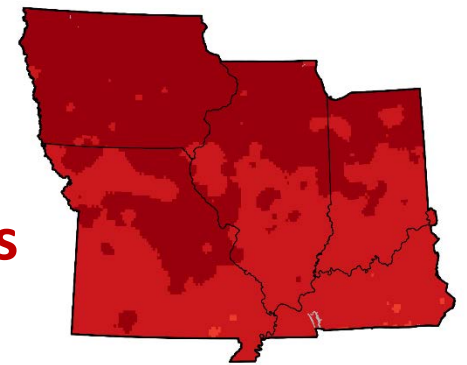
### Late 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Change in Annual Average Mean Temperature  
Lower Emissions (RCP4.5): 1990 - 2019 to 2070 - 2099



2.5 3.5 4.5 5.5 6.5 7.5 8.5 9.5  
 $\Delta$  Temperature (°F)

Change in Annual Average Mean Temperature  
Higher Emissions (RCP8.5): 1990 - 2019 to 2070 - 2099



2.5 3.5 4.5 5.5 6.5 7.5 8.5 9.5  
 $\Delta$  Temperature (°F)

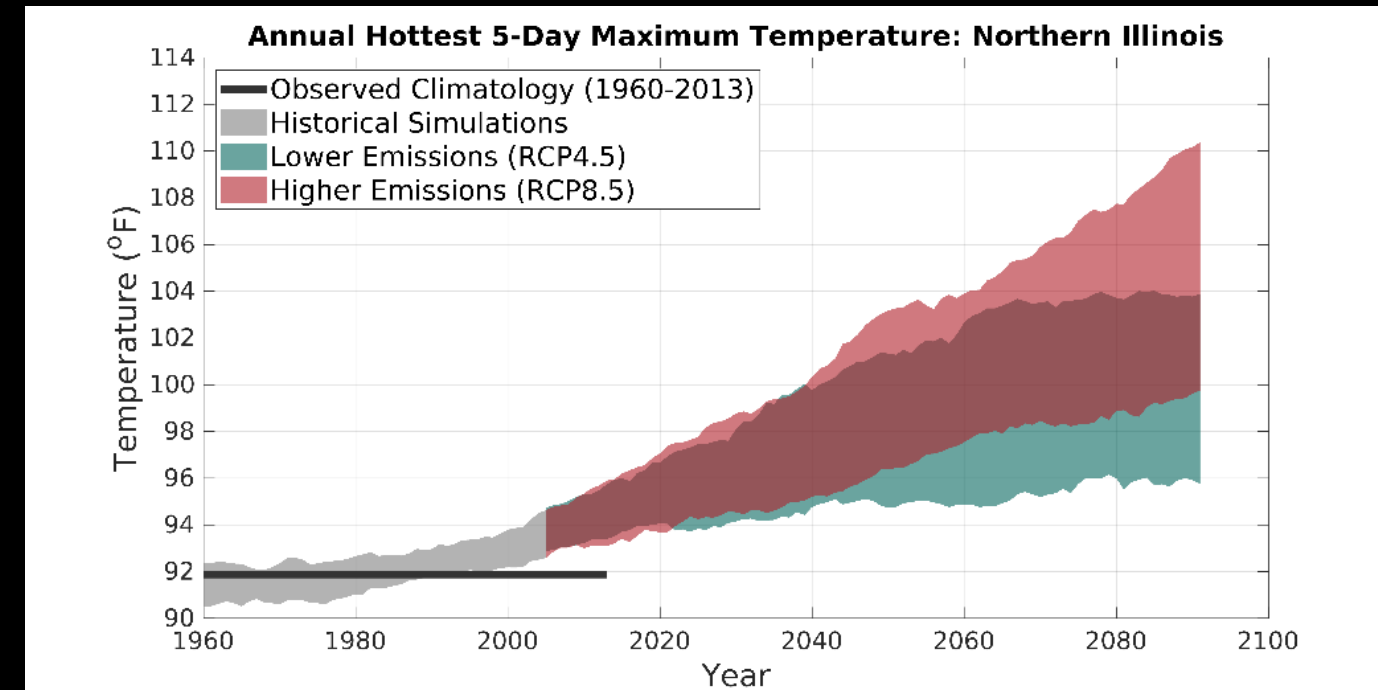
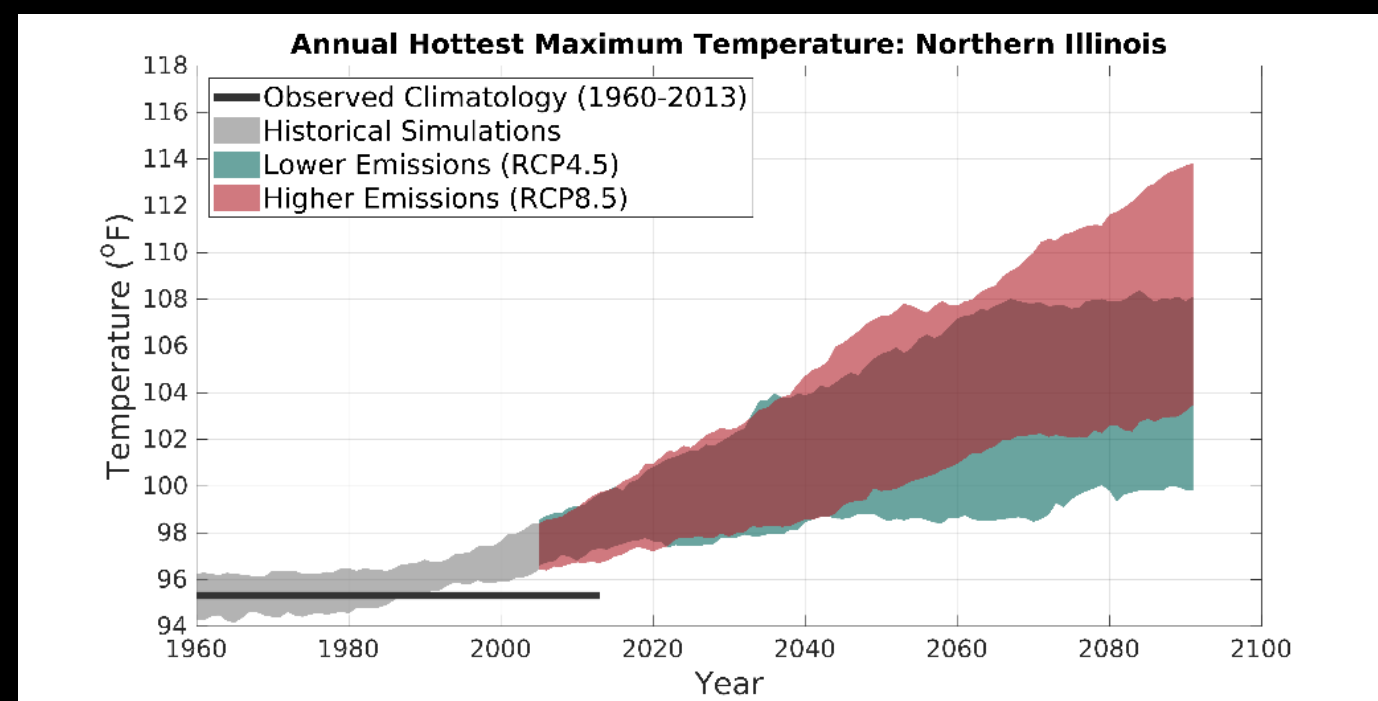
Lower  
Emissions

Higher  
Emissions

# Annual Hottest Maximum Temperature

## Northern Illinois

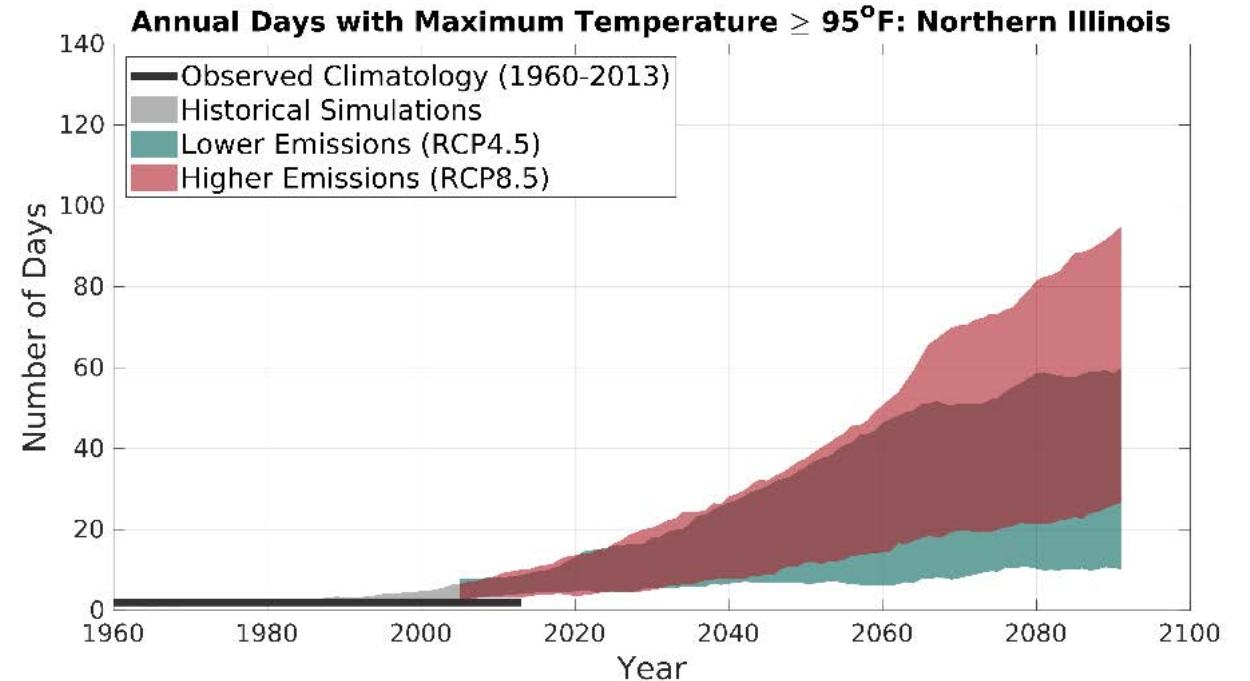
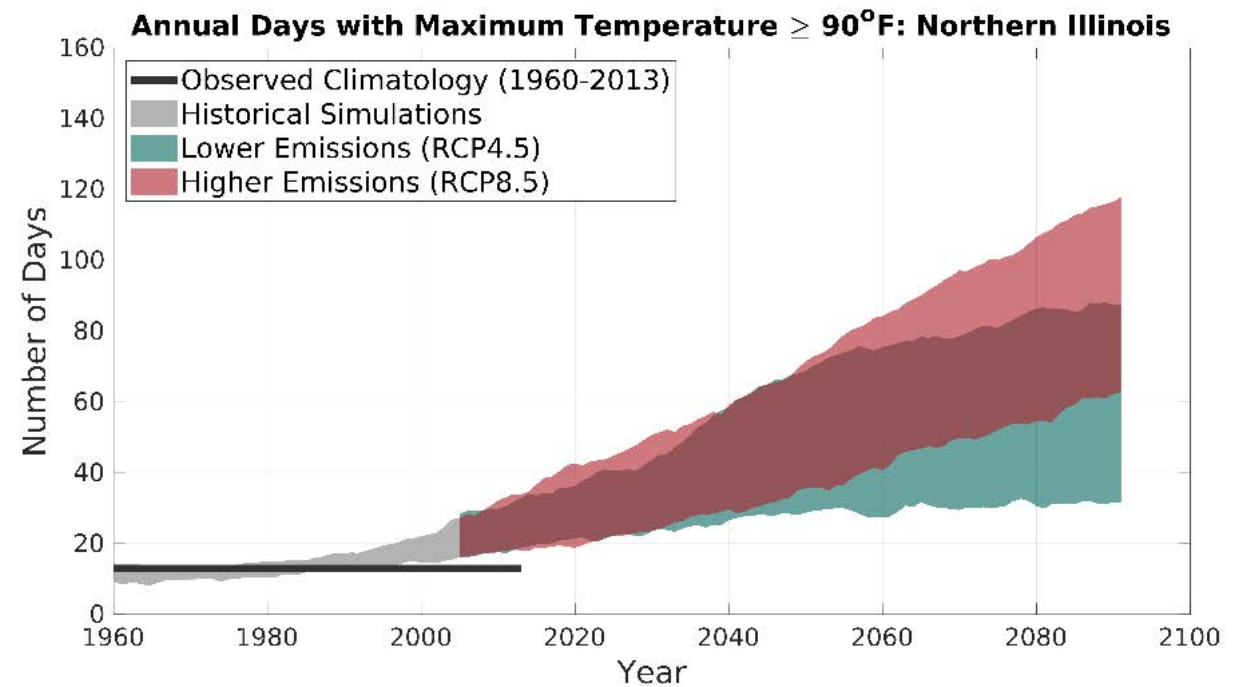
# Annual Hottest 5-Day Maximum Temperature



# Annual Number of Days with Maximum Temperature $\geq 90^{\circ}\text{F}$

## Northern Illinois

# Annual Number of Days with Minimum Temperature $\geq 95^{\circ}\text{F}$

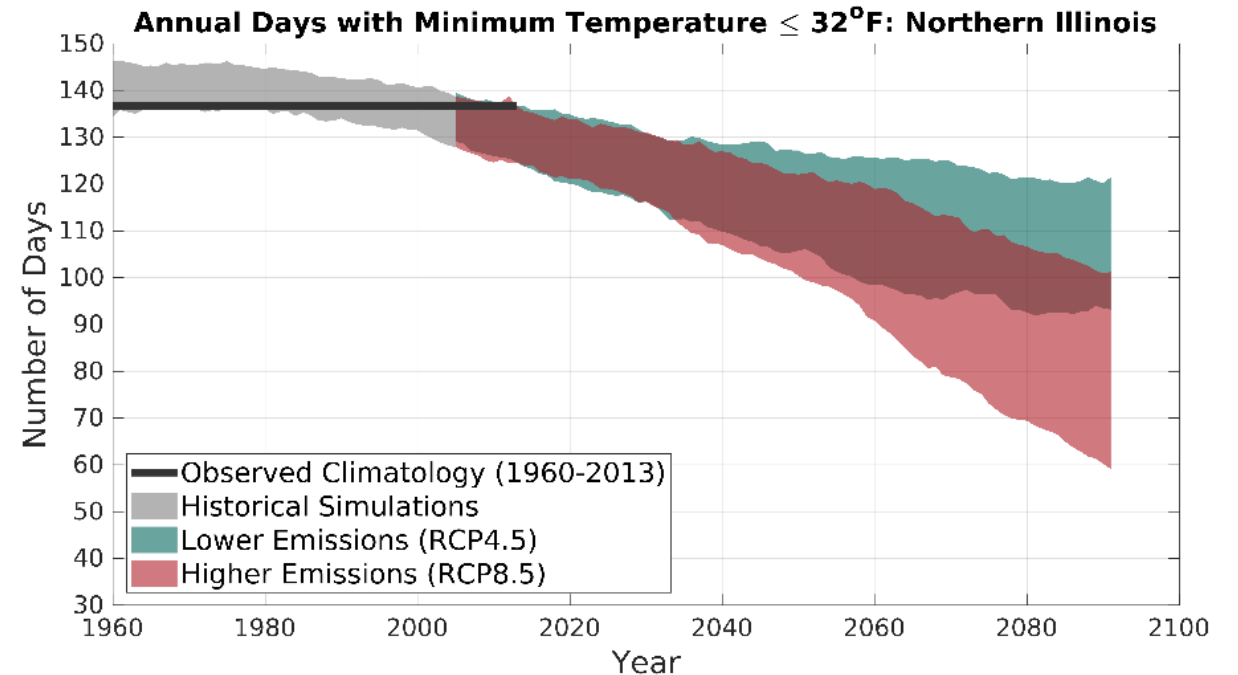
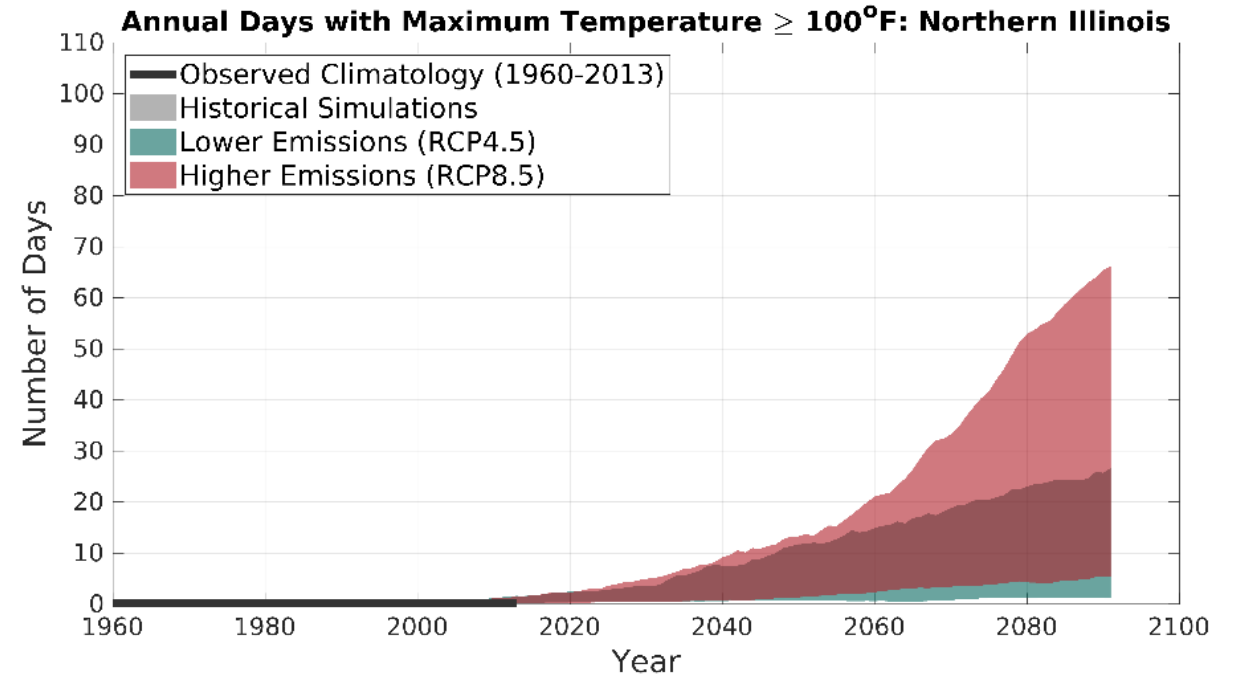




# Annual Number of Days with Maximum Temperature $\geq 100^{\circ}\text{F}$

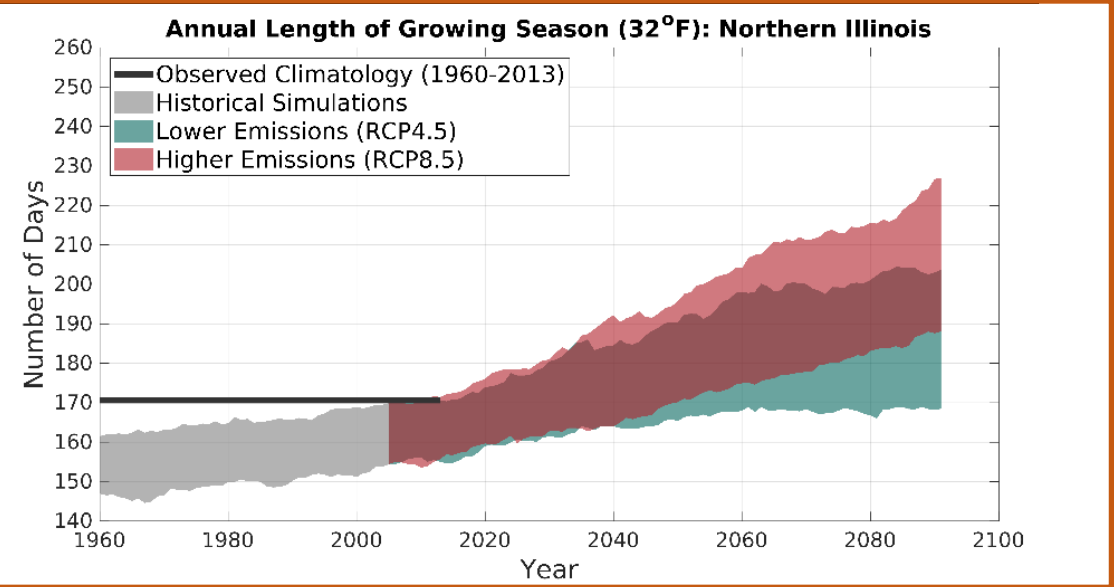
## Northern Illinois

# Annual Number of Days with Minimum Temperature $\leq 32^{\circ}\text{F}$



# Length of Growing Season

## Northern Illinois

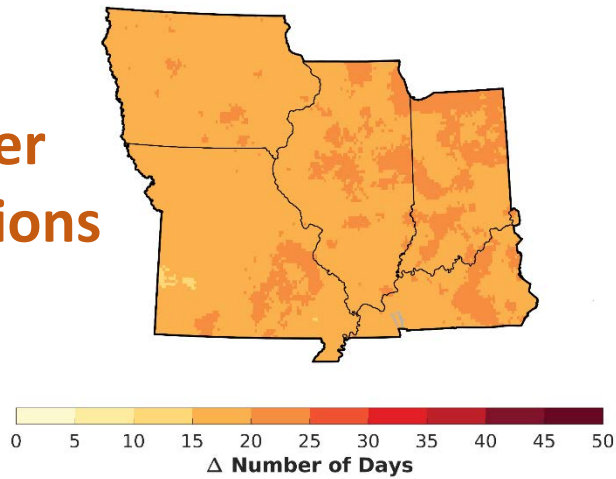
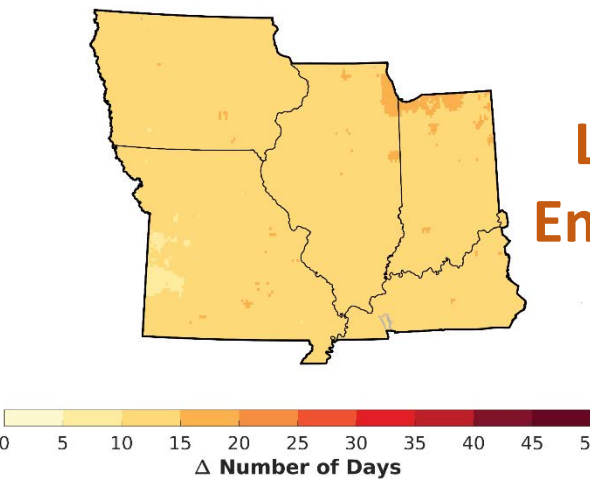


## Mid-21<sup>st</sup> Century

## Late 21<sup>st</sup> Century

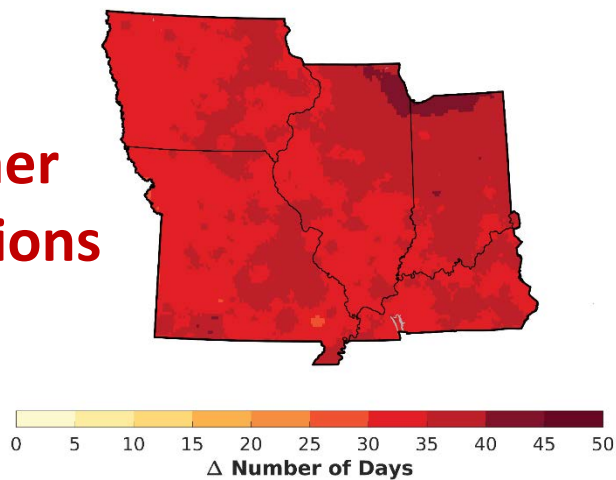
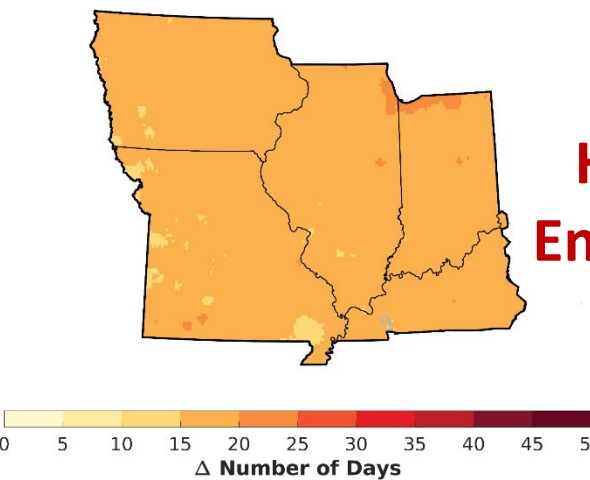
Change in Annual Length of Growing Season (32°F)  
Lower Emissions (RCP4.5): 1990 - 2019 to 2036 - 2065

Change in Annual Length of Growing Season (32°F)  
Lower Emissions (RCP4.5): 1990 - 2019 to 2070 - 2099



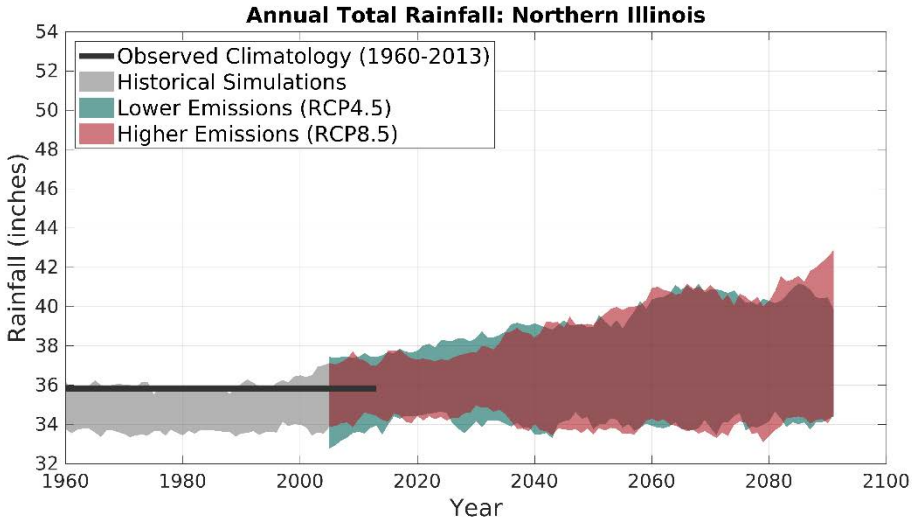
Change in Annual Length of Growing Season (32°F)  
Higher Emissions (RCP8.5): 1990 - 2019 to 2036 - 2065

Change in Annual Length of Growing Season (32°F)  
Higher Emissions (RCP8.5): 1990 - 2019 to 2070 - 2099

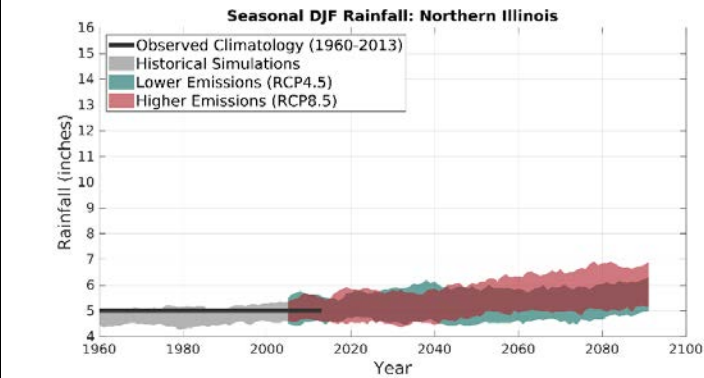


# Seasonal Rainfall Northern Illinois

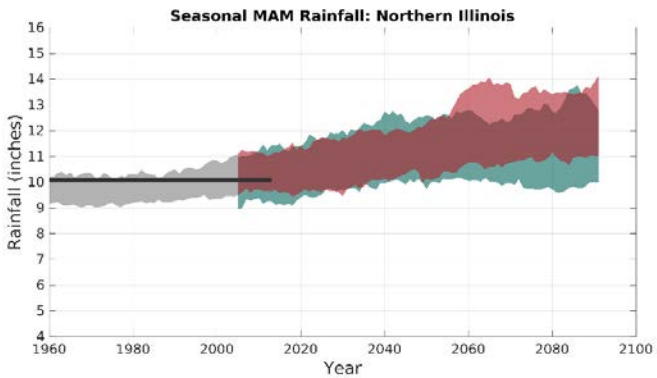
Annual



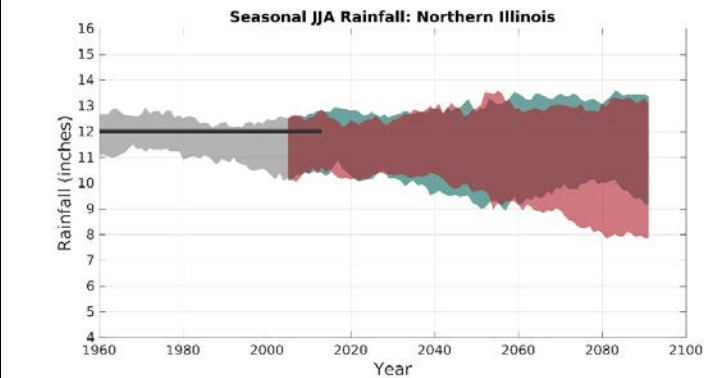
Winter



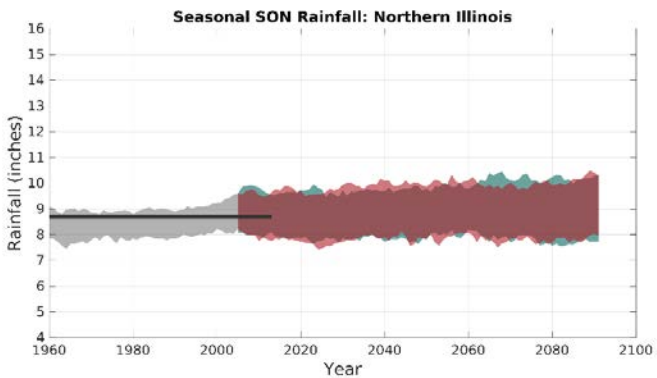
Spring



Summer



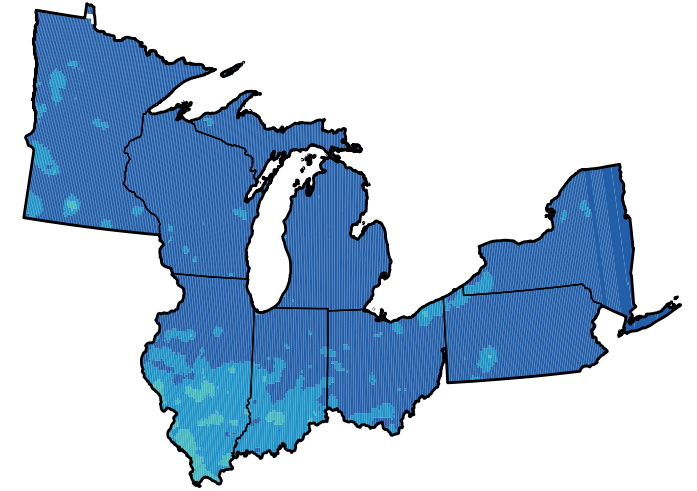
Fall



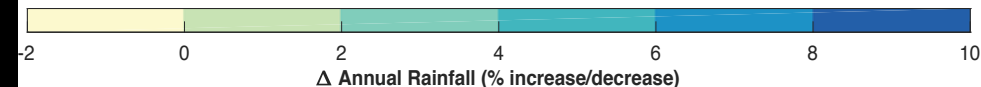
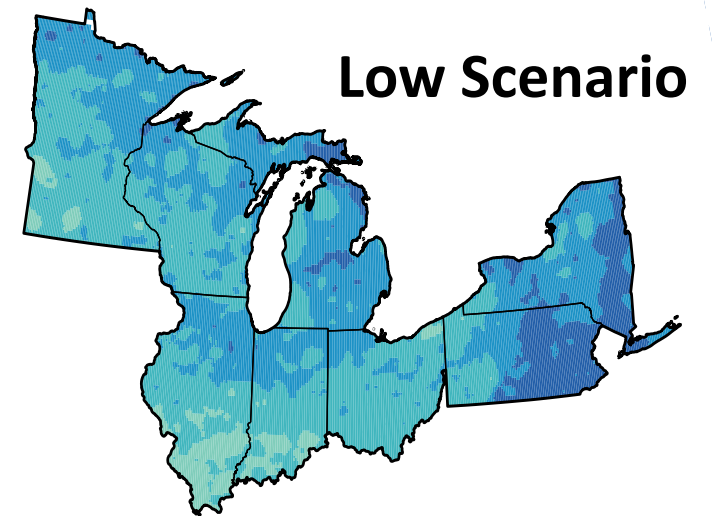
# Precipitation: The Great Lakes Region

- Precipitation has increased by 10% in the Great Lakes region.
- Projected increased precipitation for end of this century is as much as another 10%.
- Increasing trends for precipitation coming as larger events will continue.
- As much as 19% more precipitation for 5-year return events ( 1 in 5 years) by 2070-2099.

Change in Average Annual Total Rainfall  
Higher Emissions: RCP8.5 (1976 - 2005 to 2070 - 2099)



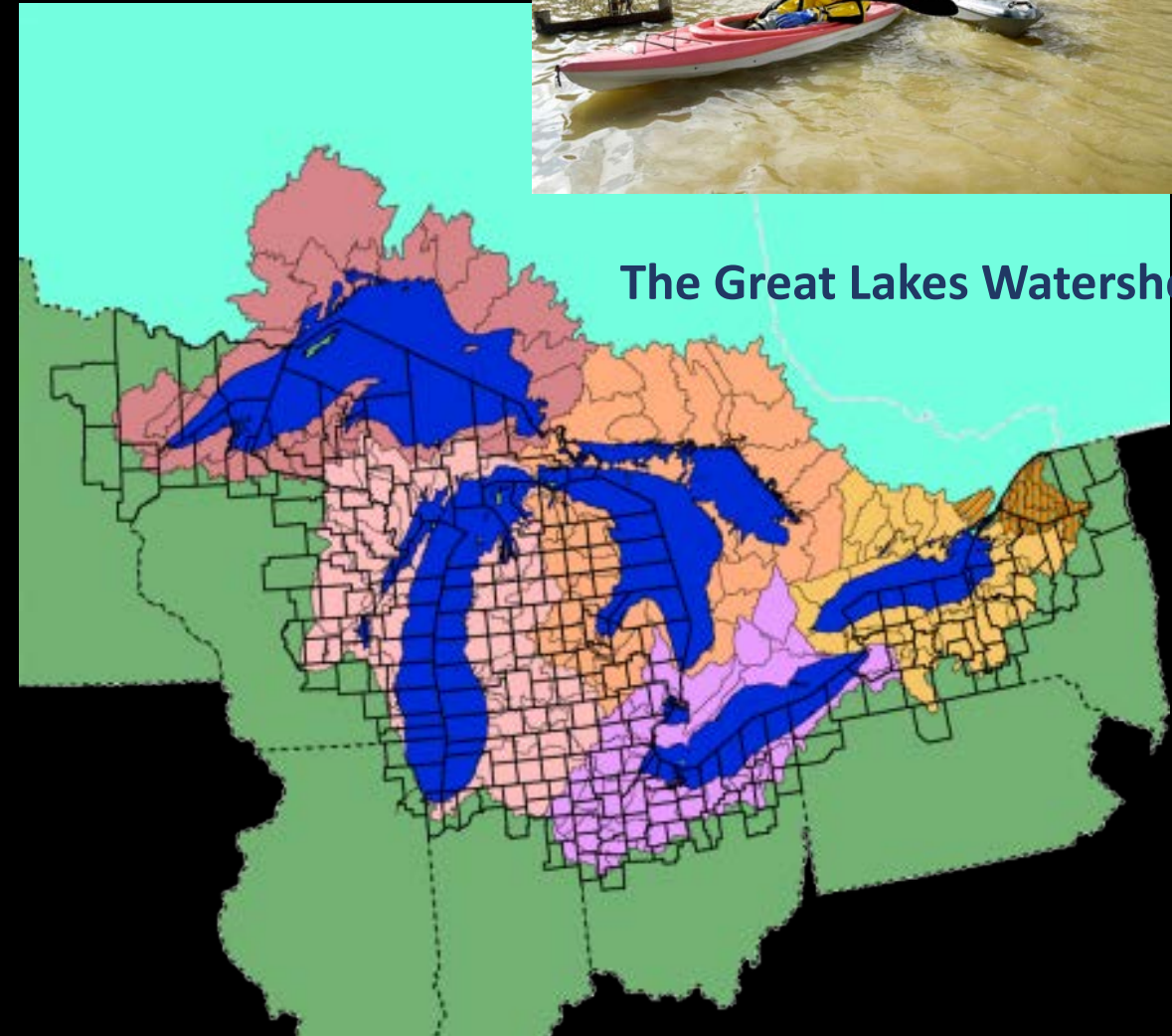
Change in Average Annual Total Rainfall  
Lower Emissions: RCP4.5 (1976 - 2005 to 2070 - 2099)





# Changes in Great Lakes: Watershed Hydrology

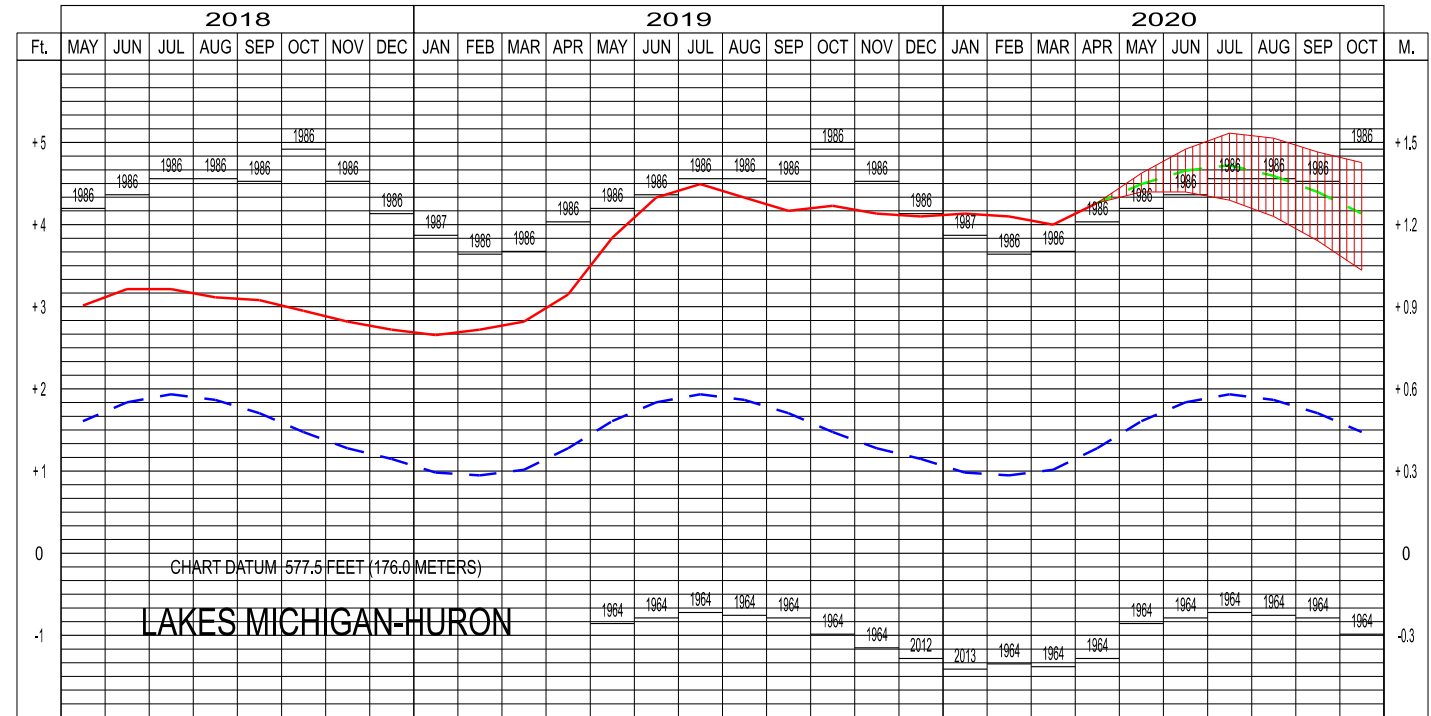
- Increases in precipitation will likely increase flooding across the region.
- Higher summer and fall air temperatures will increase evaporation during growing season.
- Coupled with summer precipitation that is increasingly variable and likely lower, summer river flows will likely be lower by the end of the century.



# Changes in the Great Lakes: Lake Levels

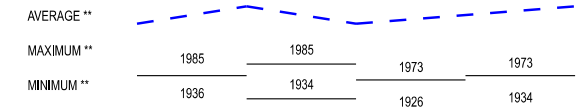
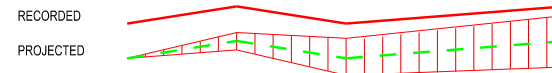
- Water levels have fluctuated considerably over multi-decadal time scales and will likely continue to do so.
- But large uncertainties remain about future lake levels.

## Lake Michigan Water Levels – May 2020



### LEGEND

LAKE LEVELS



\*\* Average, Maximum and Minimum for period 1918-2019

*Thank You!*





Go to [menti.com](https://menti.com) Enter code 85 49 73

# Preparedness

Unprepared

How prepared are you for flooding you are experiencing today?

How prepared are you for mid-century extreme precipitation?

How prepared are you for mid-century temperature extremes?

Prepared





# Climate Impacts

## Urban Heat Impacts & Solutions

Dr. Ashish Sharma

Illinois Research Climatologist

Illinois Water Survey

Adjunct Professor, Atmospheric Sciences

University of Illinois





# Urban heat impacts and solutions in the Chicago region



*Ashish Sharma*

*Illinois Research Climatologist*

*Illinois State Water Survey | Prairie Research Institute*

*University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, IL, USA*

*29 May, 2020*

*Email: [sharmaa@illinois.edu](mailto:sharmaa@illinois.edu)*

*Twitter: [@A\\_Sharma007](https://twitter.com/A_Sharma007)*

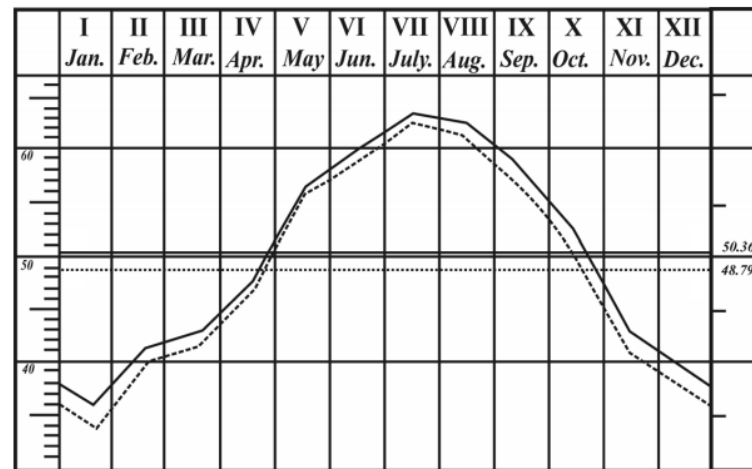


# Luke Howard (1772-1864)



Howard (1833)

Howard was an amateur meteorologist with broad interests in meteorology;  
--- was also the first to recognize the effect that urban areas have on local climate.



London mean temperature for ten years (1807-1816)

London showed  
1.57°C warmer than  
the country.

Kristovich, Sharma *et al.* (2019) *Meteorol. Monogr.*



# Topics for urban discussion

## Urban systems

- **Multiscale, interdependent, social, natural and engineered complex systems**

## Adaptive choices

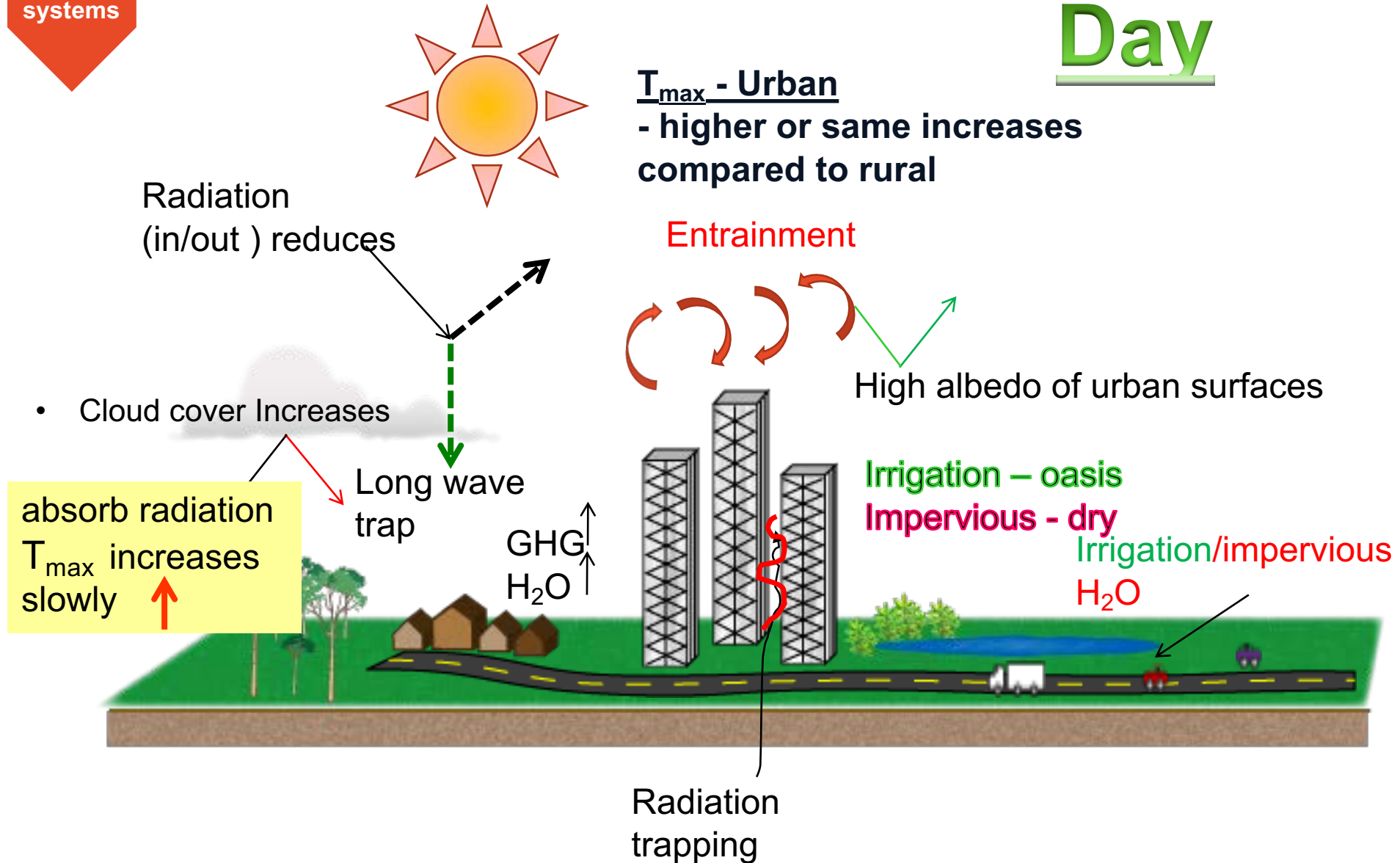
- **What solutions do we have?**

## Decision support

- **Where should cities invest?**

# Natural-Urban Environment

## Day



# Natural-Urban Environment



Night

- Significant increase of  $T_{\min}$  (compared to rural)

- reduction of DTR is larger

$T_{\min}$  increases faster than  $T_{\max}$

- UHI at night in amp

- Cloud cover + GHG reduces outgoing radiation

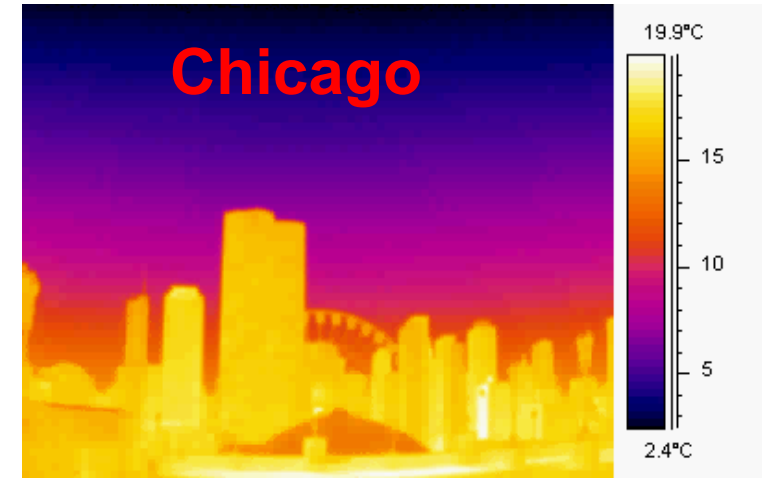
Long wave  
trap



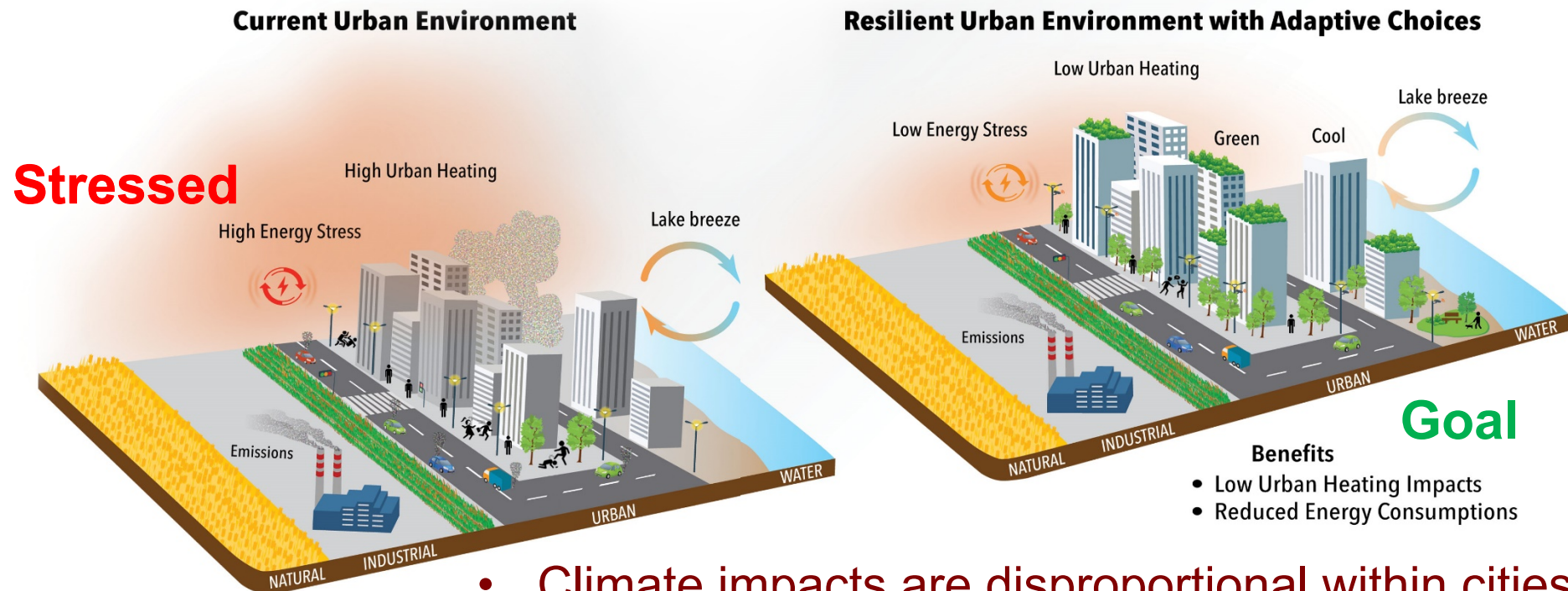


# Urban communities

- Mid-90s heat wave
  - Record 106 °F at Chicago Midway
  - 465 deaths
- Chicago Climate Action Plan: 2008
  - Plan and implement urban heat adaptation initiatives in face of climate change



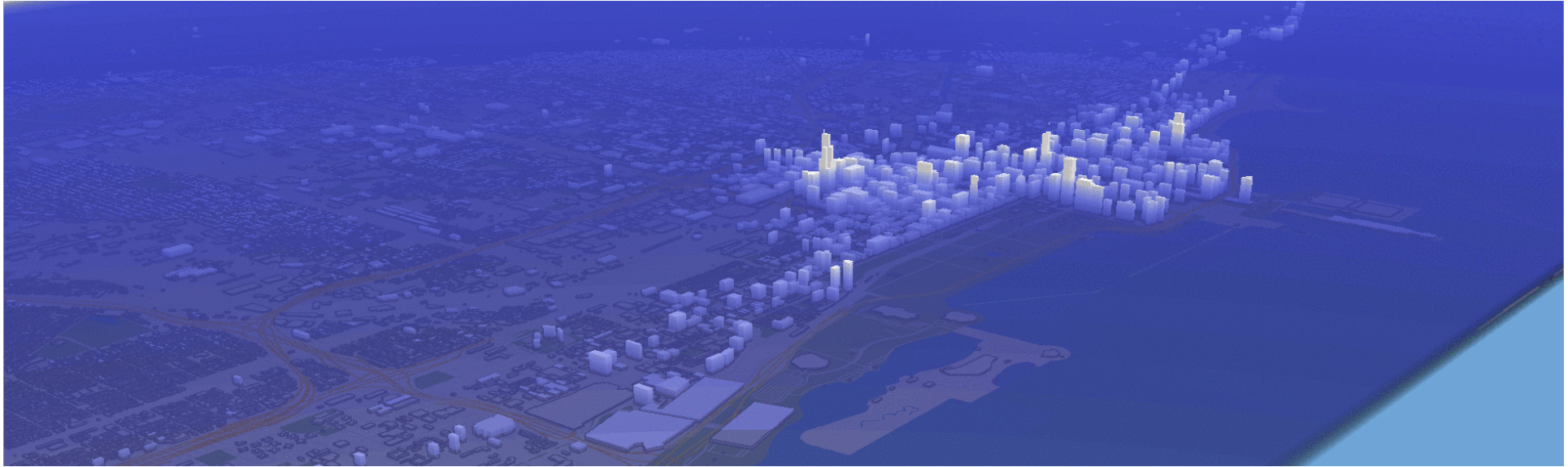
Kristovich, Sharma *et al.* (2019) *Meteorol. Monogr.*



- Climate impacts are disproportional within cities.

# Urban Environment

- **Urban systems:** Multiscale, interdependent, social, natural and engineered complex systems.



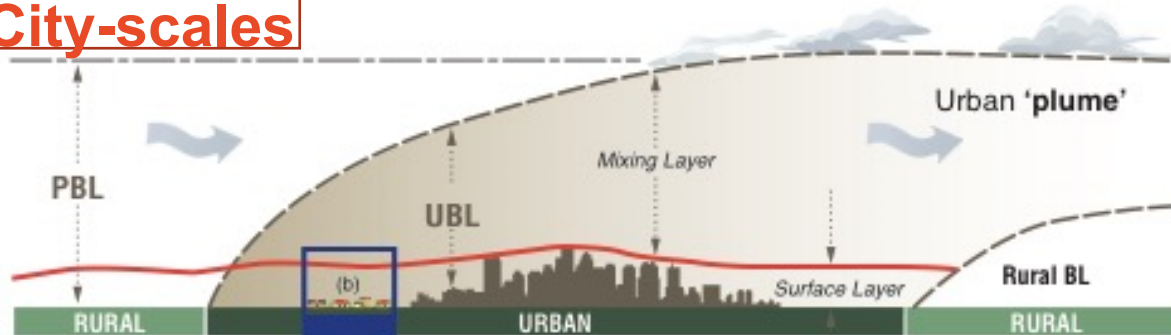
Visualization: Miranda and Sharma

- Improvements in urban **boundary layer processes**.
- Fundamental and translational research that uses **science to serve the society**.

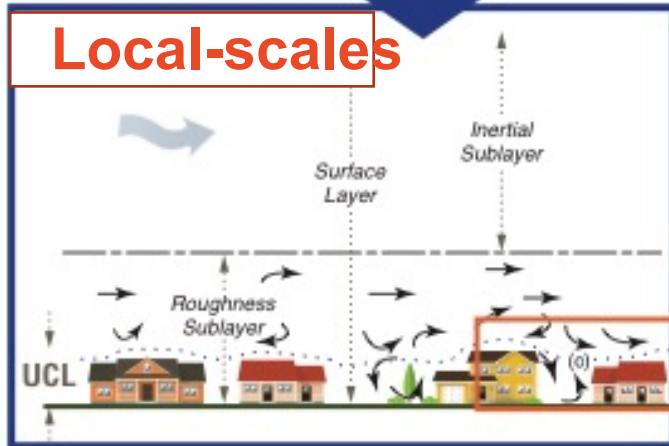
Urban  
systems

# Bridging urban scales...

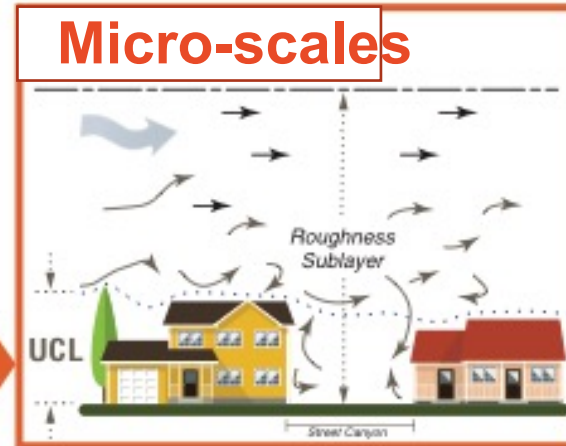
City-scales



Local-scales



Micro-scales



Human  
scales



Human Thermal  
Comfort

- Temperature
- Humidity
- Mean Radiant Temperature
- Wind Speed

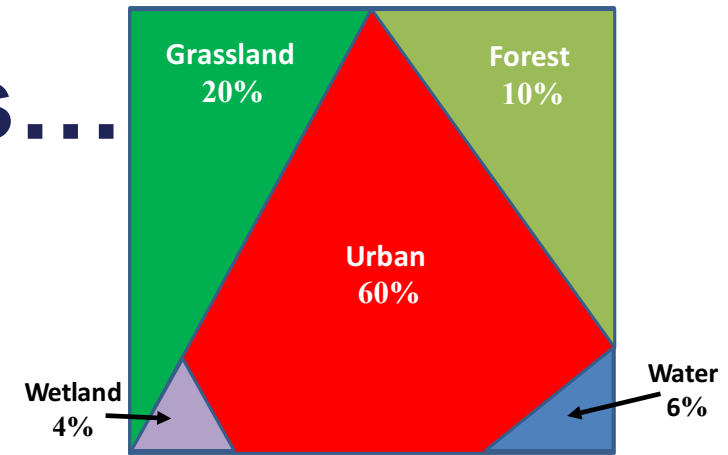
Feedback

- Need **tools** with which large-, medium-, and small- cities will benefit.
- Complicated models to **train** simplistic models.

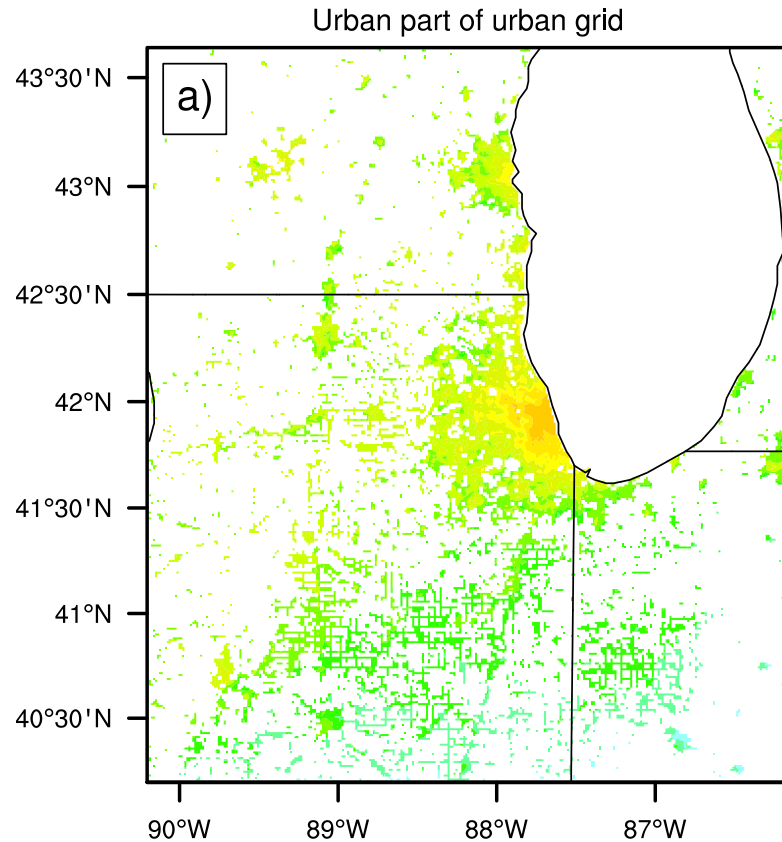




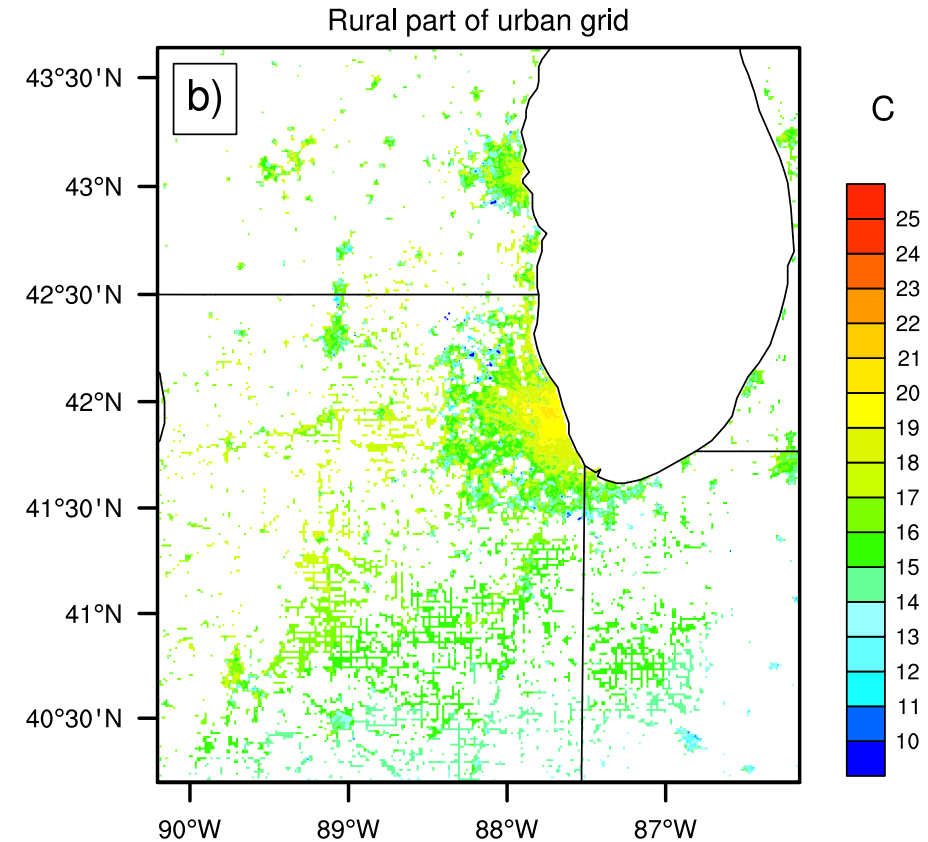
# At regional scales...



## Urban part of an urban grid



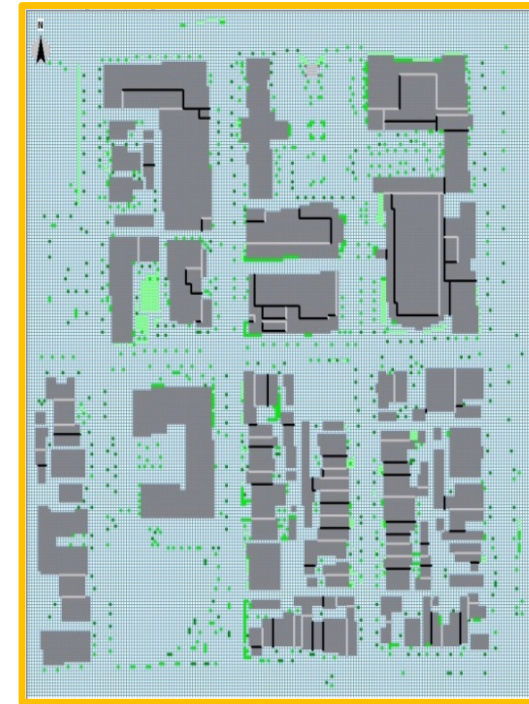
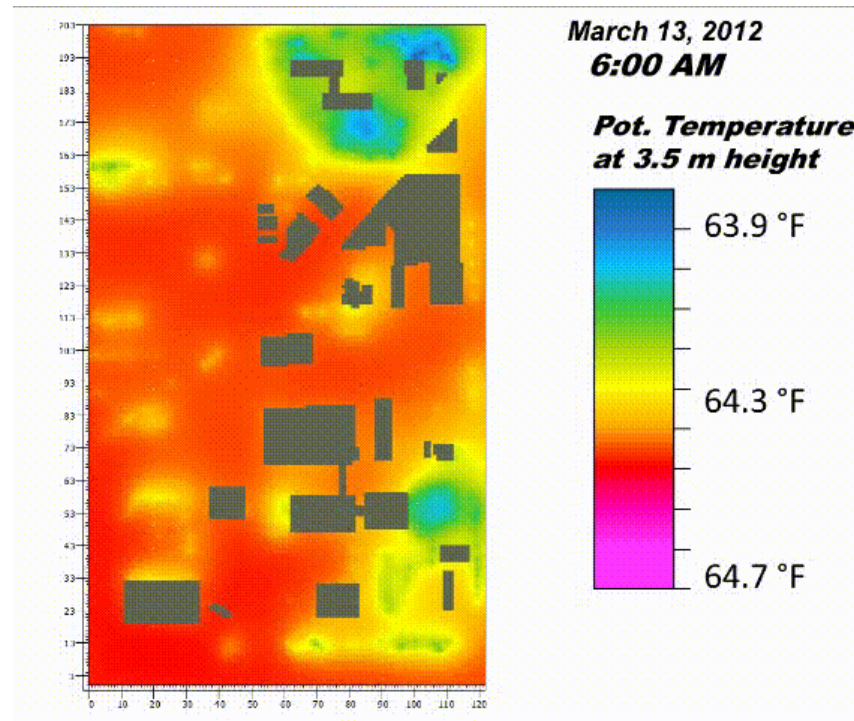
## Non-urban part of an urban grid





# At local/neighborhood scales..

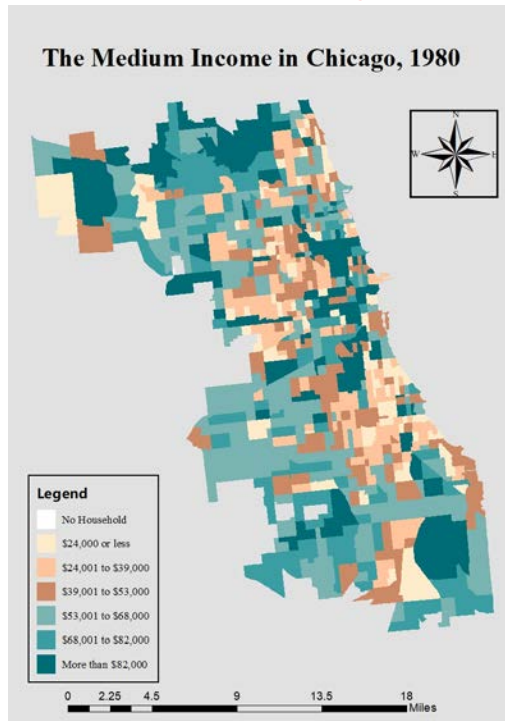
## ENVI-met model



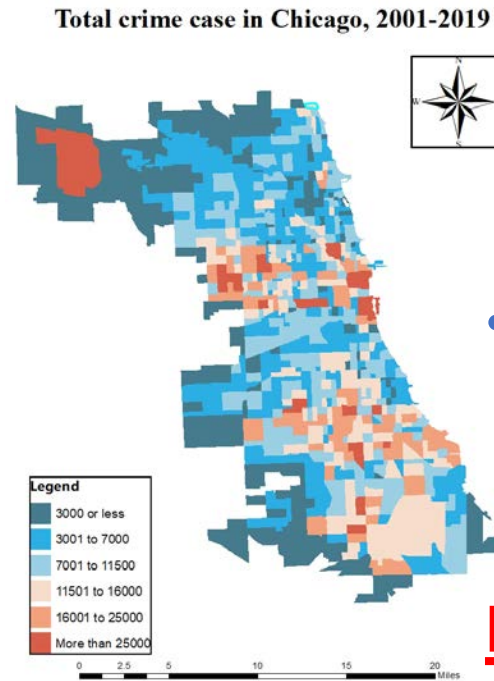
Conry, Sharma et al. (2015) *J. Appl. Meteorol. Climatol.*

# Divide within cities

## Income analysis



## Crime analysis



- Chicago 8<sup>th</sup> in income inequality among the nation's largest cities.
- 'Healthy' level of inequality is needed to encourage growth and progress.

**But how much inequality is too much?**

Figure Credits: Lei Zhou and Swarnali Sanyal



# Topics for urban discussion

## Urban systems

- **Multiscale, interdependent, social, natural and engineered complex systems**

## Adaptive choices

- **What solutions do we have?**

## Decision support

- **Where should cities invest?**

# Potential solutions



Student Union at the UIS campus

✓ Technological-engineered-ecological mix of solutions.

Adaptive  
choices

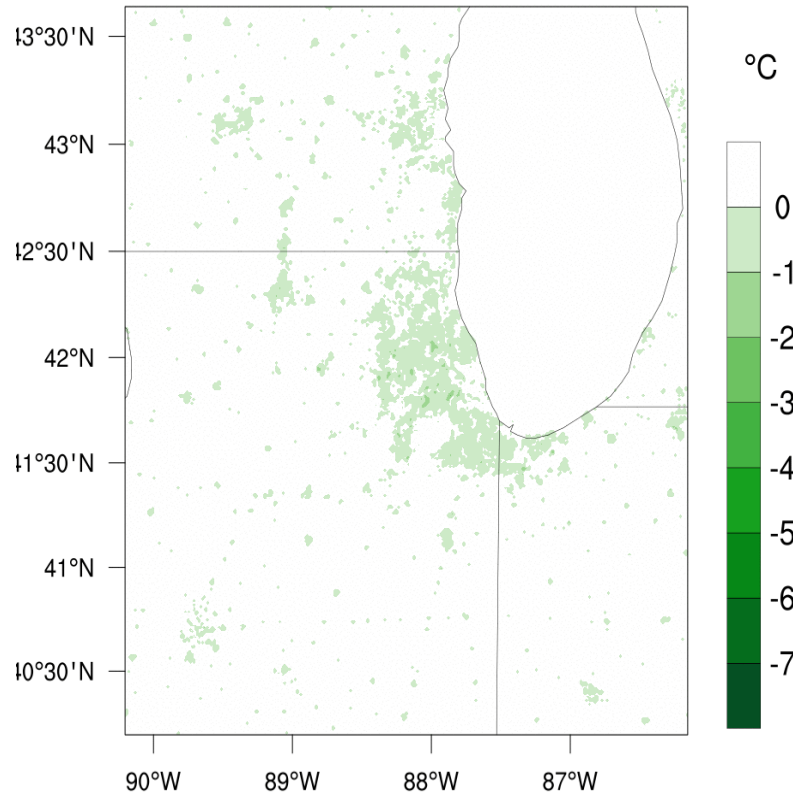
# Green roofs



Student Union at the UIS campus

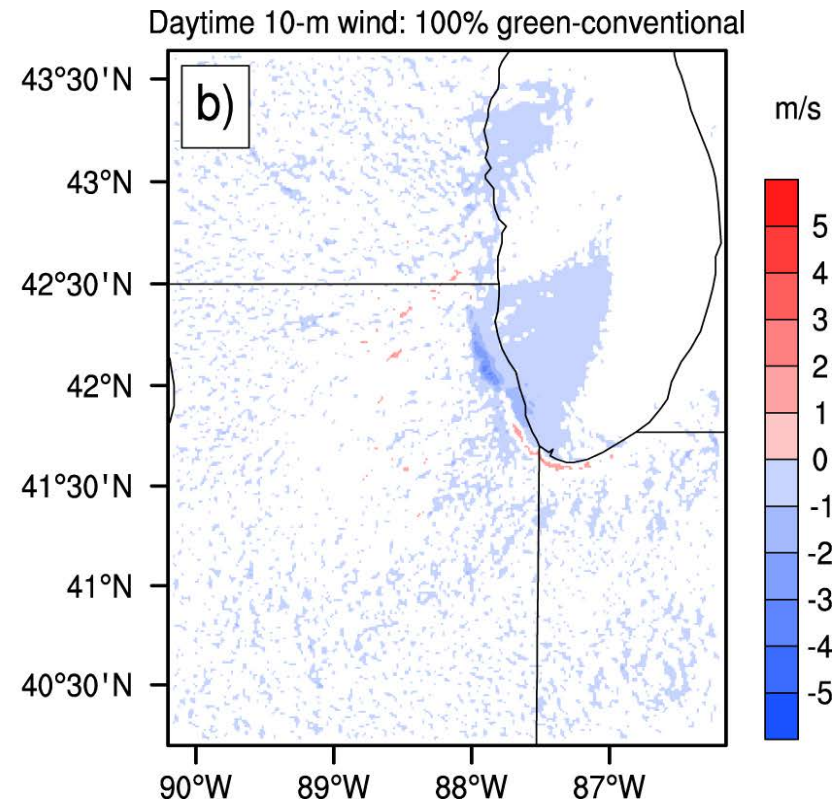
100% green - conventional

## Roof surface temperature



Urban landuse category	Green roofs				Cool roofs
	25%	50%	75%	100%	100%
Low intensity residential	0.56	1.11	1.68	2.24	1.6
Medium-intensity residential	1.63	3.25	4.97	6.68	7.01
High-intensity/commercial	2.02	4.07	6.27	8.34	10.09
All urban areas	0.84	1.68	2.56	3.41	3.22

## 10-m wind



Lake breeze reduced

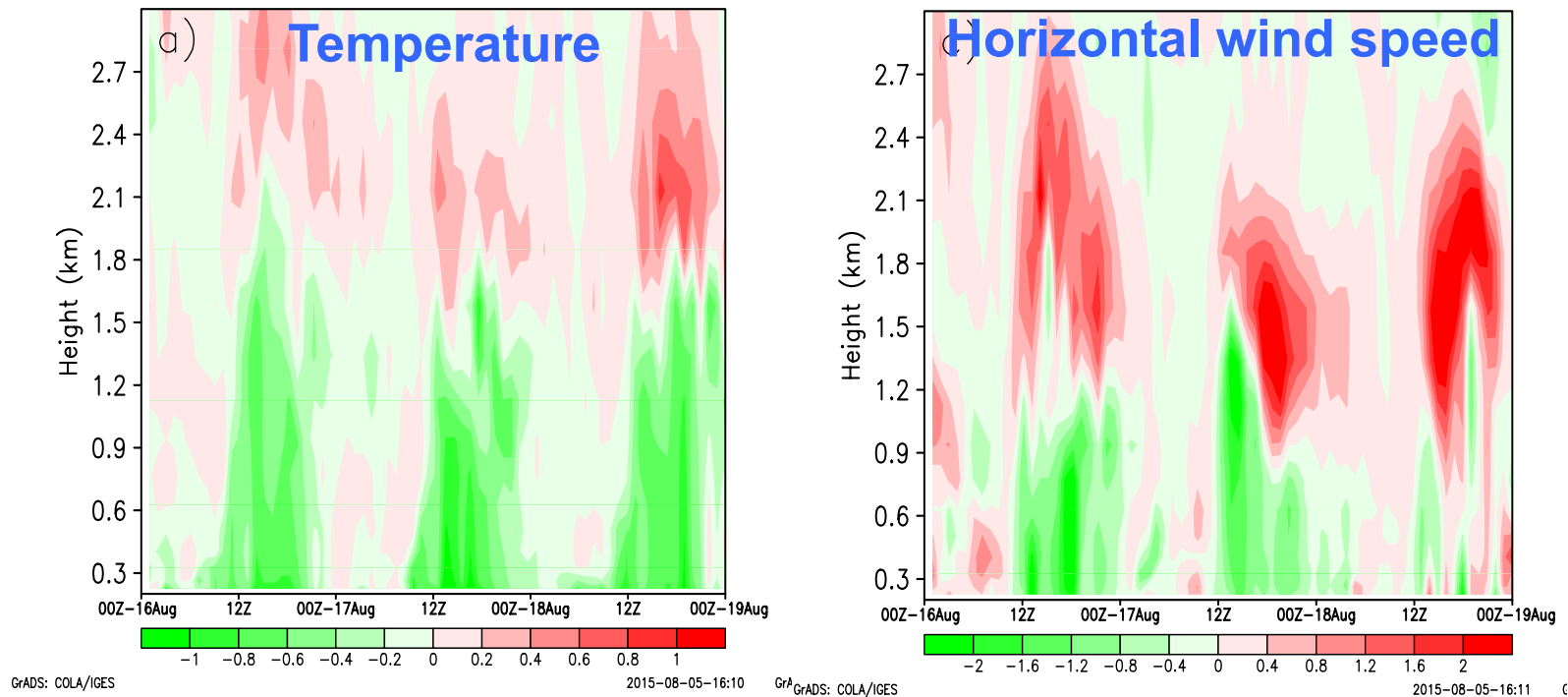
RMSE: 1.3 °C

MAE: 0.9 °C

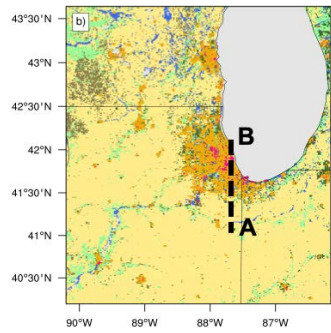


# Vertical profiles

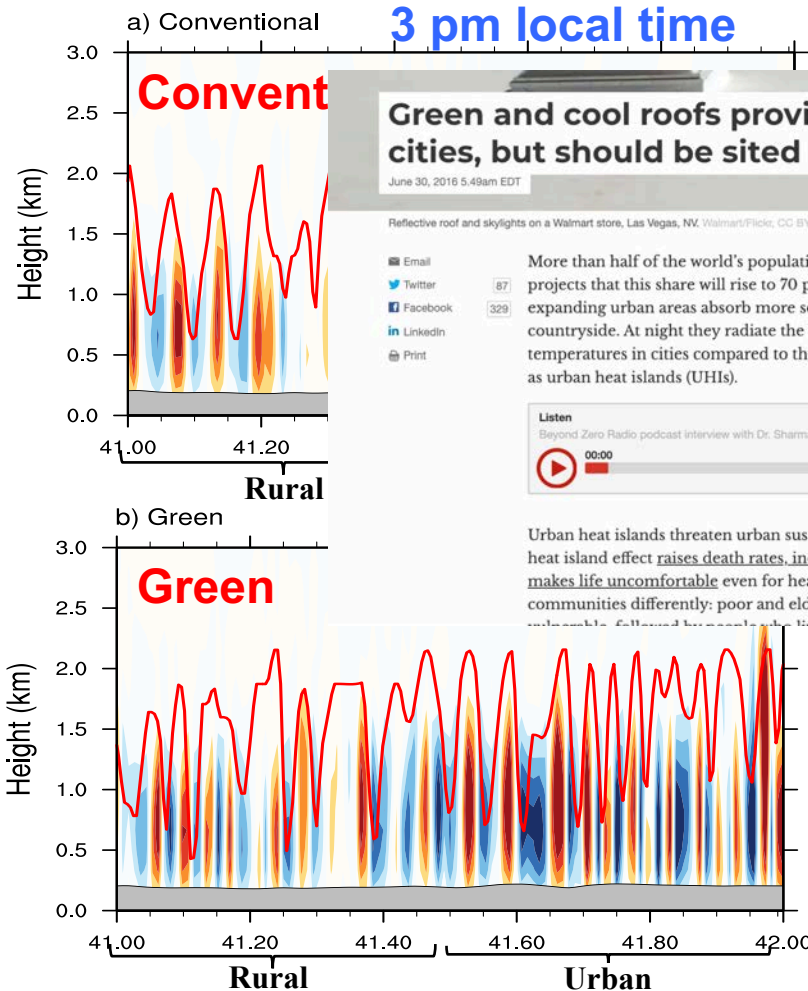
Green-Conventional



- Decrease in horizontal wind speed due to **reduced vertical mixing** of momentum, and an increase above it.



# Transport OR photochemical processes — Which are dominant?



**Green and cool roofs provide relief for hot cities, but should be sited carefully**

June 30, 2016 5:49am EDT

Reflective roof and skylights on a Walmart store, Las Vegas, NV. Walmart/Flickr, CC BY

More than half of the world's population lives in cities, and the United Nations projects that this share will rise to 70 percent by 2050. During the daytime, these expanding urban areas absorb more solar energy than the surrounding countryside. At night they radiate the heat back to the atmosphere. Higher temperatures in cities compared to the areas around them create what are known as urban heat islands (UHIs).

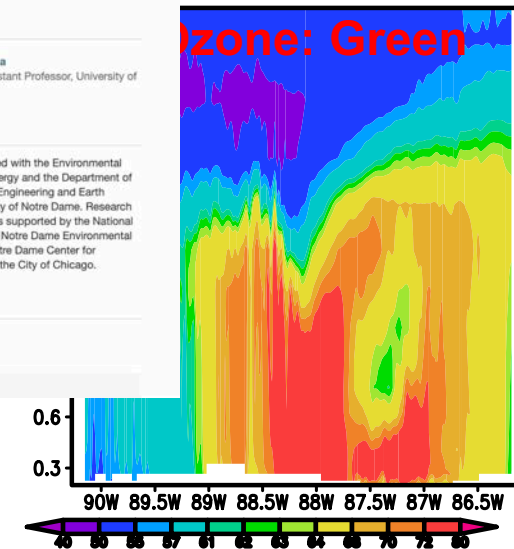
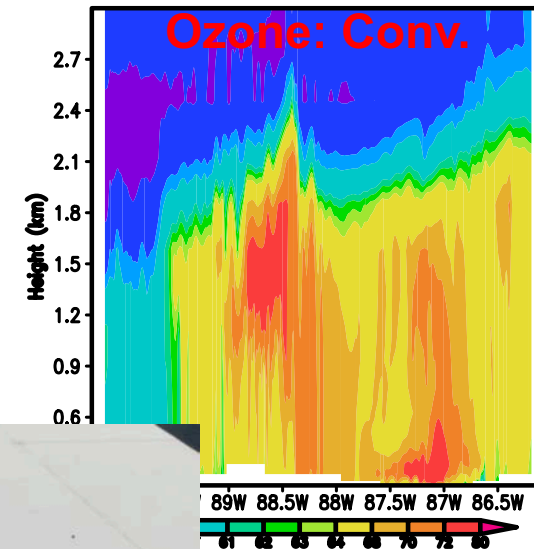
Urban heat islands threaten urban sustainability and public health in cities. The heat island effect raises death rates, increases energy demand for cooling, and makes life uncomfortable even for healthy residents. It affects various communities differently: poor and elderly residents and small children are most vulnerable, followed by people who live in highly industrialized areas.

Author: Ashish Sharma, Research Assistant Professor, University of Notre Dame

Disclosure statement: Ashish Sharma is affiliated with the Environmental Change Initiative, ND Energy and the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Earth Sciences at the University of Notre Dame. Research described in this article is supported by the National Science Foundation, the Notre Dame Environmental Change Initiative, the Notre Dame Center for Sustainable Energy, and the City of Chicago.

Partners: View all partners

creative commons



- ✓ One solution can't fit all.
- ✓ Need a mix of solutions.

# Topics for urban discussion

## Urban systems

- **Multiscale, interdependent, social, natural and engineered complex systems**

## Adaptive choices

- **What solutions do we have?**

## Decision support

- **Where should cities invest?**



# Urban Heat Vulnerability

## Weather-related deaths

Heat is officially the most common cause of weather-related fatalities in the U.S., based on the average recorded between 1986 and 2015.

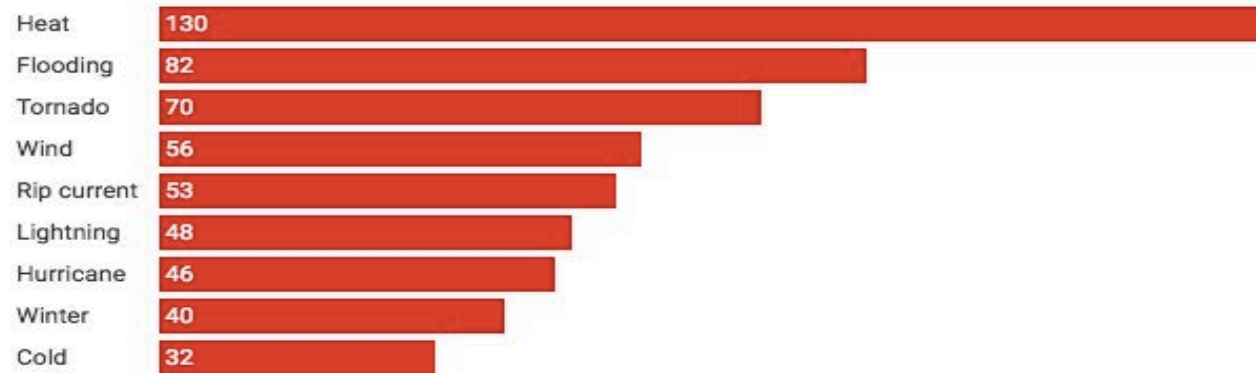


Chart: The Conversation, CC-BY-ND • Source: [National Weather Service](#) • [Get the data](#)

<https://theconversation.com/green-roofs-in-cities-like-chicago-102234>

- A decision making approach for planners and managers to apply heat mitigation strategies
- Identify and prioritize urban areas to implement adaptive strategy

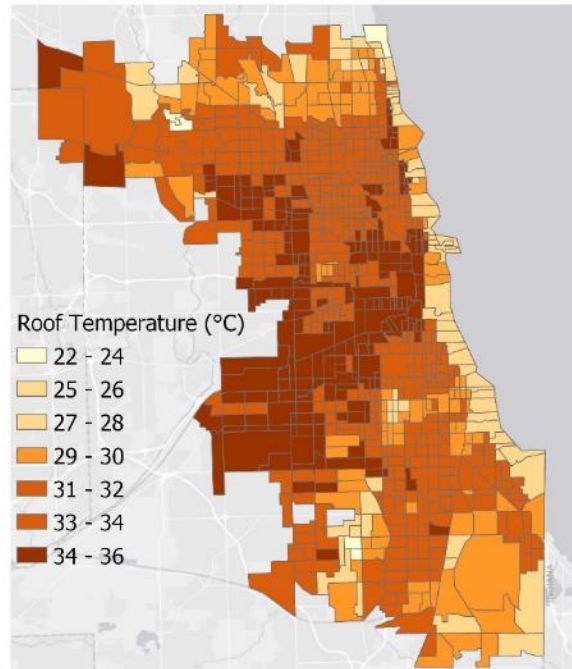
Sharma et al. (2018) *Env. Res. Lett.*



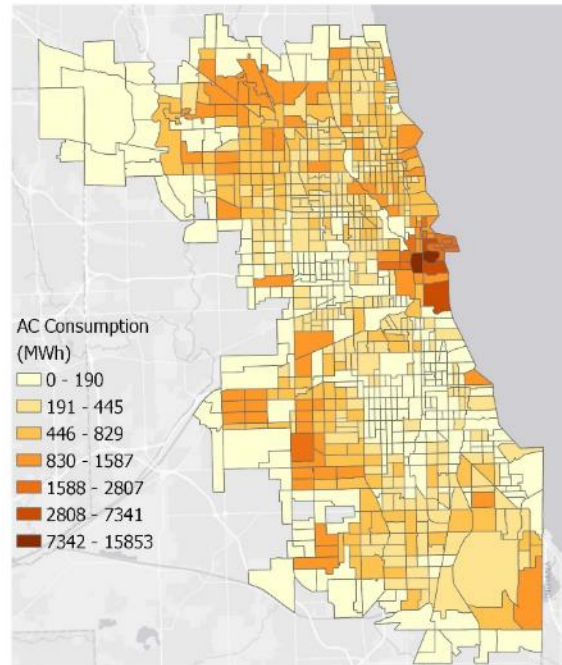
# How can we help communities?

- ✓ **Integrated urban sustainability solutions**
- ✓ Multi-disciplinary and multi-stakeholder engagements for actionable research-based and cost-effective sustainable solutions

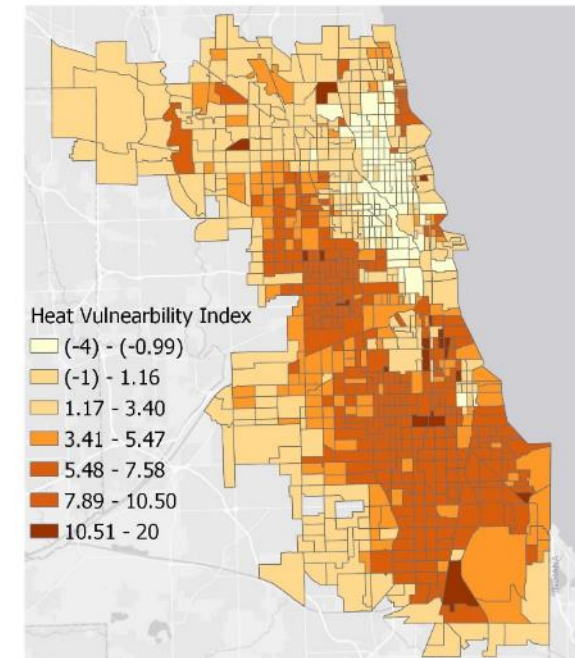
**Roof Temperatures**



**AC Consumption**

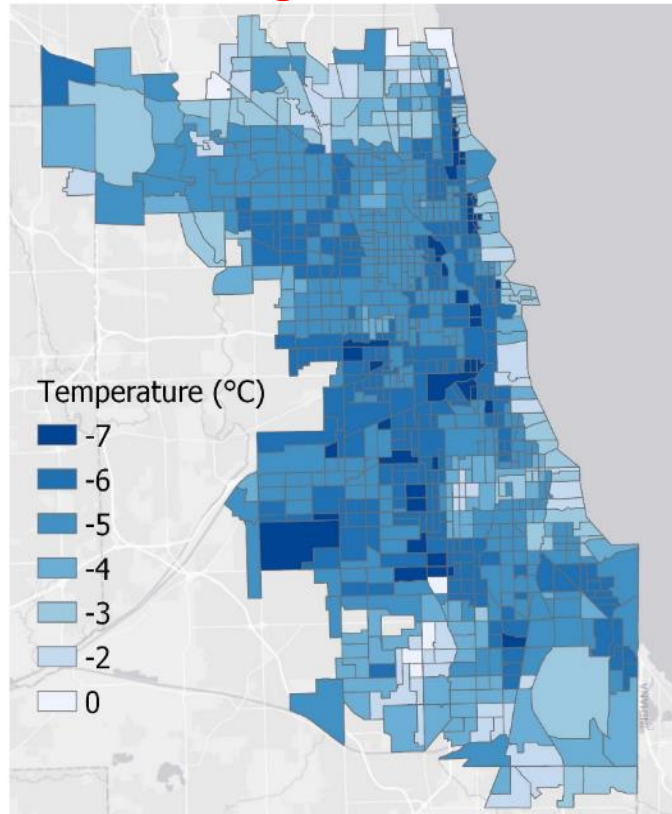


**Heat Vulnerability Index**

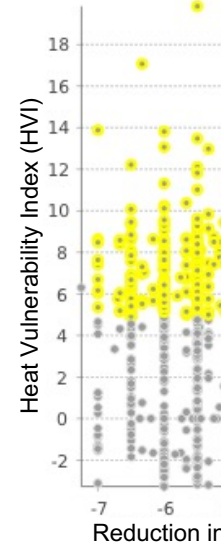


# Strategic investments!

Changes in temperature  
with green roofs



✓ Identified neighborhoods  
that can gain the most from  
green roofs.



## Low-income neighborhoods would gain the most from green roofs in cities like Chicago

COMMENTARY

Ashish Sharma

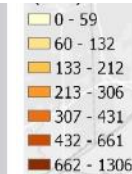
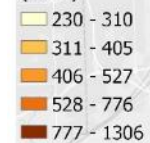
Published 3:14 PM ET Fri, 7 Sept 2018 | Updated 4:02 PM ET Fri, 7 Sept 2018

The Conversation



Tim Boyle | Getty Images

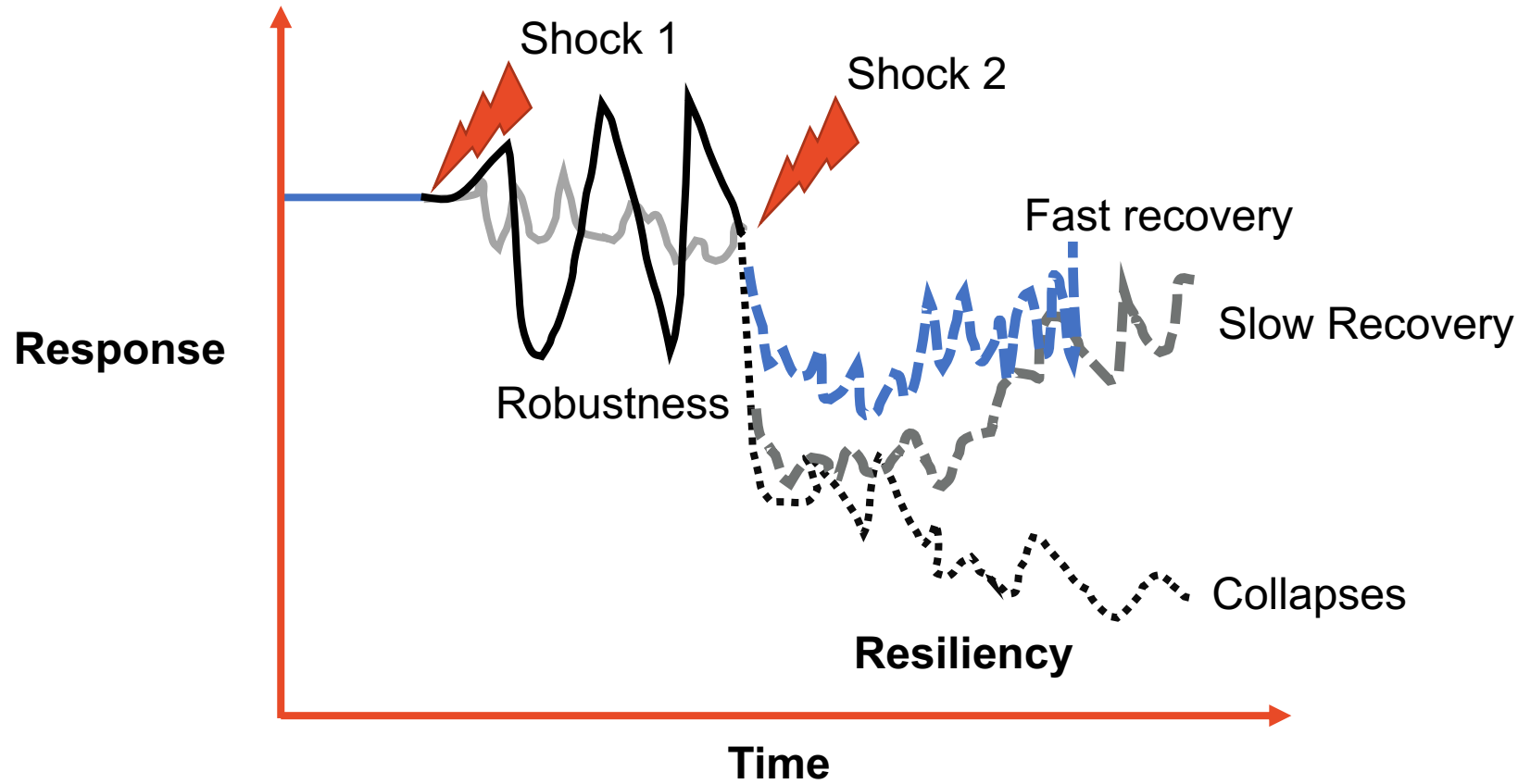
AC Consumption  
(MWh)





# Working problem:

## Sensitivity of urban systems



- **Shocks:** due to exposure (e.g., climate extremes; major policy decisions)
- **Response:** depends on adaptive capacity; resources provisioning)

# Takeaways!!!

Fundamental → Applied → Translational → Collaborative research

- Climate impacts communities, however, the impacts are disproportional within cities.
- Bridge scale gaps: regional <—> local <—> hyper-local
- Design tools for the specific science questions and research needs.
- One solution can't fit all → Need a mix of solutions.
- Multi-disciplinary and multi-stakeholder engagements for actionable research-based and cost-effective sustainable solutions.



**ILLINOIS**

Illinois State Water Survey

**PRAIRIE RESEARCH INSTITUTE**



Go to [menti.com](https://menti.com) Enter code 85 49 73

## Where would you invest?



# QUESTIONS?

*Please join us for the next 2 climate adaptation webinars*

3. Climate Risk and Vulnerability - June 5, 2020, 1:00 – 2:30 pm

4. Adaptation Planning & Prioritization Workshop - June 12, 2020, 1:00 – 3:00 pm

<https://mayorscaucus.org/climatewebinars/>



# Chicago Metropolitan Regional Climate Action



Kevin Burns [kburns@geneva.il.us](mailto:kburns@geneva.il.us)  
Ned Gardiner [ned.gardiner@noaa.gov](mailto:ned.gardiner@noaa.gov)  
Rao Kotamarthi [vrkotamarthi@anl.gov](mailto:vrkotamarthi@anl.gov)  
Edith Makra [emakra@mayorscaucus.org](mailto:emakra@mayorscaucus.org)  
Ashish Sharma [sharmaa@illinois.edu](mailto:sharmaa@illinois.edu)  
Don Wuebbles [wuebbles@illinois.edu](mailto:wuebbles@illinois.edu)



@MayorsCaucus

@IUC\_NA

@ONTO2050