

**ICURD research  
project 2010/2011**



your name	Hidde van Ooststroom
EU home university	University of Groningen
US host university	University of California, Irvine
title of project	Urban heat islands in the city of Los Angeles
main research goal	To examine the process of adapting to urban heat islands in the policies and practices of the fields of urban planning and design in the city of Los Angeles.
main research question	How is the city of Los Angeles adapting to Urban Heat Islands through urban planning and design?
main research methods	Literature review from both the “hard” and “soft” side of the phenomenon, expert interviews in the study area.
main results (description of projects and findings)	<p>The adaptation of UHI effects in urban planning and design policies and practices is scattered, non-coordinated, small-sized and therefore not sustainable. Even though many urban planning and design professionals are aware of UHI impacts and feel the need to adapt to them, their activities have not yet led to sufficient results in planning or design policies. It seems that the adaptation process consists of many tiny urban islands, all focused on other issues and thus indirectly responding to UHI effects.</p> <p>Urban planning policies do address UHI related problems and adaptation measures, mostly in the realm of greenhouse gas emission reductions and urban sustainable development. In the urban design policies, UHI measures are found in urban greening principles, forms of urban sustainable developments and the even in the governmental search for less car-dependent, more livable neighborhoods. With regard to the conceptual framework, the urban forestry/vegetation, green buildings and air quality interventions are the commonly used adaptation measures.</p> <p>However, the quest for UHI related policies solely leads to indirect linkages between the policies and UHI measures, which means that all the policies serve a different objective than searched for in this research. The consultation of multiple urban planning and design professionals makes it clear that these professionals are aware of the serious impacts and feel the need to adapt, they even have their own ideas and points of view about the adaptation process. However, their activities have not yet led to sufficient policy results, mostly caused by two interconnected problems; the problem of the double triangle.</p>
key words	Urban Heat Islands, Adaptation policies, Urban Planning, Urban Design