

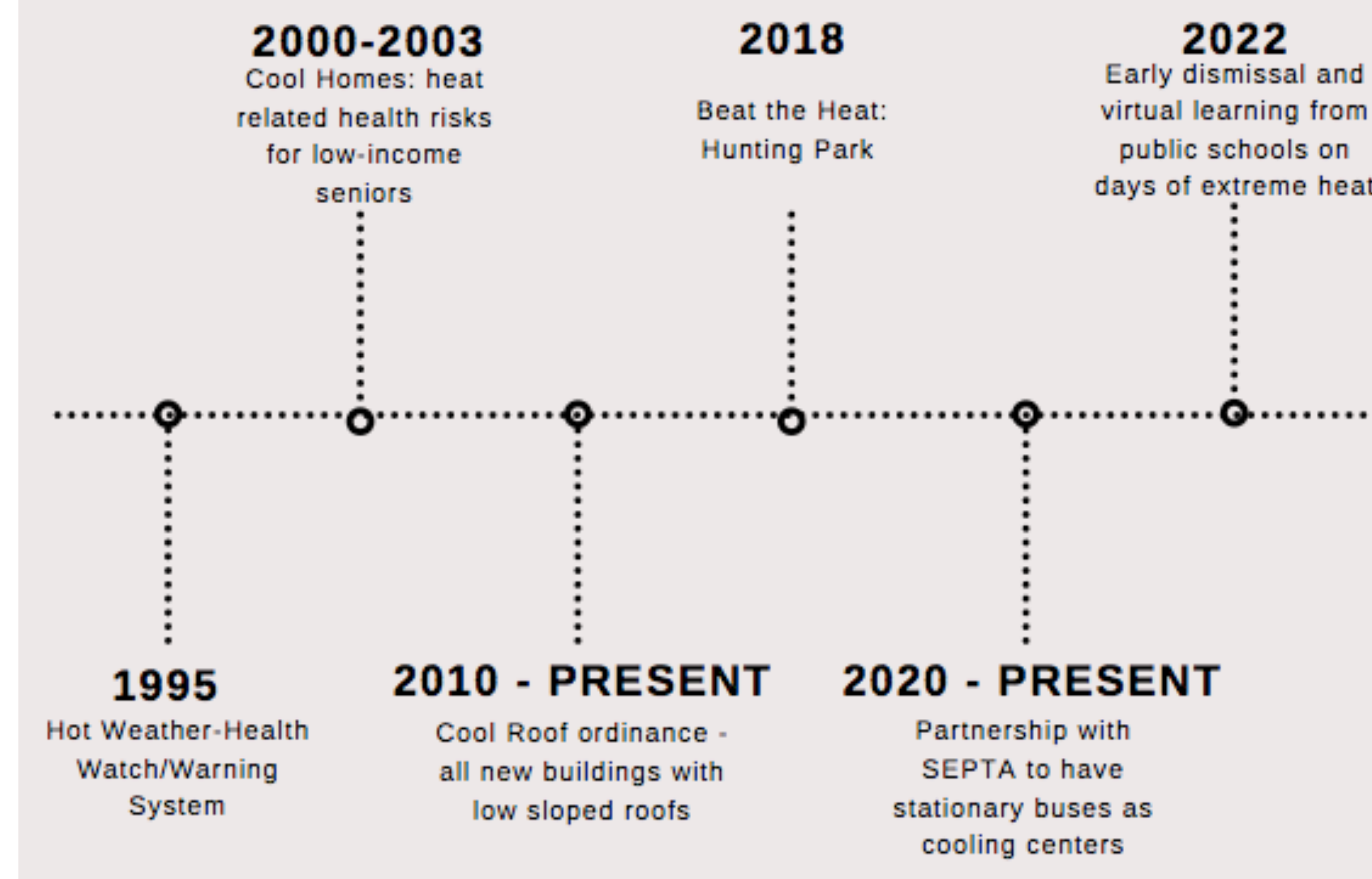
Introduction

Extreme heat is the deadliest climate disaster due to the onset of heat related illness, including heat stroke. In cities, the effects of extreme heat are exacerbated by what is known as the Urban Heat Island (UHI) Effect.

Cities across the world have released plans to combat and mitigate the effects of UHI. In Philadelphia, there is no succinct literature about Urban Heat policies. They are currently loosely organized across many websites. Through this research, we found the policies that the City of Philadelphia passed to directly target extreme heat.

Philadelphia's extreme heat policies fall under three categories: heat-health, cool roofs, and neighborhood specific. Our research sorted the policies into these three categories, summarized them, and recommended points for further research and policy implementation.

Philadelphia Extreme Heat Policies



This timeline was created to illustrate when Philadelphia passed extreme heat policies. As you can see, more policies directly related to extreme heat have been passed recently, as the effects of UHI start to become more apparent for all sectors of the population.

Conclusions and Recommendations

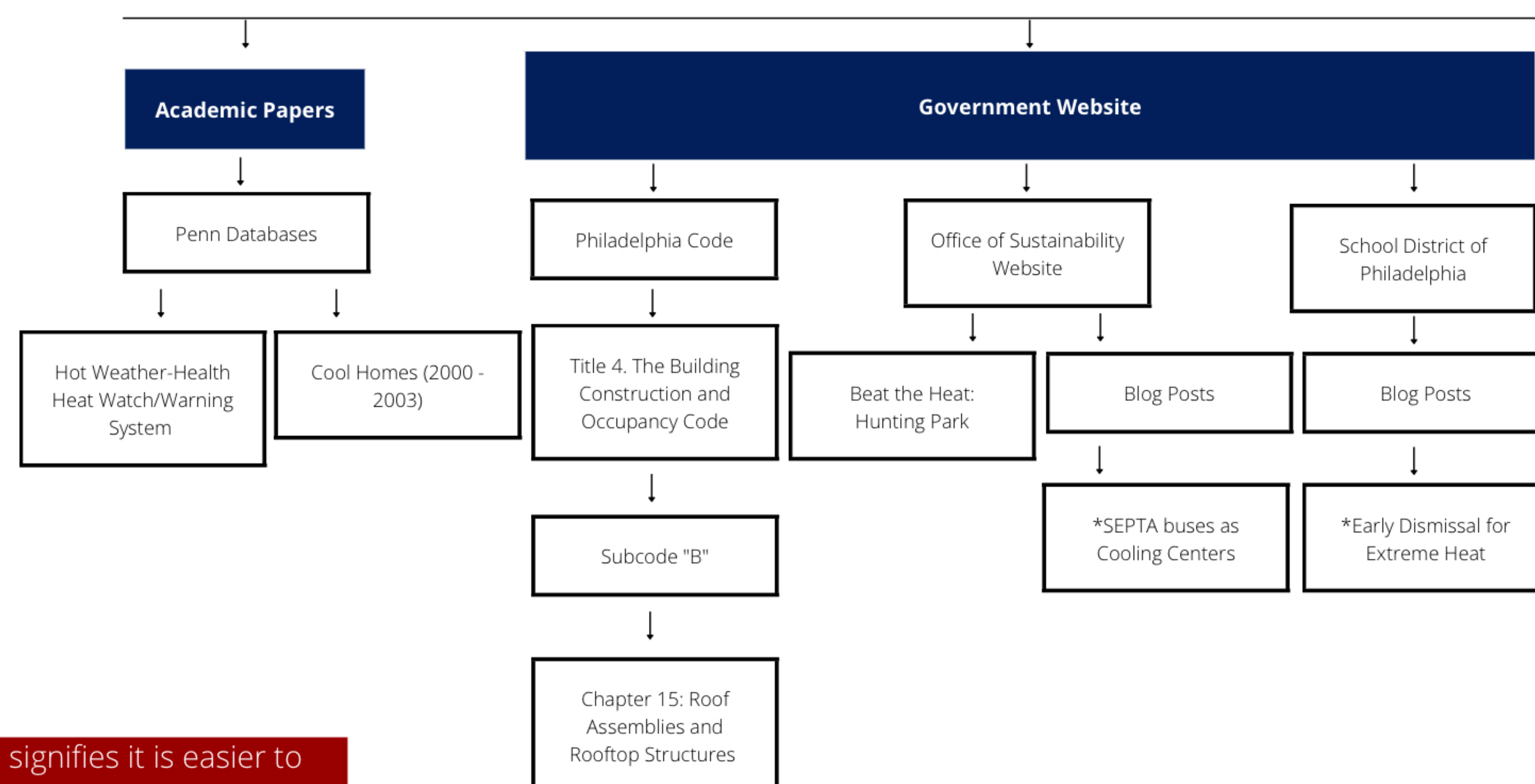
Although Philadelphia has had successful policies to combat the UHI and has put an emphasis on equity for the past few years, we have some policy recommendations and suggestions for further research.

1. Create community-driven programs in the other hottest neighborhoods in Philadelphia
2. Pass a stricter cool roof law
3. Fund another study of the heat-health warning system
4. Conduct a survey in communities that have a higher energy method, asking about alternate cooling methods.
5. Add a section to the Philadelphia Climate Action Plan about extreme heat, organizing all of the related policies

Findings

Where did we find out about Philadelphia's Extreme Heat Policies?

Philadelphia's Extreme Heat Policies



"*" signifies it is easier to find this information via local media sources than the government website

This flowchart illustrates the extent to which the information about extreme heat policies is scattered.

Policy	Category	Summary
Hot Weather-Health Watch/Warning System	Heat-health	- Goal: create a system to accurately measure extreme heat and elicit a response during an emergency - Response includes: media blast, heat health hotline, outreach to nursing homes, halting suspensions to water service, increased outreach to nursing homes, increased hours and capacity in cooling centers. - Saved 117 lives the first three years of the program
SEPTA Buses as Cooling Centers	Heat-health	- Began during summer 2020 with six buses to serve as more COVID safe options for cooling centers - In summer 2022, there were four SEPTA buses that served as cooling centers
School District of Philadelphia Extreme Heat Policy	Heat-health	- If temperatures get too high, they will make classes virtual for the day or have an early dismissal - Equity issue because over 100 Philadelphia public schools do not have air conditioning
Cool Homes	Cool Roofs	- Reached 375 low-income elderly households to educate them about heat health, provide fans, and/or install cooling technology on roofs. - Did not give any information on how the participants were chosen
Cool Roof Ordinance	Cool Roofs	- All new buildings and buildings undergoing renovations with low-sloped roofs must be Energy Star rated as highly reflective
Beat the Heat Hunting Park	Neighborhood Specific	- Community-driven initiative that engaged over 600 community members to create a plan to 'Beat the Heat' for their neighborhood - Worked alongside existing community organizations that had already been working on extreme heat

Summaries of all the extreme heat policies in Philadelphia

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