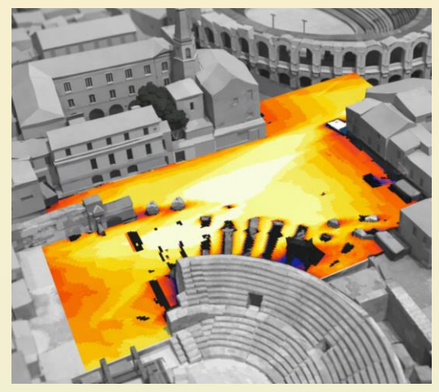
URBAN COOLING PLAN

A roadmap to adapt cities to rising heat

Freio
design climatique

Heat is becoming the norm. Between 2015 and 2020, heatwaves cost France up to €37 billion. This guide proposes 3 simple steps to take action.

1 ASSESS AND UNDERSTAND VULNERABILITY



Objectives:

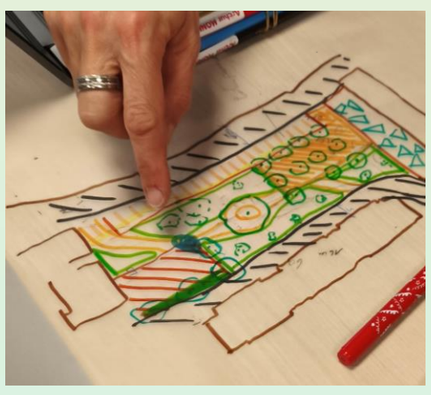
- Identify heat-related risks across the territory (health, agriculture, tourism, etc.).
- Analyze the local climate and how it is evolving due to climate change.
- Understand how existing urban features contribute to or mitigate heat.

Examples of actions:

€ Bring together municipal departments to map cooling spaces (parks, water features, etc.) and climate shelters (churches, air-conditioned buildings, etc.).
€€ Commission a local climate assessment, an urban heat island study, or outdoor thermal comfort analysis depending on needs (€5,000–15,000).
€€€ Launch a comprehensive climate adaptation study across the wider municipal area with recommendations (> €20,000).

KEY QUESTION:
Does this project increase or reduce exposure to heat?

2 PLAN AND SET PRIORITIES



Objectives:

- Focus interventions on areas with the most vulnerable populations and the least access to cooling spaces.
- Set clear and measurable goals to assess effectiveness over time.
- Draw inspiration from local and traditional heat adaptation strategies.

Anticipate planting (seeding, young trees) for long-term impact.

Examples of actions:

€ Coordinate municipal departments to develop an adaptation plan using in-house expertise.
€ Train staff on climate adaptation challenges (public health, urban trees, stormwater management, etc.).
€€ Integrate these strategies into planning documents and policies.

3 ACT GRADUALLY AND ADJUST OVER TIME

Objectives:

- Distinguish between priority actions, temporary measures, and long-term transformations.
- Pool resources and build on feedback and experience.

Examples of actions:

€ Adapt opening hours and uses of cooling public spaces (pools, parks, etc.).
€ Protect urban tree assets and adapt green space management plans.
€€ Convert certain facilities (schools, etc.) into climate shelters.
€€ Install shade structures in public spaces (approx. €200/m²).
€€€ Deploy passive cooling solutions (solar protection, fans) and ensure cooling in facilities serving vulnerable populations.
€€€€ Develop new parks or cooled public spaces.

PROJECT CHECKLIST:
> Does it increase shade?
> Does it protect vulnerable populations?
> Does it rely on sustainable resources?

Further reading: C40 Cities - Urban Heat Resilience.