



HEAT, HEALTH, AND EQUITY IN NEW YORK CITY

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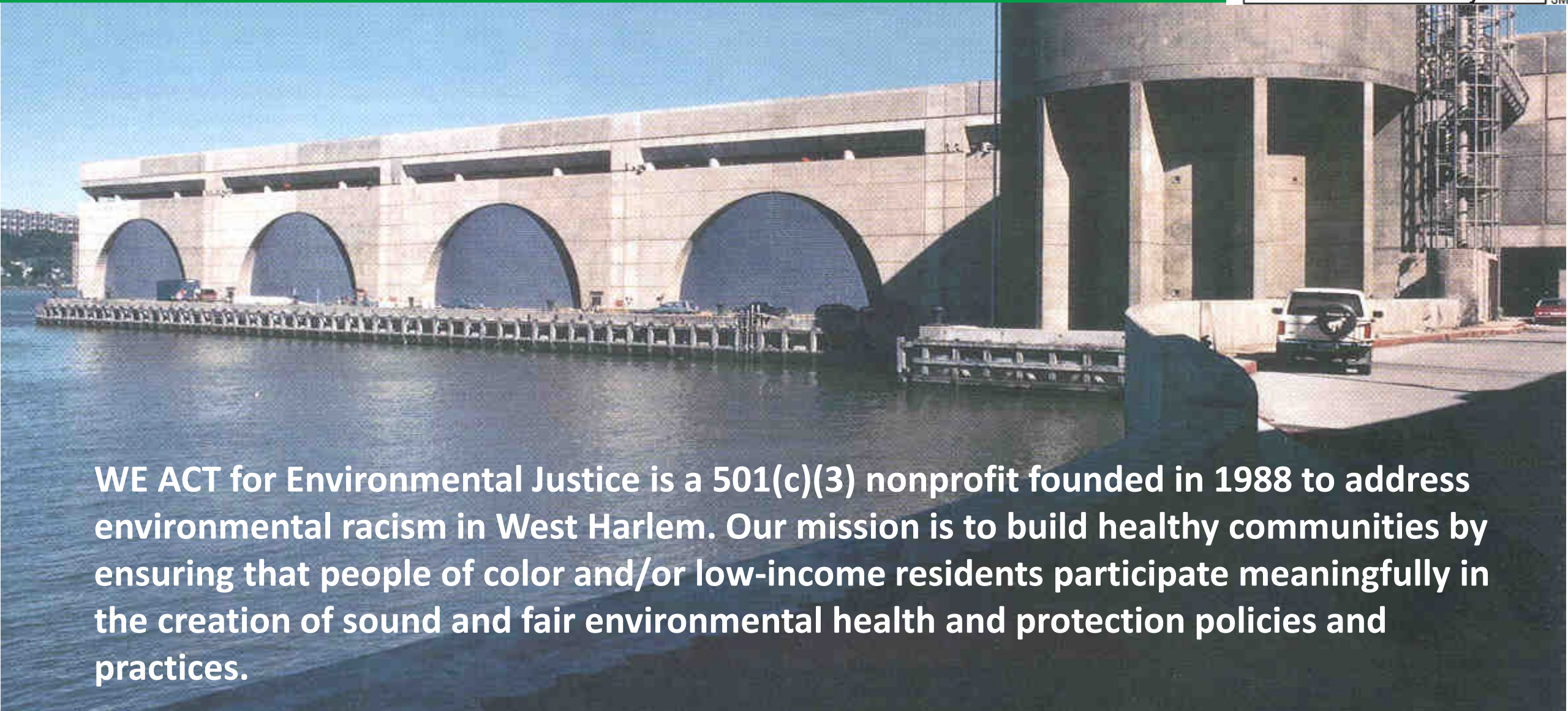


Columbia University

WE ACT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE



BORN OF VICTORY



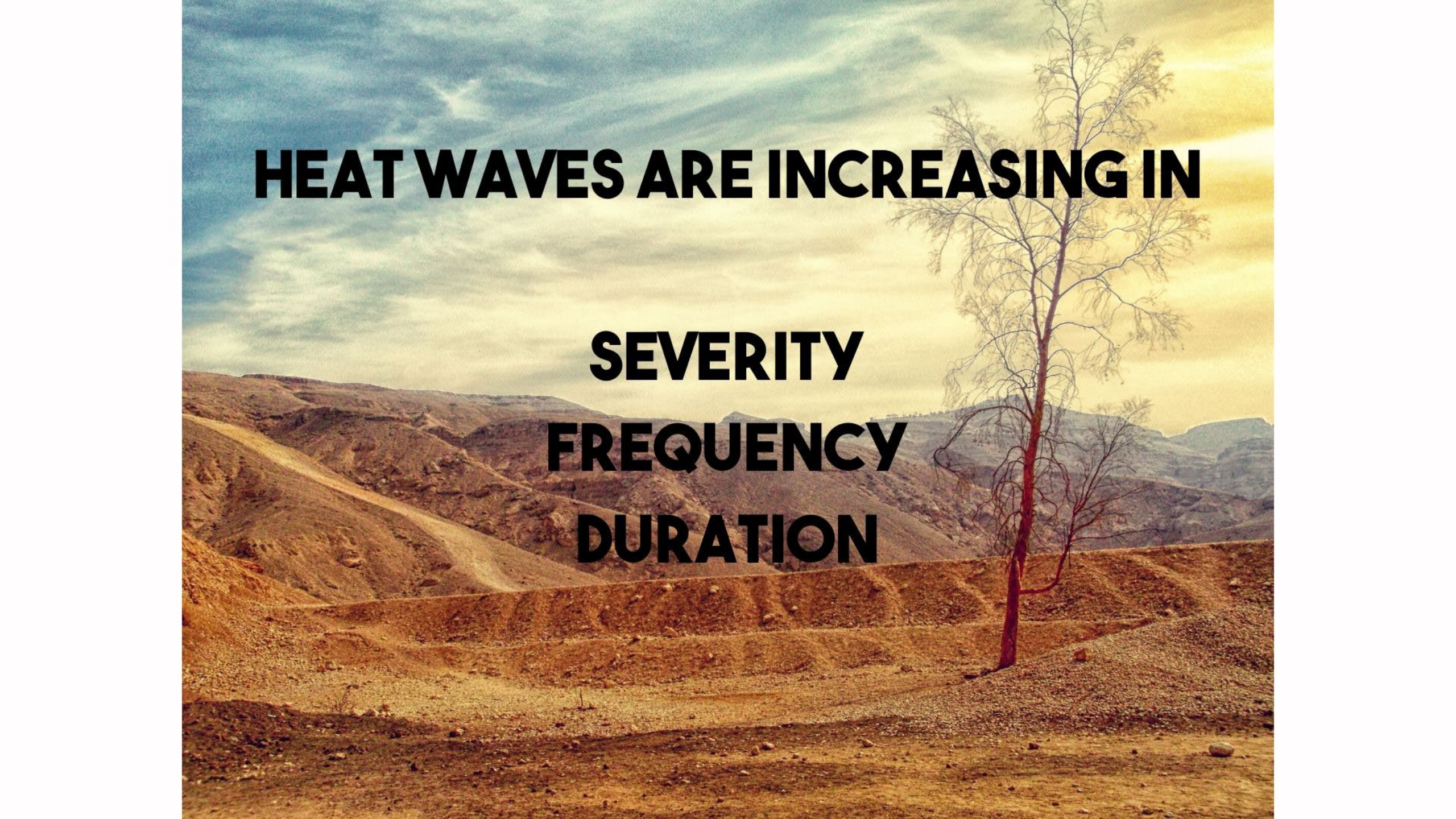
WE ACT for Environmental Justice is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit founded in 1988 to address environmental racism in West Harlem. Our mission is to build healthy communities by ensuring that people of color and/or low-income residents participate meaningfully in the creation of sound and fair environmental health and protection policies and practices.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

- Environmental Justice = Environmental Justice is the *fair treatment* and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies.
- Fair treatment means that no group of people including a racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic group, should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, municipal, and commercial operations or the execution of federal, state, local, and tribal programs and policies.



Environmental Racism: "Racial discrimination in environmental policy-making, enforcement of regulations and laws, and targeting of communities of color for toxic waste disposal and citing of polluting industries." Racial discrimination can be intentional or unintentional and is often a manifestation of "institutional racism." This term acknowledges the political reality that created and continues to perpetuate environmental inequity and injustice.

A photograph of a dry, hilly landscape. In the foreground, there is a single, tall, leafless tree with a thin trunk and sparse branches. The ground is dry and brown, with some small rocks. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains under a cloudy sky. The text "HEAT WAVES ARE INCREASING IN" is overlaid on the top half of the image.

HEAT WAVES ARE INCREASING IN

SEVERITY

FREQUENCY

DURATION

...& WE HAVE THE URBAN HEAT ISLAND EFFECT



Cooling Season

New York City has set out to protect people — and the planet — from the deadliest disaster: heat.

By Kika Krasner on Aug 13, 2019



**"THE ANNUAL MEAN AIR
TEMPERATURE OF A CITY
WITH 1 MILLION PEOPLE
OR MORE CAN BE 1.8–
5.4°F (1–3°C) WARMER
THAN ITS
SURROUNDINGS" (EPA)**

"WE ARE IN THE SAME STORM, BUT NOT ALL IN THE SAME BOAT"



WHO'S ESPECIALLY AT-RISK TO EXTREME HEAT IMPACTS?

- Older adults
- Children
- People with chronic illness
- Pregnant people
- Outdoor workers

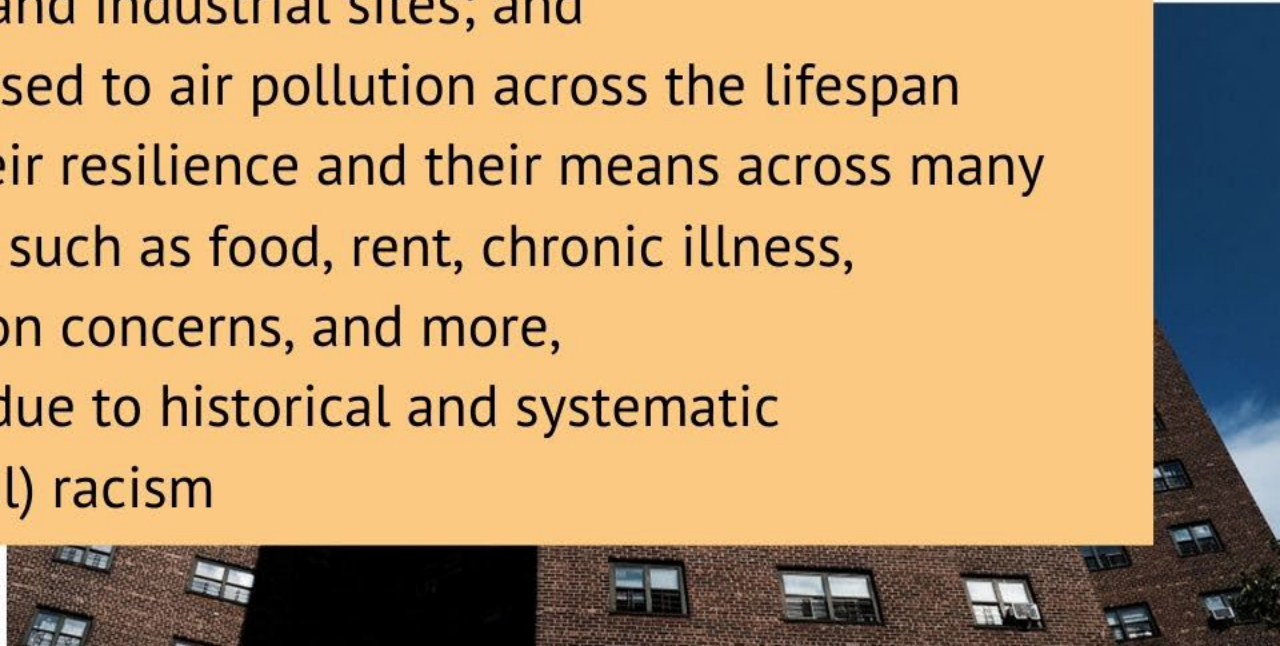


WHO'S ESPECIALLY AT-RISK TO EXTREME HEAT IMPACTS?

- Older adults
- Children
- People with chronic illness
- Outdoor workers

...but also people who

- live in older, poorly maintained apartment buildings;
 - live in crowded apartments with intergenerational living;
 - live in neighborhoods with less green space access,
 - live in neighborhoods with more air pollution from buildings and industrial sites; and
 - been exposed to air pollution across the lifespan
 - stretch their resilience and their means across many hardships, such as food, rent, chronic illness, immigration concerns, and more,
-and it is all due to historical and systematic (environmental) racism



CLIMATE CHANGE
[Extreme heat]



**ENVIRONMENTAL
RACISM**



**ENVIRONMENTAL
HEALTH IMPACTS**



POLICY EXAMPLES:

1. INDOOR EXTREME HEAT PROTECTIONS

- **Homes & Community Spaces**

2. NEIGHBORHOOD-LEVEL PROTECTION

- **Cooling Centers**
- **Heat Alerts**
- **Be A Buddy**

3. GREEN SPACES

- **Parks And Trees**
- **Community Spaces**



POLICY EXAMPLES:

INDOOR PROTECTIONS

- **Utility bill protections**
- **Indoor temperature maximum**
- **Temperature-controlled community spaces**

Address energy insecurity

The inability to adequately meet basic household energy needs due to the interplay of physical conditions of housing, household energy costs and energy-related coping strategies.

-
- Long Term Solutions
 - Short Term Solutions & Emergency Response



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