

URBAN HEATING ISLAND

Little vegetation or evaporation causes cities to remain warmer than surrounding countryside



Trees and heat

Urban heat island effect

The Urban Heat Island (UHI) effect is a phenomenon where large urban cities absorb and release more heat than the surrounding countryside. This creates hotter areas in city locations than in rural areas.

The temperature in cities can be up to 12°C hotter than the countryside. This is projected to become worse over the coming decades due to increase urban areas and climate change.

Less tree canopy, more paved and concreted areas and more bare land have changed the landcover over time, increasing heat stress with more hotter summer heatwaves.

