League of Women Voters
Oakland, CA 1-29-11

White Roofs to Cool your Buildings, and Cities and (this is new) Cool our Planet, and Extend Roof Life

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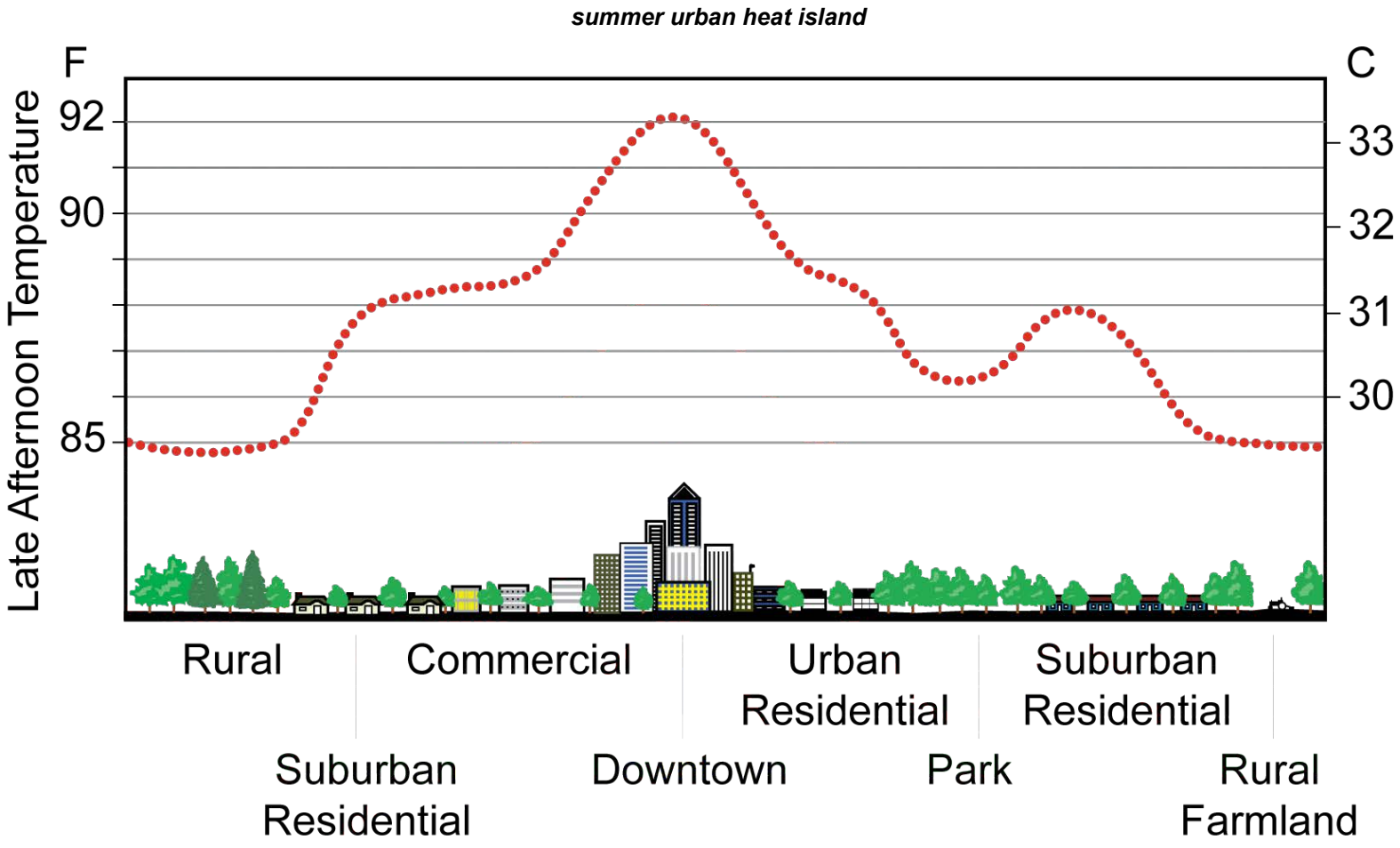
Presentation available at www.ArtRosenfeld.org

File: LWV Oakland from U.S. – Australia from ABA Webinar from ET Summit Sac'to from Philomathia Berkeley

Summer in the city



Bird's eye view of urban land use

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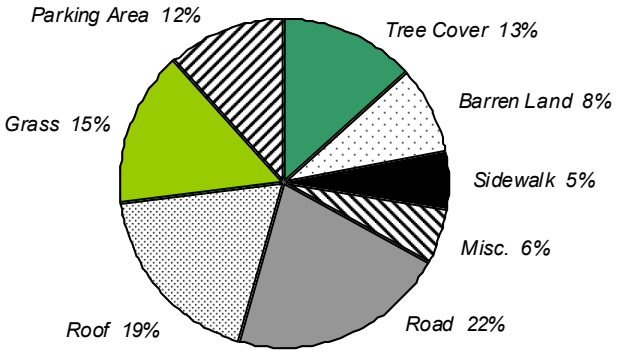
~ 1 km^2

The surface of Sacramento, CA is about

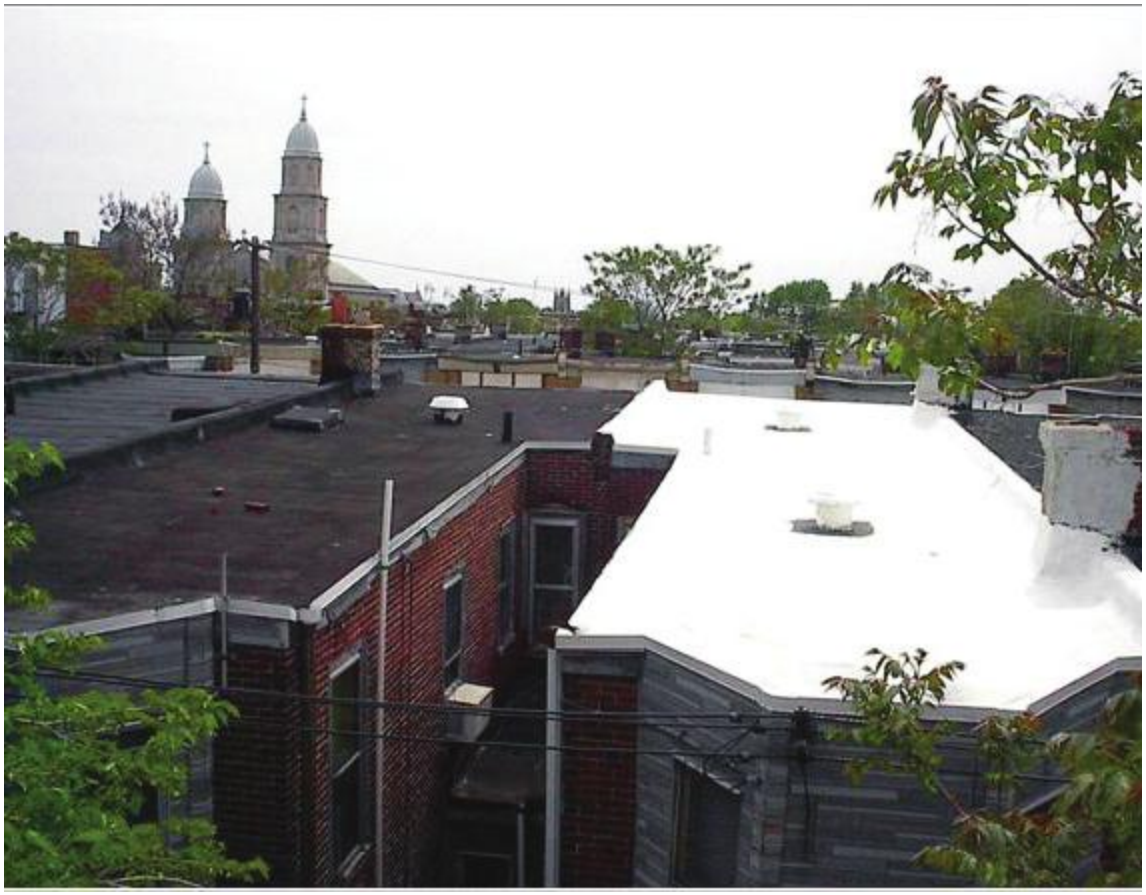
- **20% roofs**
- **30% vegetation**
- **40% pavement**



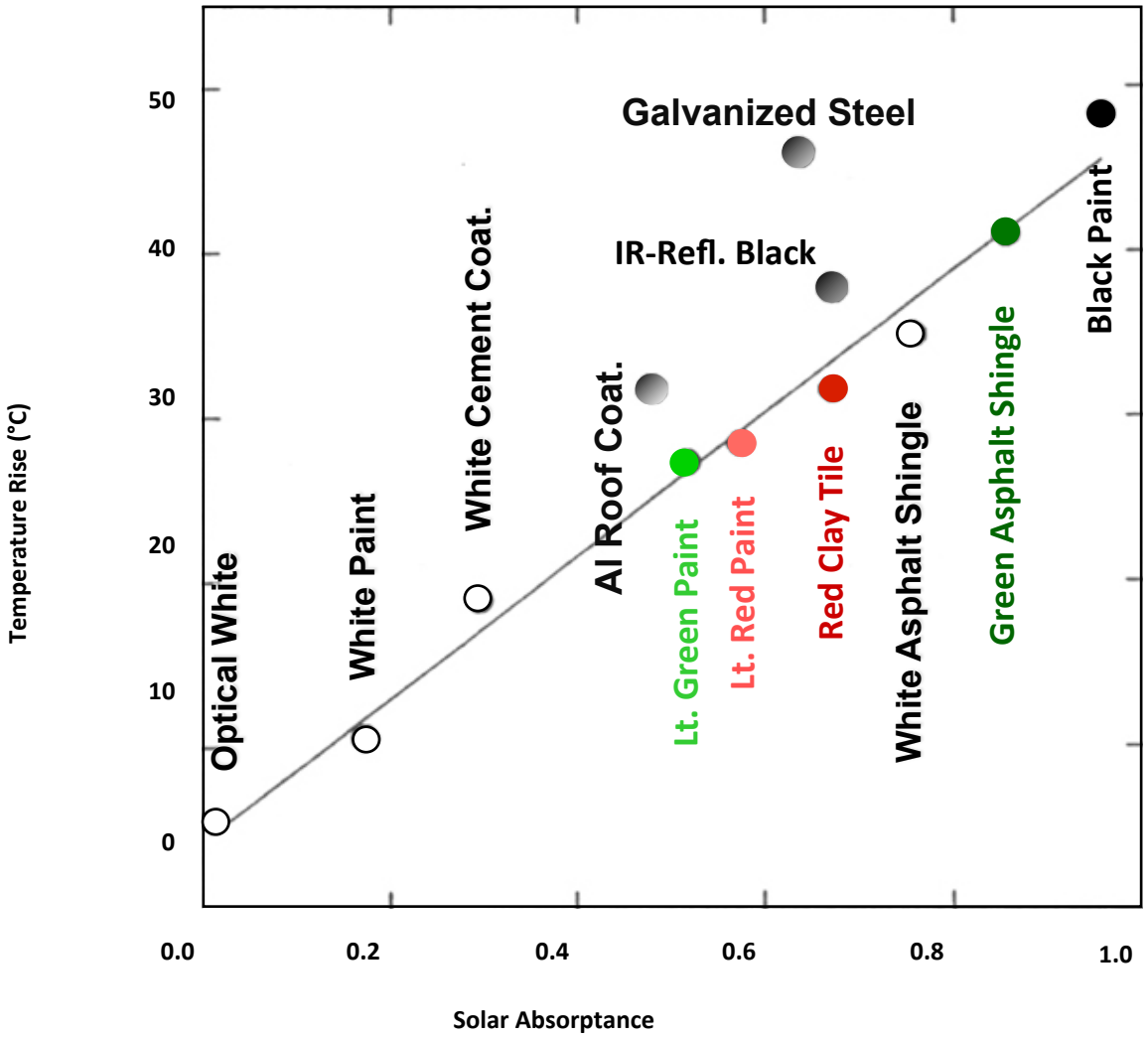
Area by Land-Cover Category Above the Canopy

Chicago Heat Wave 1995, 739 Deaths

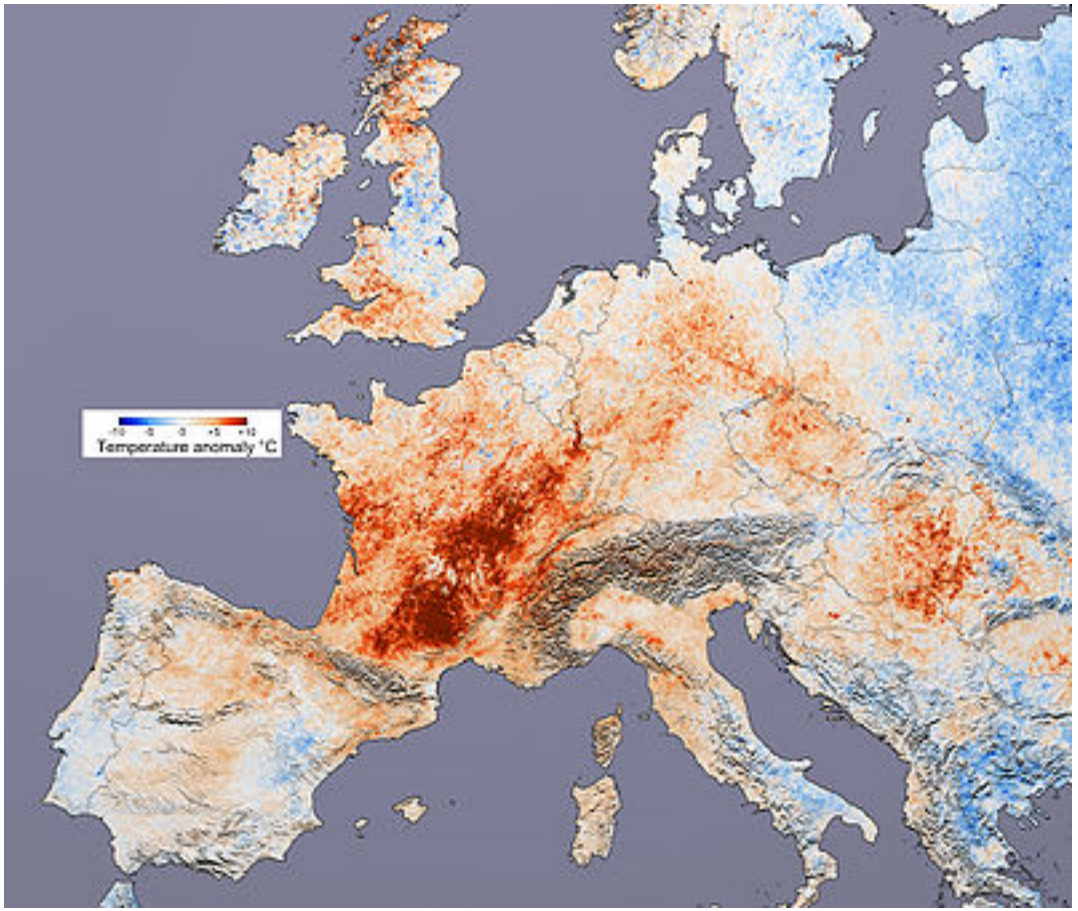
Virtually all of the deaths occurred on the top floors of buildings with black roofs



Reflective roofs stay cooler in the sun



European Heat Wave 2003, 30,000 Deaths
France July 2010, Few Deaths



White roofs, cool-colored roofs save money

OLD

flat, white

pitched, white

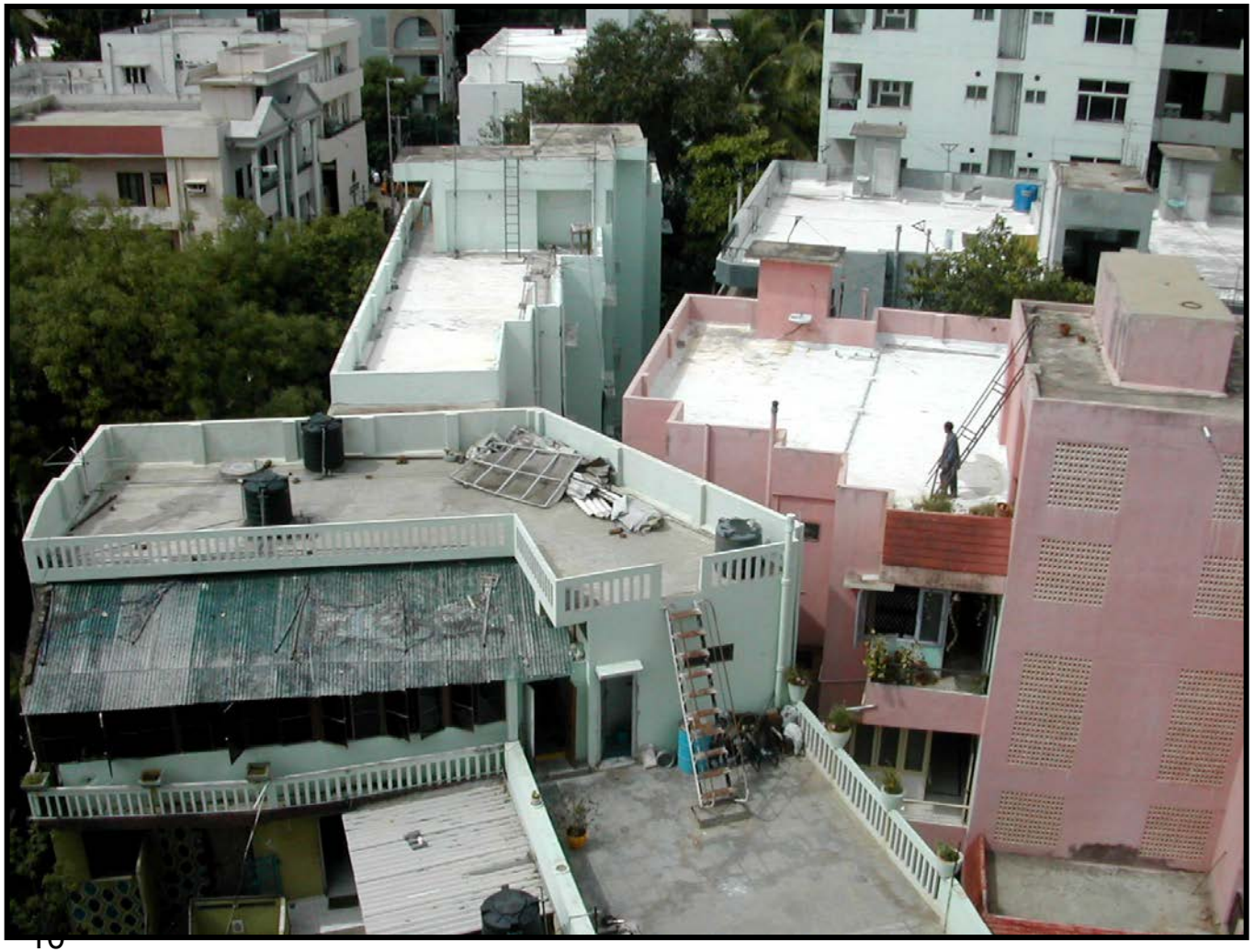
NEW

pitched, cool & colored

White roofs around the world

…in Santorini, Greece

…in Hyderabad, India



…and widely in the state of Gujarat, India.

Walmart store in northern California

Congratulations to UC Davis

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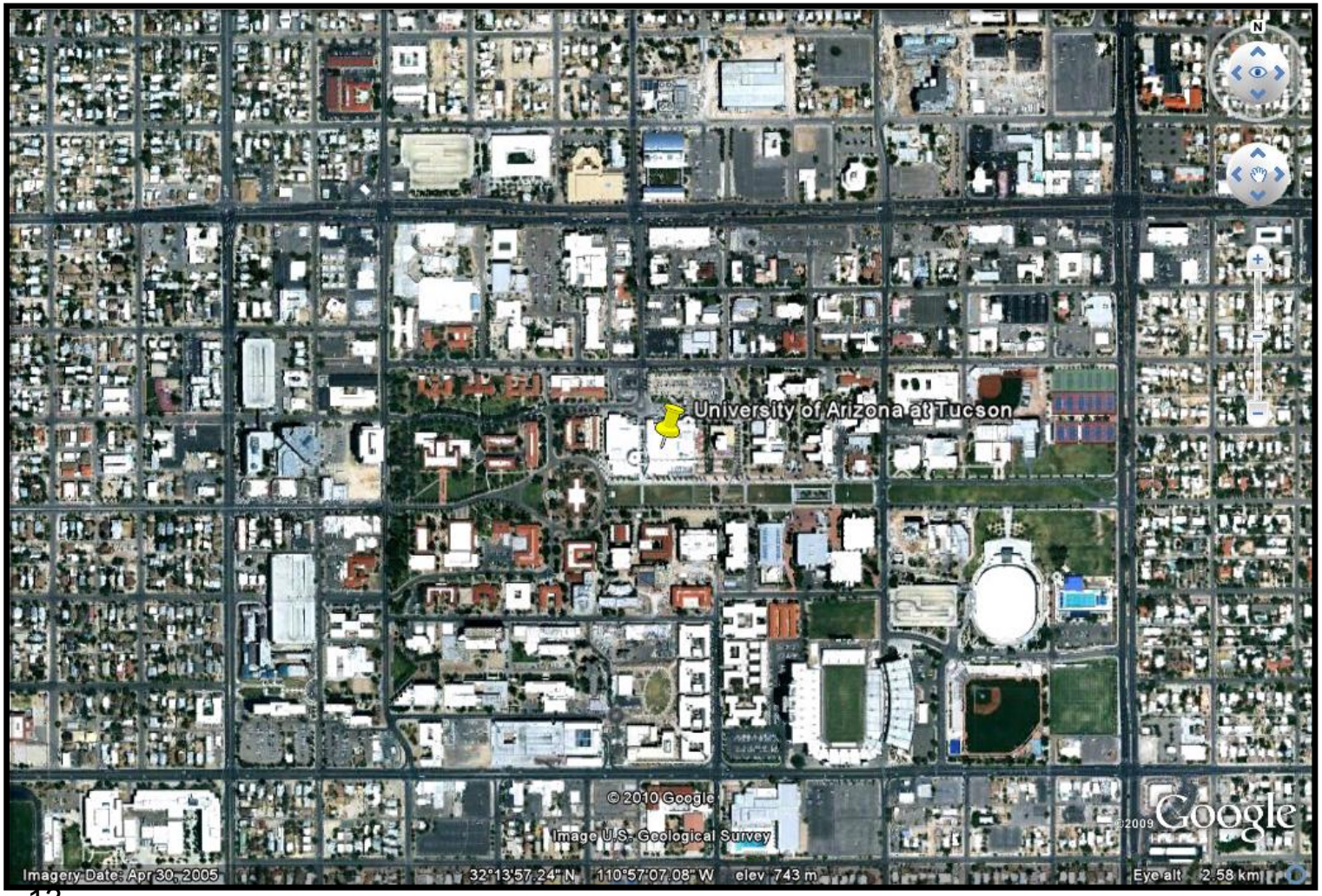
White roofs are popular in Tucson, AZ



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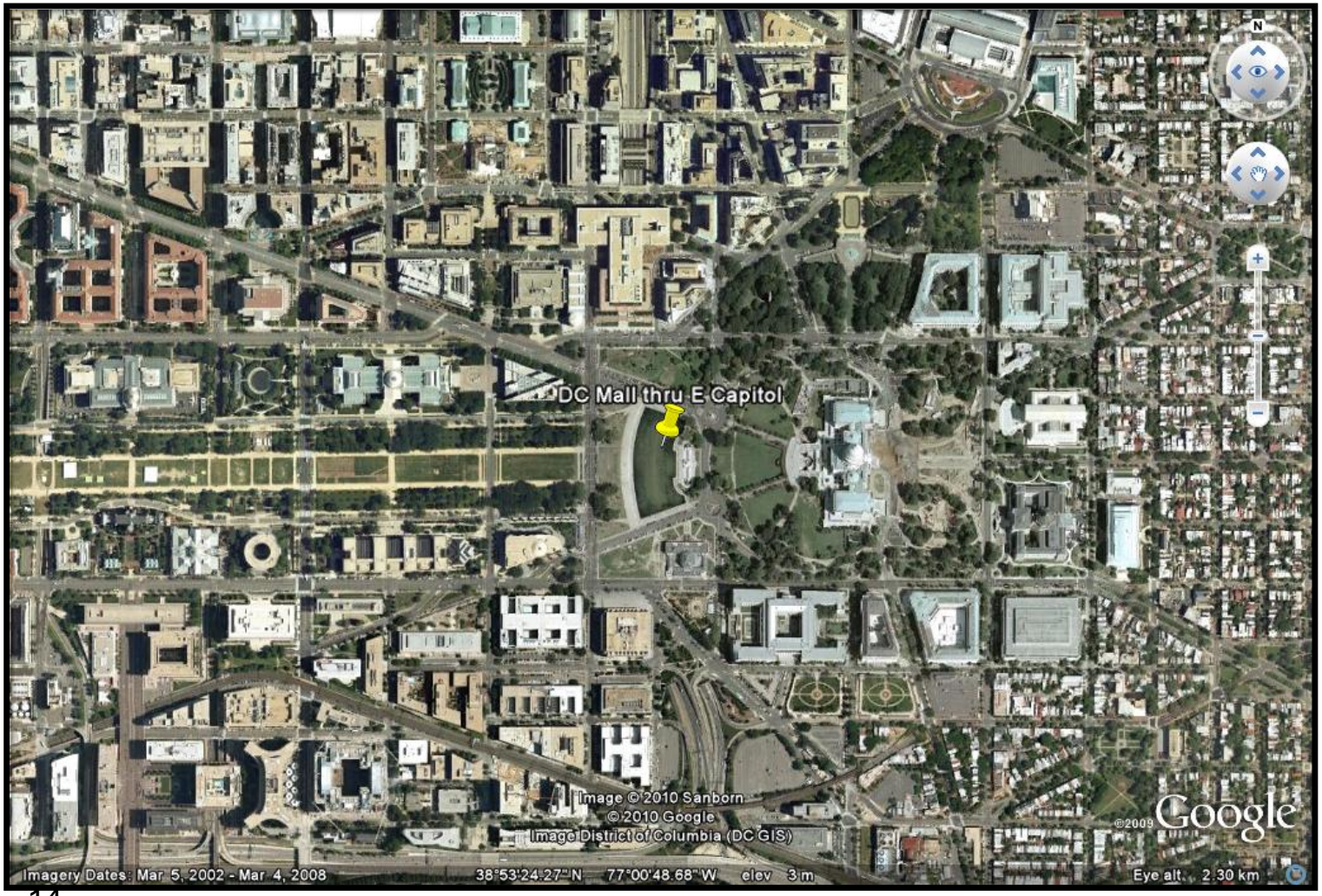
Washington, DC (Federal) has problems



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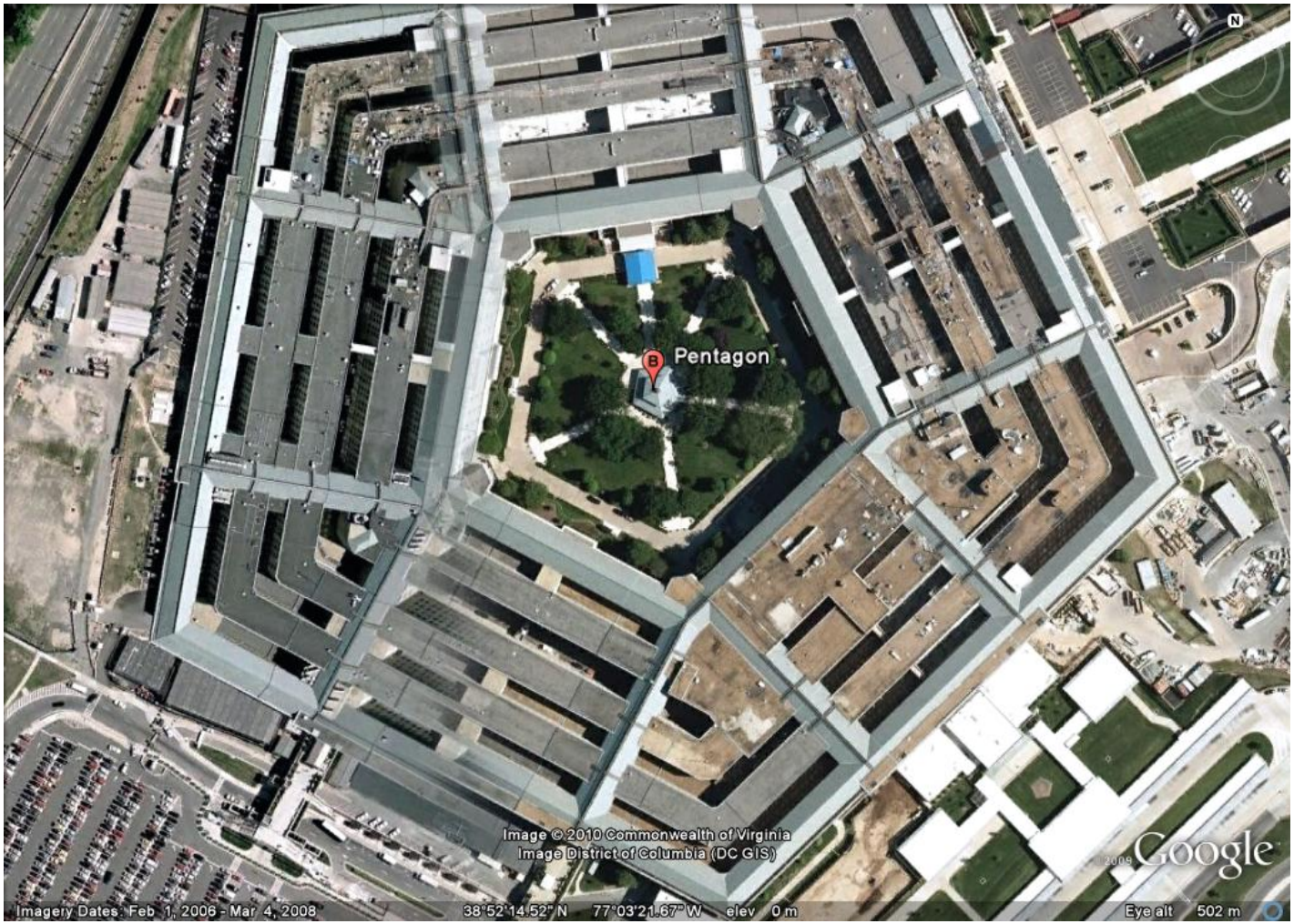
Pentagon


Pentagon
Image © 2010 Commonwealth of Virginia
Image District of Columbia (DC GIS)
Imagery Dates: Feb 1, 2006 - Mar 4, 2008
38°52'14.52" N 77°03'21.67" W elev 0 m
Eye alt 502 m
Google

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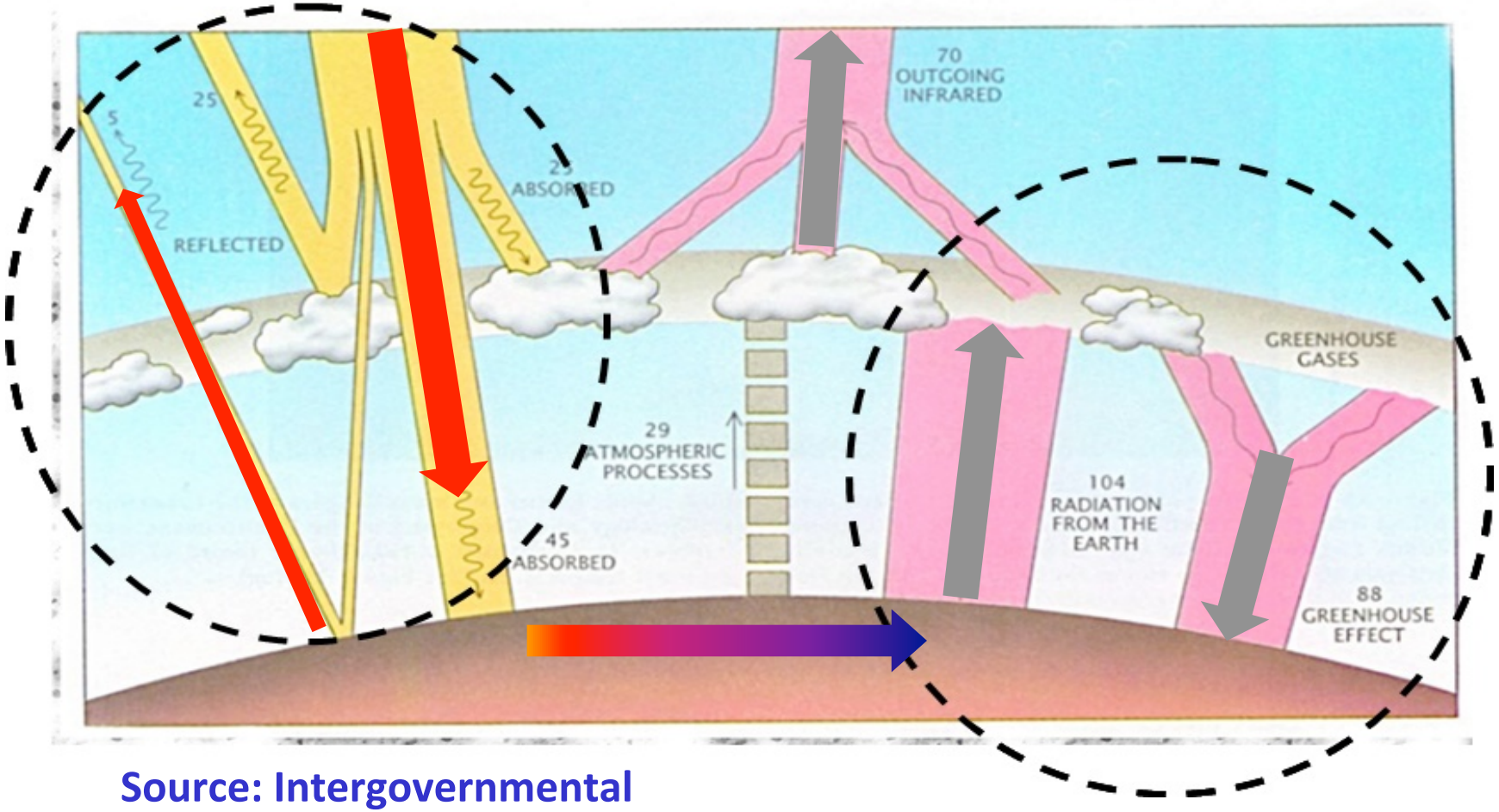
Cooling our planet

Solar-reflective surfaces cool the globe via "negative radiative forcing"



Source: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

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GLOBAL COOLING: making 100 m^2 (1000 ft^2) of gray roofing white offsets the **emission** of 10 t of CO_2

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How much CO_2 equivalent is offset if we whiten all eligible urban flat roofs world-wide? (i/ii)

- Answer: **24 Gigatonnes (Gt)**
  - 2/3 of a year's worldwide emission
  - Gigatonne = billion metric tons

- If implemented over 20 years (the life of a roof or a program) this is ≈ 1.2 Gt/year.

How much CO_2 equivalent is offset if we whiten all eligible urban flat roofs world-wide? (ii/ii)

- Offset is equivalent to **taking 300 million cars off the road for 20 years**.
  - There are about 600 million passenger cars world wide, and they each emit ≈ 4 t CO_2/ year.

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SCIENCE AT THE THEATER

COOL CITIES, COOL PLANET

What to do now

Progress in energy efficiency standards

- In 2005, California's "Title 24" energy efficiency standards prescribed white surfaces for low-sloped roofs on commercial buildings. Several hot states are following.
- In 2008, California prescribed "cool colored" surfaces for steep residential roofs in its 5 hottest climate zones.
- **Other U.S. states & all countries with hot summers should follow.**

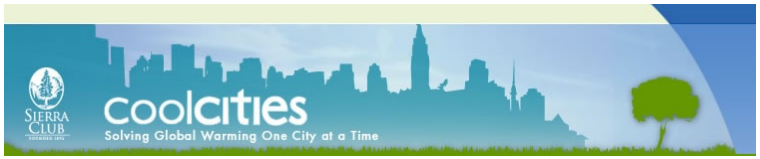
Recent cool roof progress (2005 – 2011)

- 2005
  - California Title 24 – "Flat roofs shall be white" (15 out of 16 climate zones). Walmart adopts white roofs for ALL stores.
  - EPA ENERGY STAR lists Cool Roof Materials
- 2010
  - June 1st, 2010 – Memo from U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu calls for all DOE Buildings to have white roofs, if cost-effective
  - June 16th, 2010 – Marine Corp follows suit, Pentagon following slowly
  - June 19th, 2010 – *RetroFIT Philly* announces winner of "coolest block" contest to white-coat black roofs of row houses.
- 2011
  - 100 Cool Cities launched – see www.WhiteRoofsAlliance.org
  - Spring 2011 – US will launch, at G20 Energy Ministers meeting, a voluntary Cool Roofs initiative and may even offer technical assistance to developing countries who join early.

To come 2012…

- Model codes will be modified to prescribe “flat roofs shall be white”
  - ASHRAE for commercial buildings
  - EECC for residential buildings
- But states and cities have to adopt model codes

Global Cool Cities Alliance could unite many initiatives and trade associations



American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy

THE CLIMATE GROUP

Resources on the web

- **Art Rosenfeld's website**
  - ArtRosenfeld.org
- **Cool Colors Project**
  - CoolColors.LBL.gov
- **Heat Island Group**
  - HeatIsland.LBL.gov
- **Cool Communities Project**
  - CoolCommunities.LBL.gov
- **Roof Savings Calculator**
  - RoofCalc.com
- **Global Cool Cities Alliance**
  - GlobalCoolCitiesAlliance.org
- **Cool Roof Rating Council**
  - CoolRoofs.org
- **Cool California**
  - CoolCalifornia.org
- **EPA Heat Islands**
  - epa.gov/heatisland
- **Energy Star Cool Roofs**
  - EnergyStar.gov