

Special Issue

Climate Change and Urban Thermal Effects

Message from the Guest Editors

Climate change is one of the biggest threats for our planet, with profound adverse impacts on humans and the natural environment. Along with increases in annual average temperatures, many regions of the globe have witnessed unprecedented extreme weather and record breaking high temperatures over the past few decades, while climate models project more frequent extreme heat in the coming decades. Accelerating global warming interacts with other global trends such as increasing urbanization. Today, more than half the global population lives in cities, while growing urbanization will add another 2.5 billion people to urban areas by 2050. More than 40% of the population is expected to live in cities of at least half a million people. The built environment induces urban heat island effects that shape warmer conditions in cities compared to surrounding rural areas, thus intensifying the effects of global/regional warming.

Guest Editors

Dr. Dimitra Founda

Institute for Environmental Research and Sustainable Development,
National Observatory of Athens, 11810 Athens, Greece

Dr. George Katavoutas

Institute for Environmental Research and Sustainable Development,
National Observatory of Athens, 11810 Athens, Greece

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Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
sustainability@mdpi.com

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Editor-in-Chief

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Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science, University of Ontario
Institute of Technology, Oshawa, ON L1G 0C5, Canada

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