



TEXAS TREES FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES NEW DALLAS URBAN HEAT ISLAND EFFECT REPORT AND FINDINGS

- **DALLAS COUNTY HEATING UP SECOND-FASTEST IN UNITED STATES**
- **DATA REVEALS TREES HELP MITIGATE RISING TEMPERATURES, IMPROVE HEALTH OF COMMUNITY, OFFSET CARBON EMISSIONS**
- **STUDY TO HELP INFORM, DRIVE ACTION FOR MUNICIPALITIES, URBAN DEVELOPERS AND CORPORATIONS**

Dallas, TX, August 17, 2017 – [Texas Trees Foundation](#) (“Texas Trees”) today announced findings from the 2017 Dallas Urban Heat Island Effect report, a year-long study of the impacts and implications of air temperatures at the neighborhood level. Most notable among them: Dallas is heating up faster than every city in the country except for Phoenix.

The Dallas Urban Heat Island study and ensuing report was completed by Dr. Brian Stone, Professor, School of City and Regional Planning, Georgia Institute of Technology, and author of *The City and the Coming Climate – Climate Change in the Places We Live*. The report determined, “Cities do not cause heat waves – they amplify them. Human activities on climate at the city/regional scale, accounting for both land surface changes and emissions of greenhouse gases, may be *twice as great* as the impacts of greenhouse gases alone.”

Dallas, with 35 percent impervious surface (i.e., rooftops, parking lots, highways, etc.), is hot – and getting hotter. Urban areas retain heat in the buildings and pavement and are up to 15°F warmer than rural areas where trees and open space are more prevalent.

The ramifications of urban heat adversely affect public health, longevity of infrastructure, public opinion, and our economy. With rising temperatures come higher costs for energy and a threat to our energy supply. Key findings from the study include:

- **Sustained High Temps.** Hottest areas of Dallas measured an AVERAGE HIGH of 101°F and LOW of nearly 80°F for five full months of the year.
- **Heat Kills.** Heat-related deaths peaked at 52 in 2011 in Dallas County. Heat-related deaths in the United States account for more deaths annually than all other natural disasters combined.
- **Trees Cool.** Tree planting in the hottest areas with high density residential was found to reduce deaths by more than 20 percent by merely dropping temperature alone.

Janette Monear, Texas Trees’ chief executive officer, remarked, “Our foundation is focused on making spaces cooler, greener and cleaner, and data has long affirmed that trees are vital to achieve this laudable and critical goal. The study we have released today is a wake-up call for all of us who call Dallas

and North Texas home: We must act now to mitigate the urban heat island effect for the sake of our health, the economy and viability of our community. North Texas is seeing unprecedented growth, and with growth comes new buildings, roads and parking lots. It's imperative that we come together to balance the grey with the green to ensure North Texas is a desirable place to live and work."

Corporate partners like Alliance Data, Wells Fargo, and American Forests who funded the study understand the ramifications of urban heat to their bottom line.

"With a dual perspective from my seat as Chairman of the Board for Children's Health System of Texas, and as the leader of a Fortune 500 company headquartered in North Texas, the economic impact of the rising temperatures in Dallas has never been more at risk," said Ed Heffernan, President and Chief Executive Officer, Alliance Data. "We know from our partnership with Texas Trees Foundation and data from the Urban Heat Island study that health is directly impacted when temperatures increase and air quality declines. Childhood asthma rates are at an all-time high, with nearly 10 percent of all Dallas children suffering from asthma. We care about the health and well-being of our associates, which is why Alliance Data funded this study and why we're committed to standing with Texas Trees Foundation to make a difference."

Texas Trees Foundation's study offers cost-effective solutions to making Dallas one of the coolest cities in the country. Tree planting in concert with reflective pavement and roofing materials are the most cost-effective ways to manage the urban heat island effect. Together with area municipalities, corporate leaders and non-profit partners, Texas Trees Foundation strategically plants trees in parks, school yards, along streets and other public rights-of-way and provides urban forestry consultation services to create a better quality of life throughout North Texas.

Today's study findings launch event is sponsored by KPMG LLP and Vizient, Inc. The full report is available at www.texastrees.org/urbanheatisland

About Texas Trees Foundation

Texas Trees Foundation makes possible a higher quality of life for citizens, visitors and businesses through research, technology, and education to strategically protect, plant and care for trees and to assure that all projects show a return on investment to support growth and livability. Far more than a tree planting organization, Texas Trees collaborates with urban planners, landscape architects, developers, corporations and municipalities to improve the overall quality of life for the citizens who call North Texas home. The organization is celebrating its 35th year this fall.

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