

UP to come up with urban cooling policy

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Lucknow: Facing critical challenges posed by increasing temperature, rapid urbanisation and urban heat island effect, the UP govt is working to shape up an urban cooling policy.

A group of experts have been invited on June 19 to present global best practices to bring down the effects of heat within urban centres through various tools, applications and solutions.

The exercise is aimed at mitigating the need for increasing use of air-conditioners, officials said.

The natural resources defence council will handhold the housing department of the state to frame the policy.

With nighttime cooling getting lesser within the urban centres across the state, the development authorities as well as urban local bodies will be given the task to implement cool roofs over the next 10 years by coming up with a phased approach focused on different building typologies.

While awareness campaigns and drives would be carried out to convince the existing property owners to implement the measures, a mechanism would be evolved to approve the map for upcoming buildings only when the mandates laid down under the urban cooling policy are incorporated.

Additional chief secreta-

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ry of the housing department, Nitin Ramesh Gokarn said that on June 19 leading experts on the subject from various institutions and organisations and other stakeholders will hold deliberations on the policy framework and the approach that needs to be followed.

A study released by IIT Bhubaneswar on May 22 indicates that urbanisation has resulted in up to 60% additional warming in Indian cities. Lucknow was at the sixth spot among the top-20 cities where warmest temperatures have been recorded between 2003 and 2020.

Modifying the land use, climate change, changed landscape, increased usage of concrete, glass façade, growing vehicular population and density of air-conditioners are some reasons that have adversely affected nighttime cooling, said experts.

The department of environment, forests and climate change at APJ Abdul Kalam technical university and Plaksha university, among other stakeholders, would gather for the deliberations on June 19.