

American Meteorological Society Annual Meeting  
February 1st 2024, Baltimore, MD

# THE COMMUNITY RESEARCH ON CLIMATE AND URBAN SCIENCE (CROCUS) PROJECT

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**CROCUS**

Community Research on  
Climate & Urban Science

# CROCUS: Pioneering community-driven science and climate learning in the Chicago area



CROCUS all-hands meeting

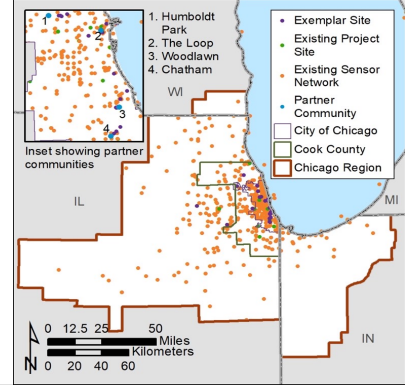


# MOTIVATION AND CONTEXT

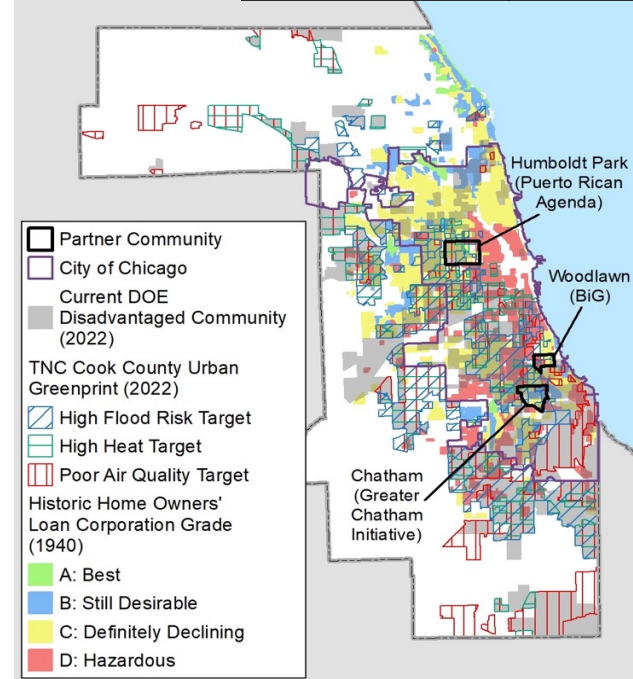
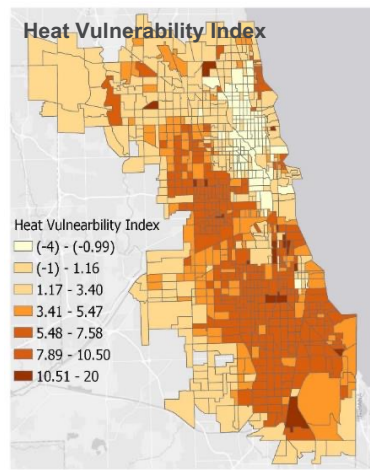
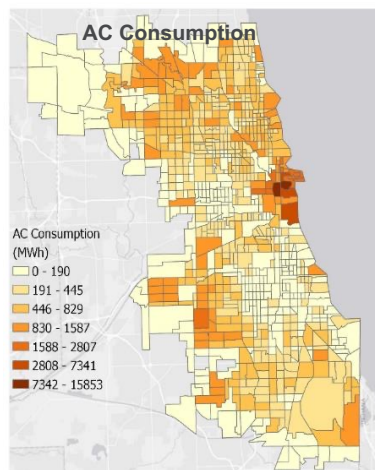
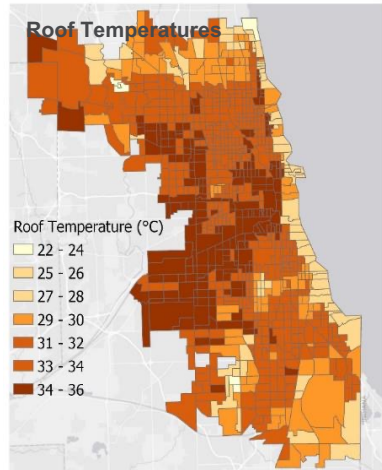
Urban climate science needs an integrated approach to evaluate physical and social drivers and community impacts of climate change

Chicago is 8<sup>th</sup> in income inequality among the Nation's largest cities.

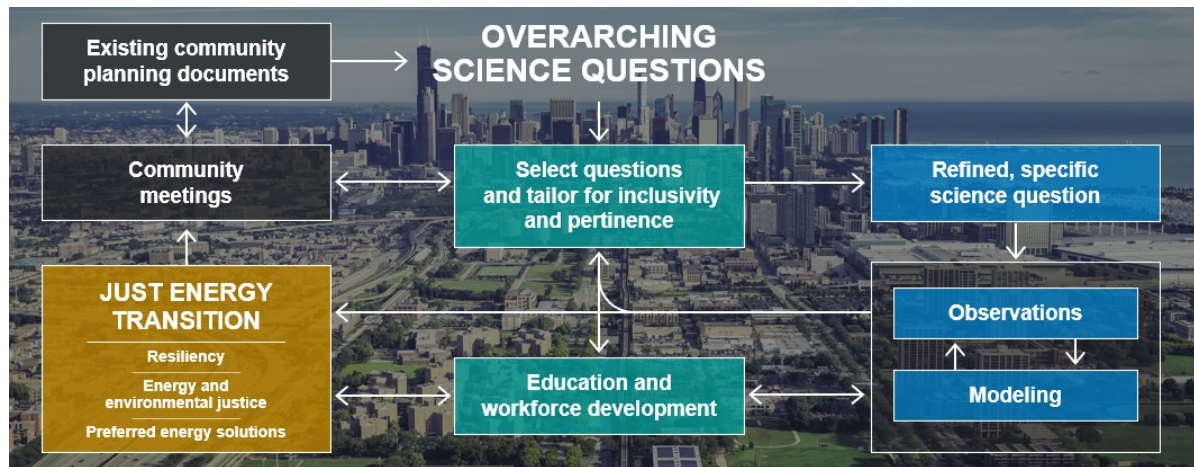
Today's inequalities in the region have old roots. These have pushed underrepresented communities into the most physically challenging areas with lower quality infrastructure.



**Flooding Heat Housing Marginalization Health Stress**  
**Food security Extremes Tornadoes Gentrification Jobs**  
**Green spaces Deterioration Variability**



# SCIENTIFIC AND COMMUNITY VISION COMING TOGETHER



## SCIENCE GOALS

Understand the natural and human drivers and effects of environmental change in an urban area

## URBAN DIGITAL TWIN FOR CLIMATE SERVICES

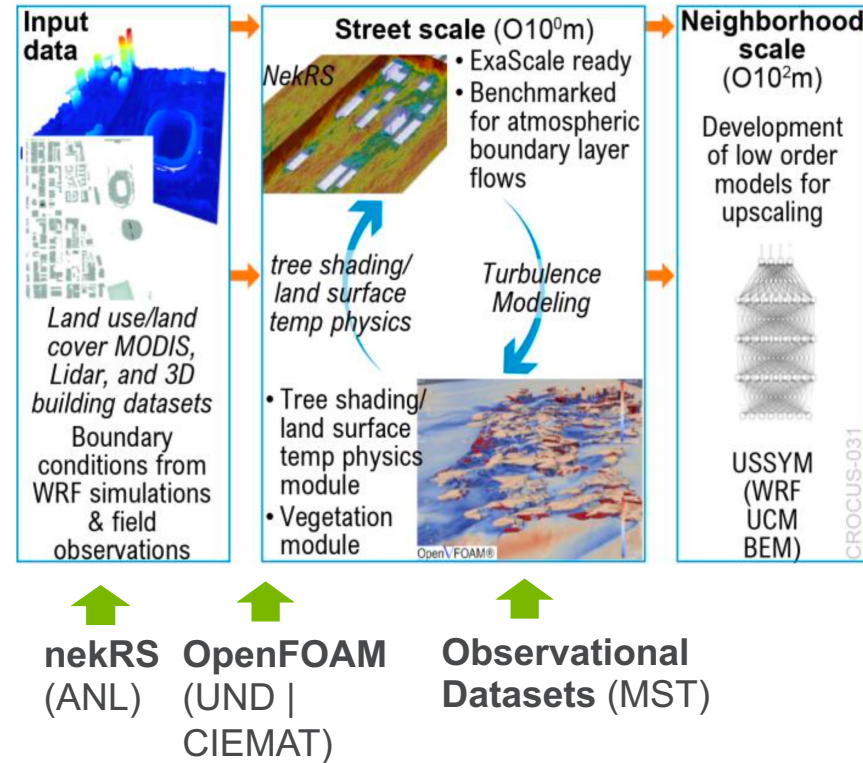
Scientifically advanced tools for **decision making** and **stakeholder capacity building**

## SOCIETAL BENEFITS

Sustainable, resilient, and equitable solutions, with special attention to underserved communities

# CROCUS MODELING PARADIGM

- Understating how the complex urban environment can interact with a changing climate requires a multi-scale modeling approach.
- This is part of the MODEX cycle.
- CROCUS deploys climate to regional to very high resolution models like nekRS (LES and RANS).
- CROCUS is leveraging AI for both observations and training of emulators for speed.



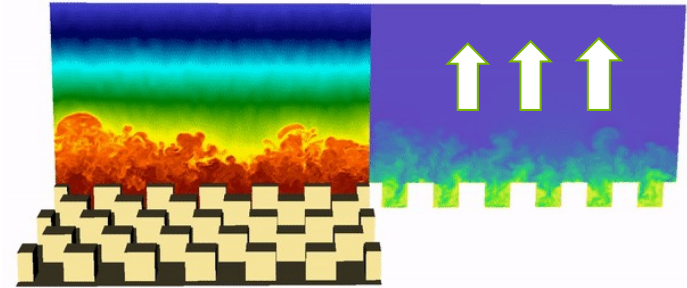
# STREET-SCALE MODELING

Micro-scale modeling to enhance the Building Effect Parameterization (BEP) schemes currently used in mesoscale models like WRF by incorporating these findings



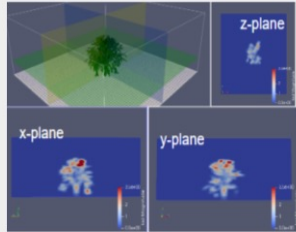
Source: Martilli, CIEMAT

Heat/moisture flux

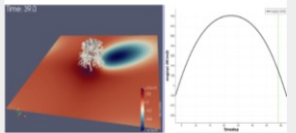


Urban Physics Modules (e.g. Tree)

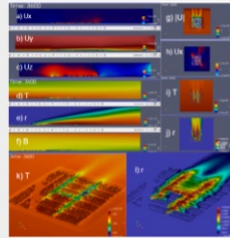
Sub-canopy scale tree properties extracted directly from geometry



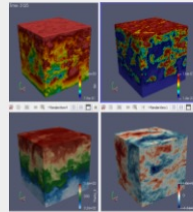
Evapotranspiration & Radiation Support



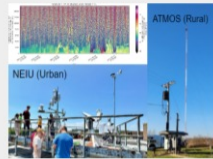
RANS simulation



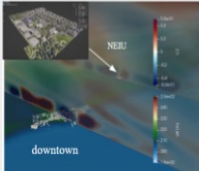
Multiphase Modeling



Field Datasets\*



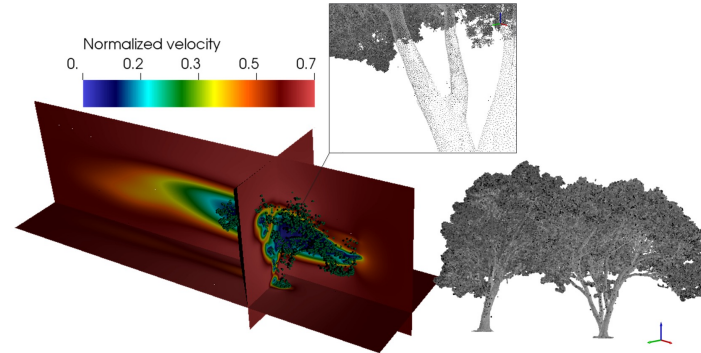
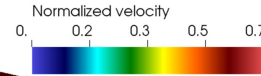
WRF Forcing



Normalized Temperature



Normalized Speed

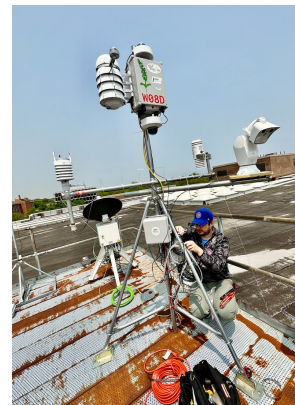


Source: D. Fytanidis, Argonne

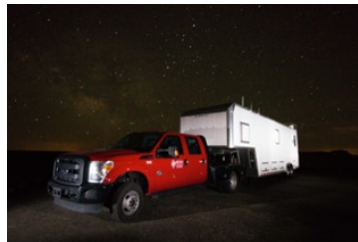
# MEASUREMENT STRATEGY

Four components: Micronet, field campaigns, public data & citizen science.

Chicago Micronet  
Network of 21 observatories.



Field campaigns, bringing the  
most advanced  
instrumentation to Chicago.

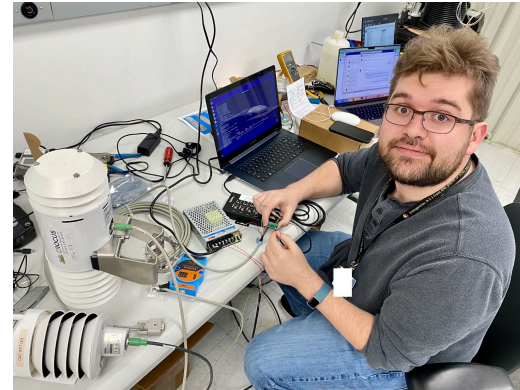


Students involved  
throughout! Developing  
the diverse workforce of  
the future.

# THE CHICAGO MICRONET

## A network of 21 sites.

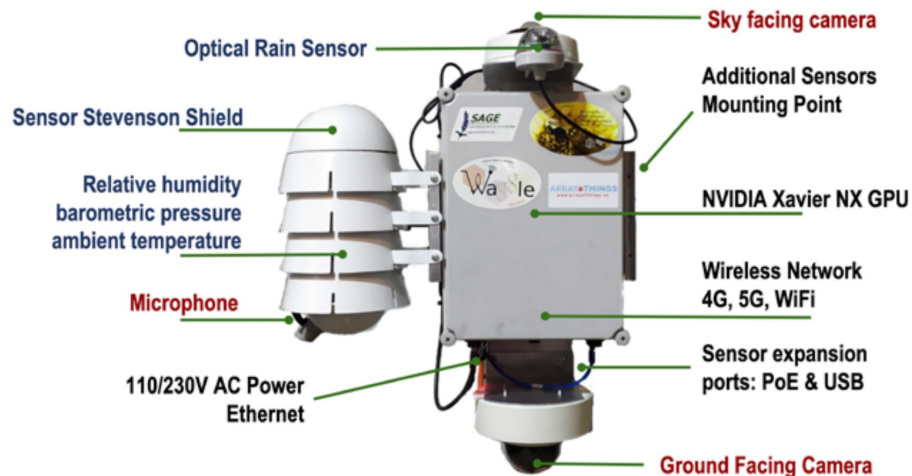
- Three levels of complexity. All have air quality and meteorology, four will have LIDARs giving vertical structure. Four will have towers with fluxes. Two will have radars for precipitation. Four ceilometers across the city.
- Work horse sensors at the Vaisala AQT and WXT. These have a serial interface and are calibrated. The AQT gives information about particulate matter and precursor gasses. The WXT gives high frequency meteorology up to 10Hz.



# POWERED BY WAGGLE

## Cyberinfrastructure that makes every CROCUS node extensible.

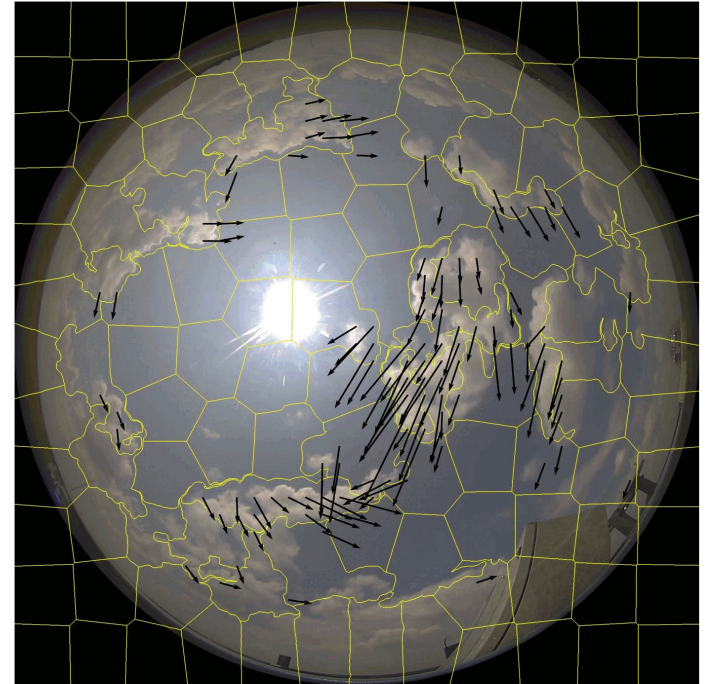
- Every one of the 21 nodes has a Waggle edge compute node.
- CROCUS benefits from the "shovel ready" cyberinfrastructure in Waggle developed by the Sage project.
- Waggle acts as a "beachhead" from where we can add new sensors as the network develops.
- By writing edge code repository plugins Sage acts is one conduit we have for sharing open science.



# POWERED BY WAGGLE

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# FIELD CAMPAIGNS

## Four intensive observational periods.

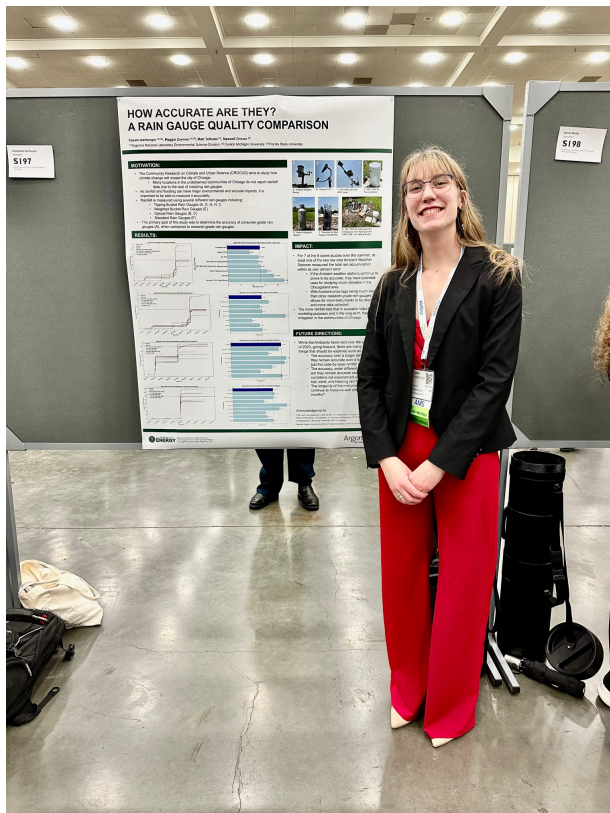
- While the micronet will provide longer term (multiple seasons) observations several agile campaigns are needed to collect the data needed for the thematic group driven science questions.
- We will be bringing advanced remote sensing platforms, soundings, and sense temporary in-situ networks.



# EARLY RESULTS AND LATEST UPDATES

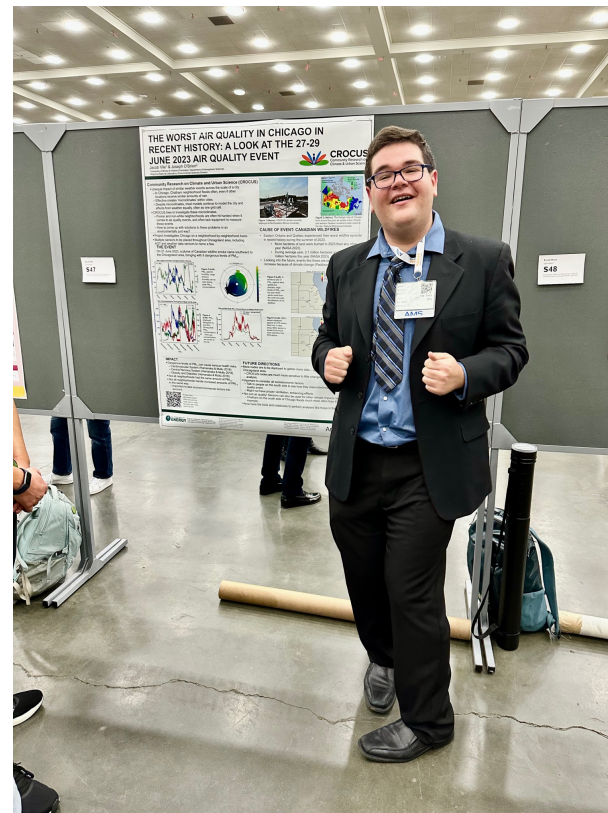
# 2023 STUDENT COHORT





Cassie Isenberger  
Central Michigan University

S197 - How Accurate are They? A Rain Gauge Quality Comparison



Jake Vile  
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

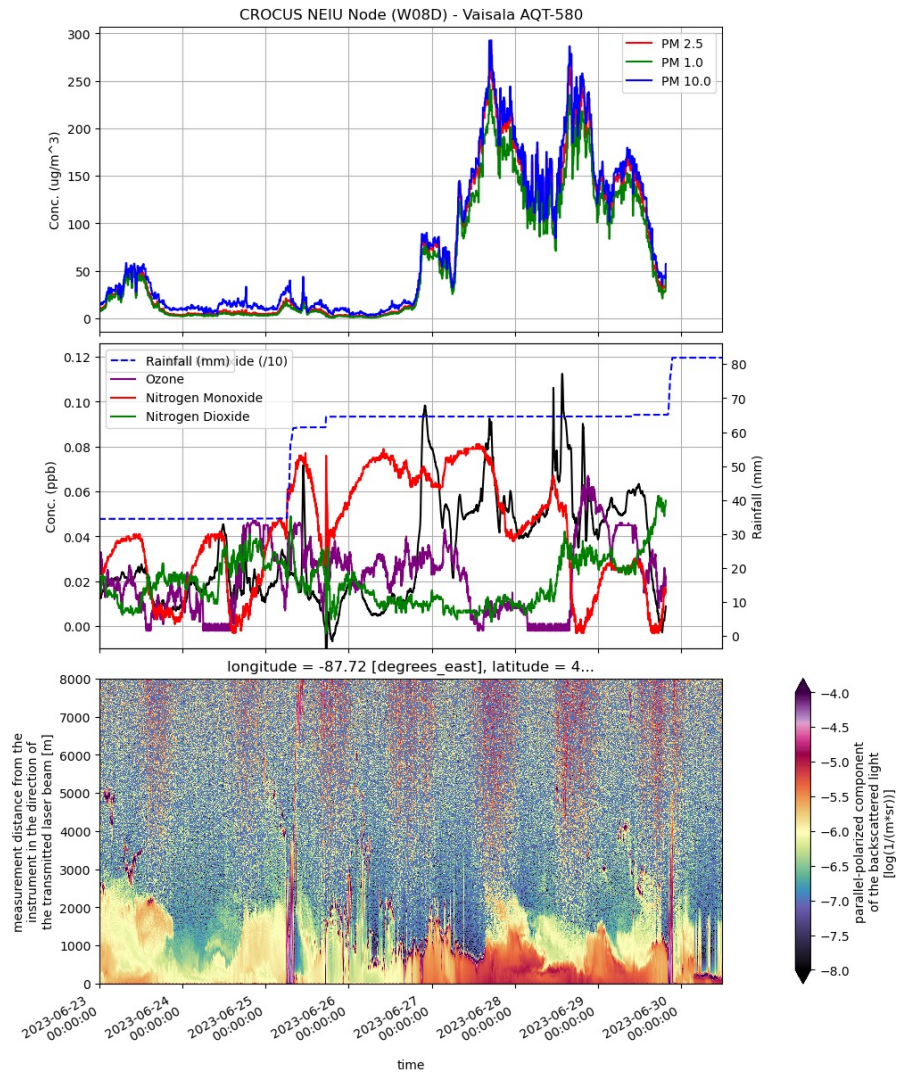
S47 - The Worst Air Quality in Recent Chicago History: A Look at the 27-29 June 2023 Air Quality Event

# ON THE TOPIC OF AIR QUALITY

## Working with EPA Region 5 to establish if this was the *worst* AQ

- Historic wildfires in Quebec and Ontario.
- Southward advection and subsidence plus a stout inversion led to some very bad air quality in Chicago.
- Air quality is an environmental justice issue as EPA's recommendation is to "stay indoors". Not all underserved citizens have AC.

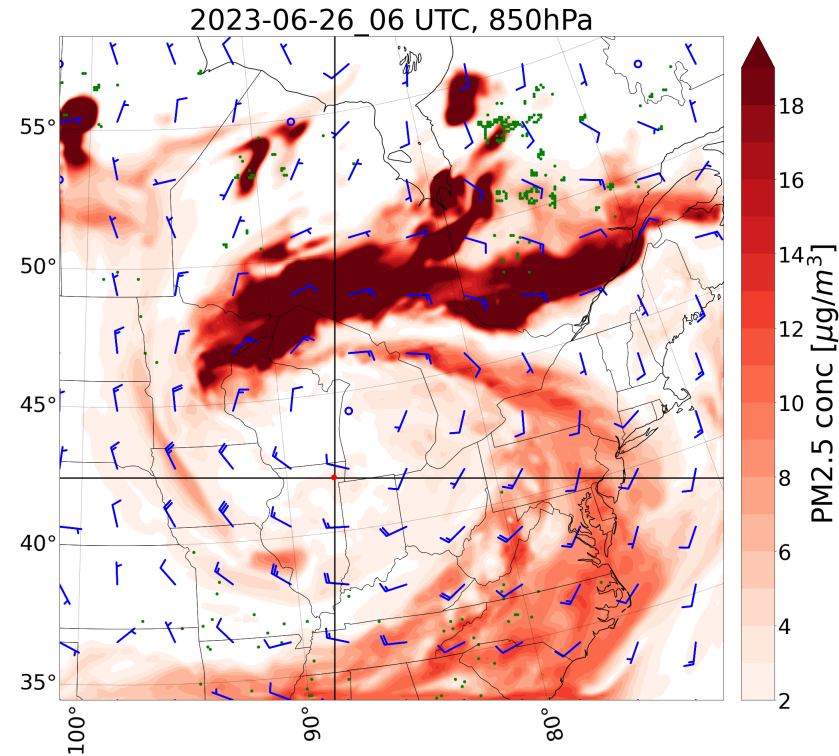
Manuscript in prep.



# ON THE TOPIC OF AIR QUALITY

## Initial modeling efforts are underway

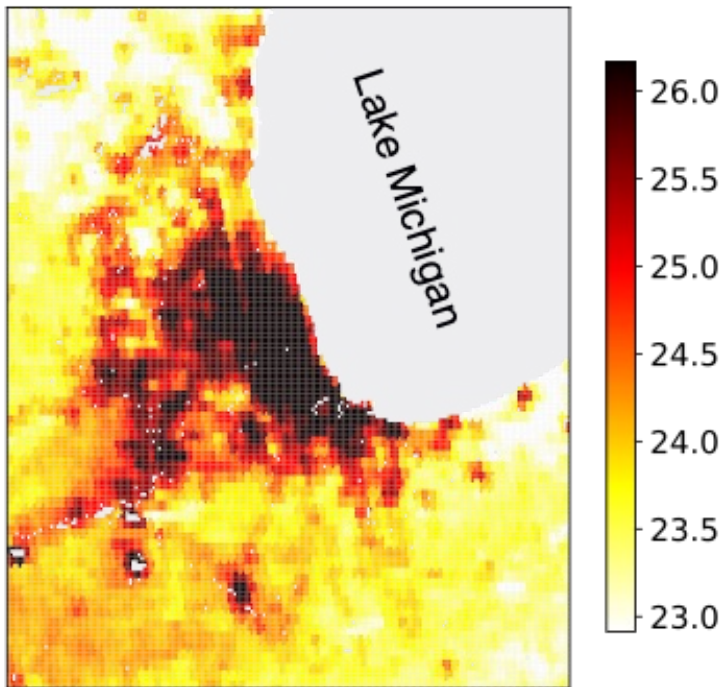
- Using WRF-Chem to model regional transport and processing from Canadian wildfires
- Investigating the role of local meteorology. Working theory (Based on ACAR data and ceilometer) that an inversion compounded bad AQ.
- Early example of U-IFL data being used as an observational target for model improvement.



Sicheng Wu and Ashish Sharma

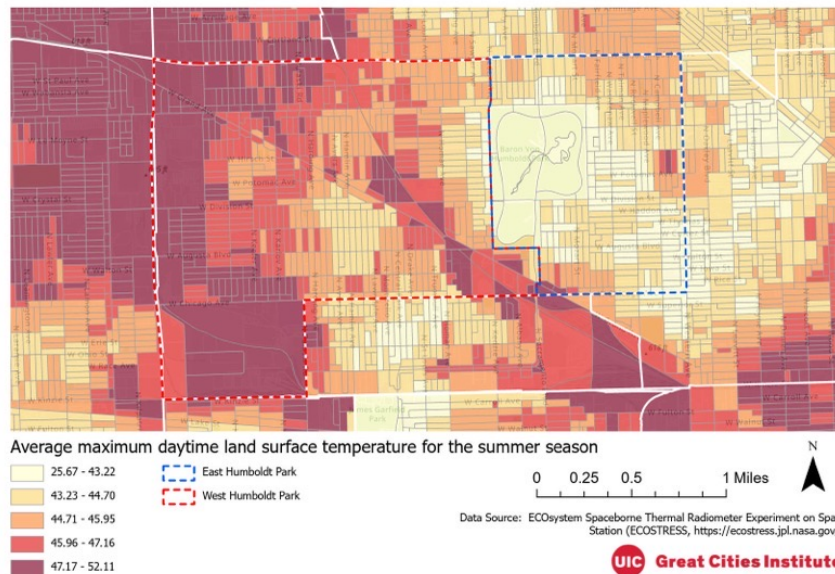
# CHARACTERIZING THE UHI IN CHICAGO

Max Berkelhammer and Ralph Citron

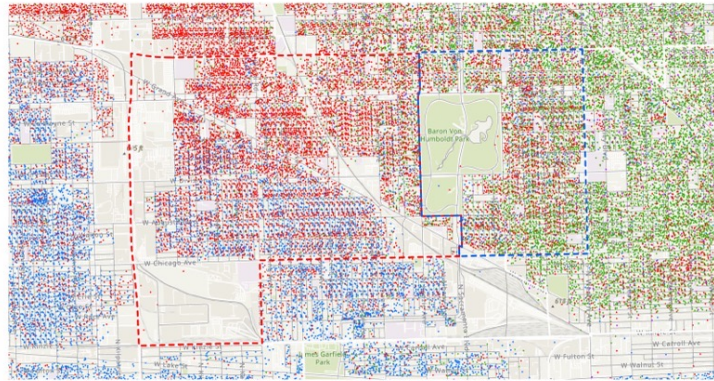


Data from NOAA's GOES-16 Satellite

Average maximum daytime land surface temperature for the summer season by block in Humboldt Park, 2018-2022



## Population by race/ethnicity by block in Humboldt Park, 2020



Population by race/ethnicity by block

1 Dot = 5 people

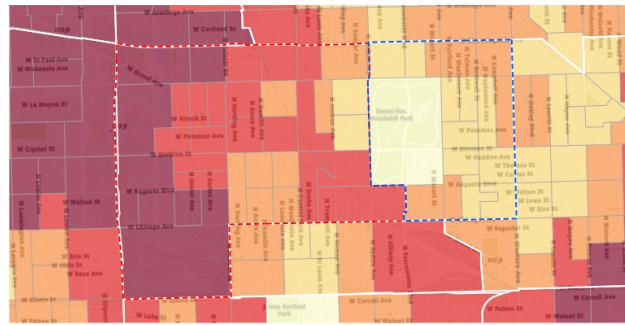
- Hispanic or Latino
- White (non-Hispanic or Latino)
- Black (non-Hispanic or Latino)
- Asian (non-Hispanic or Latino)
- Other (non-Hispanic or Latino)

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

Data Source: 2020 Decennial Census, U.S. Census Bureau.

UIC Great Cities Institute

## Average maximum daytime land surface temperature for the summer season by block group in Humboldt Park, 2018-2022



Average maximum daytime land surface temperature for the summer season

- 28.30 - 42.30
- 42.31 - 44.10
- 44.11 - 45.53
- 45.54 - 47.00
- 47.01 - 50.84

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

Data Source: ECOSystem Spaceborne Thermal Radiometer Experiment on Space Station (ECOSTRESS, <https://ecostress.jpl.nasa.gov/>).

UIC Great Cities Institute

## Average household income by block group in Humboldt Park, 2017-2021



Average household income by block group

- \$0 - \$49,590
- \$49,600 - \$69,270
- \$69,280 - \$88,480
- \$88,490 - \$125,100
- \$125,200 - \$420,200

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

Data Source: 2017-2021 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau.

UIC Great Cities Institute

## Percent tree canopy cover by block group in Humboldt Park, 2017



Percent tree canopy cover by block group

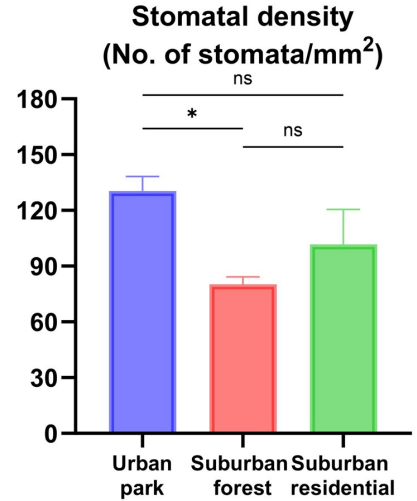
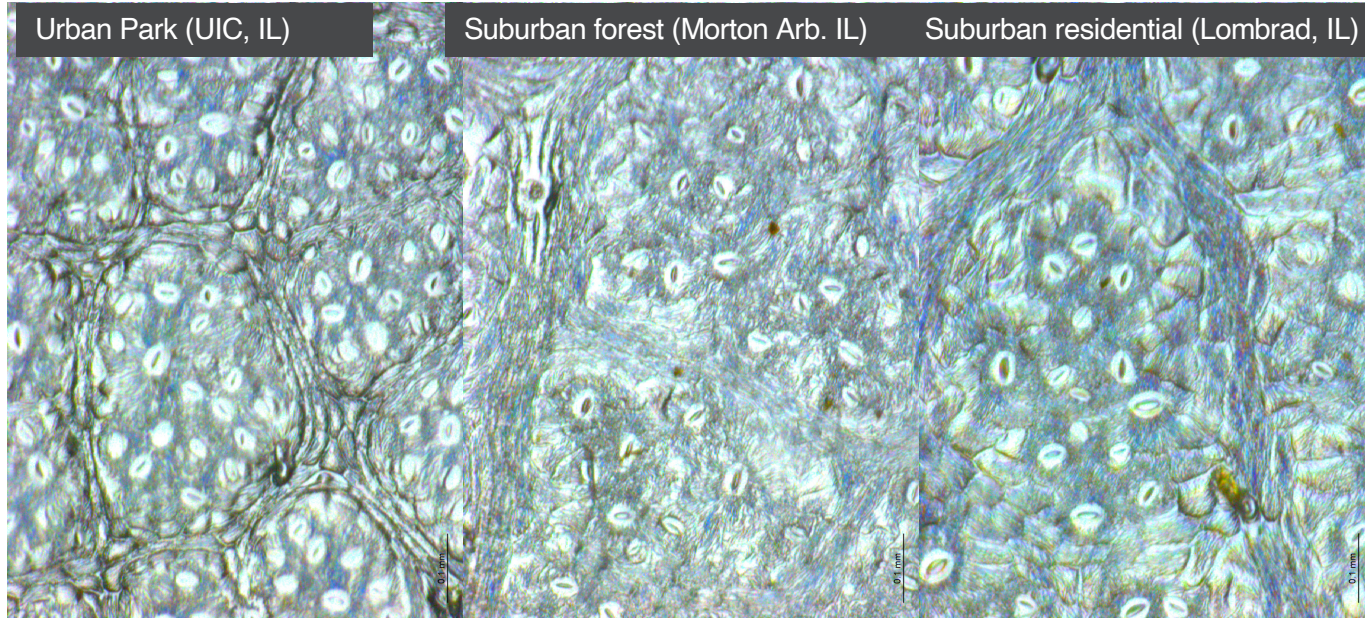
- 0.53% - 12.47%
- 12.48% - 15.56%
- 15.57% - 18.77%
- 18.78% - 22.75%
- 22.76% - 64.98%

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

Data Source: High-Resolution Land Cover, Northeast Illinois and Northwest Indiana, 2010 developed by UWM Spatial Analysis Laboratory.

UIC Great Cities Institute

# • Stomatal Density (Little-leaf Linden)



- Stomatal density of *Tilia cordata* (Little-leaf Linden) street trees sampled was 77, 48, and 60 stomata/mm<sup>2</sup> at the urban park, suburban forest, and suburban residential
- Little-leaf Linden trees in Urban Park had higher stomatal densities compared to suburban sites, suggesting a higher transpiration capacity and more potential for evaporative cooling than in suburban areas

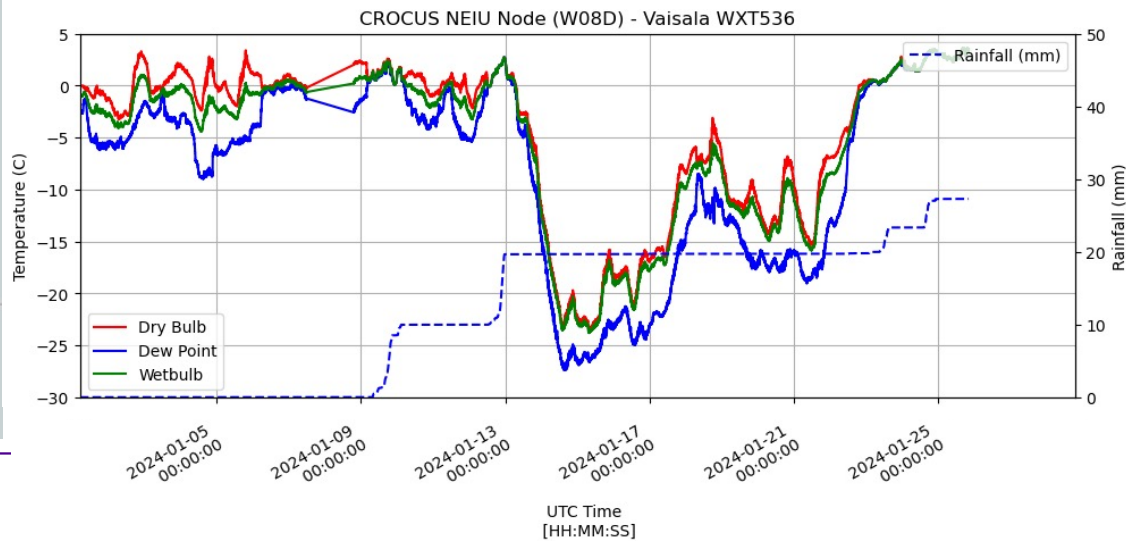
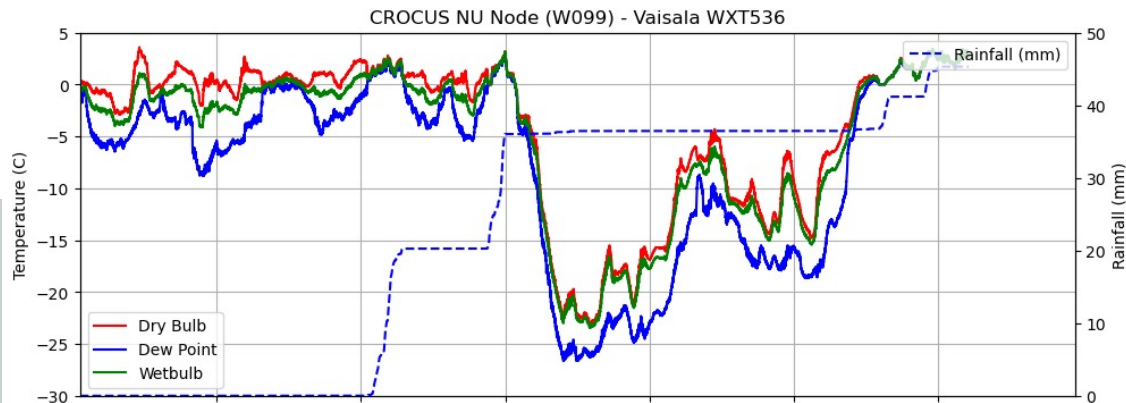
# THREE NODES ARE DEPLOYED

Five more before fall



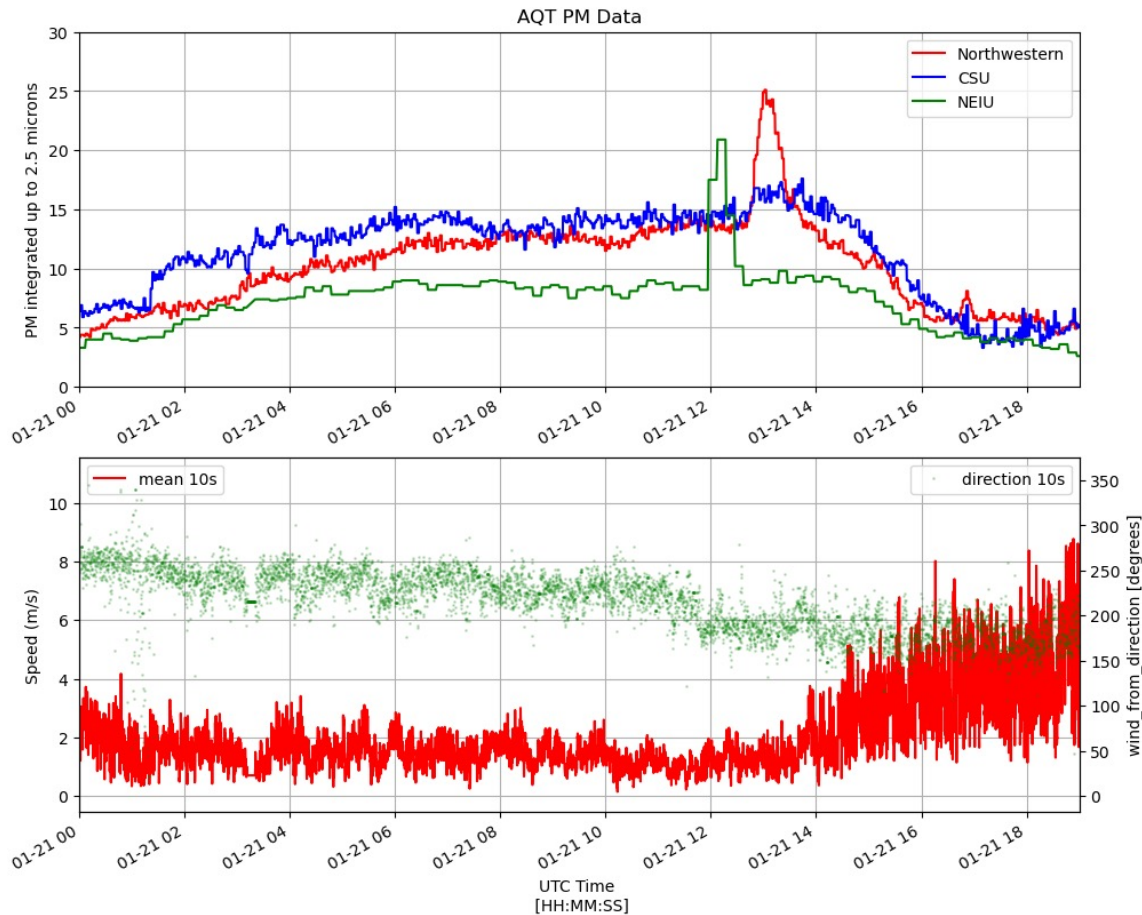
# FRESH DATA

## The cold crash...



# FRESH DATA

## Fast and slow mode PM



# UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

## CROCUS Chicago Urban Canyon Unveiling Knowledge of Land Effects, ChUCKLEs

ChUCKLEs is our first field campaign.

The science we will be tackling can be broadly described as “Understanding how an urban canyon couples to the atmosphere around Chicago. How does the lived experience in this canyon differ from our models?”

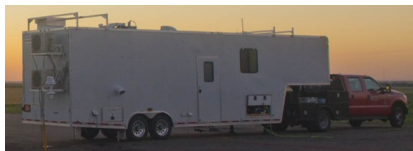
It will collect data to improve those models and represent urban canyons.

ETA, ~June/July 2024.

We will work with BSEC and other U-IFLs on our field campaign cadence. Once the micronet is fully realized we will have a large field campaign.



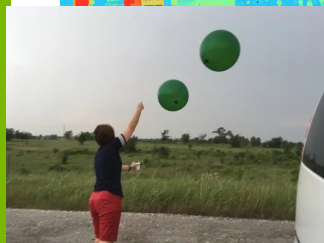
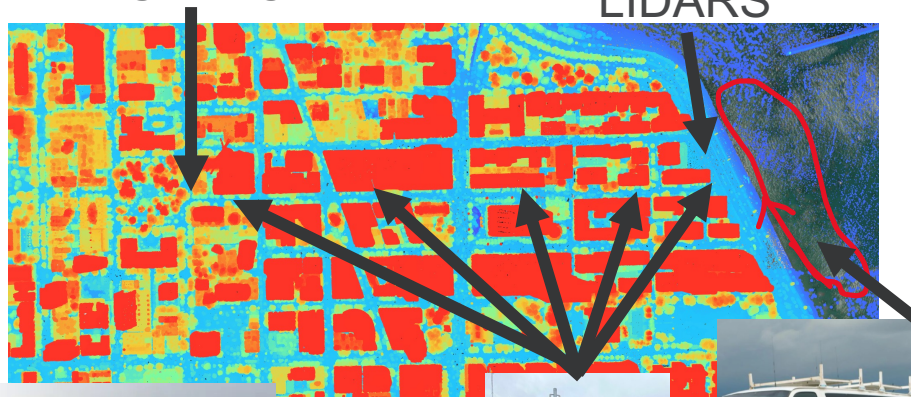
# EXAMPLE DEPLOYMENT. DELAWARE AVE



SPARC



Radar Wind Profiler  
LIDARS



Nodes  
Balloons



Raven UAV





# CROCUS

Community Research on  
Climate & Urban Science

<https://crocus-urban.org/data/observations/>



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Office of Biological and Environmental Research's Urban Integrated Field Laboratories  
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