

Cool Spaces

The coolest places in town

Why are we doing it?

Climate change is making London warmer, and the Urban Heat Island effect makes this worse. We're seeing higher temperatures than before and this impacts people health.

City workers, residents, and visitors can find themselves suffering from the impacts of heat and in need of somewhere to go with a lower temperature to cool off.

What is it?

The [GLA run a scheme to map venues](#) to which anyone can go to cool down and find respite from the heat. The scheme runs each summer when heatwaves are most likely.

Because travelling during hot weather increases risk, the scheme aims to identify venues close to where people are.

What are cool space requirements?

There are two types of Cool Space, these help people chose which will best suit their need and to increase which venues can participate.

Tier 1 Cool Spaces	Tier 2 Cool Spaces
Indoor spaces have the core amenities, are open at least five days a week from 10am to 5pm.	Spaces may not have all the core amenities or may be open less frequently.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open to all at least 10:00 – 17:00, at least 5 days a week • Free of charge • Accessible to wheelchair users • Staffed • Lower temperature than outdoors (air conditioning available, if specified) • Free seating space for rest and recovery • Free drinking water (e.g., tap, water fountain, water cooler) • Toilets on site or within a short distance and signposted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open to all during specified hours, at least 2 days a week. • Free of charge • Clearly states if not accessible to wheelchair users • Staffed • Lower temperature than outdoors (air conditioning available, if specified) • Free seating space for rest and recovery • Free drinking water (e.g., tap, water fountain, water cooler) • Clearly states if there is access to toilets on site or within a short distance

How to sign-up to be a Cool Space

You can sign-up directly with the GLA using this form:

<https://apps.london.gov.uk/cool-spaces/register-venue-form>

If you'd like to discuss if this might be for your venue please email environmental.resilience@cityoflondon.gov.uk. We're also interested in understanding the barriers to venues joining the scheme.

Timelines

The Cool Spaces scheme is already live for summer 2025. But there's still time to register your venue and the sooner the better!

Further information on coping in hot weather

[NHS – Heatwave: How to cope in hot weather](#)

[GOV.UK – Beat the heat: staying safe in hot weather](#)

[Mayor of London – Coping with hot weather in London](#)