Dream Future
Foundation

We cannot build a brighter tomorrow while making it harder to breathe today.



OCTOBER NEWSLETTER 2026

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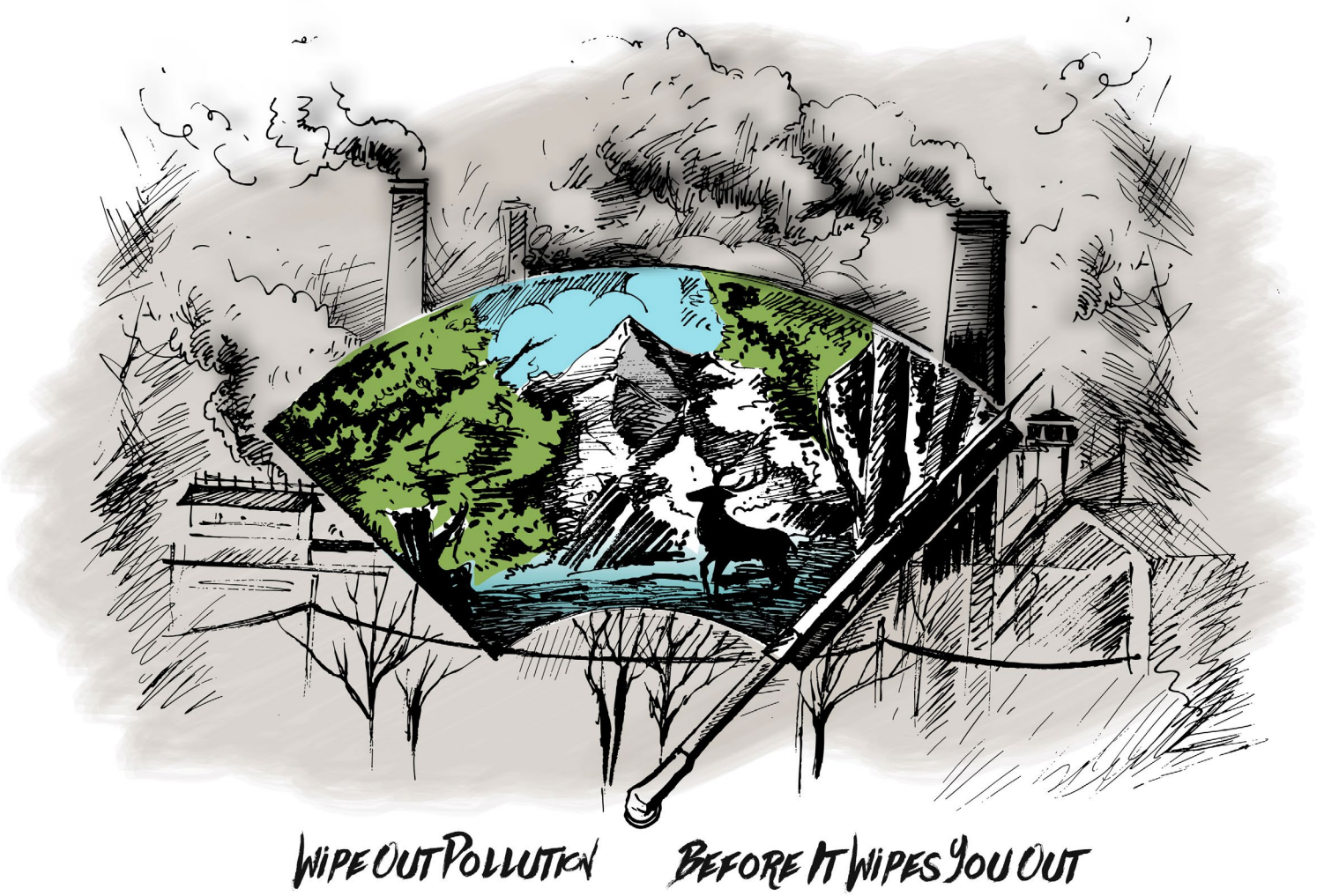
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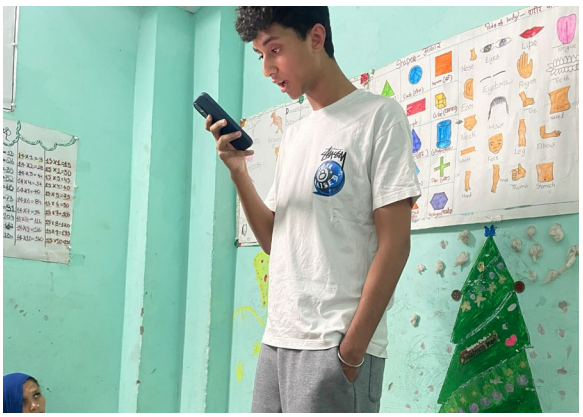
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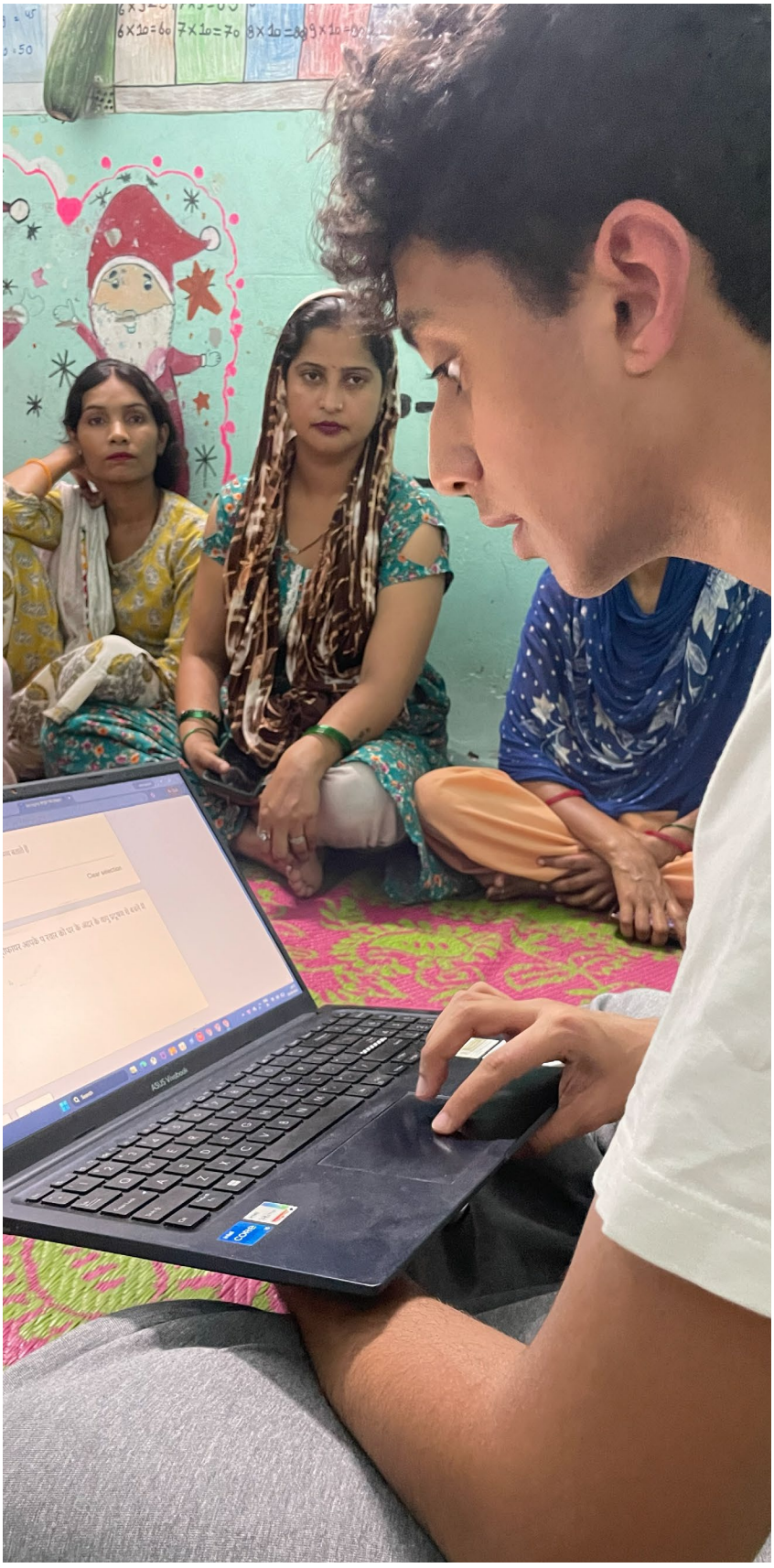
Month at a Glance











AirAware

Breathing Towards a Better Futuresafe.

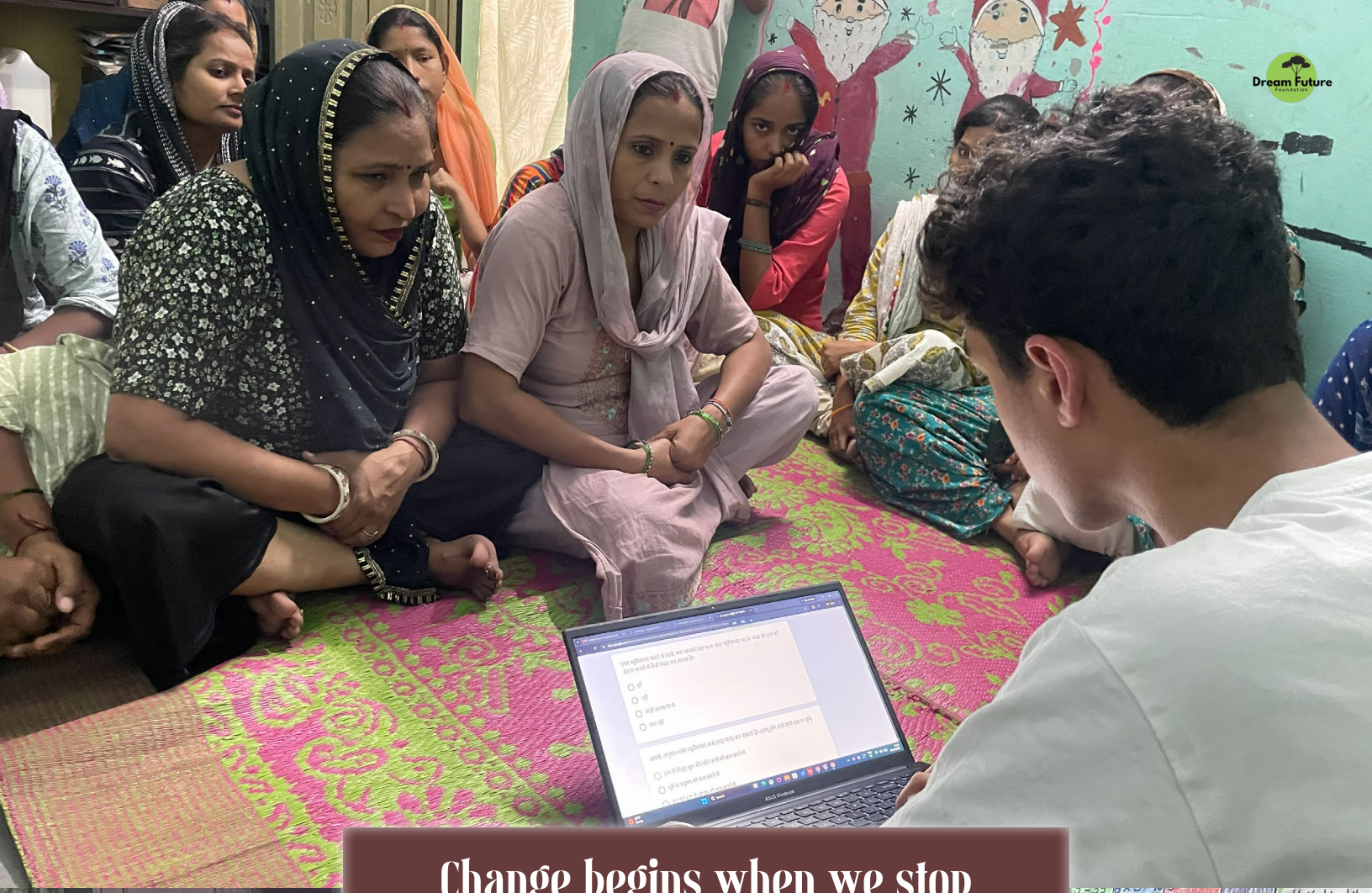
A student-led initiative bringing environmental health awareness and practical solutions to communities in Delhi.

In collaboration with Dream Future NGO, Aryaman Sharma, a Grade 11 student at The Shri Ram School, Moulsari, is working on AirAware, a youth-led initiative addressing the impact of air pollution on adolescent health and community well-being.

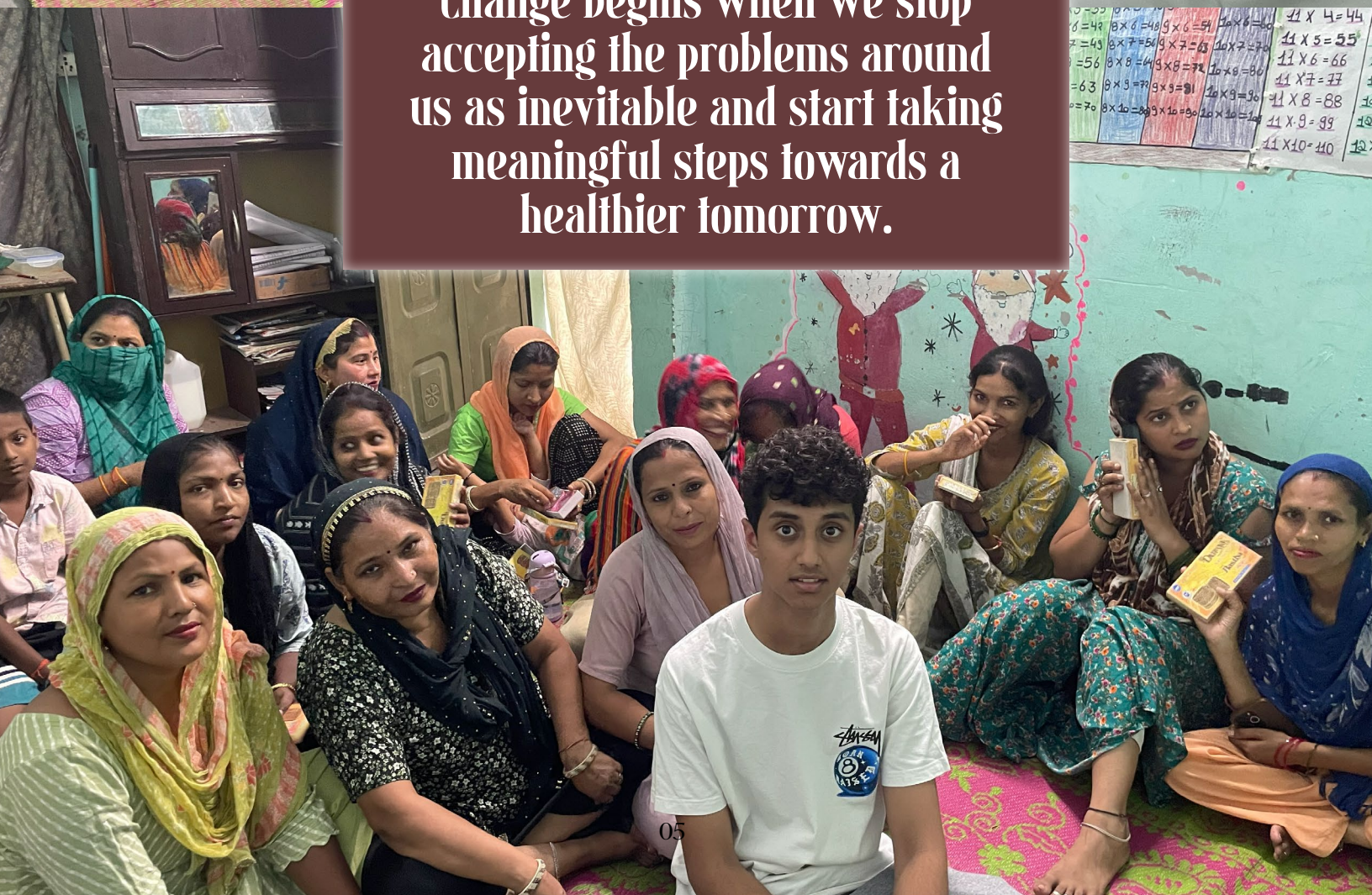
Launched in 2026, the project aims to make environmental health information more accessible, particularly for underserved communities disproportionately affected by poor air quality. Through educational outreach, community surveys, fundraising, and the planned distribution of air purifiers, AirAware seeks to encourage informed choices and improve access to practical pollution-mitigation resources.

As Delhi approaches the winter pollution season, the initiative highlights the importance of awareness, collective responsibility, and equitable access to cleaner air.





Change begins when we stop accepting the problems around us as inevitable and start taking meaningful steps towards a healthier tomorrow.



The Invisible Workforce of Recycling



Why waste pickers deserve a place in the sustainability conversation

Every day, tonnes of waste leave our homes, but what happens next is rarely part of our environmental conversation. Behind the recycling systems that help keep cities cleaner are thousands of waste pickers who collect, sort, and recover discarded materials.

Their work contributes to resource recovery and reduces the amount of recyclable waste sent to landfills. Yet, many continue to work without stable incomes, formal recognition, protective equipment, or reliable access to social security. A 2025 report by the Centre for Science and Environment highlights how waste pickers across Indian cities remain excluded from many formal waste-management systems, despite their contribution to recycling.

This exclusion has consequences beyond livelihoods. When waste pickers lack recognition, they may also lose access to the materials they depend on for income as cities introduce new waste-management contracts and facilities. Environmental progress can therefore create new inequalities if the people already working within the recycling system are left out of planning and decision-making.

Building a sustainable future requires more than encouraging households to segregate waste. Municipal authorities can involve waste pickers in organised collection systems, provide appropriate safety equipment, support worker cooperatives, and improve access to welfare schemes. Citizens can contribute by separating waste responsibly and recognising the people who handle it.

Recycling should not be measured only by how much waste we recover, but also by whether the process protects the people who make that recovery possible. A truly circular economy must value both natural resources and human dignity.

When Your Home Cannot Keep You Cool

The unequal burden of extreme heat on vulnerable communities



For many people, escaping the summer heat means switching on an air conditioner or moving to a cooler room. For families living in informal settlements, however, finding relief can be far more difficult.

Homes with metal roofs, limited ventilation, overcrowded rooms, and little surrounding greenery can trap heat long after sunset. Without reliable electricity, affordable cooling, or access to nearby shaded spaces, residents may struggle to recover from prolonged exposure to high temperatures.

A 2026 systematic review of 24 studies on heatwaves in India's informal settlements found that extreme heat contributes to dehydration, heat-related illness, and livelihood disruptions. Informal workers, women, children, and older adults are among those facing heightened risks.

The effects extend beyond physical discomfort. Outdoor workers may lose income when temperatures make working unsafe, while families can face additional expenses for water, healthcare, and electricity. Those who cannot afford to stop working often face a difficult choice between protecting their health and earning enough to meet daily needs.

Addressing extreme heat requires more than public warnings. Cool-roof programmes, shaded public spaces, reliable drinking-water access, better ventilation, and neighbourhood-level heat action plans can help protect vulnerable communities. Local residents should also be involved in designing these solutions, since they understand the challenges their neighbourhoods face.

Climate resilience must include the places where people live, not just the cities they inhabit. A sustainable future means ensuring that protection from extreme heat does not depend on a person's income or address.

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