FURTHER READING:

» For a quick global snapshot of places where there is potential to predict heatwaves see the maps in Global Predictability of Temperature Extremes published in the Environmental Research Letters journal in 2018.[42]

CASE STUDY 5: Costs and benefits of the Hot Weather-Health Watch/Warning System in Philadelphia, USA[43]

In Philadelphia, USA, a 2004 study looked at the costs and benefits of the city's Hot Weather-Health Watch/Warning System during the 1995-8 period. Most action that the city took in advance of hot weather was found to not incur any additional costs. This is because these preventative actions were taken by city employees as part of their normal jobs or by volunteers and included delaying tactics, such as not stopping essential services like electricity due to missed payments. In total, the study estimated the costs to the city did not exceed $10,000 per day once a heatwave warning was issued; while the benefits were on average two lives saved every day of the heatwave. The study concluded that the costs of running the system were irrelevant, given the magnitude of benefits.

CREATE A HEAT-HEALTH EARLY WARNING SYSTEM

The basic components of a heatwave early warning system include a heat-health threshold, warning mechanism, communication, action and evaluation. Full guidance on developing a heat-health early warning system is provided by the WMO and WHO in, Heatwaves and Health: Guidance on Warning System Development.[44] This chapter provides a short overview of the process and suggestions on how to start developing a warning system, with references to other chapters for more details.

Keep Electicity and Water Services on despite Non-Payment

Europe

Encouraging utility companies to work with city officials to support heatwave risk reduction by keeping water and electricity services running despite non-payment is important, especially, in areas that rely on air-conditioning during a heat wave.

Supporting heatwave

Financial support

Ensuring the energy

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES