



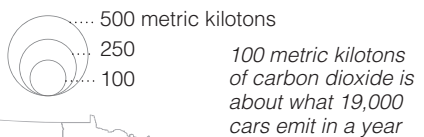
J. EMILIO FLORES FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

A Wal-Mart store in Chino, Calif., has both a cool roof and solar panels to cut its energy use.

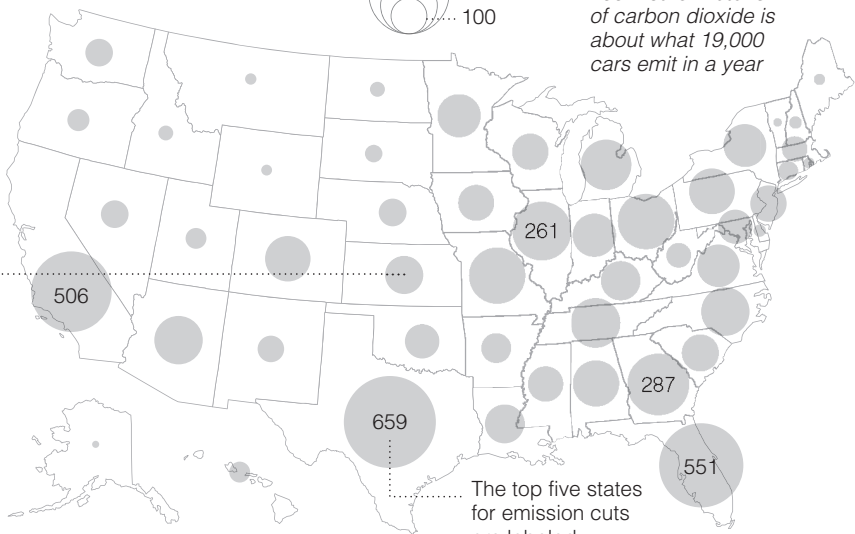
Imagining a Cool-Roof Nation

Dark-colored roofs absorb high levels of light and heat in the summertime. Researchers estimate that if 80 percent of commercial buildings were retrofitted with “cool” roofs that reflected heat, the nation could save enough on air-conditioning to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 6.23 million metric tons annually — the equivalent of taking 1.2 million cars off the road.

Annual reduction in carbon dioxide emissions if 80% of commercial roofs were converted to “cool” roofs



In states like Kansas that mainly use coal-fired electricity to cool buildings, cool roofs would help reduce carbon dioxide emissions — even if the building might require more heating in winter.



The top five states for emission cuts are labeled.

Source: Ronnen Levinson and Hashem Akbari, Heat Island Group, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory