

**Brandon Palin** 

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Understand our planet with Al.



# Ecopia's History



#### 2010 - 2013

- Spun core technology out of PhD research at UWaterloo
- Commercialized services and refined Al algorithms, with a focus on building footprint mapping



#### 2016

 Completed first continental-scale mapping initiative, for the Australian Government: 16 million buildings across 3 million sq. miles in 6 months



#### 2017 - 2018

- Generated complete map of every building in the USA: **169 million buildings** across **3.1 million sq. miles** in **6 months**
- Transitioned from man made objects to high accuracy land cover mapping



#### 2018-2021

• Focus on developing **advanced land-cover** for: smart cities, transportation engineering, autonomous vehicles, large scale state and federal operations, etc.

#### 2022 - present

- Largest project to date mapping 51 countries across Sub-Saharan Africa covering 9.3M sq.
  miles Including 416M buildings, and 11M linear miles of roads in 8 months
- Development of first **US Nationwide 3D land cover** map



**Our Clients** 

Ecopia's data is embedded into **hundreds of customer applications**, spanning 100+ countries across the world.



## 3D Land Cover Across The United States

**Project:** Build the first 3D nationwide high resolution landcover map of the USA

Data Input: 15–30cm stereo aerial imagery

Height-Attributed Features

Buildings Trees + Shrub Bridges

#### Standard Land Cover Features

Building	Railway	Grass
Driveway	Sidewalk	Bare Land
Pavement	Road	Water Body
Parking	Swimming Pool	Sports Field





# The Why







# Coastal Threat







# Wildfires

Wildfires are growing in frequency and intensity, threatening communities, forests, and the economies that depend on them.

Number of fires larger than 1000 acres per year on U.S Forest Service land



Source: Climate Central analysis on U.S. Forest Service records

Since 2000, <u>15</u> forest fires in the United States have caused at least <u>\$1 billion</u> in damages each.





# Extreme Heat / Urban Heat Islands

Elevated temperatures from heat islands can affect a community's environment and quality of life in multiple ways.



# Increased Energy Consumption

Increase in air conditioning of 1-9% for every 2°F increase



# Compromised Human Health

Leading cause of weather-related deaths over the last 30 years



### Impaired Water Quality

Hotter stormwater runoff flows into surrounding water bodies and causes rapid temperature changes

# **Elevated Emissions**

Elevated temperatures can directly increase the rate of ground-level ozone formation



Washington DC, Urban Heat Island Effect

# The Problem

The total cost of **Climate Disasters** in USA since 1980 is roughly \$2.065 Trillion

Source: NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information



### Flooding

Flooding causes widespread property damage, loss of life, and environmental disruption.



# Wildfires

Wildfires destroy ecosystems, endanger lives, and degrade air quality.



### **Extreme Heat**

Extreme Heat and Urban Heat Islands have a greater impact on marginalized communities and vulnerable populations.



# The Solution ... kind of



# What is a Climate Resiliency Strategy?

- 1. Assessing Climate Risks & Vulnerabilities
- 2. Developing Adaptation Plans
- 3. Building Resilient Infrastructure
- 4. Protecting Ecosystems
- 5. Enhancing Community Resilience
- 6. Investing in Research & Development

"A climate resiliency strategy refers to a comprehensive and integrated set of actions, policies, and measures designed to help individuals, communities, and ecosystems adapt and withstand the impacts of climate change. It involves proactive planning, risk assessment, and management aimed at enhancing the capacity of natural and human systems to cope with the changing climate conditions. " – Chat GPT



# Geospatial Strategy

- 1. Risk Assessment & Vulnerability Mapping
- 2. Land Use Planning & Management
- 3. Infrastructure Planning & Design
- 4. Emergency Response & Preparedness
- 5. Natural Resource Management
- 6. Community Engagement & Awareness

\*\* Key terms for funding applications \*\*





### How does Geospatial data fit into the mix?

Climate Data: Climate data is critical to understand how climate is changing and how it may affect different regions and communities.

Elevation Data: Elevation data provides information on the height and slope of land and helps identify areas that are susceptible to flooding and other climate hazards.

Land-Use/Cover Data: Land use and land cover data help identify areas that are vulnerable to climate change impacts, such as urban heat islands and deforestation.

Natural Resource Data: Natural resource data provides insights into the resilience of natural systems and their ability to adapt to climate change.

Infrastructure Data: Infrastructure data helps identify critical infrastructure that may be vulnerable to climate hazards.

Demographic Data: Demographic data helps identify vulnerable populations and inform decisions on how to target interventions and investments.



# Case Study





# <u>Geospatial Data</u> How Geospatial Data Drives Resilient Communities

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