



Heat Seek is a nonprofit organization working at the intersection of *innovative technology* and *tenant advocacy*. We support housing attorneys, tenant organizers, and city officials working on issues of affordable housing by providing low-cost, web-connected temperature sensors to tenants facing heating abuse and harassment. By analyzing indoor temperature data alongside citywide housing data, we provide new ways for advocates to target and reach at-risk tenants, gather data that demonstrates lack of services, and take action with that data to achieve safe, healthy housing.

THE PROBLEM

What do you do when your heat stops working? In New York City, landlords are obliged to heat apartments to a safe, healthy temperature in the wintertime. Yet each winter, the city receives around **200,000 complaints about underheated buildings**, concentrated in lower-income neighborhoods throughout Upper Manhattan, the Bronx, and Brooklyn. **Less than 7% of those complaints result in a violation.** Thousands of New Yorkers are freezing in their homes, with few resources to get the heat turned up.

HEAT SEEK'S RESPONSE



MEASURE

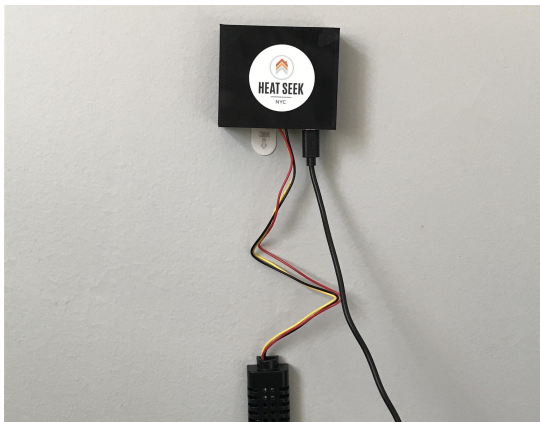
Heat Seek uses low-cost temperature sensors to **create evidence** of insufficient heat. Once installed, the sensors take **hourly temperature readings** all winter long, creating a comprehensive temperature record for tenants. Data is encrypted and stored on our secure servers, accessible anytime.

ANALYZE & IDENTIFY

Our web app analyzes the sensor data, alongside the outdoor temperature, in order to **document each hour the temperature falls below the legal limit**. Data is displayed in a graph as well as a **comprehensive heat log**, so that tenants and their advocates have robust data to take to housing court and to use in landlord-tenant negotiations.

ADVOCATE

Armed with this data, public interest attorneys, community organizers, and even city officials can advocate on behalf of at-risk tenants, and better **hold landlords accountable** for their negligence and harassment. Our data can **demonstrate patterns of landlord abuse**: manipulating the heat before, during, and after city inspections; targeting specific tenants for harassment; and more.

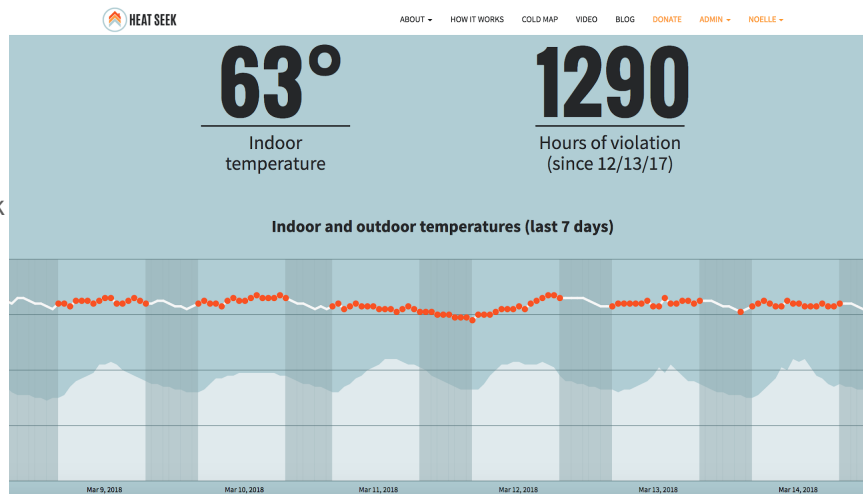


The Sensor

Heat Seek sensors transmit hourly temperature and humidity readings to the Heat Seek app. Each sensor is equipped with a temperature sensor accurate to +/- .5 degrees Celsius, an onboard SD card for data storage, a backup battery, and a method for wirelessly transmitting the data. Sensors come in two models, wifi and cellular, meaning they can be installed in homes with or without a home wifi connection.

The App

Each Heat Seek user receives their own unique account on the Heat Seek app. Each account displays an easy to read graph of the past week of temperature data, along with the current indoor temperature and the total number of hours the apartment has been in violation since the sensor began reporting data.



THE LAW requires your landlord to provide heat and hot water at the following levels from October 1 through May 31:

- From 6 am to 10 pm: If the outside temperature falls below 55 degrees, the inside temperature must be at least 68 degrees everywhere in your apartment.
- From 10 pm to 6 am: The inside temperature must be at least 62 degrees everywhere in your apartment regardless of the outdoor temperature.
- Hot water at a minimum 120 degrees at the tap must be provided 24 hours a day, year round.

If you have no heat, you should:

- Step 1: Using a thermometer, take the temperature in your bedroom or living room (not in the kitchen). Also, don't put the thermometer on an exterior wall, as they tend to be colder.
- Step 2: Turn on the radio, TV or the internet and record the temperature outside.
- Step 3: Write down exactly when you recorded the temperature (time and date).
- Step 4: Include any other relevant information in the "Notes" section.
- Step 5: Call 311 and report the temperature in your apartment.

TIME	DATE	TEMP INSIDE	TEMP OUTSIDE	TEMP OF HOT WATER	NOTES
11:35 AM	Mar 16, 2018	67	39		violation
10:35 AM	Mar 16, 2018	63	38		violation
9:35 AM	Mar 16, 2018	66	34		violation
8:35 AM	Mar 16, 2018	68	34		
7:35 AM	Mar 16, 2018	66	33		violation
6:35 AM	Mar 16, 2018	59	33		violation
5:35 AM	Mar 16, 2018	59	34		violation
4:35 AM	Mar 16, 2018	59	34		violation
3:35 AM	Mar 16, 2018	60	35		violation
2:35 AM	Mar 16, 2018	60	36		violation
1:35 AM	Mar 16, 2018	61	36		violation

Heat Logs

Users can quickly download a comprehensive heat log containing all of their temperature data from within the Heat Seek app. Heat logs can be used in landlord-tenant negotiations and/or housing court.