

# The Vertical City Weather Generator (VCWG v1.2.0)

## Response to Reviewers

Moradi et al.

July 19, 2020

Dear Dr. Wolfgang Kurtz

Thank you for processing our manuscript and we appreciate the effort of reviewers in providing detailed feedback toward the improvement of our manuscript. We have addressed all of the comments below in a point by point response letter. We are pleased to inform you that all of their suggestions have been implemented.

In brief, we have used the BUBBLE field campaign for model evaluation [Christen and Vogt, 2004, Rotach et al., 2005] instead of the Guelph field campaign. We have used the Monin-Obukhov similarity theory (MOST) for modelling specific humidity profiles in the rural area. We have further justified use of MOST instead of the original Vertical Diffusion Model (VDM) in the Urban Weather Generator (UWG) model. A new radiation model has been used with more realistic representation of tree shapes. Our new analysis shows that the model BIAS for temperature has significantly been reduced, beyond the original UWG and VCWG models. We have run the model for Vancouver, Canada, for an entire year and compared daily maximum and minimum Urban Heat Island (UHI) values with observations of [Runnalls and Oke, 2000]. Our new statistical comparison of the model with observation involves calculation of BIAS, RMSE, and goodness of fit  $R^2$ . We have also analyzed daytime and nighttime profiles of potential temperature, wind speed, specific humidity, and turbulence kinetic energy in Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter for the case of Vancouver simulations. Due to concerns with the length of the paper, we prefer not to repeat the 1 year analysis for every single exploration study of the model, so we have kept many explorations of the model for only a 2-week period. Overall, we have provided evidence and justifications for superiority of VCWG over UWG that motivate development of VCWG and this publication.

We hope that you find this version of the manuscript satisfactory and in compliance with the journal's high standards. Please do not hesitate to inquire any further information. We will be happy to include any further suggestions toward the improvement of the manuscript.

Regards,

Amir A. Aliabadi

# 1 Reviewer 1

The effort of the authors in revising the manuscript is appreciable. The clarity of the manuscript and the scope of the results are improved through the revisions. Considering the major changes implemented in the model and manuscript, I reviewed the paper as a new submission, while the authors' response was helpful in clarifying some parts.

**Response:** Thank you for the comments. We improved the manuscript further.

## 1.1 Comments

1. The two main equations 8 and 9 are showing that the assumption of horizontal homogeneity in the mean flow is used for their derivations. This assumption is heavy for complex terrains of urban areas, when the focus lays within the UCL. The authors' response to this concern is not convincing and the dispersion term does not account for the horizontal mean velocity gradients. I still believe that Santiago and Martilli (2010) cannot be referenced for this assumption as their work has a different focus and refers to a mesoscale model. While respecting the work of other researchers, referring to other works on this matter does not help changing the fact, either.

**Response:** We think there is a misunderstanding. The equations provided are widely used in urban canopy modeling. The solution of these equations are interpreted as horizontal and time average of variables considered (horizontal wind velocity vector components, potential temperature, specific humidity, and turbulence kinetic energy). The source and sink terms in these equations consider the non horizontal-homogeneity of the flow due to presence of buildings, trees, as well as various dispersive transport mechanisms. In fact all the source and sink terms in these equations are parameterized using Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) models that fully account for three-dimensional and non horizontal-homogeneity of the urban environment. The reviewer is invited to study the works by [Krayenhoff et al., 2015, Nazarian et al., 2020, Krayenhoff et al., 2020].

2. In Fig. 7, right panel, I expect to see reduced wind speed within the UCL ( $< H_{avg}$ ) for larger  $\lambda_{dp}$ . On page 20, line 2 the authors mention that they expect to see this behavior, too. However, Fig. 7 does not show this behavior. The red line shows larger velocities within the UCL.

**Response:** Thank you. We updated figure 7. Now with larger  $\lambda_p$  the wind speed within the canyon is reduced.

3. The model is also not showing the expected behavior for the wind profile in Fig. 9, where it is expected to see lower velocities within the UCL in case of bigger trees in the simulation.

**Response:** Thank you. We updated figure 9. Now with greater leaf area density ( $LAD$ ) the wind speed and turbulence within the canyon are reduced.

4. While it is mentioned that the vertical profile of TKE is also modeled, there is no evidence of its results in the paper. Given the extremely long length of the paper, I am not sure whether I should propose to include new results in the paper, but at the same time, there is no way to evaluate the model performance over this aspect.

**Response:** Thank you. We have now added profiles of specific humidity and turbulence kinetic energy (TKE) for explorations of the model considering  $\lambda_p$ ,  $\lambda_f$ ,  $LAD$ , and seasonal variations, without adding new figures. We have created multi-panel figures to add the new information.

5. I noticed that while the model contains four sub-models, only three are mentioned in the abstract (excluding the radiation model)

**Response:** Thank you. We have now mentioned the radiation model in the abstract.

6. On page 4, line 17: I suggest removing the general statement of “(the direction in which turbulent transport is significant)” from the sentence, as this is not accurate. Turbulent transport, in general, could be important in all three directions.

**Response:** Thank you. We have removed the statement.

7. Equation 2: the power  $-1/4$  for the unstable condition is incorrect. It should be  $-1/2$ .

**Response:** Thank you. We have corrected the exponent.

8. Add the units for all terms that are mentioned within the text

**Response:** Thank you. We have added the units for all terms that are mentioned in the text.

9. Figure 2: There is no information about the tree figure in the caption

**Response:** Thank you. The following statement has been added in the caption:

A leaf area density ( $LAD$ )  $m^2 m^{-3}$  profile is considered to represent the tree.

10. Page 12, section 2.1.5: Tree shape parameterization is widely proposed in other work. Please provide a reference for this part, or mention the major changes implemented in this work.

**Response:** Thank you. More details have been added to section 2.1.5 to describe the tree shape parameterization. The following statement has been added

In VCWG, there are two types of vegetation: ground vegetation cover and trees. Ground vegetation cover fraction is specified by  $\delta_s$  [-]. Tree vegetation is specified by four parameters: tree height  $h_t$  [m], tree crown radius  $r_t$  [m], tree distance from canyon walls  $d_t$  [m], and Leaf Area Index ( $LAI$ ) [ $m^2 m^{-2}$ ], which is the vertical integral of the Leaf Area Density ( $LAD$ ) [ $m^2 m^{-3}$ ] profile. VCWG considers two trees spaced from the walls of the canyon with distance  $d_t$  [m]. Trees cannot be higher than the building height. Both types of vegetation are specified with the same albedo  $\alpha_V$  [-] and emissivity  $\varepsilon_V$  [-]. The VCWG user can change these input parameters for different vegetation structures. The radiation model in VCWG is adapted from the model developed by [Meili et al., 2020].

11. It is not clear to me what the right panel of Figs. 12 and 13 are showing. The caption does not help either. If simulations were performed for one day, then it is expected to see similar downward shortwave radiation in the top and bottom figures of Fig. 12 and 13. Then I wonder whether  $S_{\downarrow}$

is the incoming solar radiation?

**Response:** Thank you. We have removed these panels. Now we have plotted the incoming and outgoing shortwave and longwave radiation fluxes on each of the urban surfaces in Figs. 12 and 13.

12. Figures, in general, are very far from where they are mentioned for the first time

**Response:** This is the artifact of using  $\LaTeX$ typesetting. We put the figure in the  $\LaTeX$ source code very near to where it is mentioned in the text. Final typesetting can correct this issue.

13. Page 6, line 15: ... within ‘an’ above... → ... within ‘and’ above....

**Response:** Thank you. This is corrected.

14. Page 6, line 18: ‘surfaces’ → ‘surface’

**Response:** Thank you. This is corrected.

15. Page 9, line 15: ‘based’ → ‘based on’

**Response:** Thank you. This is corrected.

## 2 Reviewer 3

This a timely attempt at overhauling the UWG model. The topic is highly relevant, in particular for practitioners (architects, urban planners) wishing to incorporate urban microclimatic effects in their building energy models. Therefore, the effort of the authors is to be commended. Generally speaking, the manuscript is not yet ready for publication. Several of the points raised in the previous review round have not been addressed convincingly in the current version, and doing so may require major rework. More fundamentally, the validity/superiority of the proposed VCWG model over the original UWG model is not clearly established, despite the improvements proposed in this revised version - most notably, the incorporation of the Monin-Obukhov parameterization in the rural model.

**Response:** Thank you. We have made our best effort to improve the model based on the comments and clearly outlined the improvements of VCWG that has resulted in superiority of it over the original UWG model. The following sentences have been added to the objective section 1.2

[VCWG] resolves vertical profiles of climate parameters, such as temperature, wind, and specific humidity, in relation to urban design parameters. VCWG also includes a building energy model. It allows parametric investigation of design options on urban climate control at multiple heights, particularly if multi-storey building design options are considered. This is a significant advantage over the bulk flow (single-layer) models such as UWG, which only consider one point for flow dynamics inside a hypothetical canyon ... Unlike many UCMs that are forced with climate variables above the urban roughness sublayer (e.g. TUF-3D), VCWG is forced with rural climate variables

measured at 2 m (temperature and humidity) and 10 m (wind) elevation that are widely accessible and available around the world, making VCWG highly practical for urban design investigations in different climates. Further, unlike UWG, VCWG uses the Monin-Obukhov similarity theory in the rural area to consider effects of thermal stability and aerodynamic roughness length to establish vertical profiles of potential temperature and specific humidity ... Unlike UWG, VCWG considers the effect of trees in the urban climate by modelling evapotranspiration (latent heat transfer), sensible heat transfer, radiation transfer, drag, and other processes due to trees.

## 2.1 Comments

### 2.1.1 New rural model

1. Why do the authors think that the Monin-Obukhov rural model is superior to the one in your original manuscript? This change seems to be mainly triggered by the first-round review comments highlighting “unjustified parameters” incorporated in the rural model of the previous manuscript. However, this is a major change and the transition from one to the other merits detailed discussion and justification in the final manuscript. Both parameterizations are imperfect, and the choice of one versus the other should be based on ultimate model accuracy, rather than the satisfaction of a review comment.

**Response:** Thank you. We have considered in detail the pros and cons of each approach. The Vertical Diffusion Model (VDM) in UWG or the original version of the manuscript does not consider the effects of stability and aerodynamic roughness length in establishing the profiles of potential temperature and specific humidity in the rural area. On the other hand the Monin-Obukhov Similarity Theory (MOST) considers effects of stability and aerodynamic roughness length, but it is limited to altitudes up to the inertial layer and often performs poorly when friction velocity is lower than  $0.1 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ . Overall, we have found that our BIAS and RMSE have been reduced when using MOST compared to VDM. The original UWG model exhibited a temperature BIAS of  $-0.6 \text{ K}$  compared to the observations in BUBBLE [Bueno et al., 2012], while the current version of VCWG exhibits a BIAS of  $+0.11 \text{ K}$ . The current model works for most climates investigated, while the original UWG did not work for some field trials such as the case of Singapore. These can justify using MOST. Nevertheless, we mention some limitations of MOST in the current version of the manuscript in sections 2.1 and 3.1 as follows:

The urban domain extends to three times building height that conservatively falls closer to the top of the atmospheric roughness sublayer in the urban area [Santiago and Martilli, 2010, Aliabadi et al., 2017], but within the inertial layer in the rural area, where Monin-Obukhov similarity theory can be applied [Basu and Lacser, 2017] ... It can be seen that the hourly BIAS is at maximum at 0600 Local Standard Time (LST). This is due to the limitation of the Monin-Obukhov similarity theory under very calm conditions in the early morning ( $u_* < 0.1 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ ) [Stull, 1988], when a realistic boundary condition for potential temperature cannot be imposed on the top of the domain for the urban vertical diffusion model. This high BIAS is evident on all elevations.

### 2.1.2 Assumption of constant specific humidity in the vertical direction in the rural model

2. The authors’ replies to both reviewers’ comments on this topic are not convincing. The answer to the first reviewer is that the assumption is valid as long as vapour pressure is below its saturation value; and they proceed to show that this condition is indeed verified, at least over the limited two-week period of analysis. While the answer to the second reviewer seems to accept the reviewer’s viewpoint that even if this condition is verified, it does not constitute sufficient basis for the validity of said assumption. The authors’ final rationale seems to be that there is no other feasible way to approach this matter: “This assumption is made, for lack of a better assumption”

**Response:** Thank you. We agree, and in the new version of the model and manuscript we use the Monin-Obukhov similarity theory to establish vertical profiles of specific humidity in the rural area. Please see the response to the next comment.

3. Why not use the Monin-Obukhov parameterization also for humidity? The authors mention the lack of surface latent flux measurement in the EPW file, but a basic soil water diffusion model similar to the one implemented in ENVI-met could overcome this problem. Of course, precipitation measurements would be required. The authors mention that this measurement is often missing in EPW files, but I don’t think that the authors should limit their methodology on the basis of such considerations. Even if precipitation happens to be missing, daily or monthly values are generally not difficult to obtain even for the most remote locations, and are probably sufficient to feed said soil model. Such a model would also help with the necessary incorporation of the evapotranspiration phenomenon (see my comment below).

**Response:** Thank you. We have examined the BUBBLE dataset and found that both sensible and latent heat fluxes in the rural area were measured. This enabled us to estimate the Bowen ratio and subsequently estimate the latent heat flux via the sensible heat flux. In this approach the Monin-Obukhov similarity theory can be used for establishing vertical profiles of specific humidity in the rural area. The manuscript is updated as follows in section 2.1.2

Given the similarity of heat and mass transfer, the same universal dimensionless temperature gradient can be used for the universal dimensionless specific humidity gradient, i.e.  $\Phi_Q = \Phi_H$  [Zeng and Dickinson, 1998]. The net rural latent heat flux  $Q_{lat,rur}$  [ $\text{W m}^{-2}$ ] can either be directly measured or estimated using the Bowen ratio  $\beta_{rur}$  and the net rural sensible heat flux via  $Q_{lat,rur} = Q_{sen,rur}/\beta_{rur}$ . So the gradient of the specific humidity can be given by the following expression employing latent heat of vaporization  $L_v$  [ $\text{J kg}^{-1}$ ], which can also be integrated to give the vertical profile of specific humidity,

$$\frac{\partial \bar{Q}_{rur}}{\partial z} = \frac{Q_{lat,rur}}{\rho L_v k u_* z} \Phi_Q \left( \frac{z}{L} \right). \quad (\text{S.1})$$

### 2.1.3 Evapotranspiration model

4. Lack of proper evapotranspiration model to account for evaporative cooling provided by the vegetation: this was a major shortcoming of the original UWG and does not seem to have been addressed in this updated version (or at least, it is not mentioned in the manuscript)

**Response:** Thank you. We have mentioned this original shortcoming of UWG in the objective section 1.2. VCWG adequately accounts for evapotranspiration and cooling effects of trees, which is also stated in the objective section. Eqs. 12 and 16 both show source and sink terms for potential temperature and specific humidity due to tree effects. These source and sink terms are further defined in Eqs. A15 and A16. Further, Fig. 9 now shows that higher LAD in the canyon results in cooler potential temperatures and higher levels of specific humidity at daytime. These are evidence that the evapotranspiration process and cooling effects of trees are captured by VCWG.

#### 2.1.4 Validation procedure and model accuracy

5. Why not use 1 year instead of two weeks? The main advantage of UWG-like models is their ability to conduct annual analysis. The validation therefore should also be applied on an annual time scale. The validation period of two weeks is more appropriate for mesoscale or CFD models.

**Response:** Thank you. We have considered this option. For Vancouver, Canada, the case in which we perform seasonal analysis, [Runnalls and Oke, 2000] reported maximum and minimum daily UHI (median and inner quartiles) for each month of the year. We compared VCWG's predictions of UHI against these field observations for an entire year. We further studied diurnal variation of UHI over an entire year. For BUBBLE it is difficult to obtain 1 year of measured data in both the urban and rural sites. We accessed the BUBBLE dataset for validation and some limited observations of the urban climate variables were available for 1 year. However, we could not access 1 year of rural measurements, i.e. the required EPW files concurrent with the urban measurements for 1 year were not available. As a results, we repeated the evaluation exercise for 2 weeks of observations in BUBBLE starting in 21 June 2002.

6. Why not use the highly reliable and comprehensive Basel (BUBBLE) or Toulouse (CAPITOUL) observations, which would also make comparison to the original UWG more straightforward? The authors prefer to undertake their own measurement campaign in Guelph which is limited in duration to only two weeks.

**Response:** Thank you. We have now used the BUBBLE dataset for evaluating the VCWG model. In fact now we can compare our temperature BIAS directly to the BIAS of UWG. The original UWG model exhibited a temperature BIAS of  $-0.6$  K compared to the observations in BUBBLE [Bueno et al., 2012], while the current version of VCWG exhibits a BIAS of  $+0.11$  K.

7. The average bias of the reference variables is actually quite high ( $-1.43$  K,  $1.06$  m/s,  $5$  g/kg). The temperature bias in particular is of the same magnitude as the UHI intensity. The temperature RMSE is also quite high at  $1.56$  K. When it comes to UHI intensity, what is lacking is the RMSE between measured and modelled values-i.e., a measure of the goodness of fit. Calculating the standard deviation of UHI intensity with respect to its own average is not informative. Furthermore, using the proximity of the standard deviations of UHI measurements and UHI model predictions (respectively  $1.23$  K and  $1.53$  K) as an indication of the accuracy of the model is questionable.

**Response:** Thank you. We agree and in the revised submission we have improved the error analysis. Please see section 3.1. Our BIAS and RMSE values have now significantly reduced



compared to BUBBLE observations. In addition we have computed coefficient of determination for these comparisons. Further, the calculations of mean and standard deviation for modelled and observed UHI show that the model and observations are in good agreement. The following statements have been added to section 3.1.

The average BIAS, RMSE, and  $R^2$  for wind speed are  $-0.20 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ ,  $0.50 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ , and  $0.62$ , respectively ... The average BIAS, RMSE, and  $R^2$  for temperature are  $+0.11 \text{ K}$ ,  $1.73 \text{ K}$ , and  $0.73$ , respectively ... The temperature BIAS is improved compared to the predecessor UWG model ( $-0.6 \text{ K}$  [Bueno et al., 2012]). ... The average BIAS, RMSE, and  $R^2$  for specific humidity are  $+0.0011 \text{ kg kg}^{-1}$ , and  $0.0016 \text{ kg kg}^{-1}$ , and  $0.71$ , respectively ... The average VCWG-predicted mean and standard deviation for UHI are  $+1.59$  and  $1.46 \text{ K}$ , respectively. These values are in reasonable agreement with observations reporting mean and standard deviation for UHI of  $+1.72$  and  $0.91 \text{ K}$ , respectively. The average BIAS, RMSE, and  $R^2$  for UHI [K] are  $-0.14 \text{ K}$ ,  $1.40 \text{ K}$ , and  $0.51$ , respectively.

8. After the cursory and unconvincing model validation, the study attempts a sensitivity analysis (“model exploration”, section 3.2) which is now conducted using Vancouver rural weather data. The most important sensitivity analyses, those pertaining to plan area index, frontal area index, leaf area density, building energy configuration and radiation configuration are, again, conducted over a clearly insufficient period of 2 weeks. This is all the more surprising given that, for the sensitivity analysis, no urban measurements are required and computation time is not a major issue. In sections 3.2.5. and 3.2.6 the authors consider model variability for different seasons and different locations. This time the model is simulated for a full year-which shows that computation time is not an issue. Given the weakness of the model validation (my comments above), and of the methodology underlying the sensitivity analysis, I shall not discuss the outcome of the sensitivity study in any detail.

**Response:** Thank you, but we are concerned with the length of the paper if we are to include 1 year of analysis for each exploration. For some explorations, we have vertical profiles of potential temperature, wind speed, specific humidity, and turbulence kinetic energy reported for both nighttime and daytime. Further we have diurnal patterns of UHI to report for some explorations. Reporting these for each exploration over 1 year requires further multiplication of each figure to cover each season. This will lengthen the paper unnecessarily. Instead, we prefer to perform the 1 year analysis only for Vancouver, Canada, by including vertical profiles of the solutions in both daytime and nighttime for each season (Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter) as well as reporting diurnal variations of UHI in each month. For this 1 year exploration, we will also compare VCWG’s predictions to observations of [Runnalls and Oke, 2000], who reported maximum and minimum daily UHI (median and inner quartiles) for each month of the year. The following statements have been added to section 3.2.5.

Figure 15 shows the comparison of VCWG and observed [Runnalls and Oke, 2000] daily maximum and minimum of UHI [K] in each month in Vancouver. The agreement between the model and observations is reasonable. The average BIAS, RMSE, and  $R^2$  for daily maximum and minimum UHI [K] are  $-0.5 \text{ K}$ ,  $0.45 \text{ K}$ , and  $0.97$ , respectively. It can be seen that the maximum daily UHI [K] can be greater than the minimum daily UHI [K], a phenomenon that the model captures well.



### 2.1.5 Miscellaneous

9. Please explain the values of  $C_k$  (=2 for unstable, =1 for stable). They do not seem to be taken from the cited paper by Nazarian et al. (2019). In that paper, the product  $C_k.l_k$  is parametrized, not  $C_k$  separately.

**Response:** Thank you. After improving the model, it is no longer necessary to use different values for  $C_k$  and  $l_k$  given the thermal stability condition. In the model, now we are using the default values proposed by [Nazarian et al., 2020].

10. Why is the waste heat fraction set to 0.3? Please provide a justification for this value or conduct a sensitivity analysis. This parameter can have an important impact on UHI.

**Response:** After using the BUBBLE field campaign for model evaluation, we used waste heat fraction at street to be set to 0, i.e. all the waste heat was assumed to have been released at roof level. In most energy-retrofitted mid-rise apartments, the heat rejection equipment are placed on the roof. After checking the BUBBLE field campaign details we inferred that this choice was more appropriate [Christen and Vogt, 2004, Rotach et al., 2005]. We have performed sensitivity analysis regarding the placement of heat rejection equipment at street level. For mid-rise apartment, we found that the difference in UHI can be up to +1 K higher if heat is rejected at street level. Given the length of the paper, which is already too long, we decided not to include this sensitivity analysis in the paper.

11. The urban and rural measurement stations (both within the University of Guelph campus) are quite close to each other, separated by about 2 km. Please explain why the rural station is not more distant. Also the rural station is northeast of the urban station, i.e., downstream of the urban station given that the predominant wind direction is from west/southwest. Usually, an upstream rural station is preferred.

**Response:** Thank you. We agree, and we had some difficulties locating a suitable rural station for the Guelph campaign. In addition, we had to construct our own EPW file because of this difficulty. Fortunately, after using the BUBBLE field campaign, we are using a separate EPW file which is located conservatively far away from the urban measurement site by 7.1 km.

12. Why do you combine the Guelph rural station data with that of London, Ontario? What do you mean by “combine”? There is also mention of “assembled EPW dataset” which is even more puzzling.

**Response:** Thank you. Please see our response to the previous comment. We had some difficulties locating a suitable rural station for the Guelph campaign. Also, for the station used there was no EPW file. The station data was not complete, so we had to find data from other nearby stations (e.g. from London, Ontario) to create a complete EPW file. For these reasons, we used the BUBBLE field campaign, for which a complete EPW file is available.

13. HMP60 is a Vaisala sensor not Campbell.

**Response:** Thank you. This information is removed from the manuscript because we are now using the BUBBLE field campaign.

14. Please explain why an average building height of 20 m was selected. This seems quite high for that urban location.

**Response:** Thank you. Since we are using the BUBBLE field campaign now, the appropriate building height is 14.6 m [Christen and Vogt, 2004, Rotach et al., 2005].

15. Similarly a plan area index of 0.55 (page 17) seems high. That urban area contains many empty (green) spaces. Additionally, this plan area index value largely exceeds the maximum value considered in the CFD-based parameterization of Nazarian (2019) which this paper seems to be using extensively. So you probably had to extrapolate Nazarian’s parameterization. This deserves some discussion. By the way, the plan area index value in Table 1 is given as 0.44 (exactly the maximum value consider by Nazarian) while the frontal area index becomes 0.55. Which is correct?

**Response:** Thank you. The relevant plan area index in BUBBLE is  $\lambda_p = 0.54$  [Christen and Vogt, 2004, Rotach et al., 2005]. We agree that we have extrapolated the CFD-based parameterization of [Nazarian et al., 2020]. This has been noted in text in section 2.1.3 and appendix A.

Note that the plan area density  $\lambda_p$  [-] in this study is greater than the limit considered by [Nazarian et al., 2020], so we assume that the parameterizations extrapolate to this value of  $\lambda_p$  [-].

### 2.1.6 Conclusion

16. In conclusion, the present manuscript does not succeed in unambiguously establishing the superiority of the proposed model over the original UWG. A direct comparison of the performance between the two models is not provided. Without a doubt, the original UWG methodology presents shortcomings that need to be addressed in a demonstrably superior way. There is a key sentence in the abstract: “The results obtained from the explorations are reasonably consistent with previous studies in the literature, justifying the reliability and computational efficiency of VCWG for operational urban development projects”. Rather than being “reasonably consistent with previous studies”, the authors should demonstrate that their approach is superior. This is something that still remains to be established.

**Response:** We thank the reviewer for the constructive comments, particularly for encouraging us to use the BUBBLE campaign dataset, Monin-Obukhov similarity theory for the rural specific humidity model, and expanding the explorations. We think that overall the model now exhibits lower BIAS and RMSE values in comparison to observations. Further we have clearly highlighted the superiority of VCWG to UWG (see our response to the overall comment). Further we demonstrated that VCWG exhibits a lower temperature BIAS compared to UWG (see our response to comment 6). In addition, we now obtain all expected changes in solution variables (potential temperature, wind speed, specific humidity, and turbulence kinetic energy) in response to plan area density, frontal area density, and leaf area density. We hope our revised model and manuscript successfully demonstrate the improvements made in VCWG and warrant acceptability for publication.

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# The Vertical City Weather Generator (VCWG v1.2.0)

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**Abstract.** The Vertical City Weather Generator (VCWG) is a computationally efficient urban microclimate model developed to predict temporal and vertical variation of potential temperature, wind speed, and specific humidity, and turbulence kinetic energy. It is composed of various sub-models: a rural model, an urban microclimate model, vertical diffusion model, a radiation model, and a building energy model. In-Forced with weather data in a nearby rural site, the Monin-Obukhov Similarity Theory (MOST) rural model is used to solve for the vertical profile of potential temperature, specific humidity, and friction velocity at 10 m elevation, ~~which is forced with weather data~~. The rural model also calculates a horizontal pressure gradient. The rural model outputs are then forced-applied on a vertical diffusion urban microclimate model that solves vertical transport equations for momentum, temperature, and specific humidity (energy (temperature), momentum, specific humidity, and turbulence kinetic energy). The urban microclimate vertical diffusion model is also coupled to ~~a building energy model~~ the radiation and building energy models using two-way interaction. The aerodynamic and thermal effects of urban elements and vegetation are considered ~~in VCWG. To evaluate~~. The predictions of the VCWG model ~~, a~~ are compared to observations of the Basel UrBan Boundary Layer Experiment (BUBBLE) microclimate field campaign ~~was held in Guelph, Canada, from 15 July 2018 to 5 September 2018. The meteorological measurements were carried out under a comprehensive set of wind directions, wind speeds, and thermal stability conditions in both the rural and the nearby urban areas. The for two weeks starting 21 June 2002. The~~ model evaluation indicates that the VCWG predicts vertical profiles of meteorological variables in reasonable agreement with field measurements. The average BIAS and RMSE for wind speed, temperature, and specific humidity ~~is -1.06~~ are  $-0.20 \pm 0.50$  ms<sup>-1</sup>,  $-1.43 \pm 0.11 \pm 1.73$  K, and  $0.005 \pm 0.0011 \pm 0.0016$  kgkg<sup>-1</sup>, respectively. ~~The modeled and observed VCWG-predicted mean and standard deviation for Urban Heat Island (UHI) values are in agreement. VCWG-predicted mean and standard deviation for UHI are +1.20 and 1.53 UHI) are +1.59 and 1.46K, respectively, in reasonable agreement with observations reporting a mean and deviation for UHI of +1.08 and 1.23 standard deviation for UHI of +1.72 and 0.91 K, respectively.~~ The performance of the model is further explored to investigate the effects of urban configurations such as plan and frontal area densities, varying levels of vegetation, building energy configuration, radiation

configuration, seasonal variations, [and](#) different climate zones ~~and time series analysis~~ on the model predictions. The results obtained from the explorations are reasonably consistent with previous studies in the literature, justifying the reliability and computational efficiency of VCWG for operational urban development projects.

## 1 Introduction

5 Urban areas interact with the atmosphere through various exchange processes of heat, momentum, and mass, which substantially impact the human comfort, air quality, and ~~urban~~ energy consumption. Such complex interactions are observable from the Urban Canopy Layer (UCL) to a few hundred meters within the Atmospheric Boundary Layer (ABL) (Britter and Hanna, 2003). Modeling enables a deeper understanding of interactions between urban areas and the atmosphere and can possibly offer solutions toward mitigating adverse effects of urban development on the climate. A brief review of modeling efforts is  
10 essential toward more accurate model development for the understanding of urban areas-atmosphere interactions.

Mesoscale models incorporating the urban climate were initially aimed to resolve weather features with grid resolutions of at best few hundred meters horizontally and a few meters vertically, without the functionality to resolve microscale three-dimensional flows or to account for atmospheric interactions with specific urban elements such as roads, roofs, and walls (Bornstein, 1975). These models usually consider the effect of built-up areas by introducing an urban aerodynamic roughness length  
15 (Grimmond and Oke, 1999) or adding source or sink terms in the momentum (drag) and energy (anthropogenic heat) equations (Dupont et al., 2004). Therefore, if higher grid resolutions less than ten meters (horizontal and vertical) are desired (Moeng et al., 2007; Wang et al., 2009; Talbot et al., 2012), microscale climate models should be deployed. Some efforts also have begun to develop multiscale climate models by coupling mesoscale and microscale models (~~Chen et al., 2011; Conry et al., 2014; Kochanski et al.~~  
[Chen et al., 2011; Kochanski et al., 2015; Mauree et al., 2018](#)). Numerous studies have used Computational Fluid Dynamics  
20 (CFD) to investigate the urban microclimate taking into account interactions between the atmosphere and the urban elements with full three-dimensional flow analysis (Saneinejad et al., 2012; Blocken, 2015; Nazarian and Kleissl, 2016; Aliabadi et al., 2017; Nazarian et al., 2018). Despite accurate predictions, CFD models are not computationally efficient, particularly for weather forecasting at larger scales and for a long period of time, and they usually do not represent many processes in the real atmosphere such as clouds and precipitation. As an alternative, ~~UCMs~~ [Urban Canopy Models \(UCMs\)](#) require  
25 understanding of the interactions between the atmosphere and urban elements to parameterize various exchange processes of radiation, momentum, heat, and moisture within and just above the canopy, based on experimental data (Masson, 2000; Kusaka et al., 2001; Chin et al., 2005; Aliabadi et al., 2019), three-dimensional simulations, or simplified urban configurations (~~Martilli et al., 2002; Cocea and Belcher, 2004; Krayenhoff et al., 2014, 2015; Nazarian and Kleissl, 2016~~) ([Martilli et al., 2002; Krayenh](#)  
. These urban canopy models are more computationally efficient than CFD models. They are designed to provide more details  
30 on heat storage and radiation exchange, while they employ less detailed flow calculations.

Urban microclimate models must account for a few unique features of the urban environment. Urban obstacles such as trees and buildings contribute substantially to the changing of flow and turbulence patterns in cities (Kastner-Klein et al., 2004). Difficulties arise when the spatially inhomogeneous urban areas create highly three-dimensional wind patterns that result in

the difficulty of parameterizations (Roth, 2000; Resler et al., 2017). For example, the surfaces of urban obstacles exert form and skin drag and consequently alter flow direction and produce eddies at different spatiotemporal scales. This can lead to the formation of shear layers at roof level with variable oscillation frequencies (Tseng et al., 2006; Masson et al., 2008; Zajic et al., 2011), all of such phenomena should be properly approximated in parameterizations.

5 Heat exchanges between the indoor and outdoor environments significantly influence the urban microclimate. Various studies have attempted to parametrize heat sources and sinks caused by buildings such as heat fluxes due to infiltration, exfiltration, ventilation, walls, roofs, roads, windows, and building energy systems (Kikegawa et al., 2003; Salamanca et al., 2010; Yaghoobian and Kleissl, 2012). Therefore, a Building Energy Model (BEM) is required to be properly integrated in an urban microclimate model to take account of the impact of building energy performance on the urban microclimate (Bueno et al., 2011, 2012b; 10 Gros et al., 2014). This two-way interaction between the urban microclimate and indoor environment can significantly affect Urban Heat Island (~~UHI~~)-UHI [K] and energy consumption of buildings (~~Salamanca et al., 2014~~)([Salamanca et al., 2014](#)).

Urban vegetation can substantially reduce the adverse effects of ~~UHI~~UHI [K], particularly during heat waves, resulting in more thermal comfort (Grimmond et al., 1996; Akbari et al., 2001; Armson et al., 2012). Urban trees can potentially provide shade and shelter, and ~~;~~therefore, change the energy balance of the individual buildings as well as the entire city 15 (Akbari et al., 2001). A study of the local-scale surface energy balance revealed that the amount of energy dissipated due to the cooling effect of trees is not negligible and should be parameterized properly (Grimmond et al., 1996). In addition, the interaction between urban elements, most importantly trees and buildings, is evident in radiation trapping within the canyon and most importantly shading impact of trees (Krayenhoff et al., 2014; Redon et al., 2017; Broadbent et al., 2019). Buildings and trees obstruct the sky with implications in long and shortwave radiation fluxes downward and upward that may create 20 unpredictable diurnal and seasonal changes in ~~UHI~~UHI [K] (~~Futcher, 2008; Kleerekoper et al., 2012; Yang and Li, 2015~~)([Kleerekoper et al., 2012; Yang and Li, 2015](#)). Also, it has been shown that not only trees but also the fractional vegetation coverage on urban surfaces can alter urban temperatures with implications in ~~UHI~~UHI [K] (Armson et al., 2012). Trees, particularly those which are shorter than buildings, also exert drag and alter flow patterns within the canopy, however, this effect is not as significant as that drag induced by buildings (Krayenhoff et al., 2015). Such complex interactions must be accounted 25 for in successful urban microclimate models.

## 1.1 Research Gaps

Numerous studies have focused on high fidelity urban microclimate models with high spatiotemporal flow resolution, capturing important features of the urban microclimate with acceptable accuracy (Gowardhan et al., 2011; Soulhac et al., 2011; Blocken, 2015; Nazarian et al., 2018). Some example Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) models of this kind include Open-source 30 Field Operation And Manipulation (OpenFOAM) (Aliabadi et al., 2017, 2018), Parallelized Large-Eddy Simulation Model (PALM) (Maronga et al., 2015; Resler et al., 2017), and ENVI-met (Crank et al., 2018). Despite the advances, however, high fidelity models capable of resolving three-dimensional flows at microscale are not computationally efficient and they are complex to implement for operational applications. As a remedy, lower-dimensional flow urban microclimate models have been developed with many practical applications in city planning, architecture, and engineering consulting. For example, [such](#) bulk



flow (single-layer) models ~~such as~~ Urban Weather Generator (UWG) calculate the flow dynamics in one point, usually the centre of a hypothetical urban canyon, which is representative of all locations (Mills, 1997; Kusaka et al., 2001; Salamanca et al., 2010; Ryu et al., 2011; Bueno et al., 2012a, 2014). Another bulk flow (single-layer) model is Canyon Air Temperature (CAT) model, which utilizes standard data from a meteorological station to estimate air temperature in a street canyon (Erell and Williamson, 2006). The Town Energy Balance (TEB) calculates energy balances for urban surfaces, which is forced by meteorological data and incoming solar radiation in the urban site with no connection to rural meteorological conditions (Masson et al., 2002). The Temperatures of Urban Facets - 3D (TUF-3D) model calculates urban surface temperatures with the main focus on three-dimensional radiation exchange, but it adopts bulk flow (single-layer) modeling without a connection to the surrounding rural area (Krayenhoff and Voogt, 2007). More recently TUF-3D was coupled to an Indoor-Outdoor Building Energy Simulator (TUF-3D-IOBES), but still this model adopted a bulk flow (single-layer) parameterization (Yaghoobian and Kleissl, 2012). The multi-layer Building Effect Parametrization-Tree (BEP-Tree) model includes variable building heights, the vertical variation of climate variables and the effects of trees, but it is not linked to a building energy model (Martilli et al., 2002; Krayenhoff, 2014; Krayenhoff et al., 2020). More recently, the BEP model has been coupled to a Building Energy Model (BEP+BEM) but it is forced with meteorological variables from higher altitudes above a city using mesoscale models, instead of near surface meteorological variables measured outside the city (rural areas). An overview of the literature reveals an apparent paucity of an independent urban microclimate model that accounts for some spatiotemporal variation of meteorological parameters in the urban environment and considers the effects of trees, building energy, radiation, and the connection to the near-surface rural meteorological conditions measured outside a city, without the need for mesoscale modeling, computationally efficiently and is operationally simple for practical applications.

## 20 1.2 Objectives

In this study, we present a new urban microclimate model, called the Vertical City Weather Generator (VCWG), which attempts to overcome some of the limitations mentioned in the previous section. It resolves vertical profiles (~~the direction in which turbulent transport is significant~~) of ~~climate parameters~~ of climate variables, such as temperature, wind, and specific humidity, in relation to urban design parameters. VCWG also includes a building energy model. It allows parametric investigation of design options on urban climate control at multiple heights, particularly if ~~high density and high-rise urban~~ multi-storey building design options are considered. This is a significant advantage over the bulk flow (single-layer) models such as UWG, which only consider one point for flow dynamics inside a hypothetical canyon (Masson, 2000; Kusaka et al., 2001; Dupont et al., 2004; Krayenhoff and Voogt, 2007; Lee and Park, 2008; Bueno et al., 2012a, 2014). The VCWG is designed to cycle through different atmospheric stability conditions that could be observed over the course of a day, but it is very computationally efficient with the capability to be run up to and beyond an entire year. The advantages of VCWG are as follows. 1) It does not need to be coupled to a mesoscale weather model because it functions standalone as a microclimate model. 2) Unlike many UCMs that are forced with climate variables above the urban roughness sublayer (e.g. TUF-3D), VCWG is forced with rural climate variables measured at 2m-2 m (temperature and humidity) and 10m-10 m (wind) elevation that are widely accessible and available around the world, making VCWG highly practical for urban design investigations in different climates. Further,

unlike UWG, VCWG uses the Monin-Obukhov similarity theory in the rural area to consider effects of thermal stability and aerodynamic roughness length to establish vertical profiles of potential temperature and specific humidity. 3) VCWG provides urban climate information in one dimension, i.e. resolved vertically. ~~This, which~~ is advantageous over bulk flow (single-layer) models ~~because vertical transport of momentum, heat, and atmospheric species is significantly important~~. 4) VCWG is coupled with the building energy model using two-way interaction. 5) Unlike UWG, VCWG considers the effect of trees in the urban climate by modelling evapotranspiration (latent heat transfer), sensible heat transfer, radiation transfer, drag, and other processes due to trees.

To evaluate the model, ~~a VCWG's predictions are compared to observation of the Basel UrBan Boundary Layer Experiment (BUBBLE) microclimate field campaign in a representative urban area and a surrounding rural area was held in Guelph, Canada, during the Summer of 2018. Three components of wind velocity, temperature, relative humidity, and solar radiation were rigorously measured in this field campaign at different locations and under a comprehensive set of wind speeds, wind directions, and atmospheric stability conditions for two weeks starting 21 June 2002 (Christen and Vogt, 2004; Rotach et al., 2005).~~ The model predictions of air temperature, wind speed, and specific humidity are compared to the observations. To explore the model, the VCWG is set to run to investigate the effects of building dimensions, urban vegetation, building energy configuration, radiation configuration, seasonal variations, ~~other climates, and time series analysis on the model outcome~~ and other climates.

### 1.3 Organization of the Article

The paper is structured as follows. Section 2 describes the methodology. In Sect. 2.1, all components of the VCWG and the way that they are integrated are presented. First, the Energy Plus Weather (EPW) dataset is introduced, which is the background rural weather data used to force VCWG. Next, the Rural Model (RM), used to determine the potential temperature profile, specific humidity profile, friction velocity, and the horizontal pressure gradient in the rural area, is described. Then, details are discussed for the one-dimensional vertical diffusion model for the urban environment, the building energy model, and the radiation model, which are forced by the RM to predict the vertical profiles of meteorological quantities in the urban area. Section 2.2 describes the location and details of the ~~field campaign, including meteorological instruments used~~ BUBBLE field campaign. Section 3 provides the results and discussion. It starts with the detailed evaluation of VCWG by comparing simulation results with those of the BUBBLE field measurements in Sect. 3.1. Then, results from other explorations including effects of building dimensions, foliage density, building energy configuration, radiation configuration, seasonal variation, and different climate zones ~~, and time series analysis~~ on urban climate are presented in Sect. 3.2 with limited evaluations against observed UHI [K] values. Finally, Sect. 4 is devoted to conclusions and future work. Additional information about the ~~equations used in the model and the details about the VCWG software~~ sub-models and equations used are provided in the appendix.

## 2 Methodology

### 2.1 Vertical City Weather Generator (VCWG)

Figure 1 shows the VCWG model schematic. VCWG consists of four integrated ~~sub-models~~ sub-models: 1) a Rural Model (RM) (Sect. 2.1.2) forces meteorological boundary conditions on VCWG based on Monin-Obukhov similarity theory (~~Businger et al., 1971~~; Paulson, 1970; Businger et al., 1971; Dyer, 1974) and a soil ~~heat transfer model (Bueno et al., 2012a, 2014)~~ energy balance model (Bueno et al., 2012a, 2014); 2) a one-dimensional vertical diffusion model (Sect. 2.1.3) is used for calculation of the ~~urban-vertical profiles of urban microclimate variables including~~ potential temperature, wind speed, specific humidity, and turbulence kinetic energy, and specific humidity profiles, considering the effect of trees, buildings, and building energy system. This model was initially developed by Santiago and Martilli (2010) and Simón-Moral et al. (2017), while it was later ingested into another model called the Building Effect Parametrization with Trees (BEP-Tree), considering the effects of trees (Krayenhoff, 2014; Krayenhoff et al., 2015, 2020); 3) a Building Energy Model (BEM) (Sect. 2.1.4) is used to determine the ~~sensible and latent waste heats~~ waste heat of buildings imposed on the urban environment. This model is a component of the Urban Weather Generator (UWG) model (Bueno et al., 2012a, 2014); 4) a radiation model with vegetation (Sect. 2.1.5) is used to compute the longwave (~~Loughner et al., 2012~~) and shortwave (~~Redon et al., 2017~~) and shortwave heat exchanges between the urban canyon, trees, and the atmosphere/sky. A summary of this model is provided by Meili et al. (2020) and references within.

The ~~sub-models~~ sub-models are integrated to predict vertical variation of urban microclimate ~~parameters~~ variables including potential temperature, wind speed, specific humidity, and turbulence kinetic energy as influenced by aerodynamic and thermal effects of urban elements including longwave and shortwave radiation exchanges, sensible heat fluxes released from urban elements, cooling effect of trees, and the induced drag by urban obstacles. The ~~Rural Model (RM)~~ RM takes latitude, longitude, dry bulb temperature, relative humidity, dew point temperature, and pressure at 2 m elevation, wind speed and direction at 10 m elevation, down-welling direct ~~radiation, and shortwave radiation~~, down-welling diffuse ~~radiation from an Energy Plus Weather (EPW)~~ shortwave radiation, down-welling longwave radiation, and deep soil temperature from an EPW file. For every time step, and forced with the set of weather data, the RM then computes a potential temperature profile, a ~~constant~~ specific humidity profile, friction velocity, and a horizontal pressure gradient as a function of friction velocity, all of which are forced as boundary conditions to the one-dimensional vertical diffusion model in the urban area. The potential temperature and specific humidity are forced as fixed values on top of the domain for the urban vertical diffusion model in the temperature and specific humidity equations, respectively. The horizontal pressure gradient is forced as a source term for the urban vertical diffusion model in the momentum equation. While forced by the RM, the urban one-dimensional vertical diffusion model is also coupled with ~~a building energy model and the two-dimensional radiation model~~ the building energy and radiation models. The three models have feedback interaction ~~and converge to a potential temperature solution iteratively~~. The urban one-dimensional vertical diffusion model calculates the flow quantities at the centre of control volumes, which are generated by splitting the urban computational domain into multiple layers within ~~an~~ and above the urban canyon (see Fig. ??). The urban domain extends to ~~five~~ three times building height that conservatively ~~includes the entire~~ falls closer to the top of the atmospheric roughness sub-

layer (Santiago and Martilli, 2010; Aliabadi et al., 2017) in the urban area (Santiago and Martilli, 2010; Aliabadi et al., 2017), but within the inertial layer in the rural area, where Monin-Obukhov similarity theory can be applied (Basu and Lacser, 2017). The feedback interaction coupling scheme among the building energy model, radiation model, and the urban one-dimensional vertical diffusion model is designed to update the boundary conditions, surfaces-surface temperatures, and the source/sink terms in the transport equations. For each time step, the iterative calculations for all the sub-models continue until the convergence criterion of potential temperature in the canyon are fulfilled in successive time step iterations. More details about the sub-models are provided in the subsequent sections and the appendix.

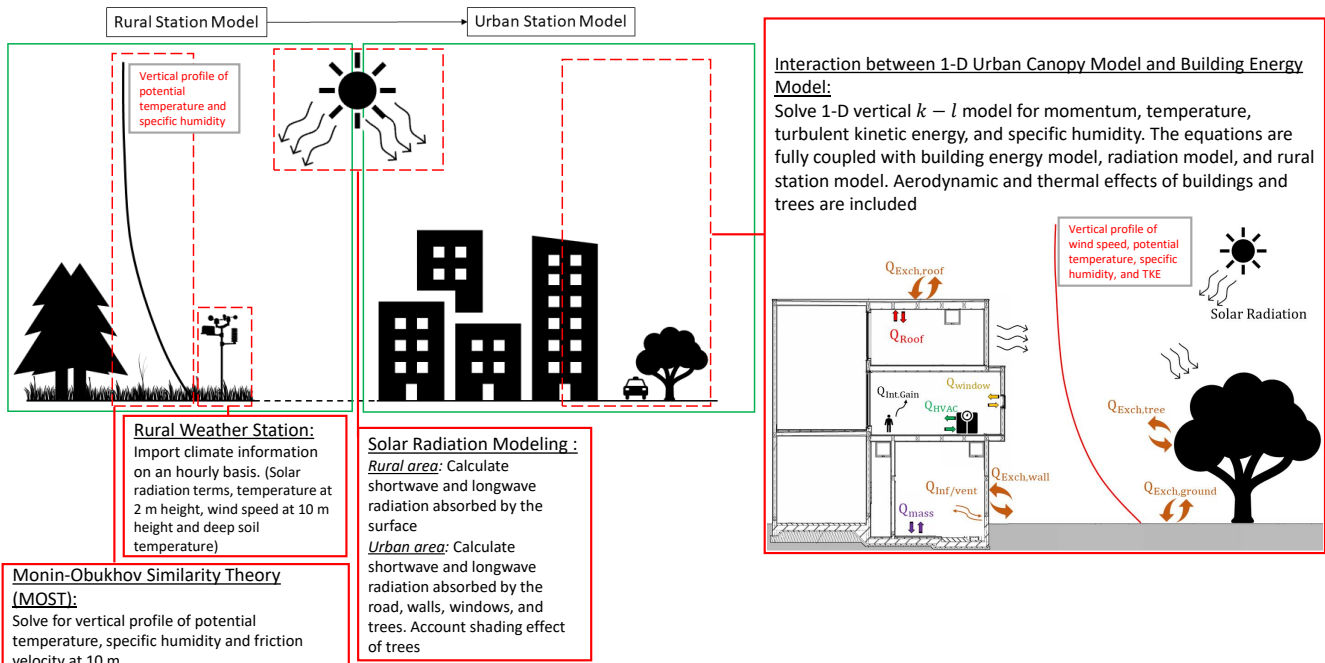
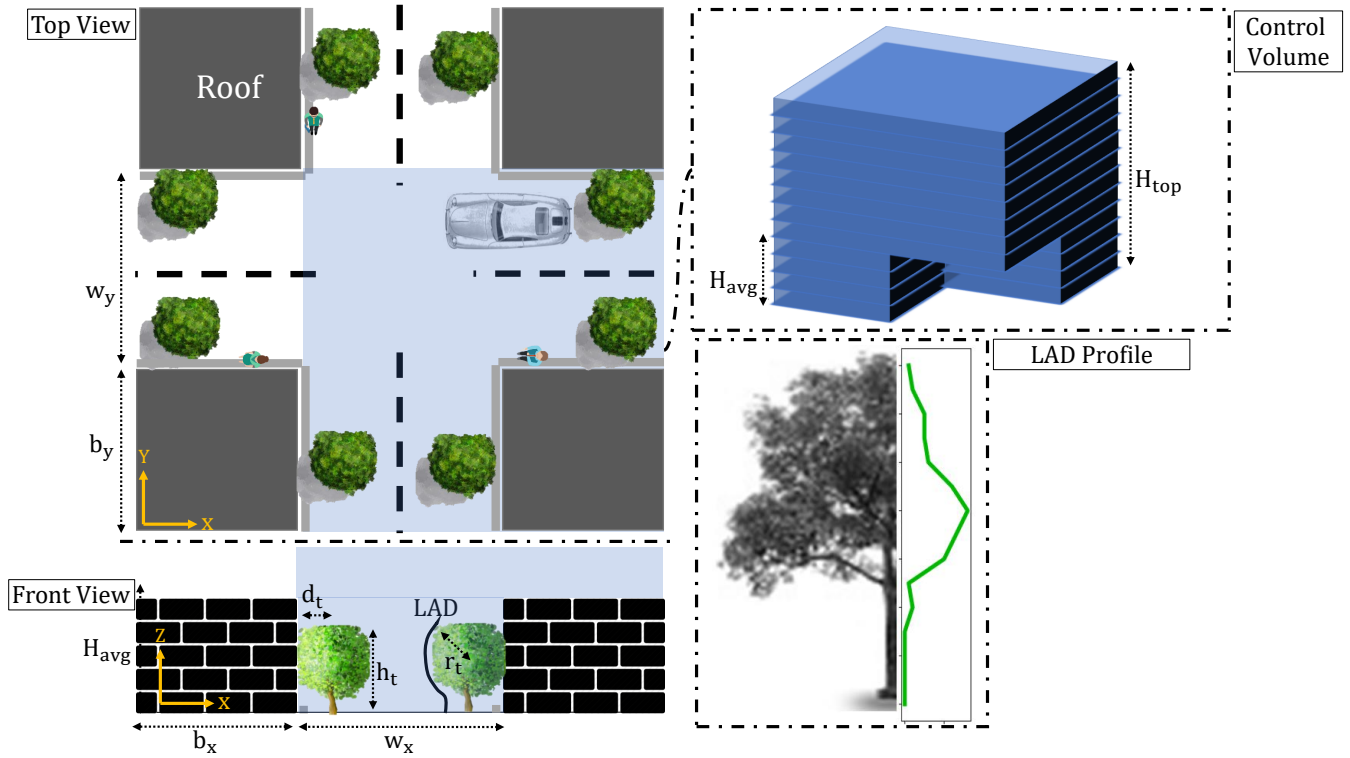


Figure 1. The schematic of Vertical City Weather Generator (VCWG).

### 2.1.1 Energy Plus Weather Data

Building energy and solar radiation simulations are typically carried out with standardized weather files. Energy Plus Weather (EPW) files include recent weather data for 2100 locations and are saved in the standard EnergyPlus format, developed by US department of energy.<sup>1</sup> The data is available for most North American cities, European cities, and other regions around the World. The weather data are arranged by World Meteorological Organization (WMO) based on region and country. An EPW file contains typical hourly-based data of meteorological variables. The meteorological variables are dry bulb temperature, dew point temperature, relative humidity, incoming direct and diffusive solar-shortwave radiation fluxes from sky-the sky, incoming

<sup>1</sup><https://energyplus.net/weather>



**Figure 2.** Simplified urban area used in VCWG and corresponding layers of control volumes within and above the canyon. The height of the domain is five-three times of the average building height. A leaf area density (LAD) [m<sup>2</sup>m<sup>-3</sup>] profile is considered to represent the tree.

longwave radiation flux, wind direction, wind speed, sky condition, precipitation -(occasionally), deep soil temperature, and general information about field logistics and soil properties. Precipitation data is often missing in the EPW files, which affects calculation of latent heat in the rural area.

### 2.1.2 Rural Model

- 5 In the rural model, the Monin–Obukhov Similarity Theory (MOST) is used to solve for the vertical profile-profiles of potential temperature, specific humidity, and friction velocity at 10 m elevation using meteorological measurements near the surface. MOST is usually applied to the atmospheric surface layer over flat and homogeneous lands to describe the vertical profiles of wind speed, potential temperature, and specific humidity as functions of momentum flux, sensible heat flux, and latent heat flux measured near the surface, respectively. Using MOST the gradient of potential temperature is given by

$$10 \quad \frac{\partial \bar{\Theta}_{rur}}{\partial z} = \frac{Q_{net,rur}}{\rho C_p \kappa u_* z} \frac{Q_{sen,rur}}{\rho C_p \kappa u_* z} \Phi_H \left( \frac{z}{L} \right), \quad (1)$$

where  $\bar{\Theta}_{\text{rur}}$  [K] is mean potential temperature in the rural area,  $Q_{\text{sen,rur}}$  [ $\text{Wm}^{-2}$ ] is net rural sensible heat flux,  $\rho$  [ $\text{kgm}^{-3}$ ] is air density near the rural surface,  $C_p$  [ $\text{Jkg}^{-1}\text{K}^{-1}$ ] is air specific heat capacity,  $u_*$  [ $\text{ms}^{-1}$ ] is friction velocity, and  $\kappa=0.4$  [-] is the von Kármán constant.  $\Phi_H$  [-] is known as the universal dimensionless temperature gradient. This terms ~~was~~ is estimated for different thermal stability conditions based on experimental data by (Businger et al., 1971; Dyer, 1974)

$$5 \quad \Phi_H \left( \frac{z}{L} \right) = \begin{cases} 1 + 5 \frac{z}{L}, & \frac{z}{L} > 0 (\text{Stable}) \\ 1, & \frac{z}{L} = 0 (\text{Neutral}) \\ \left( 1 - \frac{16z}{L} \right)^{-1/2}, & \frac{z}{L} < 0 (\text{Unstable}). \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

In the dimensionless stability parameter  $z/L$  [-],  $z$  [m] is height above ground and  $L$  [m] is Obukhov-Length given by

$$L = \frac{-\bar{\Theta}_{\text{rur},z=2m} u_*^3}{g \kappa \frac{Q_{\text{net,rur}}}{\rho C_p}} - \frac{\bar{\Theta}_{\text{rur},z=2m} u_*^3}{g \kappa \frac{Q_{\text{sen,rur}}}{\rho C_p}}. \quad (3)$$

It has been observed that there is a monotonic reduction in friction velocity with increasing stratification (Joffre et al., 2001). So, friction velocity in Eq. 1 is estimated from momentum flux generalization (Monin and Obukhov, 1957)

$$10 \quad \frac{\partial \bar{S}_{\text{rur}}}{\partial z} = \frac{u_*}{\kappa z} \Phi_M \left( \frac{z}{L} \right), \quad (4)$$

where  $\bar{S}_{\text{rur}}$  [ $\text{ms}^{-1}$ ] is the mean horizontal wind speed in the rural area and  $\Phi_M$  [-] is the universal dimensionless wind shear and is estimated for different thermal stability conditions based on experimental data (Businger et al., 1971; Dyer, 1974)

$$\Phi_M \left( \frac{z}{L} \right) = \begin{cases} 1 + 5 \frac{z}{L}, & \frac{z}{L} > 0 (\text{Stable}) \\ 1, & \frac{z}{L} = 0 (\text{Neutral}) \\ \left( 1 - \frac{16z}{L} \right)^{-1/4}, & \frac{z}{L} < 0 (\text{Unstable}). \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

Friction velocity can be determined by ~~numerically~~ integrating Eq. 4 from the elevation of the rural aerodynamic roughness length  $z_{0\text{rur}}$  [m] to 10 m in an iterative process. This method provides a friction velocity that is corrected for thermal stability effects. The potential temperature profiles are also obtained by ~~numerical~~ integration of Eq. 1 (Paulson, 1970).

Given the similarity of heat and mass transfer, the same universal dimensionless temperature gradient can be used for the universal dimensionless specific humidity gradient, i.e.  $\Phi_Q = \Phi_H$  [-] (Zeng and Dickinson, 1998). The net rural latent heat flux  $Q_{\text{lat,rur}}$  [ $\text{Wm}^{-2}$ ] can either be directly measured or estimated using the Bowen ratio  $\beta_{\text{rur}}$  [-] and the net rural sensible heat flux via  $Q_{\text{lat,rur}} = Q_{\text{sen,rur}} / \beta_{\text{rur}}$  [ $\text{Wm}^{-2}$ ]. So the gradient of the specific humidity can be given by the following expression employing latent heat of vaporization  $L_v$  [ $\text{Jkg}^{-1}$ ], which can also be integrated to give the vertical profile of specific humidity.

$$\frac{\partial \bar{Q}_{\text{rur}}}{\partial z} = \frac{Q_{\text{lat,rur}}}{\rho L_v \kappa u_* z} \Phi_Q \left( \frac{z}{L} \right). \quad (6)$$

Meteorological information obtained from the weather station including direct and diffuse ~~solar radiation, temperature at~~ the shortwave radiation, longwave radiation, temperature at 2 m elevation, ~~and~~ wind speed at 10 m elevation, and deep soil

temperature are used to calculate the net ~~sensible heat flux~~ rural sensible and latent heat fluxes at the surface via the surface energy balance

$$Q_{net,rur} + Q_{S,rur} + Q_{L,rur} = \text{sensible heat flux } Q_{sen,rur} + Q_{lat,rur} + Q_{grd}, \quad (7)$$

where ~~is the net sensible heat flux (positive upward from the surface into the atmosphere at the rural site)~~  $Q_{S,rur}$  and  $Q_{L,rur}$  are  
5 net shortwave and longwave radiation fluxes at the surface (positive with energy flux into the surface) and  $Q_{sen,rur}$ ,  $Q_{lat,rur}$ , and  
 $Q_{grd}$  [all in  $\text{Wm}^{-2}$ ] are net sensible, ~~is the sensible heat flux from biogenic activity of vegetation (Ciccioli et al., 1997; van der Kooi et al., 2007)~~,  
~~is the convection heat transfer coefficient~~ latent, and ground heat fluxes at the surface, ~~is the rural surface temperature~~  
calculated by the rural model, ~~is the air temperature at elevation~~, and ~~is the longwave and shortwave radiation absorbed by rural~~  
surface (for more details see Appendix A). Numerous studies have focused on parameterization of convection heat transfer  
10 coefficient reviewed by Palyvos (2008). In this study, the following boundary-layer type correlation between and mean wind  
speed ( $U$ ) is used

$$h_{conv} = 3.7 \overline{S}_{rur} + 5.8.$$

(positive with energy flux leaving the surface). Appendix A details the calculation of each term.

The rural model also outputs a horizontal pressure gradient based on the friction velocity calculation that is later used as a  
15 source term for the urban one-dimensional vertical diffusion momentum equation. The pressure gradient is parameterized as  
 $\rho u_*^2 / H_{top}$  [ $\text{kgm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-2}$ ], where  $H_{top}$  [m] is the height of the top of the domain, ~~here five~~ (Krayenhoff et al., 2015; Nazarian et al., 2020)  
here three times the average building height (Krayenhoff et al., 2015; ?).

Another assumption made in the rural model is that the specific humidity is constant in the vertical direction, i.e. invariant  
with height, for the lowest range of the atmospheric surface layer. This assumption is made, for lack of a better assumption,  
20 ~~because with only surface data and lack of latent heat flux, it is not practical to calculate variation of specific humidity with~~  
~~height in the surface layer.~~

A density profile is required to convert the real temperature profile in the rural area ( $T$ ) to potential temperature profile and  
vice versa, which is used in the Eq. 1. Using a reference density ( $\rho_0$ ), reference temperature ( $T_0$ ), and reference pressure ( $p_0$ ) at the  
surface level from the weather station at 2 m elevation, and considering a lapse rate of for density within the surface layer, the  
25 ~~density profile can be simplistically parameterized by~~  $\rho = \rho_0 - 0.000133(z - z_0)$ .

After calculating potential temperature and specific humidity at the top of the domain by the rural model, these values can  
be applied as fixed-value boundary condition at the top of the domain in the urban one-dimensional vertical diffusion model in  
the energy-temperature (energy) and specific humidity transport equations.

### 2.1.3 Urban Vertical Diffusion Model

30 Numerous studies have attempted to parameterize the interaction between urban elements and the atmosphere in terms of  
dynamical and thermal effects, from very simple models based on MOST (Stull, 1988), to the bulk flow (single-layer) pa-  
rameterizations (Krayenhoff and Voogt, 2007; Masson, 2000; Kusaka et al., 2001; Bueno et al., 2014), to multi-layer models



(Hamdi and Masson, 2008; Santiago and Martilli, 2010; Krayenhoff et al., 2015, 2020) with different levels of complexity. The multi-layer models usually treat aerodynamic and thermal effects of urban elements as sink or source terms in ~~momentum, heat, temperature (energy), momentum~~, specific humidity, and turbulence kinetic energy equations. Parameterization of the exchange processes between the urban elements and the atmosphere can be accomplished using either experimental data or CFD simulations (Martilli et al., 2002; Dupont et al., 2004; Kondo et al., 2005; Kono et al., 2010; Lundquist et al., 2010; Santiago and Martilli, 2010; Krayenhoff et al., 2015; Aliabadi et al., 2019). CFD-based parameterizations proposed by Martilli and Santiago (2007), Santiago and Martilli (2010), Krayenhoff et al. (2015), ~~?~~ [Nazarian et al. \(2020\)](#) use results from Reynolds-Averaged Navier-Stokes (RANS) or Large-Eddy Simulations (LES) including effects of trees and buildings. These parameterizations consider the CFD results at different elevations after being temporally and horizontally averaged.

For the one-dimensional vertical diffusion model, any variable such as cross- and along-canyon wind velocities ( $U$  and  $V$  [ $\text{ms}^{-1}$ ], respectively), potential temperature ( $\Theta$  [K]), and specific humidity ( $Q$  [ $\text{kgkg}^{-1}$ ]) is presented using Reynolds averaging. The one-dimensional time-averaged momentum equations in the cross- and along-canyon components can be shown as ~~(Santiago and Martilli, 2010; Krayenhoff, 2014; Krayenhoff et al., 2015; Simón-Moral et al., 2017; ?; Krayenhoff et al., 2020)~~ [\(Santiago and Martilli, 2010; Krayenhoff, 2014; Krayenhoff et al., 2015; Simón-Moral et al., 2017; Nazarian et al., 2020; Krayenhoff et al.](#)

$$\frac{\partial \bar{U}}{\partial t} = - \underbrace{\frac{\partial \bar{u}\bar{w}}{\partial z}}_I - \underbrace{\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial \bar{P}}{\partial x}}_{II} - \underbrace{D_x}_{III}, \quad (8)$$

$$\frac{\partial \bar{V}}{\partial t} = - \underbrace{\frac{\partial \bar{v}\bar{w}}{\partial z}}_I - \underbrace{\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial \bar{P}}{\partial y}}_{II} - \underbrace{D_y}_{III}, \quad (9)$$

where  $\bar{P}$  [Pa] is time-averaged pressure. The terms on the right hand side of Eqs. 8 and 9 are the vertical gradient of turbulent flux of momentum (I), acceleration due to the large-scale pressure gradient (II), and the sum of pressure, building form, building skin, and vegetation drag terms (III). The parameterization of the latter term is detailed in Appendix A and is not reported here for brevity. K-theory ~~was~~ [is](#) used to parameterize the vertical momentum fluxes, i.e.  $\partial \bar{u}\bar{w} / \partial z = -K_m \partial \bar{U} / \partial z$  and  $\partial \bar{v}\bar{w} / \partial z = -K_m \partial \bar{V} / \partial z$  (the same approach will be used in ~~energy and temperature (energy) and specific~~ humidity equations), where the diffusion coefficient is calculated using a  $k-\ell$  [turbulence](#) model

$$K_m = C_k \ell_k k^{1/2}, \quad (10)$$

where  $C_k$  [-] is a constant and  $\ell_k$  [m] is a length scale optimized using sensitivity analysis based on CFD ~~(?)~~ [can be obtained based on the bulk Richardson number](#), ~~where is gravitational acceleration, is average building height, and are the variation of temperature and horizontal wind speed over vertical distance (i.e. roof level minus street level), and is the mean temperature in the canyon. was determined depending on a critical bulk Richardson number, which is set to . The value is used for unstable condition (-) and is used for stable condition (-)~~ [\(Nazarian et al., 2020\)](#). Note that the plan area density  $\lambda_p$  [-] [in this study is](#)

greater than the limit considered by Nazarian et al. (2020), so we assume that the parameterizations extrapolate to this value of  $\lambda_p$  [-]. More details on  $C_k$  [-] and  $\ell_k$  [m] are provided in Krayenhoff (2014) and Nazarian et al. (2020). The turbulence kinetic energy  $k$  [ $m^2s^{-2}$ ] can be calculated using a prognostic equation (Krayenhoff et al., 2015)

$$\frac{\partial k}{\partial t} = \underbrace{K_m \left[ \left( \frac{\partial \bar{U}}{\partial z} \right)^2 + \left( \frac{\partial \bar{V}}{\partial z} \right)^2 \right]}_I + \underbrace{\frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left( \frac{K_m}{\sigma_k} \frac{\partial k}{\partial z} \right)}_{II} - \underbrace{\frac{g}{\Theta_0} \frac{K_m}{Pr_t} \frac{\partial \bar{\Theta}}{\partial z}}_{III} + \underbrace{S_{wake}}_{IV} - \underbrace{\varepsilon}_{V}, \quad (11)$$

- 5 where  $g$  [ $ms^{-2}$ ] is acceleration due to gravity and  $\Theta_0$  [K] is a reference potential temperature. The terms on the right hand side of Eq. 11 are shear production (I), turbulent transport of kinetic energy parameterized based on K-theory (II), buoyant production/dissipation (III), wake production by urban obstacles and trees (IV), and dissipation (V). Parameterization Parameterizations of the last two terms is are presented in more detail in Appendix A and Krayenhoff (2014) and by Krayenhoff (2014) and are not reported here for brevity.  $\sigma_k$  [-] is turbulent Prandtl number for kinetic energy, which is generally suggested to be
- 10  $\sigma_k=1$  [-] (Pope, 2000).

To calculate vertical profile of potential temperature in the urban area, the energy transport equation can be derived as

$$\frac{\partial \bar{\Theta}}{\partial t} = \underbrace{\frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left( \frac{K_m}{Pr_t} \frac{\partial \bar{\Theta}}{\partial z} \right)}_I + \underbrace{S_{\Theta R} + S_{\Theta G} + S_{\Theta W} + S_{\Theta V} + S_{\Theta A} + S_{\Theta waste}}_{II}, \quad (12)$$

- where  $Pr_t$  [-] is turbulent Prandtl number, the first term on the right hand side is turbulent transport of heat (I), and the heat sink/source terms (II) correspond to sensible heat exchanges with roof ( $S_{\Theta R}$ ), ground ( $S_{\Theta G}$ ), wall ( $S_{\Theta W}$ ), urban vegetation
- 15  $S_{\Theta V}$ , and radiative divergence  $S_{\Theta A}$  [all in  $Ks^{-1}$ ]. These terms are detailed in appendix A and by Krayenhoff (2014) and are not reported here for brevity (see Fig. 1). Contribution of the waste heat emissions from building heating ventilation and air conditioning Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) system  $S_{\Theta waste}$  [ $Ks^{-1}$ ] is parameterized by

$$S_{\Theta waste} = F_{st} \frac{1}{\rho C_p \Delta z} Q_{HVAC}, \quad (13)$$

- where  $Q_{HVAC}$  [ $Wm^{-2}$ ] is total sensible waste heat released into the urban atmosphere per building footprint area,  $F_{st}$  [-] is
- 20 the fraction of waste heat released at street level, while the remainder fraction  $(1-F_{st})$  [-] is released at roof level, and  $\Delta z$  [m] is grid discretization in the vertical direction. Depending on the type of building, waste heat emissions can be released partially at street level and the rest at roof level, which can be adjusted by changing  $F_{st}$  [-] from 0 to 1. In this study For the BUBBLE campaign, it is set to assumed that all waste heat was released at roof level, which is more typical in most energy-retrofitted mid-rise apartments (Christen and Vogt, 2004; Rotach et al., 2005). Term  $Q_{HVAC}$  [ $Wm^{-2}$ ] is calculated by the building energy
- 25 model as

$$Q_{HVAC} = \underbrace{Q_{surf} + Q_{ven} + Q_{inf} + Q_{int}}_{Q_{cool}} + W_{cool} + Q_{dehum} + Q_{gas} + Q_{water}, \quad (14)$$

Cooling waste heat

$$Q_{HVAC} = \underbrace{(Q_{surf} + Q_{ven} + Q_{inf} + Q_{int})}_{\substack{Q_{heat} \\ \text{Heating waste heat}}} / \eta_{heat} + Q_{dehum} + Q_{gas} + Q_{water}, \quad (15)$$

under cooling and heating [modes](#), respectively. Under cooling mode  $Q_{HVAC}$  [ $\text{Wm}^{-2}$ ] is calculated by adding the cooling demand ( $Q_{cool} Q_{cool}$  [ $\text{Wm}^{-2}$ ]), consisting of surface cooling demand, ventilation demand, infiltration (or exfiltration) demand, and internal energy demand (lighting, equipment, and occupants), energy consumption of the cooling system ( $W_{cool}$ )  $W_{cool}$  [ $\text{Wm}^{-2}$ ], [\(accounting for Coefficient of Performance \(COP \[-\]\)\),](#) dehumidification demand ( $Q_{dehum} Q_{dehum}$  [ $\text{Wm}^{-2}$ ]), energy consumption by gas combustion (e.g. cooking) ( $Q_{gas} Q_{gas}$  [ $\text{Wm}^{-2}$ ]), and energy consumption for water heating ( $Q_{water} Q_{water}$  [ $\text{Wm}^{-2}$ ]). Under heating mode,  $Q_{HVAC}$  [ $\text{Wm}^{-2}$ ] is calculated by adding the heating waste heat ( $Q_{heat} Q_{heat}$  [ $\text{Wm}^{-2}$ ]), consisting of surface heating demand, ventilation demand, infiltration (or exfiltration) demand, and internal energy demand (lighting, equipment, and occupants) (accounting for thermal efficiency of the heating system ( $\eta_{heat} \eta_{heat}$  [-])), dehumidification demand ( $Q_{dehum} Q_{dehum}$  [ $\text{Wm}^{-2}$ ]), energy consumption by gas combustion (e.g. cooking) ( $Q_{gas} Q_{gas}$  [ $\text{Wm}^{-2}$ ]), and energy consumption for water heating ( $Q_{water} Q_{water}$  [ $\text{Wm}^{-2}$ ]).

To complete the urban one-dimensional vertical diffusion model ([see Fig-1](#)), the transport equation for specific humidity is

$$\frac{\partial \bar{Q}}{\partial t} = \underbrace{\frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left( \frac{K_m}{Sc_t} \frac{\partial \bar{Q}}{\partial z} \right)}_I + \underbrace{S_{QV}}_{II}, \quad (16)$$

where  $\bar{Q}$  [ $\text{kgkg}^{-1}$ ] is time-averaged specific humidity. The turbulent transport of specific humidity (I) is parameterized based on K-theory,  $Sc_t$  [-] is turbulent Schmidt number [set to 1 in this study](#), and source term  $S_{QV}$  [ $\text{KgKg}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1}$ ] (II) is caused by latent heat from vegetation detailed in appendix A and by Krayenhoff (2014) but not reported here for brevity.

#### 2.1.4 Building Energy Model

In this study, the balance equation for convection, conduction, and radiation heat fluxes is applied to all building elements (wall, roof, floor, windows, ceiling, and internal mass) to calculate the indoor air temperature. Then, a sensible heat balance equation, between convective heat fluxes released from indoor surfaces and internal heat gains and sensible heat fluxes from [the](#) HVAC system and infiltration (or exfiltration), is solved to obtain the time evolution of indoor temperature as

$$\forall \rho C_p \frac{dT_{in}}{dt} = \underbrace{Q_{surf} + Q_{ven} + Q_{inf} + Q_{int}}_{Q_{cool/heat}}, \quad (17)$$

where  $\forall$  [ $\text{m}^3\text{m}^{-2}$ ] is indoor volume [per building footprint area](#),  $T_{in}$  [K] is indoor air temperature, and  $Q_{cool/heat}$  [ $\text{Wm}^{-2}$ ] is cooling or heating demand as specified in Eqs. 14 and 15. More details on parameterization of the terms in Eq. 17 can be found in appendix A and [by](#) Bueno et al. (2012b) but are not reported here for brevity.

A similar balance equation can be derived for latent heat to determine the time evolution of the indoor air specific humidity as well as the dehumidification load  $Q_{dehum} Q_{dehum}$  [ $\text{Wm}^{-2}$ ], which is parameterized in Bueno et al. (2012b) but is not detailed

here for brevity. Note that energy consumption by gas combustion (e.g. cooking)  $Q_{gas}$  and water heating  $Q_{water}$  [both in  $[\text{Wm}^{-2}]$ ] does not influence indoor air temperature or specific humidity, but such energy consumption sources appear in the waste heat Eqs. 14 and 15. These terms are determined from schedules (Bueno et al., 2012b).

### 2.1.5 Radiation Model with Vegetation

5 In VCWG, there are two types of vegetation: ground vegetation cover and trees. Ground vegetation cover fraction is specified by  $\delta_s$  [-]. Tree vegetation is specified by four parameters: tree height  $h_t$  [m], tree crown radius  $r_t$  [m], tree distance from canyon walls  $d_t$  [m], and Leaf Area Index (LAI)  $\tau$  [ $\text{m}^2\text{m}^{-2}$ ], which is the vertical integral of the Leaf Area Density (LAD) profile, cover fraction of tree canopy, and trunk height [ $\text{m}^2\text{m}^{-3}$ ] profile. VCWG considers two trees spaced from the walls of the canyon with distance  $d_t$  [m]. Trees cannot be higher than the building height. Both types of vegetation are specified with the same albedo  $\alpha_V$  [-] and emissivity  $\varepsilon_V$  [-]. The VCWG user can change these input parameters for different vegetation structures. The parameterization of shortwave radiation accounts for the incoming radiation model in VCWG is adapted from the model developed by Meili et al. (2020). The net all-wave radiation flux is the sum of the net shortwave and longwave radiation fluxes

$$R_n = S^\downarrow - S^\uparrow + L^\downarrow - L^\uparrow, \quad (18)$$

15 where  $S^\downarrow$ ,  $S^\uparrow$ ,  $L^\downarrow$ , and  $L^\uparrow$  [all in  $\text{Wm}^{-2}$ ] represent the incoming shortwave, outgoing shortwave, incoming longwave, and outgoing longwave radiation fluxes. The incoming shortwave radiation fluxes (direct and diffuse components of solar radiation, and it is used in this study to account for the shading effects of trees on vertical and horizontal urban surfaces as well as the shading effect of buildings on trees. The total amount of shortwave radiation absorbed) and the longwave radiation flux from the sky are forced by the EPW file. The absorbed (net) shortwave radiation on surface  $i$  is given by

$$20 \quad S_{n,i} = (1 - \alpha_i) \left( S_i^\downarrow \right) = (1 - \alpha_i) \left( S_i^{\downarrow\text{direct}} + S_i^{\downarrow\text{diffuse}} \right), \quad (19)$$

where  $\alpha_i$  is the albedo of the surface and  $S_i^{\downarrow\text{direct}}$  and  $S_i^{\downarrow\text{diffuse}}$  [ $\text{Wm}^{-2}$ ] are the direct and diffuse incoming shortwave radiation fluxes to surface  $i$ . Here  $i$  can be S, G, V, W, or T for sky, ground, ground vegetation, wall, and tree. The amount of direct shortwave radiation received by each urban element is calculated by adding the before-reflection absorption of shortwave radiation to the sum of multiple reflections within the canyon (Redon et al., 2017). Parameterization of the longwave radiation received and emitted by the urban elements assumes Lambertian surfaces. Again the total amount of longwave radiation absorbed by each urban element surface is calculated considering shade effects according to well-established methodologies for the case with no trees (Masson, 2000; Kusaka et al., 2001; Wang et al., 2018) and with trees (Ryu et al., 2016). Sky view factors are used to determine the amount of diffuse shortwave radiation that reaches a surface from sky. Infinite reflections of diffuse shortwave radiation are calculated within the urban canyon with the use of view factors for each pair of urban surfaces (Wang, 2010, 2014). The absorbed (net) longwave radiation for each surface is calculated by adding the before-reflection absorption of longwave radiation to the sum of multiple reflections within the canyon (Loughner et al., 2012). Both shortwave

and longwave radiation models are coupled to the vertical diffusion and the building energy models using feedback interaction. Detailed formulations are not provided here for brevity, but the reader is referred to the

$$L_{n,i} = \varepsilon_i \left( L_i^\downarrow - \sigma T_i^4 \right), \quad (20)$$

where  $\varepsilon_i$  [-] is the emissivity of the surface,  $(1-\varepsilon_i)$  [-] is the reflectivity of the surface,  $L_i^\downarrow$  [ $\text{Wm}^{-2}$ ] is the incoming longwave radiation flux,  $\sigma = 5.67 \times 10^{-8} \text{ Wm}^{-2}\text{K}^{-4}$  is the Stefan Boltzmann constant, and  $T_i$  [K] is the surface temperature. Infinite reflections of longwave radiation within the urban canyon are considered with the use of reciprocal view factors. These view factors are derived analytically for the case with no trees (Masson, 2000; Lee and Park, 2008; Wang et al., 2013). If trees are present, the view factors are calculated with a simplified two-dimensional Monte Carlo ray-tracing algorithm (Wang, 2014; Frank et al., 2014). More details about the radiation model are provided in appendix A and original studies by Redon et al. (2017) and Loughner et al. (2012) by Meili et al. (2020) but are not reported here for brevity.

## 2.2 Experimental Field Campaign

### 2.2.1 Logistics

To evaluate results from VCWG, comprehensive microclimate field measurements were conducted from 15 July 2018 to 5 September 2018, in Guelph, Canada, which is detailed below. Guelph is located in southwestern Ontario, Canada, with cold winters and humid summers

To evaluate the model, VCWG's predictions are compared to observation of the Basel UrBan Boundary Layer Experiment (BUBBLE) microclimate field campaign (Christen and Vogt, 2004; Rotach et al., 2005) for two weeks starting 21 June 2002. The model predictions of air temperature, wind speed, and specific humidity are compared to the observations. The urban microclimate field measurements were conducted in the Reek Walk, Basel, Switzerland, a typical quasi two-dimensional urban canyon, located at the University of Guelph (43.5323°N and 80.2253°E). The rural microclimate field measurements were conducted in the Guelph Turfgrass Institute, a research green space area located at 43.5473°N and 80.2149°E. An EPW file is used to force the VCWG simulations. The rural measurements are conducted at 47.53°N and 7.67°E concurrent with the urban measurements. The average building height for the urban area is  $H_{\text{avg}}=14.6$  m, and the plan area density is 0.54. The road, Reek Walk, where meteorological instruments were installed, is covered by grass and asphalt in equal fractions. As shown in Fig. ??, urban trees are distributed across the neighbourhood.

The urban canyon axis is oriented in the northwest-southeast direction and northeast-southwest direction with canyon axis angle of  $\theta_{\text{can}}=65^\circ$ . The x and y directions are set to be cross- and the along-canyon, respectively (see Fig. ??). The frontal area density varies from 0.1 to 0.3 when the approaching wind direction changes from along- to cross-canyon, respectively. Figure ?? shows that the predominant wind directions were from west and southwest, roughly perpendicular to the canyon axis, for the field campaign duration. Based on studies aimed to characterize the wind flow pattern within a built-up area (Zajic et al., 2011; Grimmond and Oke, 1999), the observed flow configuration alternates between skimming

flow and wake interface regimes. However, the flow within the urban site is more complicated than the simple regimes and the associated parametrizations.

5 View of the rural weather station (Guelph Turfgrass Institute) and the urban site (Reek Walk, University of Guelph) used for the microclimate field campaign; inset map shows the location of the meteorological instruments in the urban site; images were obtained from Google Earth.

Wind rose plot above the urban site (Reek Walk, University of Guelph) between 15 July 2018 and 5 September 2018; image was obtained from Google Earth.

### 2.2.1 Instruments

10 In the rural site is  $\lambda_f=0.37$  [-]. In BUBBLE, wind speed, wind direction (at 10 was measured at elevations  $z = 3.6, 11.3, 14.7, 17.9, 22.4, \text{ and } 31.7$  m elevation), relative humidity, potential temperature was measured at elevations  $z = 2.6, 13.9, 17.5, 21.5, 25.5,$  and temperature (at 2 31.2 m elevation) are collected on an hourly basis by the Guelph Turfgrass Institute meteorological station, which bears World Meteorological Organization (WMO) identifier 71833. Data from this station and those of EPW for London, Ontario, were combined to create an EPW dataset for model evaluation. In the urban site, meteorological data was collected within and above the canyon using five 81000 R. M. Young ultrasonic anemometers from Young U.S.A.<sup>2</sup> distributed horizontally and vertically. The accuracy and resolution of measurements for wind speed were  $\pm 1\%$  and 0.01, respectively, and for temperature were and 0.01, respectively. Four anemometers were deployed within the canyon, two were placed on a pole at heights of 2.4; and relative humidity was measured at elevations  $z = 2.6$  and  $25.5$  m and 5.5 elevation from the ground and the other two anemometers were located 4 and 30 away from the pole in the cross and along canyon directions, respectively. The fifth anemometer was deployed on a tripod on the roof at 2.5 elevation from roof level (see Fig. ??). Three of these anemometers located at different elevations were used for comparison to VCWG model results. It has been suggested that the sampling frequency should be at least . The dataset provides the measurements averaged every 10 to measure atmospheric turbulence (Balogun et al., 2010; Giometto et al., 2016; Aliabadi et al., 2019). The anemometers were adjusted to sample three components of wind speed and air temperature at a frequency of 20 using Campbell Scientific<sup>2</sup> CR6 data loggers. As shown in Fig. ??, a Campbell Scientific HMP60 sensor was deployed at 1 elevation, which measured minute-averaged relative humidity with an accuracy of and temperature with an accuracy of.

Wind tunnel tests were conducted to calibrate the wind speeds measured by the ultrasonic anemometers against a reference pitot tube (No figures are shown for this calibration). The HMP60 sensor was used as the reference measurement to calibrate all other temperatures and relative humidities measured, including those of the WMO station min.

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<sup>2</sup><http://youngusa.com/>

<sup>2</sup><https://www.campbellsci.ca>

### 3 Results and Discussion

In this section, the VCWG model results are compared to the microclimate field measurements. We also explored the capability of the model to predict urban climate for investigations of the effects of building dimensions, urban vegetation, building energy configuration, radiation configuration, seasonal variations, and other climates. The simplified urban neighbourhood is depicted in Fig. ???. In VCWG, buildings with uniformly-distributed height, equal width, and equal spacing from one another, represent the urban area. The computational domain height is ~~five~~ three times the average building height, which makes it suitable for microclimate analysis (Santiago and Martilli, 2010; Aliabadi et al., 2017). A uniform Cartesian grid with 2 m vertical resolution is used, where buildings are removed from control volumes (see Fig. ??). The flow is assumed to be pressure-driven with the pressure gradient of  $\rho u_*^2 / H_{\text{top}}$  [ $\text{kgm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-2}$ ], which is decomposed into the x and y directions based on the wind angle. In this equation, the adjustment for wind angle is made based on canyon orientation and the incoming wind angle at the top of the domain. This pressure gradient is forced as source terms on the momentum Eqs. 8 and 9. The boundary condition for potential temperature and humidity equations (Eqs. 12 and 16) are determined from the rural model (see Fig. 1). Thus, the VCWG is aimed to calculate momentum and energy exchanges for the centre of each cell in the vertical direction based on the boundary conditions obtained from the rural model, the building energy model, and the radiation model.

#### 3.1 Detailed Model-Observation Comparison

The results of the VCWG are now compared to the measured data ~~collected during the microclimate field from the BUBBLE campaign. The actual weather data in the rural area including wind speed and wind direction at elevation, temperature and relative humidity at elevation, atmospheric pressure, and terms describing radiative fluxes are used from the assembled EPW dataset.~~ The input parameters representing the urban area are listed in Table 1. The simulations ~~were~~ are run for two weeks starting from ~~15 August 2018~~ 21 June 2002 with the first 24 hours treated as model spin-up period. For such analysis, the run time is approximately ~~15 minutes~~ 1 min, however it can vary slightly depending on the grid spacing and time step.

To compare VCWG results with measured meteorological variables from ~~field~~ the BUBBLE campaign, the hourly BIAS and Root Mean Square Error (RMSE) are calculated over an entire diurnal cycle by considering the model results and measurements over ~~a~~ the two-week period. These statistics are calculated for ~~potential temperature at different heights, wind speed at different heights, wind speed, potential temperature,~~ and specific humidity ~~near the ground at different heights. Also the coefficient of determination~~  $R^2$  [-] is calculated considering all pairs of model and measurement values at all heights. For the ~~Urban Heat Island (UHI)~~ UHI [K] the overall mean and standard deviation ~~is calculated. BIAS and RMSE are defined as~~ are calculated.

$$\underline{BIAS} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (M_i - O_i)}{n},$$

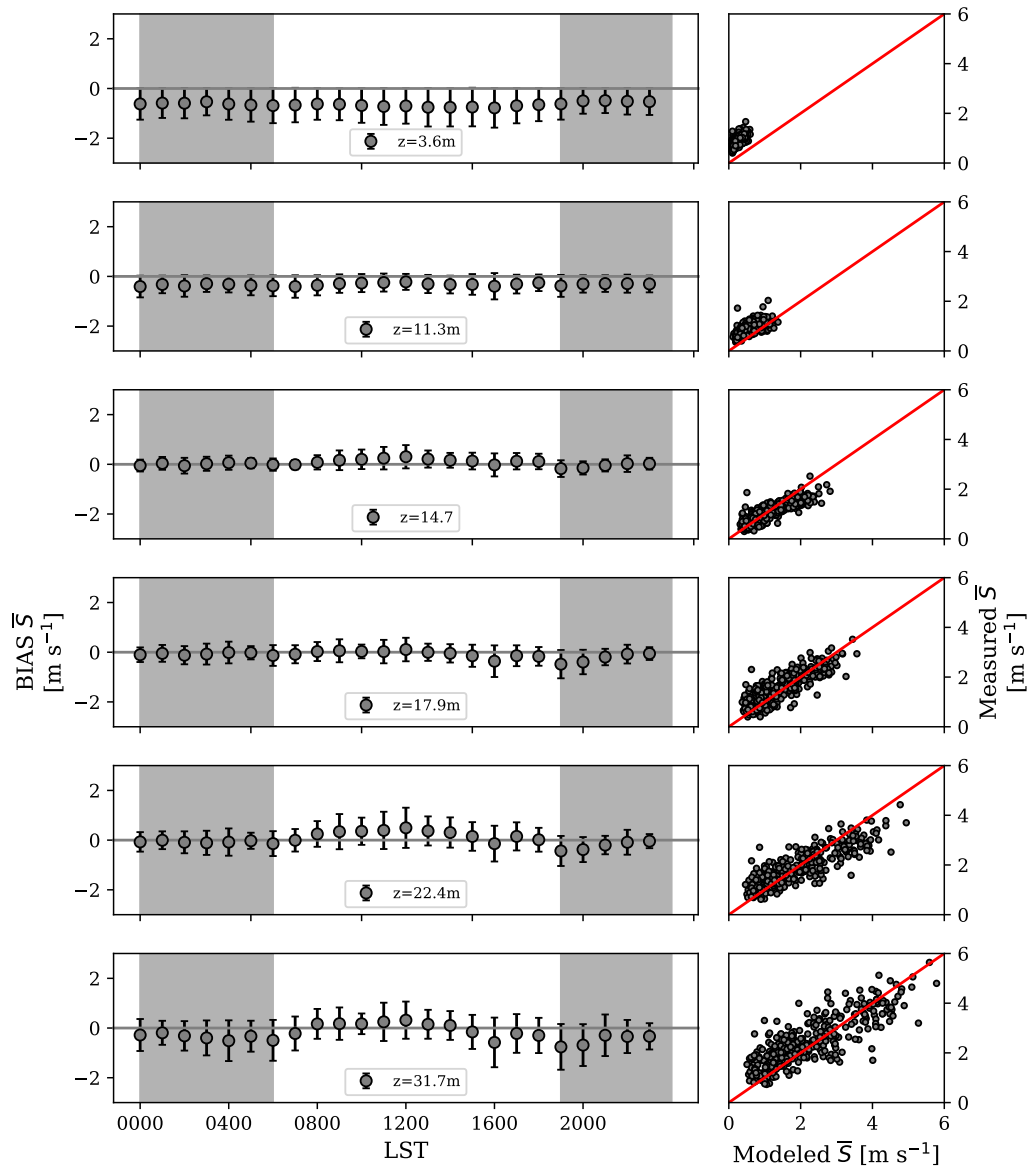
$$\underline{RMSE} = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (M_i - O_i)^2}{n}},$$

~~where and are modelled and measured (observed) quantities. Here is 14 because each hourly model-observation comparison is conducted over two weeks.~~

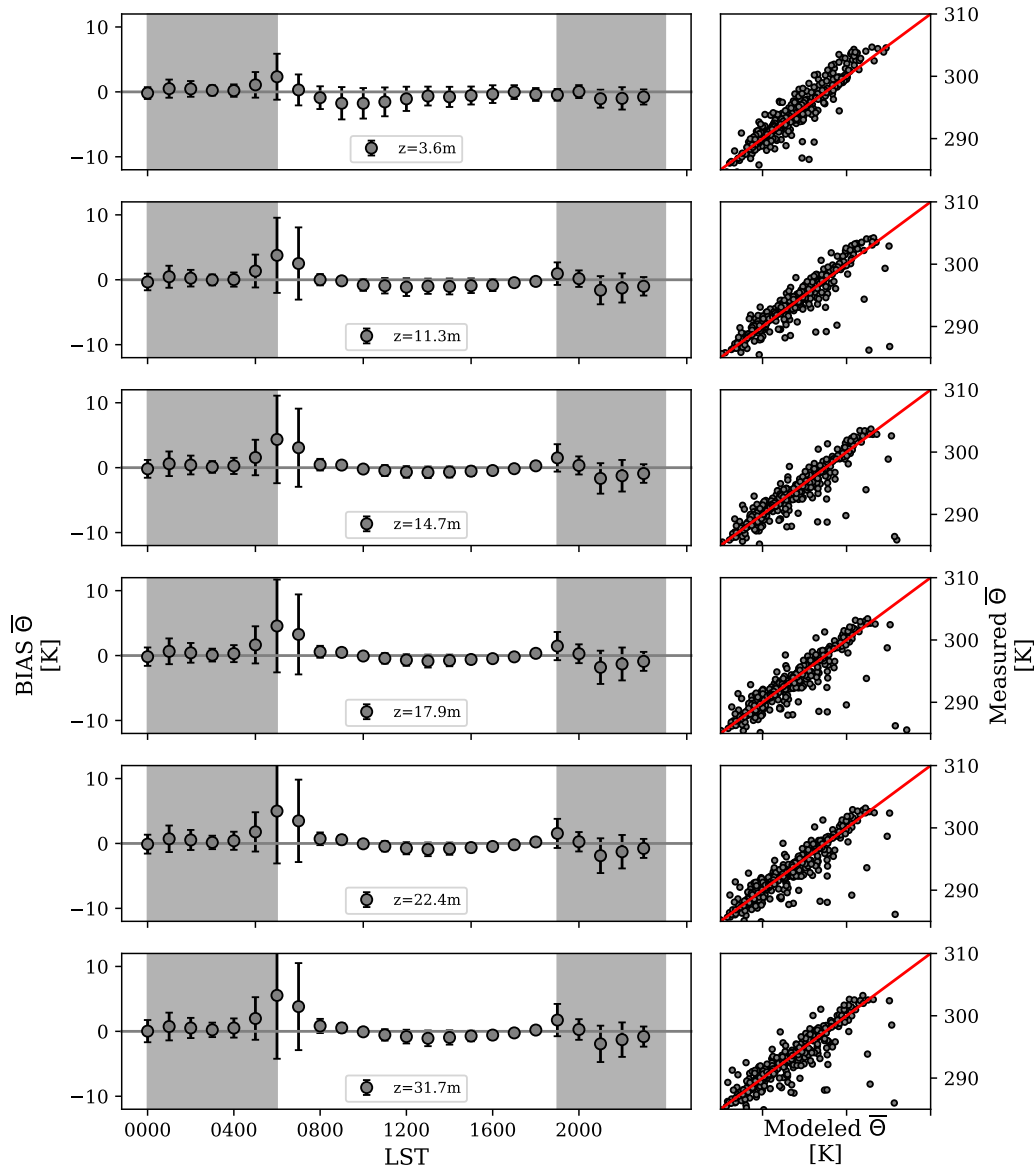


**Table 1.** List of input parameters used to run VCWG for model evaluation.

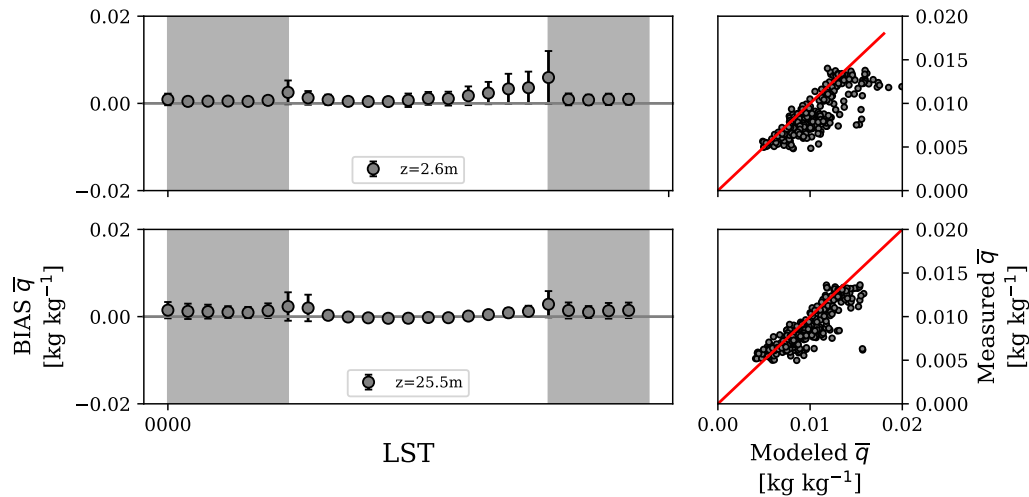
Parameter	Symbol	Value
Latitude °N	lat	<del>43.53</del> <u>47.55</u>
Longitude °E	lon	<del>80.22</del> <u>7.58</u>
Season	-	Summer
Plan area density	$\lambda_p$	<del>0.44</del> <u>0.54</u>
Frontal area density	$\lambda_f$	<del>0.55</del> <u>0.37</u>
Average buildings height [m]	$H_{avg}$	<del>20</del> <u>14.6</u>
<u>Width of canyon</u> [m]	$w_x = w_y = w$	<u>18.2</u>
Average of leaf area density profile <u>within the canyon</u> [ $m^2 m^{-3}$ ]	LAD	<del>0.28</del> <u>0.25</u>
<del>Trunk</del> <u>Tree</u> height [m]	$h_t$	<del>4</del> <u>8</u>
<del>Cover fraction of tree canopy</del> <u>Tree crown radius</u> [m]	$r_t$	<del>0.48</del> <u>2.5</u>
<u>Tree distance from wall</u> [m]	$d_t$	<u>3</u>
Ground vegetation cover fraction	$\delta_s$	<del>0.5</del> <u>0</u>
Building type	-	<del>Office</del> <u>Mid rise apartment</u>
Urban albedos (roof, ground, wall, vegetation)	$\alpha_R, \alpha_G, \alpha_W, \alpha_V$	0.22, <del>0.08</del> , <del>0.20</del> , <u>1</u> , <u>0.4</u> , 0.2
Urban emissivities (roof, ground, wall, vegetation)	$\varepsilon_R, \varepsilon_G, \varepsilon_W, \varepsilon_V$	<del>0.9</del> , <del>0.94</del> , <del>0.90</del> , <u>0.95</u> , <u>0.95</u> , <u>0.95</u> , 0.95
Rural overall albedo	$\alpha_{rur}$	0.2
Rural overall emissivity	$\varepsilon_{rur}$	<del>0.93</del> <u>0.95</u>
Rural aerodynamic roughness length [m]	$z_{0rur}$	<del>0.1</del> <u>0.2</u>
<u>Rural Bown ratio</u>	$\beta_{rur}$	<u>0.9</u>
Ground aerodynamic roughness length [m]	$z_{0G}$	0.02
Roof aerodynamic roughness length [m]	$z_{0R}$	0.02
Vertical resolution [m]	$\Delta z$	2
Time step [s]	$\Delta t$	60
Canyon axis orientation °N	$\theta_{can}$	<del>-45</del> <u>65</u>



**Figure 3.** Comparison between the field measurements and the VCWG prediction of wind speed (at various elevations) in the urban site over a two-week period; left) diurnal variation of BIAS and RMSE (error bar); right) scatter plot of modelled versus measured values; nighttime shown with shaded regions; times in Local Standard Time (LST).



**Figure 4.** Comparison between the field measurements and the VCWG prediction of potential temperature (at various elevations) and specific humidity near the ground in the urban site over a two-week period; left) diurnal variation of BIAS and RMSE (error bar) are shown using data obtained over a two-week period; right) scatter plot of modelled versus measured values; nighttime is shown with shaded regions; times in Local Standard Time (LST).



**Figure 5.** Comparison between the field measurements and the VCWG prediction of wind-speed-specific humidity (at various elevations) in the urban site over a two-week period; left) diurnal variation of BIAS and RMSE (error bar) are shown using data obtained over a two-week period; right) scatter plot of modelled versus measured values; nighttime is shown with shaded regions; times in Local Standard Time (LST).

The error statistics are shown in Figs. ?? and ??3 to 5. The average BIAS and RMSE for temperature are and, RMSE, and  $R^2$  for wind speed are  $-0.20 \text{ ms}^{-1}$ ,  $0.50 \text{ ms}^{-1}$ , and  $0.62$ , respectively. It can be seen that the hourly BIAS is within 2 and the model exhibits a cold BIAS most of the time with respect to the observations  $1.0 \text{ ms}^{-1}$  at all elevations. The average BIAS and RMSE for specific humidity are and, RMSE, and  $R^2$  for temperature are  $+0.11 \text{ K}$ ,  $1.73 \text{ K}$ , and  $0.73$ , respectively. It can be seen 5 that the hourly BIAS is within 0.005 and the model exhibits a positive BIAS most of the time with respect to the observations.

The average BIAS and RMSE for wind speed are and, respectively. The temperature BIAS is improved compared to the predecessor UWG model ( $-0.6 \text{ K}$  (Bueno et al., 2012a)). It can be seen that the hourly BIAS is within 0.5 at 2 and 5.5 elevations, which indicates that at these elevations the effects of urban obstacles inducing drag and reducing wind speed within the built-up area are captured well by the model. However, the BIAS is higher at 12 elevation. Here VCWG exhibits a positive hourly BIAS up to 5 during windy at maximum at 0600 Local Standard Time (LST). This is due to the limitation of the Monin-Obukhov similarity theory under very calm conditions in the mid-afternoon period. It has been proposed that the oncoming boundary layer and the shear layer developing at the roof level significantly contribute in mass and momentum exchange between the in-canyon and above-canyon atmosphere (Kang and Sung, 2009; Perret and Savory, 2013). This shear layer is characterized by highly turbulent flow making realistic modeling more challenging (Salizzoni et al., 2011; Perret and Savory, 2013) thus explaining the model deviation from the observations at higher elevations closer to the shear layer. early morning ( $u_* < 0.1 \text{ ms}^{-1}$ ) (Stull, 1988), when a realistic boundary condition for potential temperature cannot be imposed on the top of the domain

for the urban vertical diffusion model. This high BIAS is evident on all elevations. The average BIAS, RMSE, and  $R^2$  for specific humidity are  $+0.0011 \text{ kgkg}^{-1}$ ,  $0.0016 \text{ kgkg}^{-1}$ , and  $0.71$ , respectively.

UHI-UHI [K] for the observation is computed by considering the difference between the average-temperature measurements inside the canyon at  $z = 3.6$  m and those temperatures provided by the EPW dataset. For VCWG, UHI-UHI [K] is calculated by considering the difference between the average-temperature-prediction-in-the-canyon-from-2-temperature prediction inside the canyon at  $z = 3$  m to average-building-height-elevation-and-the-average-temperature-prediction-using-the-rural-model-for the same-range-of-elevations and those temperatures provided by the EPW dataset. Figure 6 shows the diurnal variation of UHI [K] for the field campaign and VCWG. The average VCWG-predicted mean and standard deviation for UHI-are-and-UHI [K] are  $+1.59$  and  $1.46$  K, respectively. These values are in reasonable agreement with observations reporting mean and standard deviation for UHI-of-and-UHI of  $+1.72$  and  $0.91$  K, respectively. The average BIAS, RMSE, and  $R^2$  for UHI [K] are  $-0.14$  K,  $1.40$  K, and  $0.51$ , respectively.

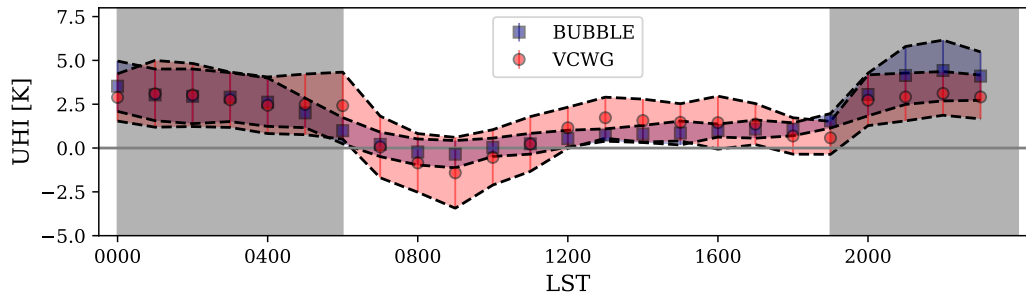


Figure 6. Comparison between the field measurements and the VCWG prediction of UHI [K]; the hourly means and standard deviations (band) are shown; nighttime shown with shaded regions; times in Local Standard Time (LST).

### 3.2 Model Exploration and Comparison with UHI Observations

The VCWG performance is assessed by evaluating the model performance as a function of the urban configurations ( $\lambda_p$  [-],  $\lambda_f$  [-], LAD [ $\text{m}^2\text{m}^{-3}$ ]), building energy configuration (building type, thermal efficiency, and coefficient of performance), radiation configuration (canyon aspect ratio and canyon-axis angle), different seasons, and different climate zones, and time-series analysis. Except for the analysis of different seasons and climate zones, all explorations were performed by running VCWG to simulate the urban microclimate in Vancouver, Canada, Basel, Switzerland, for two weeks in August 2011, starting 21 June 2002, concurrent with the BUBBLE campaign. For exploration of different seasons, VCWG was run to simulate the urban microclimate in Vancouver, Canada, for an entire year in 2011. For different climate zones, VCWG was run to simulate the urban microclimate in other cities for a two-week period. More details on the explorations are provided in the subsequent sections. Such analyses will provide more information on spatiotemporal variation of the atmospheric meteorological variables

and reveal the complexity of urban microclimate modeling. Additionally, the potentials and limitations of VCWG will be discussed.

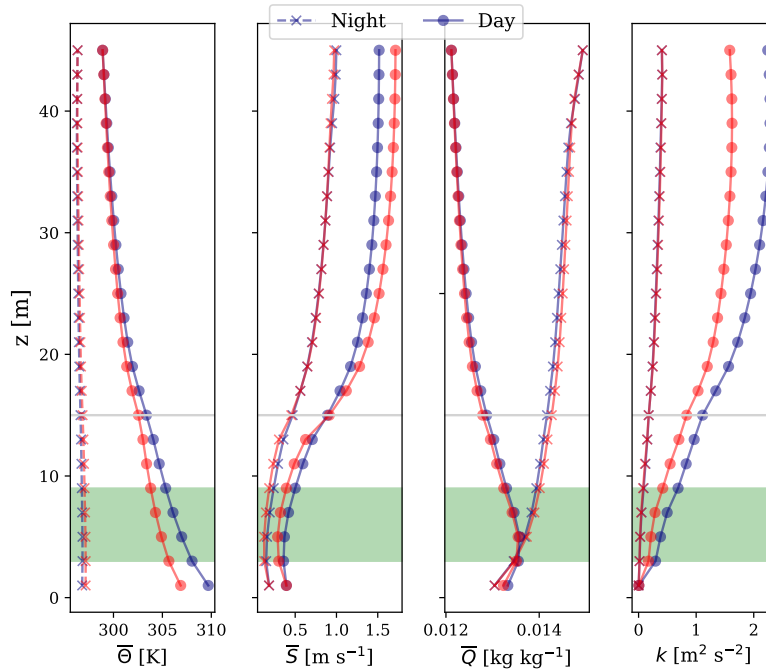
### 3.2.1 Urban Plan and Frontal Area Densities

In urban canopy modeling, two parameters often used to describe building and canyon geometries are plan area density ( $\lambda_p$ ) [-], which is the ratio of the total plan area of the buildings to the total urban flat-earth surface area, and the frontal area density ( $\lambda_f$ ) [-], which is the ratio of the total frontal area (facing wind) to the total urban flat-earth surface area. An urban area can be characterized with different types of land use, where each type may have different plan and frontal area densities, they can vary from high values in industrial and commercial districts to low values associated with the land used for public transportation (Wong et al., 2010). Most development in an urban area could be associated with changing  $\lambda_p$  [-] and  $\lambda_f$  [-], which can alter the local climate in different ways such as air and surface temperatures, building energy consumption, and thermal and wind comfort levels (Coutts et al., 2007; Emmanuel and Steemers, 2018).

Two case studies  $\lambda_p = 0.36$  and  $0.56$  ~~0.46 and 0.54~~ [-] (associated with canyon widths of 25 and 18.2 m) are explored to assess the model and see how the urban microclimate changes when the plan area density ~~increases while keeping the other parameters unchanged~~ decreases. Here, except for canyon width, all other model input parameters are kept the same as the evaluation runs. Figure 7 shows typical nighttime and daytime profiles of potential temperature ~~and mean~~ horizontal wind speed, specific humidity, and turbulence kinetic energy in the urban area associated with running the model for ~~one day~~ Higher two weeks associated with the BUBBLE field campaign. In this case, higher  $\lambda_p$  [-] is associated with more ~~urban surfaces allowing greater absorption of longwave and shortwave radiation and therefore higher level of building energy consumption for cooling (or heating)~~ shading and therefore lower potential temperatures during the day ~~and night~~. During the nighttime, the temperature difference between the cases is not as much as the daytime, however, still slightly higher temperatures can be obtained when plan area density is higher. Additionally, more urban surfaces by higher  $\lambda_p$  [-] impose more drag and consequently reduce wind speed (~~see Fig. 7~~) and turbulence kinetic energy during both daytime and nighttime, which can also be depicted in Fig. 8. No change in specific humidity is noted in this exploration.

Further investigations are performed for different frontal area densities  $\lambda_f = 0.55$  and  $0.84$  ~~0.37 and 0.51~~ [-] (associated with building heights 14.6 and 20 m) by running the model for ~~one day~~ two weeks associated with the BUBBLE field campaign. Here, except for building height, all other model input parameters are kept the same as the evaluation runs. At first glance, the cities with high-rise buildings are supposed to release more heat into the outdoor environment due to greater urban surfaces, but tall buildings can provide solar shading during the daytime and decrease temperature of the surfaces. As shown in Fig. 8, any an increase in  $\lambda_f$  [-] reduces potential temperature in the urban area during the day. However, due to the lack of shortwave radiation over nighttime and that urban surfaces are the main source of heat that can be released into the atmosphere, higher  $\lambda_f$  [-] results in higher potential temperatures at nighttime due to because of longwave radiation trapping. Moreover, increasing frontal area density tends to increase surface roughness and consequently slow down wind speed and reduce the turbulence kinetic energy within the canyon during ~~daytime~~ both daytime and nighttime, which can also be depicted in Fig. 8.

No change in specific humidity is noted in this exploration. The VCWG results are also consistent with previous studies in the literature (Coutts et al., 2007; Zajic et al., 2011; Santiago et al., 2014). The findings reported here highlight the careful considerations that need to be accounted for by city planners.

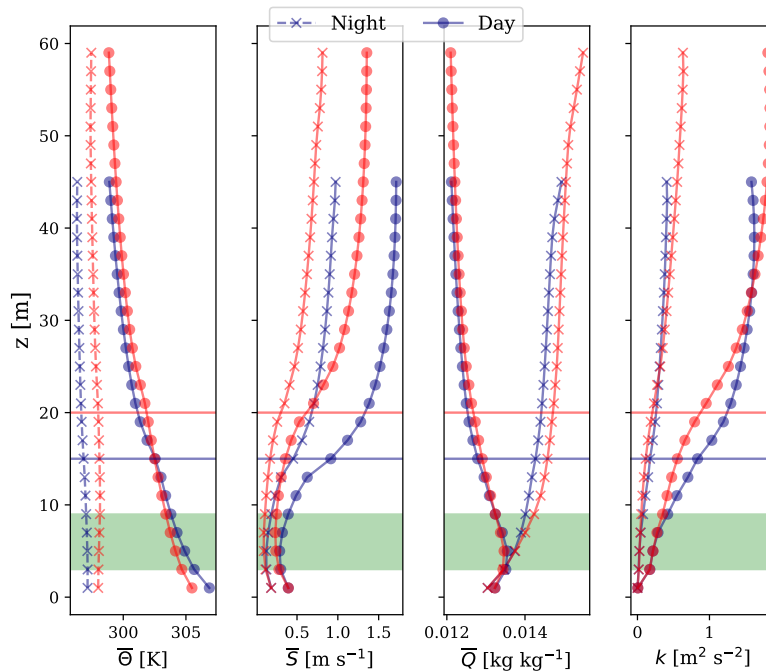


**Figure 7.** Effect of plan area density  $\lambda_p$  [-] on the profiles of potential temperature and mean horizontal wind speed, specific humidity, and turbulence kinetic energy during nighttime (averaged from 0000 to 0400 LST) and daytime (averaged from 1200 to 1600 LST); red:  $\lambda_p=0.54$  [-], blue:  $\lambda_p=0.46$  [-]; tree crown with non-zero LAD [ $\text{m}^2\text{m}^{-3}$ ] shown in shaded green; building height shown with grey line; times in Local Standard Time (LST).

### 3.2.2 Leaf Area Density

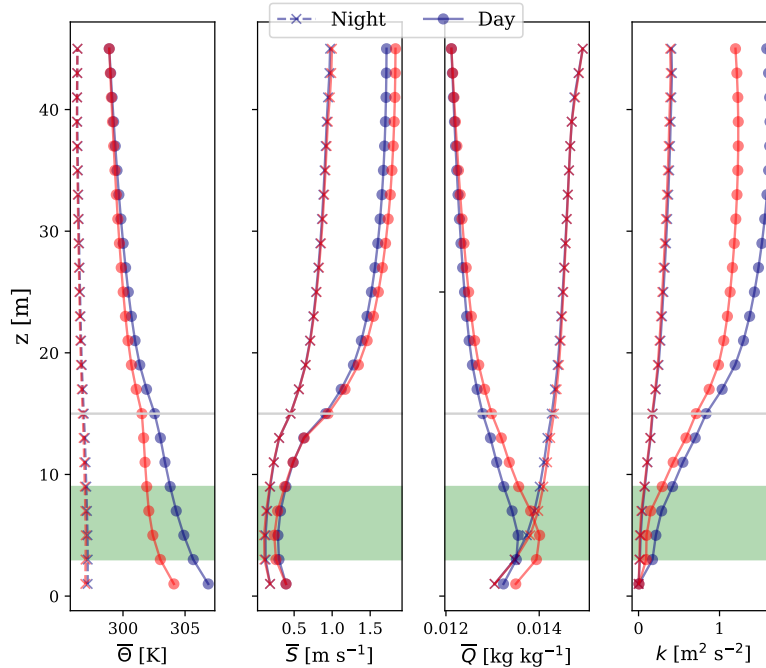
- 5 Urban trees interact with the other urban elements by providing shade to reduce temperature of surfaces, removing the stored heat in the canyon substantially, and induce drag to reduce wind speed (Loughner et al., 2012; Krayenhoff et al., 2015; Redon et al., 2017). The capability of the VCWG to take into account these effects is assessed by investigating two case studies with LAD [ $\text{m}^2\text{m}^{-3}$ ] representing trees with canyon average foliage densities of 0.08 and 0.14-0.1 and 0.2  $\text{m}^2\text{m}^{-3}$ , respectively, by running the model for one day two weeks associated with the BUBBLE field campaign. Here, except for LAD [ $\text{m}^2\text{m}^{-3}$ ],
- 10 all other model input parameters are kept the same as the evaluation runs. The result is shown in Fig. 9. The cooling effect of the trees is evident when the average LAD [ $\text{m}^2\text{m}^{-3}$ ] of tree foliage increases, resulting in a decrease of potential temperature within the canyon, particularly during the day when the shading effect of trees lowers the surface temperatures and the





**Figure 8.** Effect of frontal area density  $\lambda_f$  [-] on the profiles of potential temperature and mean horizontal wind speed, specific humidity, and turbulence kinetic energy during nighttime (averaged from 0000 to 0400 LST) and daytime (averaged from 1200 to 1600 LST); red:  $\lambda_f=0.51$  [-], blue:  $\lambda_f=0.37$  [-]; tree crown with non-zero LAD [ $\text{m}^2\text{m}^{-3}$ ] shown in shaded green; building heights shown with red and blue lines; times in Local Standard Time (LST).

evapotranspiration of trees lowers the air temperature. Such effects not only can improve thermal comfort at the pedestrian level, but also can reduce the building energy consumption in the Summertime (Souch and Souch, 1993; Akbari et al., 2001). On the other hand, the urban trees are thought to be a sink of momentum and kinetic energy by exerting drag and damping the flow fluctuations (Giometto et al., 2017; Yuan et al., 2017). This effect cannot be modeled very well can also be modeled by VCWG, which predicts the same slightly lower level of wind speed within the canyon at the two with increasing LAD profiles [ $\text{m}^2\text{m}^{-3}$ ]. Increasing LAD [ $\text{m}^2\text{m}^{-3}$ ] reduces the turbulence kinetic energy, possibly due to the combined effects of reducing wind speed, LAD [ $\text{m}^2\text{m}^{-3}$ ], and the drag coefficient for tree foliage  $C_{DV}$  [-], influencing the wake production term  $S_{\text{wake}}$  [ $\text{m}^2\text{s}^{-3}$ ] (Krayenhoff, 2014). Increasing LAD [ $\text{m}^2\text{m}^{-3}$ ], however, results in higher levels of specific humidity due to higher evapotranspiration of trees during daytime. The analysis obtained from this exploration is in reasonable agreement with previous works (Souch and Souch, 1993; Loughner et al., 2012; Giometto et al., 2017; Yuan et al., 2017). Trees are recognized to be essential urban elements to moderate extreme wind speeds and heat waves, particularly during the warm season.



**Figure 9.** Effect of leaf area density profiles LAD [ $\text{m}^2\text{m}^{-3}$ ] on the profiles of potential temperature and mean horizontal wind speed, specific humidity, and turbulence kinetic energy during nighttime (averaged from 0000 to 0400 LST) and daytime (averaged from 1200 to 1600 LST); red: LAD= $0.2\text{ m}^2\text{m}^{-3}$ , blue: LAD= $0.1\text{ m}^2\text{m}^{-3}$ ; tree crown with non-zero LAD [ $\text{m}^2\text{m}^{-3}$ ] shown in shaded green; building height shown with grey line; times in Local Standard Time (LST).

### 3.2.3 Building Energy Configuration

The building energy model within VCWG is explored by running VCWG under different building types, cooling system Coefficient Of Performance (COP) [-], and heating system thermal efficiency  $\eta_{\text{heat}}$  [-]. Two building types are considered, a school and a small office, the mid-rise apartment and a hospital, with specifications provided in Table 2. It can be noted that the infiltration rate, ventilation rate, volumetric flow for water heating, and waste heat fluxes associated with gas combustion, electricity consumption, and lighting for a school-hospital are substantially greater than those for a small-officemid-rise apartment. Note that construction material properties are also different for a school and small office among different building types within VCWG schedules, but the differences are not specified here for brevity. Two sets of COP [-] and  $\eta_{\text{heat}}$  [-] are considered for a small-officemid-rise apartment. For an energy-efficient building values default values COP=3.13 [-] and  $\eta_{\text{heat}}=0.8$  [-] are used, while for a low-energy-efficient building values COP=1 [-] and  $\eta_{\text{heat}}=0.4$  [-] are used. Here, except for building type, COP [-], and  $\eta_{\text{heat}}$  [-], all other model input parameters are kept the same as the evaluation runs.

**Table 2.** Specifications of the building energy configuration for two building types. The infiltration unit is expressed as Air Changes per Hour (ACH [-]).

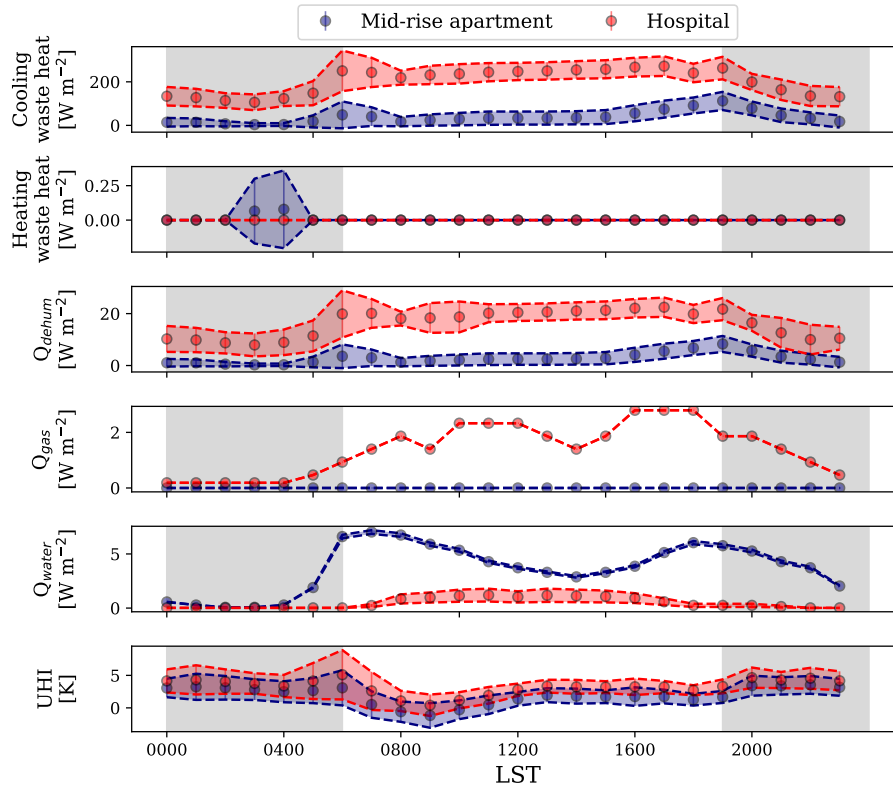
Building type → Building specification ↓	Small-Office-Mid-Rise Apartment
<del>COP</del> -COP [-]	3.07-3.10
<del><math>\eta_{heat}</math></del> $\eta_{heat}$ [-]	0.8-0.9
Infiltration (ACH [-])	0.2-0.3
Ventilation [ $Ls^{-1}m^{-2}$ ]	275-300
<del>Glazing ratio 0.21-0.34</del> Average volumetric flow for water heating 11.4-161 Average waste heat flux from gas combustion [ $Wm^{-2}$ ]	0
Average waste heat flux from electricity consumption [ $Wm^{-2}$ ]	4-5
Average waste heat flux from lighting [ $Wm^{-2}$ ]	3.08

Figure 10 shows the effect of building type on hourly mean and standard deviation of cooling/heating waste heat, dehumidification waste heat, gas combustion waste heat, water heating waste heat, and UHI-UHI [K] calculated for running the model for two weeks. The waste heat fluxes are reported per unit building footprint area. It can be noted that the building energy system operates under heating mode for a few hours around-before sunrise, while it runs under cooling mode for the majority of daytime period. It can be noted that a school-hospital results in higher values of waste heats and UHI-UHI [K], so the potential impact of an energy-intensive school-hospital on the urban climate may be higher than a small-office. It is noted that a school generates substantial waste heat fluxes associated with gas combustion (due to cooking activities) and water heating (for domestic use) because of higher occupancy compared to a small office. mid-rise apartment.

Figure 11 shows the effect of building cooling system Coefficient Of Performance (COP) and heating system thermal efficiency (-) and  $\eta_{heat}$  (-) on hourly mean and standard deviation of waste heats and UHI-UHI [K] calculated for running the model for two weeks. It can be noted that lower COP and thermal efficiency (-) and  $\eta_{heat}$  (-) result in higher values of waste heats and UHI slightly higher UHI [K], so the potential impact of an energy-intensive building on the urban climate may be higher than an energy-efficient building. Most particularly, it can be noted that lower heating system thermal efficiency results in greater waste heat flux for water heating.

### 3.2.4 Radiation Configuration

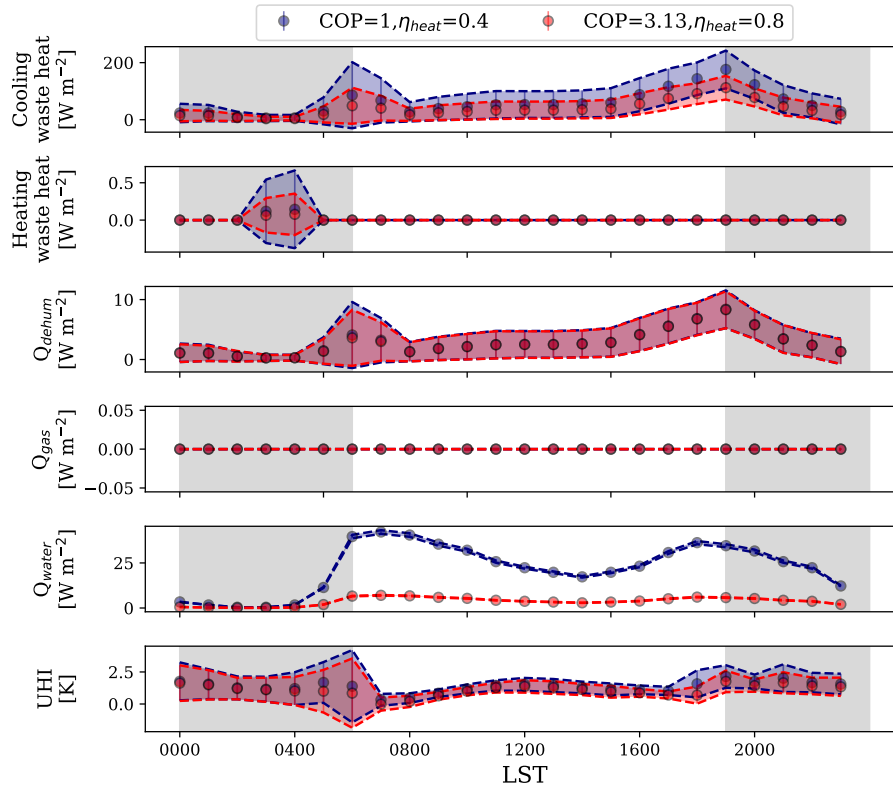
The radiation model within VCWG is explored by running VCWG under different canyon aspect ratios  $H_{avg}/w$  [-] and different street canyon axis angles  $\theta_{can}$  [°] with respect to the north axis to investigate the effects on direct solar radiation, diffuse solar radiation, shortwave and longwave fluxes. For exploring the effect of canyon aspect ratio on these fluxes values of and 2, values of  $H_{avg}/w=0.8$  and 1.6 [-] are used with keeping  $\theta_{can}=0^\circ$ , while for exploring the effect of street canyon axis angle on these fluxes values of and 0, values of  $\theta_{can}=0$  and  $90^\circ$  with respect to the north axis are used with keeping  $H_{avg}/w=0.8$  [-]. For



**Figure 10.** Effect of building type on cooling/heating waste heat, dehumidification waste heat, gas combustion waste heat, water heating waste heat, and  $UHI$  [K]; diurnal variation of mean and standard variation (error bar band) are shown using data obtained over a two-week period; nighttime is shown with shaded regions; times in Local Standard Time (LST).

these explorations VCWG is run for two weeks and hourly mean values for radiative fluxes are reported. [Here, except for  \$H\_{avg/w}\$  \[-\] and  \$\theta\_{can}\$  \[°\], all other model input parameters are kept the same as the evaluation runs.](#)

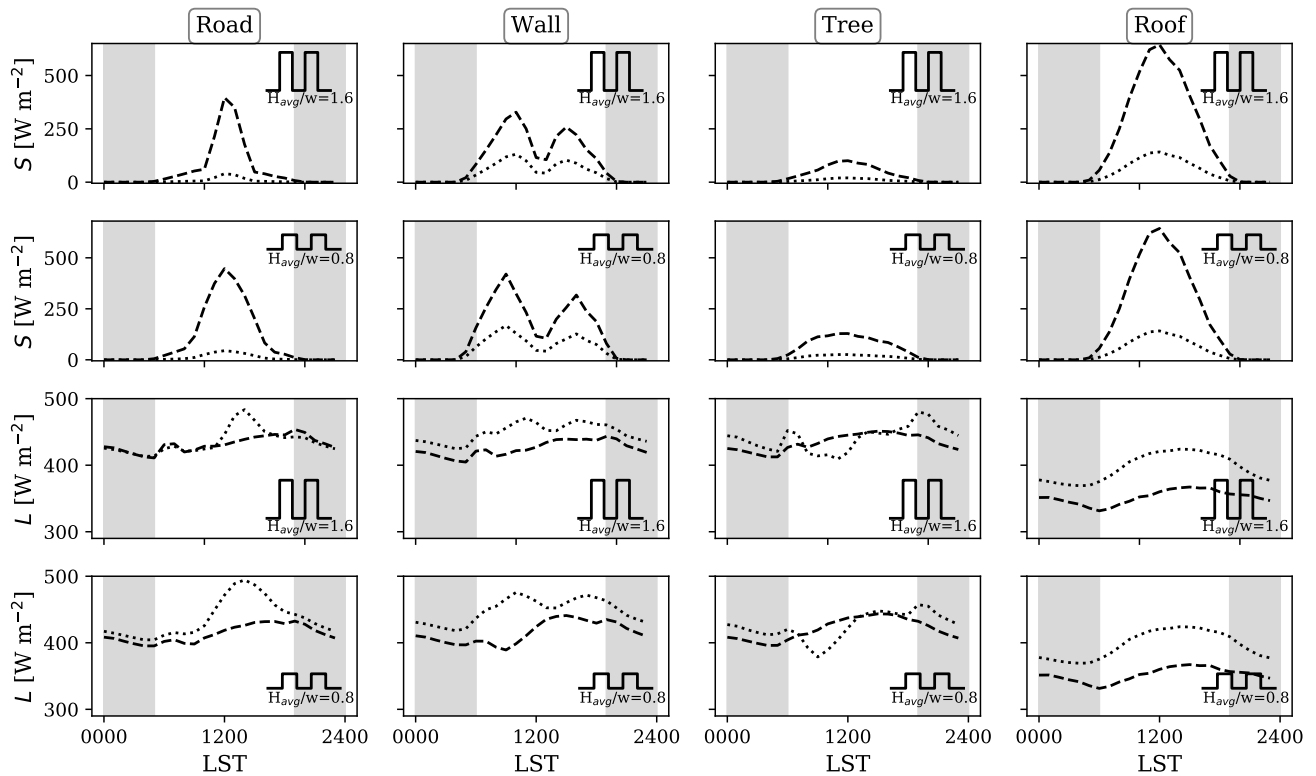
Figure 12 shows the [shortwave  \$S\$  \[ \$Wm^{-2}\$ \] and longwave  \$L\$  \[ \$Wm^{-2}\$ \] radiative fluxes](#) for different canyon aspect ratios. It can be seen that the [direct solar radiation flux absorbed net shortwave radiation flux, i.e. incoming  \$S^\downarrow\$  \[ \$Wm^{-2}\$ \] minus outgoing  \$S^\uparrow\$  \[ \$Wm^{-2}\$ \] fluxes](#), by the roof is not affected by the canyon aspect ratio, while the interior surfaces of the urban canyon absorb lower amounts of [direct solar radiation flux shortwave radiation fluxes](#) for the higher canyon aspect ratio. This is expected since a higher canyon aspect ratio creates more shading effects on interior canyon surfaces compared to a lower canyon aspect ratio. [Furthermore observe that the tree canopy receives slightly higher direct solar radiation flux compared to the road \(consisting of ground and surface cover vegetation\), for both canyon aspect ratios, because the tree canopy is at a higher elevation and more exposed to incoming direct solar radiation flux.](#) Likewise, it can be seen that the [diffuse solar radiation flux absorbed by the roof is not affected by the canyon aspect ratio, while the interior surfaces of the urban canyon absorb lower amounts of](#)



**Figure 11.** Effect of building cooling system Coefficient Of Performance (COP [-]) and heating system thermal efficiency ( $\eta_{heat}$  [-]) on cooling/heating waste heat, dehumidification waste heat, gas combustion waste heat, water heating waste heat, and UHI [K]; diurnal variation of mean and standard variation (error bar band) are shown using data obtained over a two-week period; nighttime is shown with shaded regions; times in Local Standard Time (LST).

diffuse solar radiation flux for the higher canyon aspect ratio. Focusing on the net shortwave radiation flux components, i.e. the incoming shortwave radiation flux and the outgoing shortwave radiation fluxes on the road and tree, it is noted that for the higher aspect ratio canyon the flux is fluxes are more pronounced near noon Local Standard Time (LST), while for the lower aspect ratio canyon the flux is fluxes are pronounced in more hours before and after noon LST. This expected since a higher aspect ratio canyon creates more shading effects on times before and after noon LST compared to a lower aspect ratio canyon. Focusing on the net longwave radiation flux components fluxes, i.e. the incoming longwave radiation flux incoming  $L^\downarrow$  and the outgoing longwave radiation flux  $L^\uparrow$  [Wm<sup>-2</sup>] minus outgoing  $L^\uparrow$  [Wm<sup>-2</sup>] fluxes, it is noted that the roof is not affected by the canyon aspect ratio does not influence the radiation flux components substantially, while the road and wall surfaces of the urban canyon lose lesser amounts of longwave radiation for the higher canyon aspect ratio, both during nighttime and daytime. This can be understood as higher longwave radiation trapping by the higher canyon aspect ratio. For trees, it can be

seen that during daytime, there can be a net longwave radiation gain (as opposed to loss) due to lower vegetation temperatures compared to the surrounding surfaces.



**Figure 12.** Effect of canyon aspect ratio  $H_{avg}/w$  [-] on hourly mean **direct solar radiation, diffuse solar radiation, shortwave**  $S$  [ $Wm^{-2}$ ] and longwave  $L$  [ $Wm^{-2}$ ] radiation fluxes; **incoming fluxes** ( $S^{\downarrow}$  and  $L^{\downarrow}$  [ $Wm^{-2}$ ]) shown using dashed lines; outgoing fluxes ( $S^{\uparrow}$  and  $L^{\uparrow}$  [ $Wm^{-2}$ ]) shown using dotted lines; diurnal variation of mean is shown using data obtained over a two-week period; nighttime is shown with shaded regions; times in Local Standard Time (LST).

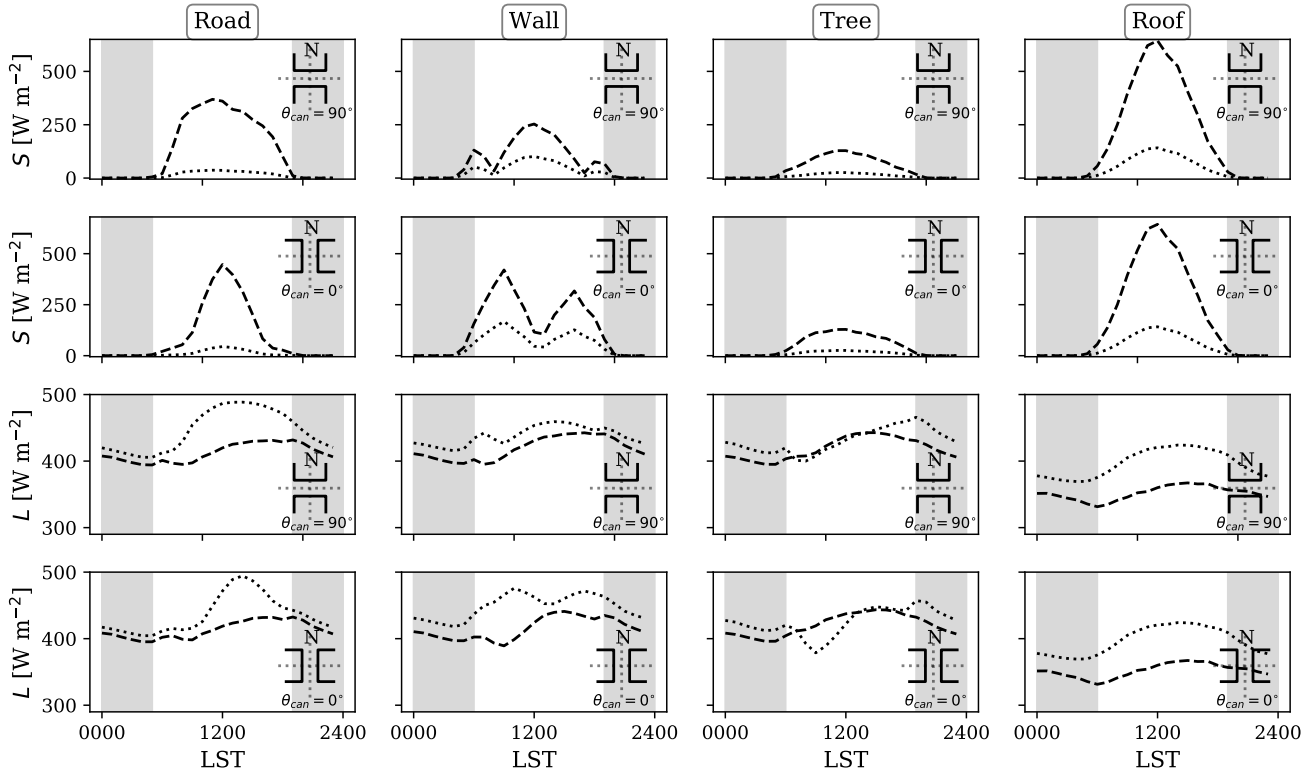
Figure 13 shows the radiative fluxes for different street canyon axis angles. It can be seen that the **direct solar shortwave** radiation flux absorbed by the roof is not affected by the street canyon axis angle, while the interior surfaces of the urban canyon show different responses to absorbing the **direct solar shortwave** radiation flux given the street canyon axis angle. With  $\theta_{can}=90^{\circ}$  the road surface absorbs the **direct solar radiation flux in hours just after sunrise and before sunset** **shortwave radiation flux over more hours during the day**, given that **this flux reaches the road surface only at the combined direct and diffuse shortwave fluxes reach the road surface at both low and high solar zenith angles and solar and azimuth angles from the east and west directions**. On the other hand, with  $\theta_{can}=0^{\circ}$  the road surface absorbs the **direct solar shortwave** radiation flux in hours around noon LST, given that this flux reaches the road surface **effectively** only at low solar zenith **angles and solar and azimuth angles from the north direction**. **Same trend can be observed for direct solar radiation flux absorbed by the tree**

canopy although the distribution is widened over more diurnal hours given the fact that the tree canopy is at a higher elevation and more exposed to incoming direct solar radiation flux compared to the road. With  $\theta_{\text{can}}=90^\circ$  the wall surface absorbs the direct solar shortwave radiation flux in most hours during midday, given that this flux reaches the wall surface with multiple combinations of solar zenith ~~angles and solar~~ and azimuth angles. On the other hand, with  $\theta_{\text{can}}=0^\circ$  the wall surface absorbs little direct solar shortwave radiation flux in hours around noon LST, given that this flux does not reach the wall surface when the solar azimuth angle is from the north direction. ~~In contrast, it can be seen that the diffuse solar radiation flux absorbed by all urban surfaces is not affected by the street canyon axis angle appreciably.~~ Focusing on the net shortwave longwave radiation flux components, the ~~most notable difference is that the flux components are widened over a large range of diurnal hours~~ road exhibits a net longwave radiation loss over more prolonged hours of daytime when  $\theta_{\text{can}}=90^\circ$  ~~due to the fact that multiple combinations of solar zenith and azimuth angles expose various urban surface to the incoming direct solar radiation flux. On the other hand,~~ The walls exhibit a higher net longwave radiation loss during daytime when  $\theta_{\text{can}}=0^\circ$  ~~the components of the shortwave radiation flux peak closer to noon LST and exhibit lower values after sunrise and before sunset hours since the combinations of solar zenith and azimuth angles do not expose interior canyon surfaces to the incoming direct solar radiation flux at those hours. Focusing on the net longwave radiation flux components, it is noted that the street canyon axis angle does not influence the radiation flux components substantially.~~ For trees, again, it can be seen that during daytime, there can be a net longwave radiation gain (as opposed to loss) due to lower vegetation temperatures compared to the surrounding surfaces.

### 3.2.5 Seasonal Variations

In the context of urban development, there are no unique and pre-designed guidelines which can be extended to all built-up areas because careful considerations of geographical features and seasonal variations are required. For example, the type of urban vegetation, which is well suited for both warm and cold seasons in fulfilling thermal and wind comfort standards, can be climate specific (Jamei et al., 2016). Winter is characterized by larger zenith angles and lower solar radiation fluxes received by the surfaces compared to the other seasons. In Winter, the temperature difference between indoor and outdoor environment is higher than the Summer, thus, seasonal variations can alter building energy consumption and UHI-UHI [K] effects substantially (Bueno et al., 2011). In an effort to investigate VCWG's ability to simulate urban climate variables in all seasons, it is run for Vancouver, Canada, for an entire year in 2011. The model input parameters are chosen to correspond to field observations of Runnalls and Oke (2000), in which the urban measurements were in downtown and the rural measurements were 25 km southeast of downtown in the midst of agricultural fields. In this field campaign, the plan area density was  $\lambda_p=0.39$  [-], the ratio of total surface to lot area was about 2.2 [-], the canyon angle was  $\theta_{\text{can}}=-45^\circ$ , urban measurement were taken at 10 m elevation, and rural measurements were taken at 2 m elevation. Runnalls and Oke (2000) reported maximum and minimum daily UHI [K] (medians and inner quartiles) for each month of the year.

Figure 14 shows the VCWG results for the hourly mean values of UHI-UHI [K] in each month of the year 2011 in Vancouver, Canada. ~~In this exploration is kept constant for all the months of the year.~~ It can be noted that in general daytime UHI early daytime UHI [K] values are lower than nighttime values, as expected. ~~Given the moderate climate of Vancouver, other than diurnal timing of UHI, no substantial change in the magnitude of UHI is predicted for different months of the year.~~ Also the



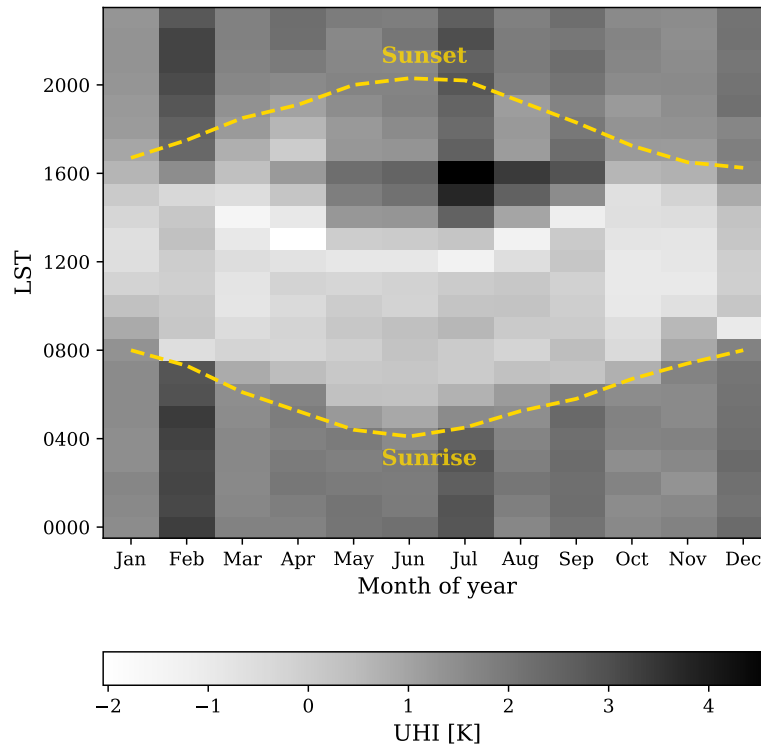
**Figure 13.** Effect of street canyon axis angle  $\theta_{can}$  [°] on hourly mean direct solar radiation, diffuse solar radiation, shortwave  $S$  [ $\text{Wm}^{-2}$ ] and longwave  $L$  [ $\text{Wm}^{-2}$ ] radiation fluxes; incoming fluxes ( $S^\downarrow$  and  $L^\downarrow$  [ $\text{Wm}^{-2}$ ]) shown using dashed lines; outgoing fluxes ( $S^\uparrow$  and  $L^\uparrow$  [ $\text{Wm}^{-2}$ ]) shown using dotted lines; diurnal variation of mean is shown using data obtained over a two-week period; nighttime is shown with shaded regions; times in Local Standard Time (LST).

greatest UHI [K] values are noted to occur in August and September. The seasonal variation of UHI-UHI [K] as predicted by VCWG is in agreement with a similar map reported by Oke et al. (2017).

5 Figure 15 shows the comparison of VCWG and observed (Runnalls and Oke, 2000) daily maximum and minimum of UHI [K] in each month in Vancouver. The agreement between the model and observations is reasonable. The average BIAS, RMSE, and  $R^2$  for daily maximum and minimum UHI [K] are  $-0.5$  K,  $0.45$  K, and  $0.97$ , respectively. It can be seen that the maximum daily UHI [K] can be greater than the minimum daily UHI [K], a phenomenon that the model captures well.

10 Figure 16 shows the profiles of potential temperature, horizontal wind speed, specific humidity, and turbulence kinetic energy during nighttime (averaged at 0200 LST) and daytime (averaged at 1400 LST) in different seasons for the Vancouver simulation. It is notable that the potential temperature and specific humidity profiles reflect the seasonal patterns (low values in the Winter and high values in the Summer). Wind speed and turbulence kinetic energy profiles do not reveal notable seasonal variations.



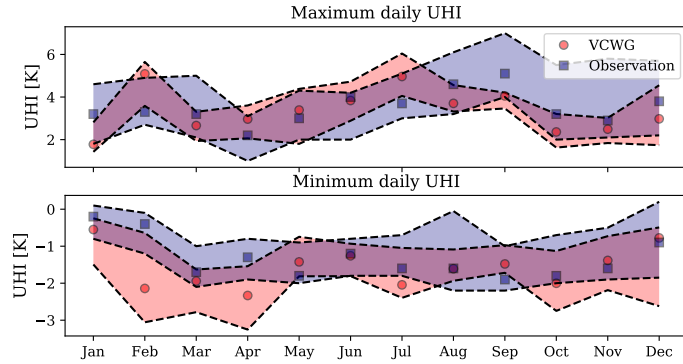


**Figure 14.** Hourly mean values of  $\text{UHI-UHI [K]}$  in each month in Vancouver, Canada, as predicted by VCWG; sunrise and sunset times are denoted by dashed lines; times in Local Standard Time (LST).

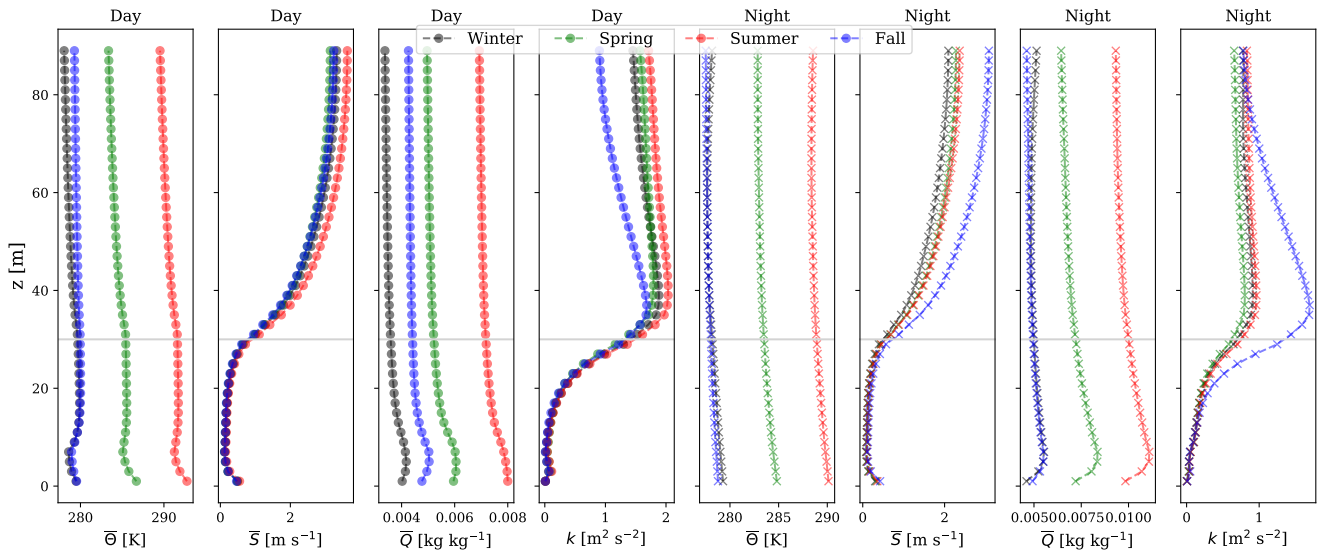
### 3.2.6 Other Climates

The VCWG ~~was~~ is further explored by predicting  $\text{UHI-UHI [K]}$  in different cities with different climate zones including Buenos Aires in ~~January 1988~~ February 1996, a city in the southern hemisphere with hot and humid climate, ~~Phoenix in August 1980, which has a dry desert climate,~~ Vancouver in August ~~Vancouver in September~~ 2011, representing a moderate oceanic climate, Osaka in ~~August 1996~~ September 1989, with subtropical climate, and Copenhagen in August 1999, representing cold and temperate climate. All simulations ~~were~~ are conducted for two weeks and then mean and standard variation of diurnal variations in UHI ~~were~~ are calculated (see Fig. 17). Appropriate input parameters for each city are used.

The result shows a diurnally-averaged value of +1.10 K for  $\text{UHI-UHI [K]}$  for Buenos Aires, which is consistent with a previous study measuring a diurnally-averaged  $\text{UHI-UHI}$  of +1.3 K (Bejarán and Camilloni, 2003). ~~The temperature difference between rural and urban areas in a dry and hot climate like Phoenix is relatively higher with the diurnally-averaged UHI value of -, in agreement with a study measuring a diurnally-averaged UHI of (Hawkins et al., 2004; Fast et al., 2005).~~ In case of Vancouver, the VCWG predicted a diurnally-averaged value of +1.67 K for  $\text{UHI}$  ~~and showed high intensity before sunrise.~~ VCWG



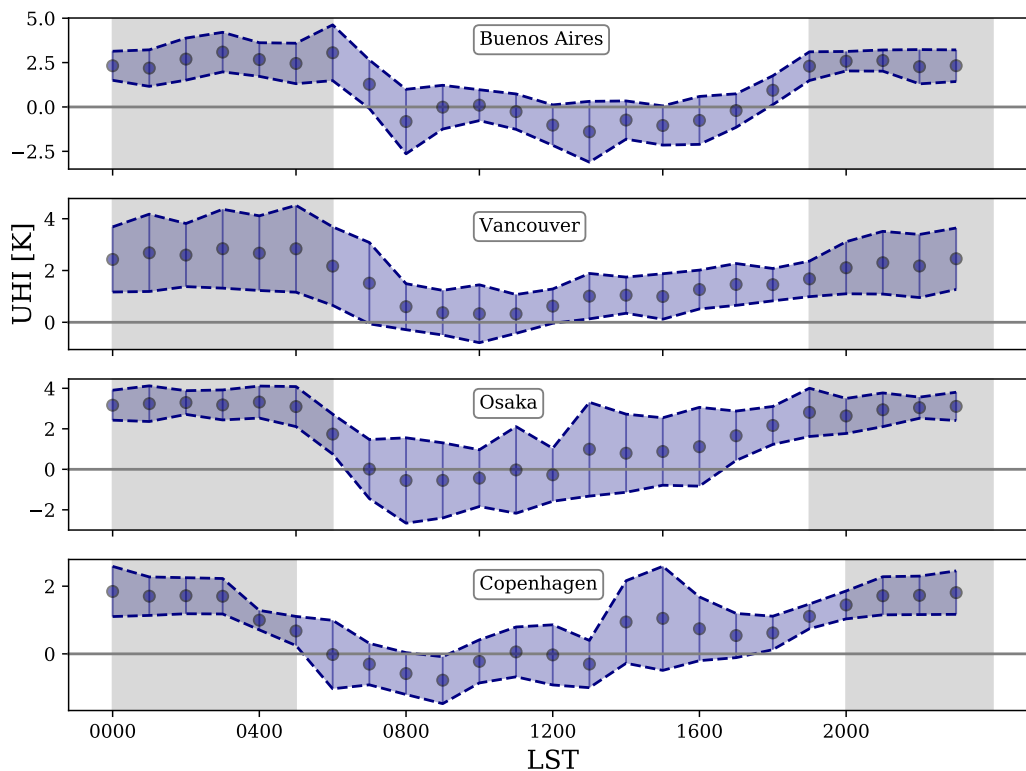
**Figure 15.** Comparison of VCWG and observed daily maximum and minimum of UHI [K] in each month in Vancouver, Canada; medians are shown with markers and the color bands indicate the inner quartiles; sunrise and sunset times are denoted by dashed lines; observations from Runnalls and Oke (2000).



**Figure 16.** Profiles of potential temperature, horizontal wind speed, specific humidity, and turbulence kinetic energy during nighttime (averaged at 0200 LST) and daytime (averaged at 1400 LST) in different seasons; black: Winter, green: Spring, red: Summer, and blue: Fall; building height shown with grey line; times in Local Standard Time (LST).

predicted a maximum UHI of UHI [K in Vancouver, in] in agreement with a measured maximum daily mean value of +1.4 K before sunrise (Runnalls, 1995; Lesnikowski, 2014; Ho et al., 2016)(Runnalls and Oke, 2000; Lesnikowski, 2014; Ho et al., 2016)

. Case studies in Japan have reportedly obtained urban warming in large and developed cities such as Osaka, which is the interest in this study, and Tokyo in the afternoon (Leal Filho et al., 2017). This effect is also predicted by VCWG that showed the diurnally-averaged UHI of UHI of +1.78 K, which is consistent with other studies measuring a diurnally-averaged UHI UHI of +1.2 K (Kusaka et al., 2012; Leal Filho et al., 2017). UHI-UHI [K] in Copenhagen is reported to change between +0.5 and +1.5 K depending on the wind speed, which agrees reasonably well with the VCWG prediction of UHI-varying from slightly negative values-UHI [K] varying from a small magnitude during the daytime to during the nighttime-large positive values during the night with a diurnal average of +0.75 K (Mahura et al., 2009).



**Figure 17.** Diurnal variation of the UHI-UHI [K] in Buenos Aires, Phoenix, Vancouver, Osaka, and Copenhagen; diurnal variation of mean and standard deviation (error-bar band) are shown using data obtained over a two-week period; nighttime is shown with shaded regions; times in Local Standard Time (LST).

### 10 3.2.7 Time Series Analysis

The VCWG was run for two weeks in August 2011 in Vancouver, Canada, to observe the day-to-day prediction of the temperature. Hourly time series of VCWG-predicted urban and rural temperatures with the corresponding EPW relative humidity, incoming direct and diffusive solar radiation, and mean horizontal wind speed in the rural area are shown in Fig. ???. The model can capture the cyclic pattern of temperature (and UHI) that is affected by the other forcing meteorological variables. For example, high UHI is mainly predicted during nighttime with preceding days dominated by high direct and diffuse incoming solar radiation and low wind speed. On the other hand, low UHI is mainly predicted during nighttime with preceding days dominated by attenuated incoming solar radiation and high wind speed.

Hourly time series of rural and urban temperatures, rural relative humidity, rural incoming solar radiation, and rural mean horizontal wind speed in August 2011 in Vancouver, Canada; the shaded areas represent nighttime; positive UHI represented by shading the area between the temperature curves with red, while negative UHI represented by shading the area between the temperature curves with blue.

#### 4 Conclusions and Future Work

The Vertical City Weather Generator (VCWG) is an urban microclimate model designed to calculate vertical profiles of meteorological variables including potential temperature, wind speed, specific humidity, and turbulence kinetic energy in an urban area. The VCWG is composed of ~~sub-models~~ four sub-models for ingestion of urban parameters and meteorological variables in a rural area ~~as boundary conditions~~ (as input and boundary conditions) and prediction of the meteorological variables in a nearby urban area, the building energy performance variables, and the short and longwave radiation transfer processes. VCWG combines elements of several previous models developed by ~~Loughner et al. (2012)~~, Santiago and Martilli (2010), Bueno et al. (2014), Krayenhoff (2014), Krayenhoff et al. (2015), and ~~Redon et al. (2017)~~ Meili et al. (2020) to generate a model with the ability to predict vertical profiles of urban meteorological variables, forced by rural measurements, and with ~~feedback interaction~~ two-way coupling with both building energy and radiation models.

To evaluate VCWG, a microclimate field campaign was held from 15 July 2018 to 5 September 2018, in Guelph, Canada. The data was collected at the University of Guelph main campus representing an urban site and in the Guelph Turfgrass Institute, which is an open space to be considered as a nearby rural site. In the urban site, its predictions of potential temperature, wind velocity components, relative humidity, and solar radiation were measured. In the rural site, the temperature and relative humidity at 2 as well as wind speed and direction at 10 were provided from a weather station by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) dataset. speed, and specific humidity are compared to observation of the Basel UrBan Boundary Layer Experiment (BUBBLE) microclimate field campaign for two weeks starting 21 June 2002 (Christen and Vogt, 2004; Rotach et al., 2005). The results obtained from VCWG ~~agreed~~ agree reasonably well with the measurements ~~and predicted a~~ and. The average BIAS and RMSE for wind speed, temperature, and specific humidity are  $-0.20 \pm 0.50 \text{ ms}^{-1}$ ,  $+0.11 \pm 1.73 \text{ K}$ , and  $+0.0011 \pm 0.0016 \text{ kg kg}^{-1}$ , respectively. The temperature BIAS is improved compared to the predecessor UWG model ( $-0.6 \text{ K}$  (Bueno et al., 2012a)). VCWG-predicted mean and standard deviation for UHI are  $+1.59$  and  $1.46 \text{ K}$ , respectively, for Urban Heat Island (UHI) with reasonable agreement to observations reporting in reasonable agreement with observations reporting a mean and standard de-

viation for ~~UHI of and~~ UHI of +1.72 and 0.91 K, respectively. ~~The error analysis showed overall BIAS of , , and for potential temperature, wind speed, and specific humidity, respectively. The analysis also showed overall RMSE of , , and for the same variables respectively.~~

The performance of the VCWG ~~was is~~ further assessed by conducting ~~seven several~~ types of explorations for both nighttime and daytime urban microclimate. First, we ~~investigated investigate~~ how the urban geometry, which is characterized by plan area density  $\lambda_p$  [-] and frontal area density  $\lambda_f$  ~~, could [-], can~~ affect the urban microclimate. ~~Any An~~ increase in  $\lambda_p$  ~~was associated with higher air temperatures and reduced [-] is associated with lower air temperatures (due to shading) and reduces~~ wind speeds within the urban canyon ~~. On the other hand, a during daytime. A~~ configuration with higher  $\lambda_f$  ~~increased [-] also increases~~ shading effects and consequently ~~reduced reduces~~ daytime temperatures, but it ~~increased increases~~ nighttime temperatures due to more heat released from urban surfaces that ~~was is~~ trapped in the canyon. The cooling effect of the urban vegetation ~~was is~~ also evaluated by changing the Leaf Area Density (~~LAD LAD~~ [m<sup>2</sup>m<sup>-3</sup>]) profiles within the canyon. Increasing the average ~~LAD showed LAD [m<sup>2</sup>m<sup>-3</sup>] shows~~ heat removal from the canyon alongside with lower wind speeds due to the drag induced by trees. The VCWG ~~was is~~ also run for different building types (a ~~school and a small office mid-rise apartment and a hospital~~), cooling system Coefficient of Performance (~~COP COP~~) [-], and heating thermal efficiency ( $\eta_{\text{heat}}$  [-]). The results ~~showed that a school show that a hospital~~ generates more waste heat fluxes associated with ~~gas consumption and water heating, which causes higher impact on the urban climate cooling and gas consumption, which increase urban temperatures~~. The analysis of different cooling ~~system also revealed systems also reveal~~ that less-efficient system (lower ~~COP and heating efficiency~~) ~~resulted COP [-] and  $\eta_{\text{heat}}$  [-] result~~ in more waste heat emission ~~and slightly higher temperatures~~. The radiation model ~~was is~~ assessed by running the VCWG for different canyon ~~axis angles and canyon aspect ratio. The direct and diffusive solar aspect ratios and axis angles. The~~ radiation fluxes at the ~~urban surfaces, and net longwave and shortwave solar radiation fluxes were compared. Net shortwave radiation flux was pronounced in less hours for the higher aspect ratio canyon, due to more shading effects on times before and after local noon. When the street canyon axis angle was perpendicular to the north axis, the net shortwave radiation fluxes were widened over a larger range of diurnal hours road and walls show differences according to canyon aspect ratio and axis angle, while the fluxes at the tree canopy and roof are less sensitive to the canyon aspect ratio and axis angle.~~ Another exploration made for all months of the year ~~justified in Vancouver, Canada, justifies~~ the ability of the VCWG to predict the urban microclimate in different seasons. The ~~result showed results show~~ the expected diurnal variation of ~~temperature profile UHI [K] in the urban site. The Also daily maximum and minimum UHI [K] values are in agreement with observations of Runnalls and Oke (2000). The average BIAS and RMSE for daily maximum and minimum UHI [K] are -0.5 K and 0.45 K, respectively. The~~ ability of the model to predict ~~UHI UHI [K] in different cities with different climate zones was is~~ assessed. The case studies ~~were are~~ Buenos Aires, ~~Phoenix, Vancouver, Osaka, and Copenhagen. Finally, VCWG was able to produce realistic urban temperatures when it was run continuously for two weeks in Vancouver.~~ All exploration results obtained from the VCWG ~~were are~~ reasonably consistent with the previous ~~studies observations~~ in the literature.

In this study, it ~~was is~~ shown that the urban microclimate model VCWG can successfully extend the spatial dimension of the preexisting bulk flow (single-layer) urban microclimate models to one-dimension in the vertical direction, while it also considers the relationship of the urban microclimate model to the rural meteorological measurements and the building energy

conditions. The effect of the key urban elements such as building configuration, building energy systems, and vegetation ~~were~~ are considered, but there is still opportunity to improve VCWG further. The urban site is simplified as blocks of buildings with symmetric and regular dimensions, which can be more realistically represented if more considerations ~~were~~ are to be taken into account about nonuniform distribution of building dimensions. Future studies can also focus on improvement of flow-  
 5 field parameterization or including additional source/sink terms in the transport equations to model horizontal motions, eddies, and flow fluctuations in the urban area, which is realistically very three-dimensional and heterogeneous. ~~VCWG-development~~ Urban hydrology can be added to VCWG in the future to account for precipitation effects. At present, the developed VCWG model can account for the spatial variation of urban microclimate in a computationally efficient manner independent of an auxiliary mesoscale model. This advantage is really important for urban planners, architects, and consulting engineers, to run  
 10 VCWG operationally fast for many projects.

*Code and data availability.* The VCWG v1.2.0 is developed at the Atmospheric Innovations Research (AIR) Laboratory at the University of Guelph: <http://www.aaa-scientists.com>. The source code is available under GPL 3.0 licence: <https://opensource.org/licenses/GPL-3.0> (last access: May 2019) and can be downloaded from <https://www.zenodo.org/> with DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.3951065.

## Appendix A

### 15 A1 ~~Heat flux~~ Surface Energy Balance in the rural area Rural Area

~~The net sensible heat fluxes at the surface level in the rural area can be decomposed into heat flux caused by vegetation, In Eq. 7 the net shortwave solar~~ radiation flux absorbed ~~by the surface~~, ~~and the heat convection flux between the outer layer of soil and the atmosphere (see Eq. ??). The sensible heat flux from vegetation at the surface~~ can be calculated ~~as from~~

$$Q_{Hveg,rur} S_{,rur} = F_{veg}((1 - F_{lat,grassveg})(1 - \alpha_{rur}) + F_{veg}(1 - \alpha_V) Q_{rad,rur}^{rec}) (S^{\downarrow direct} + S^{\downarrow diffuse}), \quad (A1)$$

20 where  $F_{veg}$  [-] is the fraction of the rural area covered by vegetation, ~~is fraction of absorbed heat that is converted to an emitted latent heat flux~~,  $\alpha_{rur}$  [-] ~~is overall albedo of the rural area~~,  $\alpha_V$  [-] is the albedo of ~~the vegetation~~, ~~vegetation (here considered to be the same for rural and urban vegetation)~~, and  $S^{\downarrow direct}$  and ~~is the solar radiation flux (direct plus diffuse components) received at the rural surface given in the weather file~~  $S^{\downarrow diffuse}$  [ $Wm^{-2}$ ] ~~are the forcing direct and diffuse shortwave radiation fluxes from the EPW file, respectively~~. The net longwave solar radiation flux absorbed at the surface can be calculated from

$$25 Q_{rad,rur} L_{,rur} = ((1 - F_{veg})(1 - \alpha) L^{\downarrow} - L^{\uparrow} = \varepsilon_{rur}) + F_{veg}(1 - \alpha_V) Q_{rad,rur}^{rec} \left( L^{\downarrow} - \sigma T_{s,rur}^4 \right), \quad (A2)$$

where ~~is overall albedo of the rural area~~. ~~The albedos of~~  $L^{\downarrow}$  [ $Wm^{-2}$ ] ~~is the rural area are input parameters in VCWG~~. ~~forcing longwave radiation flux from the EPW file~~,  $L^{\uparrow}$  [ $Wm^{-2}$ ] ~~is the longwave radiation flux leaving the rural surface at temperature~~

$T_{s,rur}$  [K], and  $\varepsilon_{rur}$  [-] is rural surface emissivity. The net sensible heat flux is calculated using Louis (1979)

$$Q_{sen,rur} = \rho C_p \frac{\kappa^2}{\left(\ln \frac{z}{z_{0rur}}\right)^2} \frac{1}{R} \bar{S}_{rur,z=10m} (\bar{\Theta}_{rur,s} - \bar{\Theta}_{rur,2m}) F_h \left( \frac{z}{z_{0rur}}, Ri_B \right), \quad (A3)$$

where  $R$  [-] is a model constant,  $Ri_B$  [-] is the bulk Richardson number, and  $F_h$  [-] is the stability function for sensible heat flux defined by Louis (1979). The net latent heat flux is calculated using the Bowen ratio  $\beta_{rur}$  [-] such that  $Q_{lat,rur} = Q_{sen,rur} / \beta_{rur}$

5 [Wm<sup>-2</sup>]. The ground heat flux drives the conduction equation at the upper most soil layer via (Bueno et al., 2012a)

$$dC_v \frac{dT_1}{dt} = C(T_2 - T_1) + Q_{grd}, \quad (A4)$$

where  $d$  [m] is the soil layer thickness,  $C_v$  [Jm<sup>-3</sup>K<sup>-1</sup>] is volumetric heat capacity of soil,  $T_1 = \bar{\Theta}_{rur,s}$  [k] is soil upper layer temperature (the same as soil surface temperature),  $C$  [Wm<sup>-2</sup>K<sup>-1</sup>] is the soil thermal conductance, and  $T_2$  [K] is soil temperature in the second layer under ground. In the lowest layer (n) of soil the conduction equation is forced by a deep soil

10 temperature  $T_{deep}$  [K]

$$dC_v \frac{dT_{n-1}}{dt} = C(T_{deep} - T_{n-1}). \quad (A5)$$

## A2 Source/Sink Term in the 1-D Model

The pressure and skin drags exerted on the flow in Eq-s Eqs. 8 and 9 are formulated as follows (Santiago and Martilli, 2010; Krayenhoff, 2010; Santiago and Martilli, 2010; Krayenhoff, 2014; Krayenhoff et al., 2015; Simón-Moral et al., 2017; Nazarian et al., 2020; Krayenhoff et al.

15

$$D_x = \underbrace{\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial \tilde{P}}{\partial x}}_I + \underbrace{\nu(\nabla^2 \tilde{U})}_{II}, \quad (A6)$$

$$D_y = \underbrace{\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial \tilde{P}}{\partial y}}_I + \underbrace{\nu(\nabla^2 \tilde{V})}_{II}, \quad (A7)$$

where term **I** represents dispersive pressure variation (form drag) induced by vegetation and building and term **II** represents the dispersive viscous dissipation (skin drag) induced by horizontal surfaces. The former can be parameterized as below

$$20 \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial \tilde{P}}{\partial x} = (B_D C_{DBv} + LAD\Omega C_{DV}) \bar{U}_{expl} \bar{U}, \quad (A8)$$

$$\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial \tilde{P}}{\partial y} = (B_D C_{DBv} + LAD\Omega C_{DV}) \bar{V}_{expl} \bar{V}, \quad (A9)$$

where  $B_D$  [m<sup>-1</sup>] is sectional building area density,  $C_{DBv}$  [-] is sectional drag coefficient in the presence of trees,  $LAD$  [m<sup>2</sup>m<sup>-3</sup>] is leaf area density in the canyon,  $\Omega$  [-] is clumping factor,  $C_{DV}$  [-] is the drag coefficient for tree foliage, and  $\bar{U}_{expl}$  and  $\bar{V}_{expl}$  [ms<sup>-1</sup>] are wind velocity components in x and y directions from a previous numerical solution, respectively, which

are assumed explicitly as constants to linearize the system of equations to be solved. The skin drag can be parameterized as

~~follow~~ follows

$$\nu(\nabla^2 \tilde{U}) = \frac{1}{\Delta z} c_{dfm} \bar{U}_{expl} \bar{U}, \quad (\text{A10})$$

$$\nu(\nabla^2 \tilde{V}) = \frac{1}{\Delta z} c_{dfm} \bar{V}_{expl} \bar{V}, \quad (\text{A11})$$

5 where  $c_d$  [-] is skin drag coefficient and  $f_m$  [-] is a function of stability from Louis (1979).

The terms related to wake production  $S_{wake}$  and dissipation rate  $\varepsilon$  [both in  $\text{m}^2\text{s}^{-3}$ ] in Eq. 11 can be parameterized as

$$S_{wake} = (B_D C_{DBv} + LAD \Omega C_{DV}) \bar{U}_{expl}^3, \quad (\text{A12})$$

$$\varepsilon = C_\varepsilon \frac{k^{\frac{3}{2}}}{\ell_{\varepsilon, \text{dissip}}}, \quad (\text{A13})$$

where  $\Omega$  [-] is clumping factor,  $C_\varepsilon$  [-] is a model constant and  $\ell_{\varepsilon, \text{dissip}}$  [m] is a dissipation length scale obtained by sensitivity

10 study using CFD (?). (Nazarian et al., 2020). Note that plan area density  $\lambda_p$  [-] in this study is greater than the limit considered by Nazarian et al. (2020), so we assume that the parameterizations extrapolate to this value of  $\lambda_p$  [-].

The heat source/sink terms, terms in Eq. 12, caused by roof ( $S_{\Theta R}$ ) and ground ( $S_{\Theta G}$ ) [both in  $\text{Ks}^{-1}$ ] are calculated based on the study by Louis (1979) and the heat flux from the wall ( $S_{\Theta W}$  [ $\text{Ks}^{-1}$ ]) is formulated in Martilli et al. (2002). The two other ~~heat source/sink~~ terms can be parameterized as below

$$15 \quad S_{\Theta A} = \frac{4\rho_{abs}k_{air}}{\rho C_p v_L} \left[ (1 - \lambda_p) L_A \right], \quad (\text{A14})$$

$$S_{\Theta V} = \frac{2g_{Ha}c_{PM}}{\rho C_p v_L} \left[ LAD(1 - \lambda_p)(\bar{\Theta}_V - \bar{\Theta}) \right], \quad (\text{A15})$$

where  $L_A$  [ $\text{Wm}^{-2}$ ] is the absorbed flux density of longwave radiation in the canyon,  $\rho_{abs}$  [ $\text{kgm}^{-3}$ ] is the density of absorbing molecules,  $k_{air}$  [ $\text{m}^2\text{kg}^{-1}$ ] is their mass extinction cross section,  $v_L = (1 - \lambda_p)$  [-] is the fraction of total volume that is outdoor air,  $g_{Ha}$  [ $\text{molm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ ] is conductance for heat,  $c_{PM}$  [ $\text{Jmol}^{-1}\text{K}^{-1}$ ] is the molar heat capacity for the air, and  $\bar{\Theta}_V$  [K] is the

20 temperature of tree foliage.

In the specific humidity ~~equation~~ Eqn. 16, the source/sink term can be calculated using the following equation

$$S_{QV} = \frac{\Lambda_M g_v \Omega}{\rho \Lambda v_L} \left[ LAD(1 - \lambda_p) \left( s[\bar{\Theta}_V - \bar{\Theta}] + \frac{D}{P} \right) \right] \quad (\text{A16})$$

where  $\Lambda_M$  [ $\text{Jmol}^{-1}$ ] is molar latent heat of vaporization,  $\Lambda$  [ $\text{Jkg}^{-1}$ ] is latent heat of vaporization,  $g_v$  [ $\text{molm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ ] is the average surface and boundary-layer conductance for humidity for the whole leaf,  $s$  [ $\text{K}^{-1}$ ] is derivative of saturation vapour pressure with respect to temperature divided by pressure,  $D$  [Pa] is the vapour deficit of the atmosphere, and  $P$  [Pa] is atmospheric pressure.

25



### A3 Building Heat Exchanges

The heat fluxes in Eq. 17 can be parameterized as bellow

$$Q_{surf} = \sum h_i A_i (T_{si} - T_{in}) \quad (A17)$$

$$Q_{inf} = \dot{m}_{inf} C_p (T_{out} - T_{in}) \quad (A18)$$

$$5 \quad Q_{vent} = \dot{m}_{vent} C_p (T_{supp} - T_{in}) \quad (A19)$$

where  $h_i$  ~~and are~~  $[Wm^{-2}K^{-1}]$  is convective heat transfer coefficient (or u-value) ~~and surface area of for surface i and~~  $A_i$   $[m^2m^{-2}]$  is surface area for surface i per building foot print area. Surface i can correspond to indoor elements such as ceiling, walls, floor, building mass, and windows.  $T_{si}$  [K] is the temperature of inner layer of elements,  $T_{in}$  [K] is indoor temperature,  $T_{out}$  [K] is the outdoor temperature averaged over building height,  $T_{supp}$  [K] is supply temperature,  $\dot{m}_{inf}$   $[kgs^{-1}m^{-2}]$  is mass flow rate of infiltration (exfiltration) per building footprint area, and  $\dot{m}_{vent}$   $[kgs^{-1}m^{-2}]$  is mass flow rate of ventilated air in the HVAC system ~~per building footprint area.~~

### A4 Longwave and Shortwave Radiation Model

For shortwave radiation fluxes, multiple reflections are considered. The total absorbed shortwave radiation flux ~~A summary of details for the radiation model is provided here from Meili et al. (2020), while mathematical calculations are not provided here for brevity. The direct and diffuse shortwave radiation fluxes absorbed by each urban element can be calculated by adding the first absorption of shortwave radiation flux before any reflection to the radiation flux received as a result of multiple reflections with the other elements. The following equations have been developed by Redon et al. (2017)-~~

$$S_S = \Psi_{SG} \tau_{SG} (1 - \delta_s) G_\infty + \Psi_{SV} \tau_{SV} \delta_s V_\infty + \Psi_{SW} \tau_{SW} W_\infty + \Psi_{ST} \delta_t T_\infty$$

$$20 \quad S_G = S_G^0 + (1 - \alpha_G) [\Psi_{GW} \tau_{GW} W_\infty + c_{GT} \Psi_{GT} \delta_t T_\infty]$$

$$S_V = S_V^0 + (1 - \alpha_V) [\Psi_{VW} \tau_{VW} W_\infty + c_{VT} \Psi_{VT} \delta_t T_\infty]$$

$$S_W = S_W^0 + (1 - \alpha_W) [\Psi_{WG} \tau_{WG} (1 - \delta_s) G_\infty + \Psi_{WV} \tau_{WV} \delta_s V_\infty + \Psi_{WW} \tau_{WW} \frac{W_\infty}{2} + c_{WT} \Psi_{WT} \delta_t T_\infty]$$

$$S_T = \frac{1}{\delta_t} \left[ (S^\downarrow + S^\uparrow) - (S_S + (1 - \delta_s) S_G + \delta_s S_V + \frac{2H_{avg}}{w} S_W) \right]$$

where the subscripts ‘S’, ‘G’, ‘V’, ‘W’, and ‘T’ represent sky, ground, ground-vegetation cover, wall, and tree, respectively. The superscript ‘0’ signifies the before-reflection absorption of shortwave radiation (described in detail in Redon et al. (2017)) ~~The view factor between two urban elements is shown by with the suitable subscripts (e.g., and ). For example represents the are computed as functions of urban canyon height, width, tree shape, and albedo. The urban geometry creates shading effects by blocking a portion of the incoming direct solar radiation flux. This flux is further decreased by the sky view factor, which reduces the incoming diffuse solar radiation flux and traps reflected solar rays within the canyon. Two steps are involved to~~

calculate the net shortwave radiation flux: 1a) the direct shortwave radiation flux received by each urban element is calculated as a function of the sun position and shading effects created by buildings and trees; 1b) the diffuse shortwave radiation received by each urban element is computed as a function of the corresponding sky view factor; 2) infinite radiation reflections within the urban canyon are calculated using view factors and the net shortwave radiation flux for each urban element is then calculated.

- 5 All urban elements are assumed to be Lambertian with isotropic scattering and reflections. If there are no trees, the view factor between ground and wall. Note that ground and ground-vegetation cover have the same view factors with other surfaces, e factors are computed analytically. Otherwise a Monte Carlo ray tracing algorithm is used. No obstructions are considered for roofs, i.e. trees cannot be taller than buildings. The model computes the net shortwave radiation flux due to both direct and diffuse radiation, allowing to investigate effects of shade and albedo in detail.  $g_{\downarrow}$ . The total shortwave radiation reflected by ground, ground-vegetation cover, wall, and trees are shown by  $\rho_g$ ,  $\rho_{gv}$ , and  $\rho_w$ , respectively (described in detail in Redon et al. (2017)).  $I_{\downarrow}$  is direct incoming solar radiation,  $I_{\downarrow,d}$  is diffuse incoming solar radiation (and are both obtained from the input weather file). The energy associated with the shortwave radiation exchange on each urban element is conserved.

- For net longwave radiation flux on each urban surface, the difference between the incoming and outgoing longwave radiation fluxes, is radiative transmissivity between two elements ( $\tau_{ij}$ ), is street width,  $W$ , is average building height,  $H$ , is cover fraction of tree canopy,  $f_c$ , and is surface fraction covered by vegetation. The shading effect of trees are considered in the formulation of transmissivity (Lee and Park, 2008). Note that ground and ground-vegetation cover have the same transmissivity with other surfaces, outgoing longwave radiation fluxes are considered. These fluxes depend on surface temperatures. Infinite reflections of longwave radiation within the urban canyon are considered.  $g_{\uparrow}$ . Again, no obstructions are considered for roofs, i.e. trees cannot be taller than buildings. The canyon air does not impact the radiation exchange. The energy associated with the longwave radiation exchange on each urban surface is conserved.

- For longwave radiation fluxes, multiple reflections are considered. The net longwave radiation fluxes received by the urban surfaces can be computed as (Loughner et al., 2012)

$$L_W = \varepsilon_W \left\{ \tau_{WS} \Psi_{WS} L_S + \tau_{WG} \left[ (1 - \delta_s) \varepsilon_G \Psi_{WG} \sigma T_G^4 + \delta_s \varepsilon_V \Psi_{WV} \sigma T_V^4 \right] + \tau_{WW} \varepsilon_W \Psi_{WW} \sigma T_W^4 + L_{T\uparrow}^W - \sigma T_W^4 + \tau_{WG} \left[ (1 - \delta_s) (1 - \varepsilon_G) \Psi_{WG} L_{T\uparrow}^G \right] + \tau_{WW} (1 - \varepsilon_W) \Psi_{WW} L_{T\uparrow}^W + \tau_{WG} \tau_{WS} \left[ (1 - \delta_s) (1 - \varepsilon_G) \Psi_{WG} \Psi_{GS} L_S + \delta_s (1 - \varepsilon_V) \Psi_{WV} \Psi_{VS} L_S \right] + \tau_{WG} \tau_{WG} \left[ (1 - \delta_s) (1 - \varepsilon_G) \Psi_{WG} \Psi_{WG} \varepsilon_W \sigma T_W^4 + \delta_s (1 - \varepsilon_V) \Psi_{WG} \Psi_{WG} \varepsilon_W \sigma T_W^4 \right] + \tau_{WW} \tau_{WG} \left[ (1 - \delta_s) (1 - \varepsilon_W) \Psi_{WW} \Psi_{WG} \varepsilon_G \sigma T_G^4 + \delta_s (1 - \varepsilon_W) \Psi_{WW} \Psi_{WG} \varepsilon_V \sigma T_V^4 \right] + \tau_{WW} \tau_{WS} (1 - \varepsilon_W) \Psi_{WW} \Psi_{WS} L_S + \tau_{WW} \tau_{WW} (1 - \varepsilon_W) \Psi_{WW} \Psi_{WW} \varepsilon_W \sigma T_W^4 \right\}$$

$$L_G = (1 - \delta_s) \varepsilon_G \left\{ \tau_{GS} L_S \Psi_{GS} + \tau_{WG} \varepsilon_W \Psi_{WG} \sigma T_W^4 + L_{T\uparrow}^G - \sigma T_G^4 + \tau_{WG} (1 - \varepsilon_W) \Psi_{GW} L_{T\uparrow}^W + \tau_{WG} \tau_{WS} (1 - \varepsilon_W) \Psi_{GW} \Psi_{WS} L_S + \tau_{WG} \tau_{WW} \Psi_{GW} \Psi_{WW} \varepsilon_W \sigma T_W^4 + \tau_{WG} \tau_{WG} \left[ (1 - \delta_s) (1 - \varepsilon_W) \Psi_{GW} \Psi_{WG} \varepsilon_G \sigma T_G^4 + \delta_s (1 - \varepsilon_W) \Psi_{GW} \Psi_{WG} \varepsilon_V \sigma T_V^4 \right] \right\}$$

$$L_V = \delta_s \varepsilon_V \left\{ \tau_{GS} L_S \Psi_{GS} + \tau_{WG} \varepsilon_W \Psi_{WG} \sigma T_W^4 + L_{T\uparrow}^G - \sigma T_V^4 + \tau_{WG} (1 - \varepsilon_W) \Psi_{GW} L_{T\uparrow}^W \right. \\ \left. + \tau_{WG} \tau_{WS} (1 - \varepsilon_W) \Psi_{GW} \Psi_{WS} L_S + \tau_{WG} \tau_{WW} \Psi_{GW} \Psi_{WW} \varepsilon_W \sigma T_W^4 \right. \\ \left. + \tau_{WG} \tau_{WG} [(1 - \delta_s)(1 - \varepsilon_W) \Psi_{GW} \Psi_{WG} \varepsilon_G \sigma T_G^4 + \delta_s (1 - \varepsilon_W) \Psi_{GW} \Psi_{WG} \varepsilon_V T_V^4] \right\}$$

$$L_T = L_S^T + L_T^T + L_G^T + L_V^T + L_W^T - L_{T\uparrow},$$

where the subscripts ‘S’, ‘G’, ‘V’, ‘W’, and ‘T’ represent sky, ground, ground-vegetation cover, wall, and tree, respectively.  $L_{T\uparrow}$  is radiative longwave flux emitted from the atmosphere/sky,  $T$  is surface temperature where can be  $T_s$ ,  $T_g$ , and  $T_v$ .  $L_{T\uparrow}^G$  is the longwave radiation emitted from surface that reaches surface.  $L_{T\uparrow}^W$  represents the downwelling longwave radiation from the atmosphere above the street canyon that is absorbed by the tree canopy and  $L_{T\uparrow}^S$ ,  $L_{T\uparrow}^G$ , and  $L_{T\uparrow}^W$  represent the longwave radiation emitted from the tree canopy, ground, ground-vegetation cover, and walls, respectively, that is absorbed by the tree canopy. These terms account for multiple reflections from the walls, ground, and ground-vegetation cover in the urban street canyon.  $L_{T\uparrow}^T$  is total longwave radiation emitted from the tree canopy. A complete formulation of [For the case of no trees, analytical view factors are calculated using standard equations \(Masson, 2000; Lee and Park, 2008; Ryu et al., 2011; Wang et al., 2013\), while for trees the method of Ryu et al. \(2016\) is used. View factors meet a set of three requirements: 1\) the self view factor of a flat surface is zero, 2\) energy at the surface is conserved, and 3\) view factors are reciprocal. The view factors for the terms in is provided in detail in Loughner et al. \(2012\) case with trees are calculated using a Monte Carlo ray tracing algorithm \(Wang, 2014; Frank et al., 2016\). This algorithm performs a probabilistic sampling of all rays emitted by an urban element. The relative frequency of rays remitted by one element that hit another element is an estimation of the view factor between the two elements. On each element, a large number of randomly distributed emitting points are considered. These view factors are also corrected for the three requirements mentioned above.](#)

*Author contributions.* MM wrote the paper with significant conceptual input from ESK and AAA and critical feedback from all co-authors. BB and LKN developed the base Urban Weather Generator (UWG) program in MATLAB. CM and SV translated UWG from MATLAB to Python. NN and ESK provided their code for the one-dimensional vertical diffusion model for the urban climate that was integrated into VCWG. MM and AAA developed the Vertical City Weather Generator (VCWG) program in Python by integrating various modeling components developed by BB, LKN, CM, SV, ESK, and NN. BD, AN, MKN, and MRN edited the manuscript.

*Competing interests.* The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

*Acknowledgements.* ~~The authors are indebted to Steve Nyman, Chris Duiker, Peter Purvis, Manuela Racki, Jeffrey Defoe, Joanne Ryks, Ryan Smith, James Braeken, and Samantha French at the University of Guelph, who helped with the campaign logistics. Special credit is directed toward Amanda Sawlor, Esra Mohamed, Di Cheng, Randy Regan, Margaret Love, Angela Vuk, and Carolyn Dowling-Osborn at the University of Guelph for administrative support.~~ The computational platforms were set up with the assistance of Jeff Madge, Joel Best, and Matthew Kent at the University of Guelph. The authors thank Alberto Martilli at Centre for Energy, Environment and Technology (CIEMAT) in Madrid, Spain, who developed and shared an earlier version of the one-dimensional vertical diffusion model for the urban climate. The authors also thank ~~William D. Lubitz for providing three ultrasonic anemometers for the field campaign~~[Naika Meili at Institute of Environmental Engineering, ETH Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland, who developed and shared an earlier version of the urban radiation model.](#)

This work was supported by the University of Guelph through the International Graduate Tuition Scholarship (IGTS) for the lead author; ~~Philanthropic contributions from Professor Edward McBeans's Foundation toward acquisition of experimental equipment~~; Discovery Grant program (401231) from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) of Canada; Government of Ontario through the Ontario Centres of Excellence (OCE) under the Alberta-Ontario Innovation Program (AOIP) (053450); and Emission Reduction Alberta (ERA) (053498). OCE is a member of the Ontario Network of Entrepreneurs (ONE).

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