

North Central Texas Council of Governments

SUMMARY

North Texas Regional Integration of Sustainability Efforts (RISE) Coalition

October 20, 2023

9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Held in-person at NCTCOG's offices:

Regional Forum Room
1st Floor, Centerpoint II
616 Six Flags Dr.
Arlington, TX 76011

Chair: Katherine Barnett, City of Denton

Vice Chair: Mendie White, City of Lewisville

1. Welcome and Introductions.

Breanne Johnson (NCTCOG) welcomed attendees and went over housekeeping items. Attendees introduced themselves and their organizations (see Attendance List below).

ACTION ITEMS AND DISCUSSION

2. **Meeting Summary.** Review previous meeting summary and vote on approval. The July 21, 2023 Meeting Summary can be viewed [here](#).

The July meeting summary was unanimously approved as presented. Heather Harrington (City of Plano) motioned for approval, and Cory Heiple (City of Carrollton) seconded.

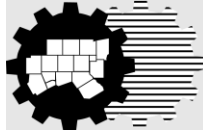
3. **FY2024 Work Program and Project Update.** (*Members and NCTCOG*) NCTCOG will provide an update to the group on FY2024 Work Program initiatives:

- FY2024 Events – Discuss regional education opportunities including recent and upcoming workshops and webinars.

Breanne led discussion on work plan goals and focus areas. Attendees provided ideas for an upcoming workshop on Communicating Sustainability to Leadership. The group suggested an in-person half-day workshop, with emphases on economic incentives, ROI, and public health and air quality. Breanne requested that attendees share suggestions for subject matters experts to present at this workshop to BJohnson@nctcog.org.

4. **FY2024 Member Cost Share Commitments.** (*Members and NCTCOG*) NCTCOG staff will provide an update on the status of cost shares for FY2024.

NCTCOG staff led a discussion on allocating \$10,000 in RISE Cost Share funds as local match for NCTCOG's SECO-sponsored Regional Energy Management Program. Integrating RISE work with efforts under this program would allow both funding sources



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to be leveraged to support workshops and other programming. NCTCOG's contract with SECO has significant overlap with RISE focus areas and priorities, and support for RISE meetings and events was included in the contract deliverables.

- 5. Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Update and Discussion.** *(Members and NCTCOG)* NCTCOG staff will provide an update on CPRG efforts to date, including developing a list of strategies to be eligible for future Implementation Grant funding. RISE members will be asked to provide input on strategies and to discuss the role of the Coalition in future CPRG planning.

Breanne gave a presentation on NCTCOG's current efforts developing a greenhouse gas emissions reduction strategy list for inclusion in the Dallas-Fort Worth Air Quality Improvement Plan. Breanne asked attendees to list strategies that they are interested in or that their cities/organizations are already doing that they would like included in the strategy list. Attendees were asked to provide feedback on their city/county's interest in participating in CPRG, if they would support an application for Implementation Grant funds, and if NCTCOG should submit a single Implementation Grant application on behalf of the region.

Grace Darling (Arlington Conservation Council) noted that the City of Arlington does not have an Office of Sustainability, so NCTCOG may have to work harder to coordinate with the City. It may be beneficial for NCTCOG to provide a draft or incomplete report to the City for review before they provide a letter of support.

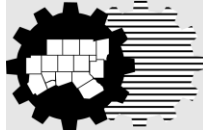
Cory Heiple (City of Carrollton) offered to provide a list of strategies that are a priority to the City.

Attendees suggested that NCTCOG include Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport and Tarrant County in CPRG efforts.

INFORMATION ITEMS

- 6. NCTCOG Regional Opportunities.** *(NCTCOG)* NCTCOG will go over other opportunities in the North Central Texas region that relate to sustainability and the Coalition's focus areas. Susan Alvarez (NCTCOG) shared that the 5th National Climate Assessment will be releasing at the end of the month, and to keep an eye out for further communication about the report. The whole report is currently being translated into Spanish, and there was a concerted effort to include indigenous ecological knowledge in the report. Susan also shared that the South Central chapter of the National Climate Assessment group will be hosting a Climate Symposium in Dallas from April 2-4, 2024, and coordinators are looking for papers to be presented.

OTHER BUSINESS



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7. **Participant Roundtable.** (All) Participants will have an opportunity to share activities happening in their communities/organizations to identify areas for collaboration and sharing sustainability programs or success stories.

Cory Heiple, City of Carrollton – Carrollton is working on their Sustainability Plan and moving into the assessment phase. They are hoping to join a LEED community assessment cohort with SPEER.

Betsy Yost, City of Fort Worth – Fort Worth is continuing residential composting outreach and has applied for a USDA grant to expand the program to public facilities like community centers.

Rosaerlinda Cisneros, City of Dallas – Dallas is conducting an ongoing solar siting study to identify properties and buildings for the installation of community solar. They are focused on community engagement and have an ongoing survey that can be accessed online. They have also had internal engagement to help narrow down sites for selection and get feedback on potential obstacles.

Heather Harrington, City of Plano – Plano's food scrap program is going well and continues to grow. Plano also applied for a USDA grant to help grow the program. They are also moving forward with EV charging installation. Upcoming events hosted by the City include a waterwise landscape tour tomorrow, Texas Recycles Day in November, and a tree giveaway next Saturday.

Laiken Baker, Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport (DFWIA) – DFWIA is also expanding their composting program.

Megan Morris, Tarrant County – Tarrant County is working on resilience efforts to be incorporated into departmental planning. Tarrant County is hoping to build their energy efficiency and resilience expertise, so are excited for more opportunities to participate in RISE.

Bridget Branch, Texas PACE Authority – Texas PACE Authority has contracted with Dallas County to focus efforts on disadvantaged communities, so they are currently spreading the word and conducting community outreach.

8. **Future Agenda Items.** Suggestions for future agenda items.

NCTCOG will try to secure a speaker on resilience hubs for the next meeting.

9. **Next Meeting Date.** The next meeting is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. on Friday, January 26, 2024. This meeting will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams.

10. Adjournment.

If you have any questions regarding the meeting or agenda items, please contact Breanne Johnson at (817) 695-9148 or bjohnson@nctcog.org. If you plan to attend this public meeting and you have a disability that requires special arrangements at the meeting, please contact Liliana Sheppard at (817) 695-9231 or LSheppard@nctcog.org at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Reasonable accommodations will be made to assist your needs.

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