

Fiscal Year 2024 Work Plan Regional Integration of Sustainability Efforts (RISE) Coalition

Background and FY2024 Work Plan Priorities

The North Central Texas Stewardship Forum (Forum) began as an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant funded effort dedicated to bringing together North Central Texas (NCT) governmental and quasi-governmental organizations to share best practices, lessons learned and resources to ease the burden of developing and supporting sustainability and environmental initiatives. At the conclusion of the grant, participating cities and EPA acknowledged the value the Forum brought to communicating and collaborating to achieve environmental goals. Since 2014, the Forum has continued to collaborate to advance regional sustainability and stewardship initiatives. The Forum is expanding its composition and scope to meet the increasing challenges of rising global temperatures. To align with the expanded purpose the Forum rebranded in FY2020 and is now referred to as the Regional Integration of Sustainability Efforts (RISE) Coalition.

The Coalition establishes this Work Plan to continue the work to compile data and identify local strategies to make improvements on key topics the Coalition believes are not fully addressed, or addressed at all, in existing regional initiatives of the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG). This work plan serves to establish regional collaborative efforts to engage local governments on a broader scale and foster peer exchange on key topics, including:

- Regional Emissions Assessment
- Communicating Sustainability to Leadership

In general, the FY2024 Work Plan supports activities that seek to:

- Align regional partner initiatives
- Leverage regional resources and share best practices
- Provide networking and capacity building opportunities
- Identify funding opportunities for projects
- Provide mentorship
- Collaborate as a group on regional sustainability projects and initiatives

Summary of FY2023 Accomplishments

- Maintained membership of 8 local government entities.
- Maintained a partnership with and continued progress on a Regional Greenhouse Gas Inventory for the 12 County Metropolitan Planning Area.
- Planned and hosted a virtual Energy Efficiency Funding Roundtable in partnership with NCTCOG's Energy Management program.
- Planned and hosted a three-workshop series on the topics of Weatherization, Renewable Energy, and Energy Efficiency in collaboration with NCTCOG's Energy Management program and sponsored by the City of Dallas.
- Held quarterly public meetings in October, January, May, and July, including the Coalition's first ever in-person meeting.

Administrative Support

The Coalition will utilize the NCTCOG as a partner and in an administrative capacity to support the activities outlined in the FY2024 Work Plan. NCTCOG will identify the appropriate staff to work on the activities identified by the Coalition. Key contacts for FY2024 are included in the Work Plan and may change depending on the focus areas.

FY2024 Key Tasks

Task 1: RISE Coalition Administrative Support and Coalition Meetings

NCTCOG will support the Coalition participants with administrative needs associated with meetings, roundtables, and workshops. Coalition participants will identify the frequency of regular meetings to discuss business and what participants they desire to attend these meetings. The purpose of these roundtables and workshops is to foster conversations, peer exchange, explore best practices, and build capacity of local government staff and leadership on topics of interest to the Coalition participants or to reduce harmful emissions in the region. Additional administration support includes, but is not limited to: maintenance and updating of a Coalition website; interested parties contact list; maintaining the voting member roster; maintaining nonvoting member list; recruitment activities; developing presentations and presenting at meetings/conferences/etc.; coordination of email communication with Coalition members; searching for, coordinating development of, and submitting grants on behalf of the Coalition; and, other administrative duties that arise. Support activities may be constrained by the available budget.

Deliverables:

- 4 meetings and/or conference calls per year of the Coalition that are open to the public – Includes: Coordinating and sending meeting announcements; Preparing agendas, sign-in sheets, etc.; Hosting the meetings; Preparing meeting materials, including coordinating speakers and/or presentations; and taking meeting notes and publishing meeting summaries.
- Maintain/update website, Coalition roster updates, contact list management, presentations, etc.
- Support coordination with outside entities on complementary efforts and support local government activities.
- Develop presentations and present at meetings.
- Coordinate development and submittal of grants, with assistance of members, as appropriate. NCTCOG may or may not serve as lead applicant depending upon grant specifics.

Task 2. Regional Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Project

The Coalition members will guide the work of NCTCOG, assist in procuring and accepting funds from external organizations, provide data, and offer other support to complete development of a regional greenhouse gas emissions inventory. Details and deliverables have been included in the individual grant and funding applications and are available for review. The emissions inventory portion of this Task is a continuation of work between the Coalition and NCTCOG, initiated in FY2021 and concluding in early FY2023. Following the completion of the regional inventory, NCTCOG staff, with support from Coalition members, will develop a regional Emissions Reduction Strategies Toolkit detailing common goals and targets around emissions reductions and comparing strategies outlined in North Texas communities' Climate Action Plans. The regional emissions inventory will be updated and expanded using Climate Pollution Reduction Grant funds from the Environmental Protection Agency.

Deliverables:

- Assist with funding applications as needed.
- Provide technical support to cities participating in the ICLEI GHG Emissions Inventory Cohort.
- Participate in conference calls for coordination with cohort members and members of ICLEI as needed.
- Advise with cohort-related project development as needed.
- Develop an Emissions Reduction Strategies Toolkit, to be posted to the RISE Coalition and GHG project websites.

Task 3. Capacity Building and Educational Resources

NCTCOG will support the Coalition to leverage regional resources, share best practices, and provide networking and capacity building opportunities through coordination and development of educational resources. Roundtables, webinars, and workshops focused on specific topics that the Coalition participants desire to host for

the benefit of the region, would be identified by the Coalition participants and coordinated by NCTCOG. Activities may include, but are not limited to:

- 1) Webinars: up to two (2) webinars will be hosted focusing on the key topics of interest and will include presentations from topical experts as defined through input from the Coalition members. Webinars will be open to the public and all stakeholders. Webinars will incorporate a dedicated roundtable discussion time at the end of each webinar and will serve as an opportunity to share what the Coalition is doing with non-governmental stakeholders. Each webinar will integrate perspectives on equity and environmental justice as it relates to the identified topic. Webinars will be recorded and posted to the Coalition Website Toolkit. The number of webinars hosted may be constrained by the available budget.
- 2) Website Toolkit: develop website resources and tools for local governments on a variety of sustainability planning and project related elements. For example, posting educational webinars, links to sustainability related organizations (i.e. USDN, etc.), sustainability planning frameworks (i.e. APA, etc.), climate toolkits, topical resources (i.e. urban heat island, emission reduction strategies, mitigation and adaptation strategies, etc.).

Deliverables:

- Research and post appropriate resources and educational materials to the existing Coalition’s website.
- 2-3 webinars or workshops per year that are open to the public – Includes: Coordinating and sending workshop announcements; Preparing agendas, sign-in sheets, etc.; Hosting the workshops; Preparing workshop materials, including coordinating speakers and/or presentations; and publishing workshop recordings.
- Post webinar recordings and regional workshop information to the Coalition’s website.

Estimated FY2024 Budget by Task

The completion of the full work plan is contingent upon receiving the full amount of funding from members.

Task	Estimated Budget Total	Deliverables
Task 1: Administrative Support and Hosting Coalition Meetings, Roundtables, and Workshops	\$20,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 meetings and/or conference calls per year. • Maintain/update website, Coalition roster updates, contact list management, presentations, etc. • Support coordination with outside entities on complementary efforts and support local government activities. • Develop presentations and present at meetings. • Coordinate development and submittal of grants, with assistance of members, as appropriate.
Task 2: Regional Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Project	\$10,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist with funding applications as needed. • Provide technical support to cities participating in the ICLEI GHG Emissions Inventory Cohort. • Participate in conference calls for coordination with cohort members and members of ICLEI as needed. • Advise with cohort-related project development as needed.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an Emissions Reduction Strategies Toolkit.
Task 3: Capacity Building and Educational Resources	\$15,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research and post appropriate resources and educational materials to the existing Coalition’s website. • Coordinate webinar/workshop presenters, promote attendance, and host and run • 2-3 webinars or workshops per year. • Post webinar recordings and regional workshop information to the Coalition’s website.
Total	\$45,000	

Current Websites:

- **RISE Coalition General Information:** <https://www.nctcog.org/envir/development-excellence/rise-coalition>
- **RISE Coalition Committee Information:** <https://www.nctcog.org/envir/committees/regional-integration-of-sustainability-efforts-ris>
- **FY2021-2023 Project (GHG Inventory) Website:** <https://www.nctcog.org/trans/quality/air/emissions-inventories/local-regional-greenhouse-gas-emission-inventory>

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