

North Central Texas Council of Governments

# SUMMARY

## North Texas Regional Integration of Sustainability Efforts (RISE) Coalition

July 31, 2024

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Virtual: [Microsoft Teams](#)

Chair: Katherine Barnett, City of Denton

Vice Chair: Alexander Pharmakis, City of Farmers Branch

### 1. Welcome and Introductions.

Crysta Guzman (NCTCOG) welcomed attendees and briefly went over housekeeping items.

**FY2025-2026 Vice Chair Election Results.** NCTCOG will present the results of the recent Vice Chair election for the FY2025-2026 term, beginning October 1, 2024.

Lindsay Graf (City of Plano) was announced as Vice Chair for the F2025-2026 term. Alexander Pharmakis (City of Farmers Branch), current Vice Chair, will move into the role of Chair per RISE Coalition Bylaws.

2. **DarkSky Presentation.** Andie McClure, City of Carrollton, and DarkSky International will present on the [International Dark Sky Places](#) program certification and seek feedback on a potential regional certification.

Cindy Luongo Cassidy (DarkSky Texas) presented on reducing light pollution by switching to environmentally friendly, energy-efficient lighting, and highlighted how human health and wildlife are impacted by this switch. DarkSky Texas also spoke about the International Dark Sky Place Program, outlining the benefits and the application process for this certification.

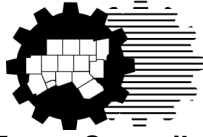
### ACTION ITEMS

3. **Meeting Summary.** Review and approve the May 1, 2024, meeting summary which can be viewed [here](#).

Cory Heiple (City of Carrollton) made a motion to approve the meeting summary. Dorothy Kindell (TRWD) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. **Approve FY2025 Work Plan.** NCTCOG will present the Draft FY2025 Work Plan for discussion and will seek approval from RISE Coalition members.

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NCTCOG staff presented on and led a discussion about the Draft FY2025 Work Plan, which has integrated the Center of Development Excellence (CDE) and its corresponding programs. Inquiries were made about the specific programs of CDE and what additional funding it can bring to RISE. The University of Texas at Arlington, the University of Texas at Dallas, and the University of North Texas were proposed as possible prospects for developing a university collaboration with RISE. NCTCOG staff shared plans to rework the bylaws in the coming fiscal year to include universities and other entity types as members.

Rosaerlinda Cisneros (City of Dallas) made a motion to approve the Work Plan. Cory Heiple (City of Carrollton) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### DISCUSSION

5. **FY2024 Work Program and Project Updates.** NCTCOG will provide an update on the FY2024 Work Program initiatives.

NCTCOG staff shared what had been achieved under the FY2024 Work Plan, including a workshop on strategies for communicating sustainability to leadership, and a webinar on the water-energy nexus and how to promote smart water use and conservation in communities.

6. **Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Update and Discussion.** NCTCOG will provide an update on CPRG efforts to date, sharing the finalized measures in the Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP).

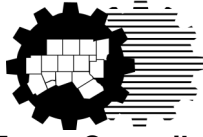
NCTCOG staff provided an update on the Dallas-Fort Worth Air Quality Improvement Plan. NCTCOG shared the final measures across sectors that were included in the Priority Climate Action Plan and opened the floor for discussion on what measures may be missing and which are a long term priority to member communities. Brandi Kelp (City of Fort Worth) cited green spaces and floodplain protection as strong priorities amongst residents. Alexander Pharmakis (City of Farmers Branch) indicated public transportation as a priority, especially with the upcoming 2026 FIFA World Cup. Lane Rylander (Moonshot Compost) offered to discuss composting as a solution to some of the listed measures.

### INFORMATION ITEMS

7. **Access North Texas 2026 Update.** NCTCOG will share a survey with attendees to gather information for updating the regional public transportation coordination plan. Responses will help in identifying gaps and needs.

Evan Paret (NCTCOG) shared about the 2026 update to the regional public transportation coordination plan, Access North Texas. Currently in the public outreach stage, interested

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individuals are invited to complete the [Public Survey](#) to help in identifying transportation needs in the region. The finalized plan is expected to be completed in 2026.

8. **NCTCOG Regional Opportunities.** NCTCOG will go over other opportunities in the North Central Texas region that relate to sustainability and the Coalition's focus areas.

NCTCOG staff presented updates on upcoming meetings, webinars, workshops, and other opportunities that may be of interest to members. Full details on all opportunities can be found in the [meeting presentation](#).

### OTHER BUSINESS

9. **Participant Roundtable.** 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.

**Alexander Pharmakis, City of Farmers Branch** – Farmers Branch is continuing to work on developing an active transportation plan through the end of the year. They are also working on obtaining their SolSmart and LEED for Cities and Communities designations.

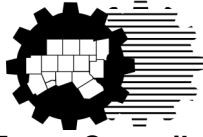
**Cory Heiple, City of Carrollton** – Carrollton is putting the final touches on their sustainability plan, which should be going out for public review soon. They are currently working on the LEED for Cities designation.

**Rosaerlinda Cisneros, City of Dallas** – In collaboration with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Dallas is conducting an urban heat island survey on August 10<sup>th</sup> and is seeking volunteer drivers and navigators to drive around the city with a sensor on the vehicle.

**Lindsay Graf, City of Plano** – Plano is working on getting electric vehicle installations at eight different locations. Plano also received grant funding for a residential food-scrap composting program. They are working on multiple designations, including LEED for Cities, National Wildlife certification, and SolSmart.

**Dorothy Kindell, TRWD** – TRWD is working on baseline emissions with a consultant. They will be taking the baseline and putting it into a database so they can track emissions on their own going forward.

**Brandi Kelp, City of Fort Worth** – Fort Worth is working on updating their subdivision ordinance and is partnering with David Weekly to form a development plan. They are also looking at where they can relax standards to encourage certain developments.



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**Grace Martin-Young, City of Lewisville** – Lewisville is working on a community design outreach program. They are also looking at updating their Old Town Master Plan and city parking.

### 10. **Future Agenda Items.** Suggestions for future agenda items.

There were no suggestions for future agenda items.

### 11. **Next Meeting Date.** The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, October 30, 2024. This meeting will be held in-person at the NCTCOG offices. [Add to calendar.](#)

Tentative upcoming meeting dates for 2025

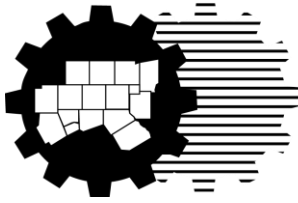
- January 29, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. – Online
- April 30, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. – In-person at NCTCOG Offices
- July 30, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. – Online

### 12. **Adjournment.**

Alexander Pharmakis (Farmers Branch) called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Lindsay Graf (Plano) made a motion to adjourn; Lauren Betz (Cedar Hill) seconded the motion.

If you have any questions regarding the meeting or agenda items, please contact Corinne Buckley at (817) 704-2510 or [cbuckley@nctcog.org](mailto:cbuckley@nctcog.org).

If you plan to attend this public meeting and you have a disability that requires special arrangements at the meeting, please contact Ashley Barnett at (817) 695-9231 or [abarnett@nctcog.org](mailto:abarnett@nctcog.org) at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Reasonable accommodations will be made to assist your needs.



## RISE Coalition Meeting

10:00 am, Wednesday, July 31, 2024

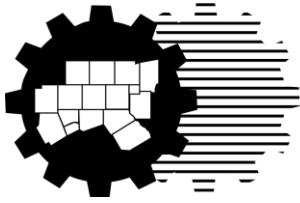
Microsoft Teams

### Attendees

RISE Coalition Members		
Name	Entity	Signature
Katherine Barnett (Chair)	City of Denton	
Alexander Pharmakis (Vice Chair)	City of Farmers Branch	X
Cory Heiple	City of Carrollton	X
Avery Pesek	City of Fort Worth	
Lauren Betz	City of Cedar Hill	X
Lindsay Graf	City of Plano	X
<i>Vacant</i>	City of Lewisville	
Rosaerlinda Cisneros	City of Dallas	X
Dorothy Kindell	TRWD	X

Other Attendees		
Name	Entity	
Miranda Ynostrosa	City of Cedar Hill	
Cindy Luongo Cassidy	DarkSky Texas	
Grace Darling	Arlington Conservation Council	
Andie McClure	City of Carrollton	
Novella Landau	City of Carrollton	
Lee Battle	City of Allen	
Autumn Radle	Texas Pace Authority	
Anna Clark	Cooksey Communications	
Larry Howe	Climate Citizens' Lobby	
Brandi Kelp	City of Fort Worth	
Lane Rylander	Moonshot Compost	
Tiana Lightfoot Svendsen	City of McKinney	
Daniela Parker	City of Carrollton	
Jerry Kettler	AIR Engineering and Testing, Inc.	
Grace Martin-Young	City of Lewisville	
Chris Hill	KC Hill Consulting	
Eric Tate	Atmos Energy	
Elmer Benitez	Town of Sunnyvale	
James A. McClinton	Tarrant County	
Shaun Auckland	SPEER	
Nicholas Nix	City of Forney	
James Orenstein	Trinity River Community Solar Systems	
Crysta Guzman	NCTCOG	

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**10:00 am, Wednesday, July 31, 2024**

**Microsoft Teams**

Cassidy Campbell	NCTCOG
Joaquin Escalante	NCTCOG
Evan Paret	NCTCOG
Amy Hodges	NCTCOG
Sarah Foux	NCTCOG
Chris Klaus	NCTCOG
Susan Alvarez	NCTCOG