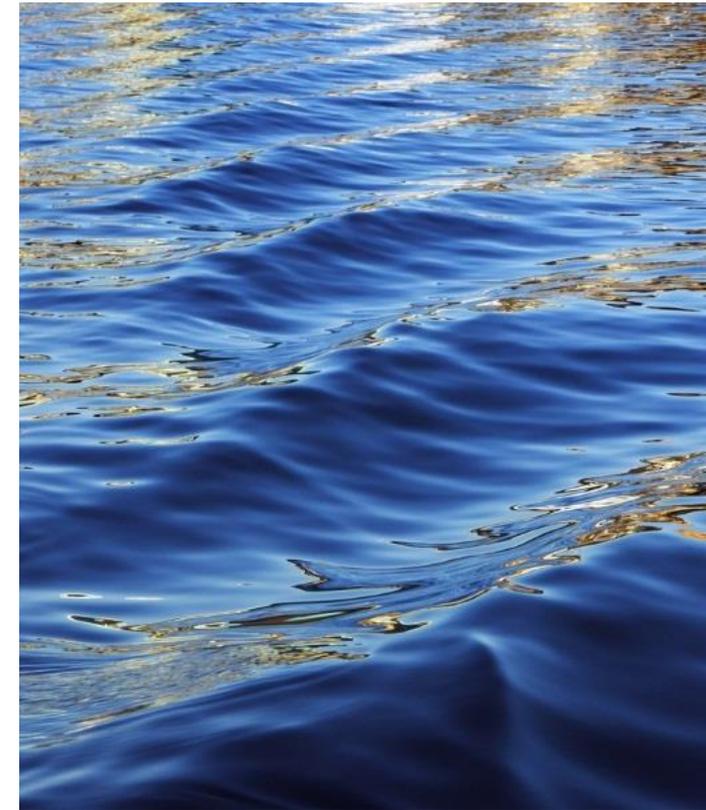




# North Texas Regional Integration of Sustainability Efforts (RISE) Coalition

July 22, 2022



**RISE Coalition Website:** <https://www.nctcog.org/envir/development-excellence/rise-coalition>  
**RISE Coalition Committee Page:** <https://www.nctcog.org/envir/committees/regional-integration-of-sustainability-efforts-ris>

# July 22, 2022

## RISE Coalition Agenda

1) Welcome and Introductions – Member Roll Call

### **Action Items**

- 2) Meeting Summary
- 3) FY 2023 Work Plan Discussion & Approval
- 4) FY23-24 Chair & Vice Chair Appointments

### **Discussion**

- 5) FY 2022 Work Program and Project Update
- 6) City of Farmers Branch Solar Farm
- 7) Texas Energy Poverty Research Institute's Energy Opportunity Coalition

### **Informational Items**

- 8) NCTCOG Regional Opportunities

### **Other Business**

- 9) Participant Roundtable
- 10) FY23 Meeting Dates
- 11) Future Agenda Items
- 12) Next Meeting Date
- 13) Adjournment

# Action Items

**Meeting Summary:** [Approve April 29 Meeting Summary](#)

# Action Items

## **FY2023 Work Plan:** Discuss and Approve the FY2023 Work Plan

- FY2023 Priorities based on feedback from the March 11th Virtual Sustainability Survey
  - Regional Emissions Assessment
  - Sustainable Transportation and Air Quality Strategy Analysis
  - Energy Efficiency Programs and Regional Energy Resilience
  - Waste Reduction and Beneficial Reuse Programs
- Regional Greenhouse Gas Inventory set to be complete mid-FY23
  - Ideas for a new region-wide project?
- Feature Workshop for FY2023:
  - Social Equity Workshop planned for FY2022 but not completed due to budget
  - Other ideas? Ex. Workshop for cities early in sustainability process

# Action Items

## **FY23-24 Chair and Vice Chair Appointments:** [RISE Coalition Bylaws](#)

FY23-24 Chair: Katherine Barnett, City of Denton

FY23-24 Vice Chair: Call for nominations

1. Please raise your hand or type in the chat to nominate a current RISE Voting Member for the role of Vice Chair.
2. Once nominations have been made, I will call on each Voting Member to unmute and cast their vote.

## [FY2023 RISE Coalition Roster](#)

Thank you, Pharr Andrews (City of Dallas) for serving as  
the FY20-22 RISE Coalition Chair!

# FY 2022 Project Update and Discussion

## Guided by FY2022 Work Program

### Summary of FY2022 Accomplishments:

- Maintained membership of 9 local government entities.
- Convened Recruitment and Equity Subcommittees.
- Continued progress on a Regional Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Emissions Reduction Toolkit.
- Hosted an [Urban Heat Island & Urban Forests webinar](#).
- Conducted the first Regional Sustainability Virtual Survey.
- Established process for holding quarterly Public Meetings and held meetings in October, January, April, and July.

## Current Focus Topics



**Regional Emissions  
Assessment**



**Emissions Impact Analysis  
and Mitigation/Adaptation  
Strategy Toolkit**



**Urban Heat Island  
Reduction Strategy  
Analysis**



**Food Diversion and Waste  
Reduction Programs**

# Task 2. Regional Greenhouse Gas Emissions Project

## **Regional GHG Inventory**

- NCTCOG wrapping up data analysis and beginning ClearPath entries

## **NCTCOG GHG Inventory Cohort**

- Weekly meetings for progress updates, Inventory and ClearPath assistance

- **Inventory schedule:**

- NCTCOG and the Cohort will have access to ClearPath until May 2023
  - Second inventory for some cities and forecasting
  - Unlimited access to “Read Only” mode afterwards
  - Draft Reports

- **GHG Emissions Reductions Toolkit:**

- Environmental Defense Fund Fellowship for Summer 2022

# EPA-Funded Organic Waste to Fuel Feasibility Study

- Regional study to evaluate the potential for expanding organic waste-to-energy technologies in North Texas.
- Funded through a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency, in partnership with the University of Texas at Arlington.
- **Current status:** Contractor is running assessments of potential AD sites in North Texas, using UTA's POWER Tool as the data model.
  - Next Stakeholder Workshop: **Tuesday, August 9th at 2:00pm. [RSVP here.](#)**
    - To review and discuss Potential Pilot Project locations for new/expanded AD facilities.
    - To join the stakeholder group, contact Breanne Johnson at [BJohnson@nctcog.org](mailto:BJohnson@nctcog.org).

More information here: <https://nctcog.org/envir/materials-management/nct-organic-waste-to-fuel-feasibility-study>

# **City of Farmers Branch Clean Energy Initiatives**

**Alexander Pharmakis**  
**Sustainability Manager**  
**City of Farmers Branch**



FARMERS  
BRANCH

# Farmers Branch Sustainability & Renewable Energy

---

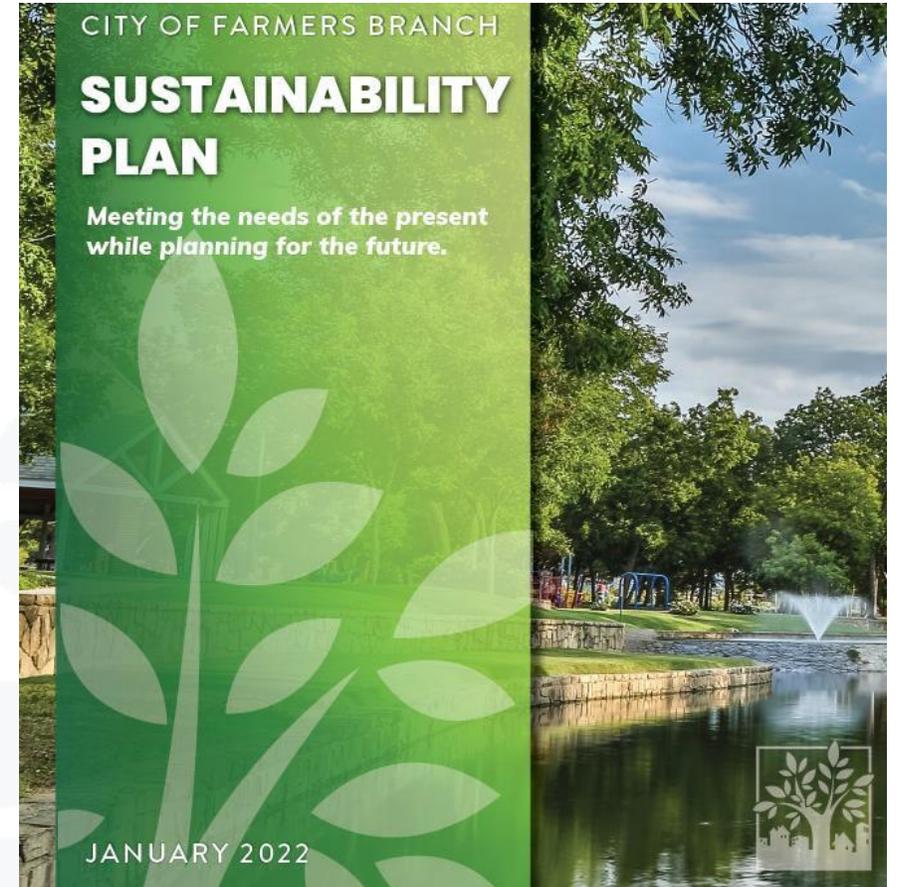
RISE Coalition

July 22, 2022



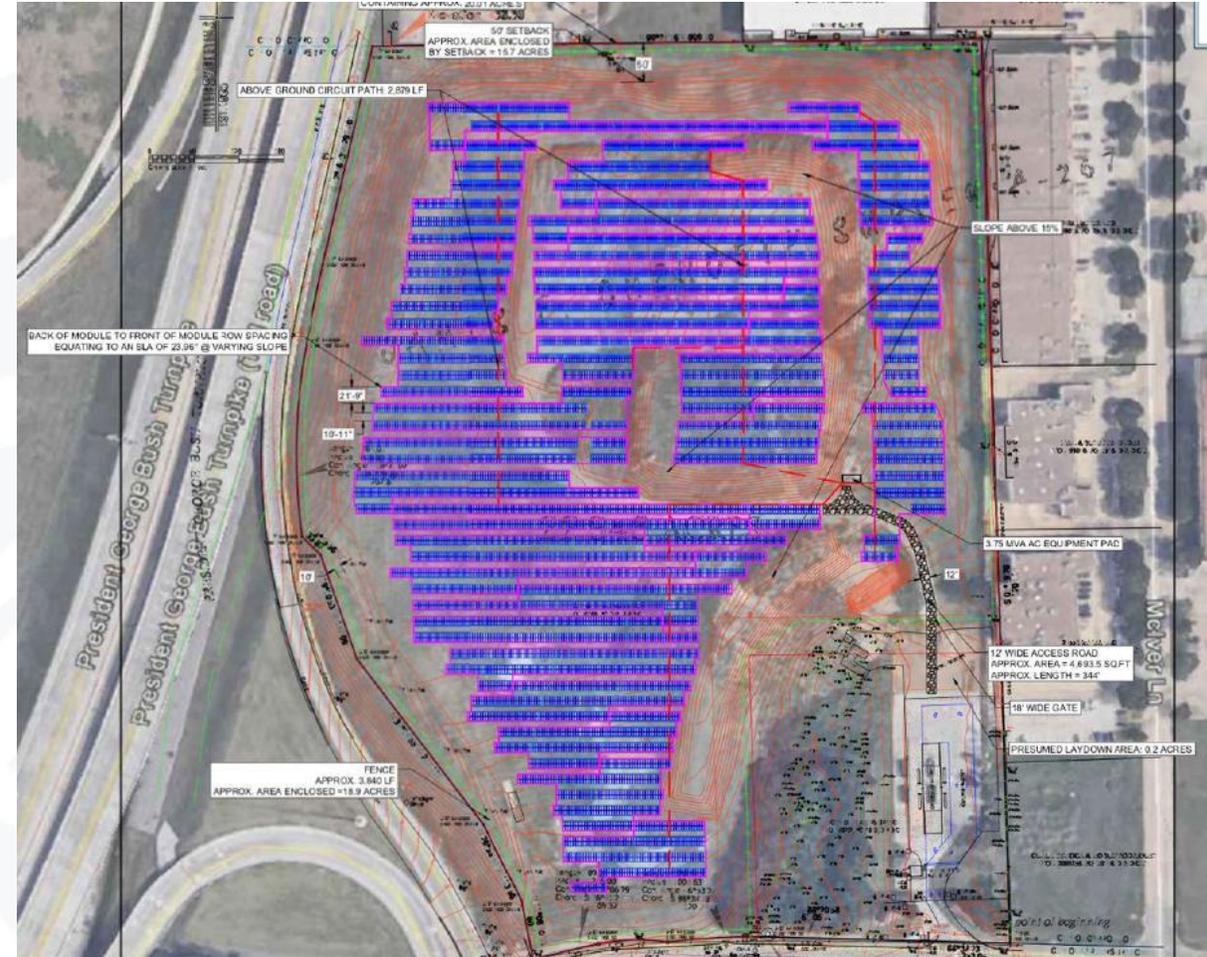
# Sustainability Plan

- Adopted in February 2022
- Sustainability to-do list (next 3-5 years)
- Concise and foundational in nature
- Provides goals, recommended actions, and metrics to measure progress
- City actions to propel community progress
  - Leadership by example



# Increasing Renewable Energy – Landfill Solar

- Closed landfill located at Valley View and PG&T
  - Closed in 1987
  - Limited future uses for site without remediation
- Approximately 20 acre site, adjacent to Citizen's Collection Center
- Identified as potential solar site in 2020 Solar Feasibility Study
- RFP released late 2021



# Project Info

- BQ Energy Development: Power Purchase Agreement
  - Fixed cost, 0% energy price escalator
  - 20 year pricing
  - 7.25 MW DC
  - Estimated annual production 13,632,000 kWh
- Turn-key project
  - Developer is responsible for permitting, design, equipment purchase, installation, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning
  - No upfront cost to City
- City to enter long-term power purchase agreement
  - City will purchase power generated from site
  - Contract provides stable electricity pricing for 20 years



# Landfill Solar Sustainability

- Sustainability Plan alignment
  - Goal: Increased renewable energy
  - Recommended action: Pursue a 100% renewable electricity contract for City operations
- Sourcing electricity from solar would provide a significant reduction in the City's carbon emissions and air pollution associated with power production
  - 5,179 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e (Equivalent to 5.7 million pounds of coal burned)
- Other benefits
  - Price stability, expansion of clean energy markets, local construction and energy jobs, and some grid resilience



# Increasing Renewable Energy – Onsite Solar

- Solar installed on three City facilities in Spring 2021
  - Fire Station #2, Manske Library, and Rec Center
- Solar currently being installed on Natatorium
- Total cost of all installations: \$1,286,000
- Received Oncon incentive payment on first three sites
- Payback time: Approx. 10 years



# Capacity and Production Data

- Installation Capacity
  - Rec Center: 270 kW DC
  - Manske Library: 190.06 kW DC
  - Fire Station #2: 73.96 kW DC
  - Natatorium: 105.6 kW DC
- As of July 1, 2022
  - 724,303 kWh produced
  - \$75,556 avoided cost of electricity
  - 513 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e avoided
    - Equivalent to 567,921 pounds of coal burned



# Increasing Renewable Energy – Residential Electricity

- Farmers Branch has contracted with iChoosr since May 2018 to facilitate the Power Switch program
- iChoosr conducts reverse auctions to provide residents with options for lower priced contracts
  - 10,000+ residents have participated
  - 1,828 residents accepted an offer
  - Estimated collective savings \$933,841
- All contracts are 100% renewable starting in late 2020.



**FARMERS BRANCH  
POWER SWITCH**

# Increasing Renewable Energy – Residential Solar

- Similar model to Power Switch program
  - Solar panel installation instead of an electricity contract
- Simplifies the process for purchasing and installing solar
- Provides a financing option for residents
- Group purchase can save money for homeowners
  - Economies of scale or “buying in bulk”
- No cost to City



# How Solar Switch Works

1. Interested residents sign up
  - As of July 12th, 172 residents have signed up
2. iChoosr hosts a reverse auction with installers to get the lowest bid
  - Suppliers/Installers must meet eligibility requirements to ensure quality
  - Estimated savings of \$3,800
1. Interested residents receive a personalized offer with cost breakdown.
4. Residents can accept the offer and move forward with the roof survey, permitting, and installation process
  - No penalty for those who do not wish to move forward





# Questions

# **Energy Poverty in Texas and the Energy Opportunity Coalition**

**Andrew Robison**  
**Texas Energy Poverty Research Institute**



North Central Texas  
Council of Governments

# TEPRI + Energy Opportunities Coalition (EOC)

Bobuchi Ken-Opulum & Andrew Robison  
RISE Coalition  
July 22, 2022





*Our mission is to advance affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy solutions for low-income and underserved communities in Texas.*



# Our Work



## RESEARCH & EVALUATION

Advance collective knowledge about low-income consumers and their relationships to energy.



## DECISION TOOLS

Develop tools to help stakeholders make more informed decisions about serving energy needs.



## STAKEHOLDER FORUMS

Connect professional peers from power sector, social services, and housing.



## OUTREACH & EDUCATION

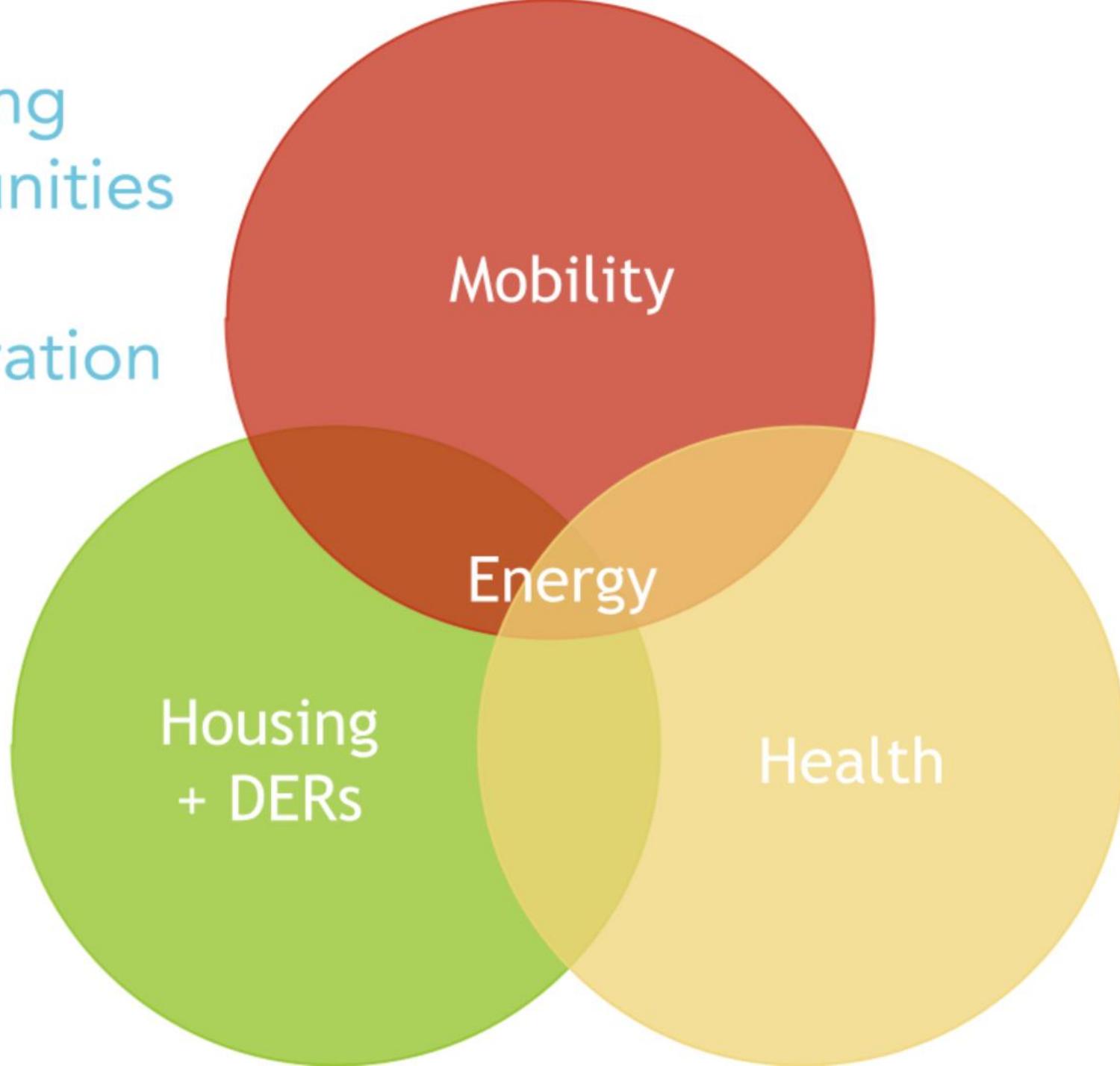
Reinvent energy consumer engagement for more effective programs.

# Initial Network

- State agencies
- Local officials
- Utility representatives
- Energy service providers
- Regional efficiency orgs
- Research organizations
- Health providers
- Social service agencies
- Clean energy developers
- Advocacy organizations



# Identifying Opportunities for Collaboration



Energy Opportunities Coalition

TEXAS ENERGY POVERTY  
RESEARCH INSTITUTE

# Concept Recommendations

## Housing and DERs

### *Concept 1*

Community Engagement  
Through Network  
Development

### *Concept 2*

Informed Program  
Evaluation

### *Concept 3*

Equitable Shallow Retrofit  
Pilot

## Mobility

### *Concept 1*

Primary Research of  
Transportation Burden in  
Texas

### *Concept 2*

LMI Communities and EV  
Adoption Roadmap

## Health

### *Concept 1*

Quantifying the Energy +  
Health Nexus

### *Concept 2*

Investing in Health through  
Energy Efficiency

### *Concept 3*

Engaging Community Health  
Centers (CHCs)

# What We Hope to Accomplish Together

- **Strengthen our coalition** through new and expanded relationships, potentially including **Community Voices in Energy Efficiency** participants
- **Collaborate on an additional concept proposal(s)** with identified funding opportunity(ies)
- **Deepen knowledge on how to achieve an equitable energy transition** with low-income households and catalyze economic opportunities through clean energy
- **Document our outcomes, lessons learned, and recommendations** in a final report

# Community Voices in Energy Efficiency

**Purpose:** To support community-based organizations (CBOs) in unlocking energy and cost savings for the low-income communities they serve and help amplify their voices in shaping energy efficiency programs and services.

**Need:** Previous TEPRI research and engagement shows that:

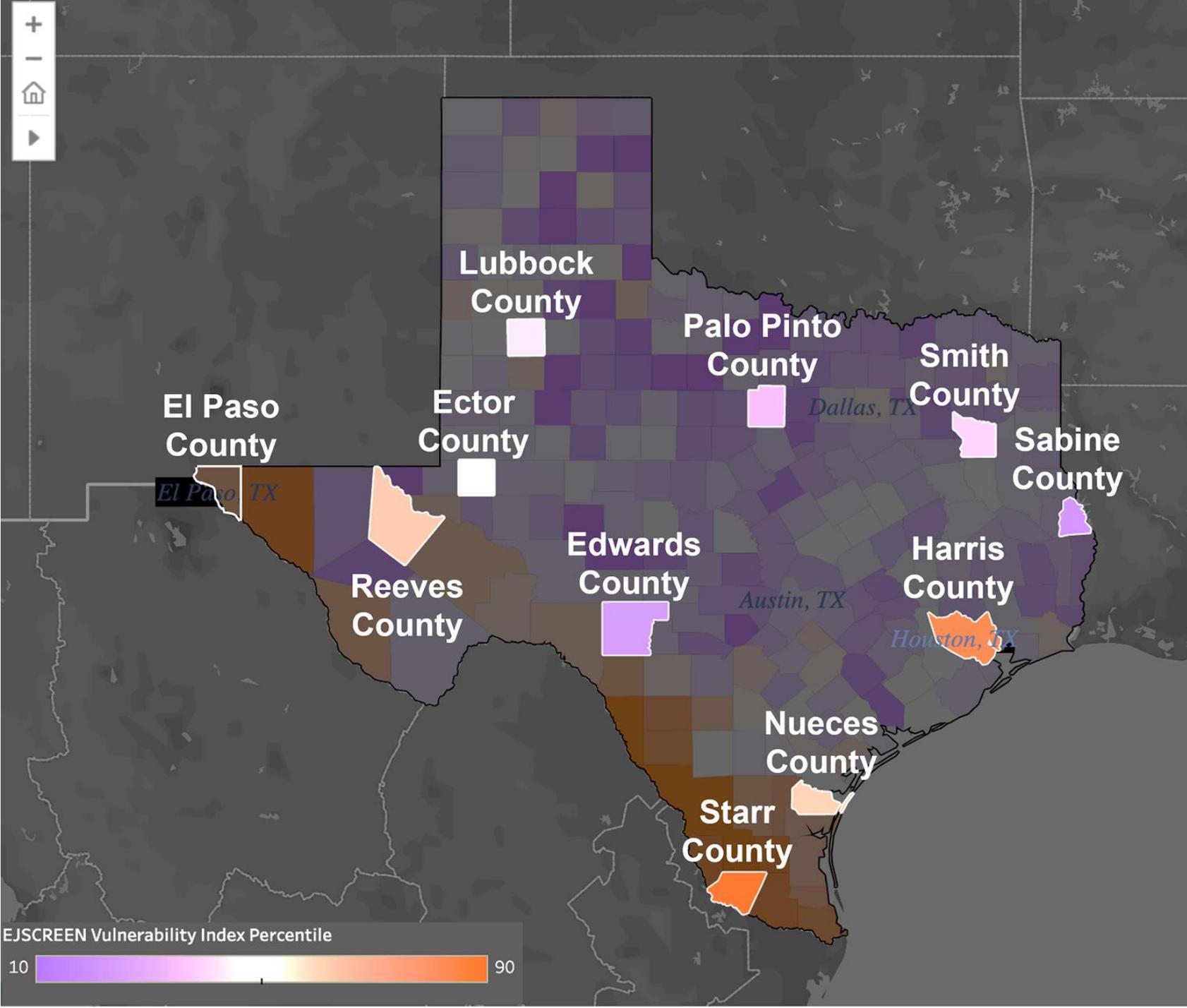
- There is a significant opportunity for energy efficiency investments in low-income housing in parts of Texas.
- There is low engagement with low-income energy efficiency and bill assistance programs in parts of Texas.
- There is interest in having more participation from low-income communities in energy efficiency policy and regulatory processes.

*This project is graciously made possible with the support of:*



ENERGY FOUNDATION

building a new energy future



# TEPRI Tools & Resources

## **Community Needs Assessment Survey**

To measure key indicators and gather **valuable perspectives** on energy needs, challenges, and barriers from **community representatives**.

**Scope:** LMI households in communities across Texas



# TEPRI Tools & Resources

## E4-TX.org Tool

A tool to support easier energy efficiency eligibility in Texas by reaching the intended customers of the Low-Income Energy Efficiency Program.

### Scope:

- Low Income (LI) and Hard To Reach (HTR) households in competitive and non-competitive market
- Only for program contractors but perhaps can offer other functionality to CBOs or communities – TEPRI is up for exploring

Result



**This Meter Address Qualifies For The LIW Reserve Program**  
**Category 1C: Eligibility Through Geographic Location:**

1. It is **Within** The HUD Texas QCTs Zone
2. It is **Within** The HUD Texas LMISD Zone
3. It is **Within** The Opportunity Zone

Your unique report ID is:  
**EA6E8D2C-ABBF-4F7C-9CBF-71CC19FF2381**

Please download the eligibility certificate by clicking "Print" and save the PDF file into your eligibility system database to be included in the residence eligibility packet.

[Print](#)



QCTs LMISD Both

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap Improve this map

*All locations are approximate and should be used for reference only. Please contact TEPRI if you find any map errors.*

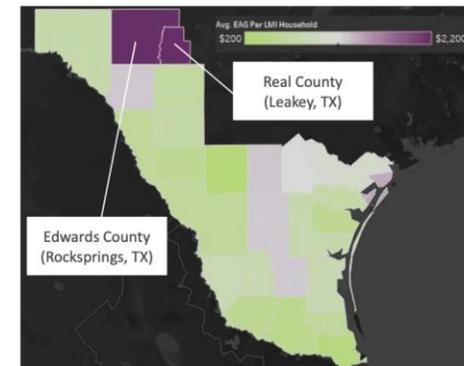
# TEPRI Tools & Resources

## Energy Equity Inspector Tool

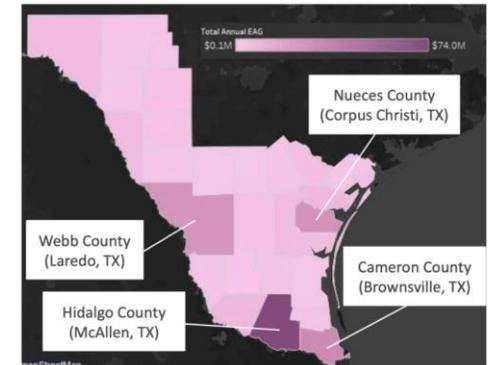
A geospatial tool to help identify and highlight the depth of energy burdens and disproportionate exposure to air pollution.

**Scope:** Energy burden and negative environmental impacts on communities in the southeastern United States.

## Energy Burden & Affordability Gap by County South Texas



Average Energy Affordability Gap per LMI Household (in annual dollars)



Total Annual Energy Affordability Gap for LMI Households per County (in dollars)



Thanks for your  
time!

## Contact

Bobuchi Ken-Opulum  
bobuchi@tepri.org

Andrew Robison  
andrew@tepri.org



# NCTCOG Regional Updates and Opportunities

## REGIONAL INITIATIVES AND UPDATES

### **Property Assessed Clean Energy Regional Program**

- Potential region-wide program administered by NCTCOG
- Issuing a Request for Proposals in late 2022
- Developing documents, etc. to initiate efforts
- Presenting to NCTCOG Executive Board in August 2022

### **Public Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Working Group**

- Monthly working group established to put together publicly accessible EV charging project ideas in anticipation for competitive grant opportunities
- To join group, email Bailey Muller at [bmuller@nctcog.org](mailto:bmuller@nctcog.org)

### **EV Ride & Drive Capacity Building**

- Working Group to Brainstorm ways to build EV Ride & Drives into Local Events
- To join group, email [sadibi@nctcog.org](mailto:sadibi@nctcog.org)

# NCTCOG Regional Updates and Opportunities

## UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

### **Electric Utility Roundtable on Electric Vehicles**

**Date:** Wednesday, July 27, 2022

**Time:** 11:00 am – 12:00 pm CST

[Register Here](#)

### **National Electric Vehicle Implementation Plan (NEVI) Notice of Proposed Rulemaking**

**Date:** Thursday, July 28 2022

**Time:** 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm CST

[Register Here](#)

View more NCTCOG events at: [www.dfwcleancities.org/events](http://www.dfwcleancities.org/events)

# NCTCOG Regional Updates and Opportunities

## UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

### **Recycle Roundtable**

**Date:** Wednesday, July 27, 2022

**Time:** 1:30 – 3:30 pm CST

[Add to Calendar](#)

### **Annual Public Works Roundup at the Grapevine Convention Center**

**Date:** Tuesday, September 13, 2022

**Time:** 8:30 am – 4:00 pm CST

[More information and register here.](#)

NCTCOG's Public Works Council hosts the Annual Public Works Roundup, a day-long event that brings public works professionals together to communicate and coordinate on regional public works issues, and to learn about emerging technologies that communities can leverage in their operations.

View more NCTCOG events at: <https://nctcog.org/envir/events>

# NCTCOG Regional Updates and Opportunities

## UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

### **Fleet Forward: The Tour – A Regional Fleet Experience**

**Where:** NYLO Las Colinas Hotel, Irving

**Date:** Thursday, September 15, 2022

**Time:** 10:00 am – 3:30 pm CST

[More information and register here](#)

This is a one-day, regional event for fleets to participate in a hands-on electric vehicle ride and drive and will include seminars, a luncheon, and networking opportunities. The ride and drive will include light-, medium- and heavy-duty cars and trucks.

# Other Business

## Participant Roundtable

**How is your community promoting energy resilience? What initiatives do you have in place related to renewable energy, energy efficiency, and energy poverty?**

*Members will be called on first, and then others will have the opportunity to share what is happening within their organization*

---

## Future Agenda Items

# Other Business

## FY2023 QUARTERLY MEETING FORMAT

The RISE Coalition has been holding quarterly meetings virtually since 2020. NCTCOG's facilities in Arlington are now open to host in-person meetings, based on committee preference. (Note: NCTCOG cannot accommodate hybrid meetings at this time.)

**For FY23 RISE meetings, what is your preferred format?**

- A) Virtual
- B) In-person
- C) A combination (i.e. one in-person meeting per year, three virtual; or half and half)\*

\*If C, would you like the October 2022 meeting to be held in-person at NCTCOG?

# Next Meeting Dates

## Next RISE Coalition Meeting:

**Friday, October 21, 2022**

**9:30 a.m.**

## **NCTCOG's Free E-Mail Lists and Committee Updates**

<https://www.nctcog.org/stay-informed?ext=>

<https://www.nctcog.org/envir/mail>

## **RISE Website:**

<https://www.nctcog.org/envir/development-excellence/rise-coalition>

<https://www.nctcog.org/envir/committees/regional-integration-of-sustainability-efforts-ris>

# NCTCOG RISE Coalition Contacts

## **Breanne Johnson**

Planner II

Environment and

Development

817-695-9148

[bjohnson@nctcog.org](mailto:bjohnson@nctcog.org)

## **Lori Clark**

Air Quality Program

Manager

Transportation

817-695-9232

[lclark@nctcog.org](mailto:lclark@nctcog.org)

## **Jenny Narvaez**

Program Manager

Transportation

817-608-2342

[jnarvaez@nctcog.org](mailto:jnarvaez@nctcog.org)

## **Cassidy Campbell**

Program Manager

Environment and

Development

817-608-2368

[ccampbell@nctcog.org](mailto:ccampbell@nctcog.org)

## **Edith Marvin**

Director

Environment and

Development

817-695-9211

[emarvin@nctcog.org](mailto:emarvin@nctcog.org)



**Thank you!**