

North Central Texas Council of Governments

SUMMARY

North Texas Regional Integration of Sustainability Efforts (RISE) Coalition

January 27, 2023
9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
In-Person Meeting

Metroplex Conference Room, First Floor
NCTCOG
Centerpoint II Building
616 Six Flags Drive
Arlington, TX 76011

Chair: Katherine Barnett, City of Denton
Vice Chair: Mendie White, City of Lewisville

1. Welcome and Introductions.

ACTION ITEMS

2. **Meeting Summary.** Review previous meeting summary and vote on approval. The October 21, 2022 Meeting Summary can be viewed [here](#).

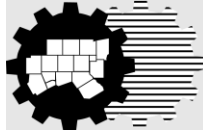
Katherine Barnett, City of Denton, moved to approve the meeting summary. Mendie White, City of Lewisville, seconded. The October meeting summary was approved as presented.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

3. **FY2023 Work Program and Project Update.** (*Members and NCTCOG*) NCTCOG will provide an update to the group on FY2023 Work Program initiatives:
 - FY2023 Event Planning – Discuss regional education opportunities including potential ideas for workshops and webinars.
 - Energy workshop series sponsored by the City of Dallas
 - Regional GHG Inventory & ICLEI GHG Inventory Cohort

Breanne Johnson, NCTCOG, provided an update on planning efforts for an upcoming March 2nd workshop on home weatherization. The City of Dallas has provided funding to sponsor three workshops on the topics of weatherization, renewable energy, and energy efficiency through the RISE Coalition. NCTCOG will also host various webinars on other RISE-preferred topics throughout the fiscal year as time and budget allow.

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Jenny Narvaez, NCTCOG, shared that efforts are still underway to complete the Regional Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory. Data collection is complete, and staff are continuing to finalize data inputs into ClearPath. Work has begun on the written portion of the inventory report. Weekly meetings of the ICLEI inventory cohort have stopped, but NCTCOG staff are still available to meet with cohort members by request to discuss inventory methods and next steps. The final results of the Regional Inventory will be posted to the NCTCOG website, and a link to the final report will be shared with relevant committees once available.

- 4. Coalition Member Recruitment Update.** (*Members and NCTCOG*) NCTCOG Staff will provide an update on the FY2023 Call for Members and current membership commitments. The Members will discuss a recruitment strategy and future recruitment and funding opportunities.

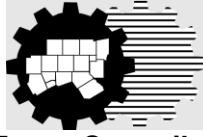
Breanne shared that several members' cost shares have not been paid, and that the RISE Coalition is under-budget for the fiscal year. If cost shares are not paid in full, NCTCOG will have to pause work on Coalition activities, which may delay the April meeting. Members with outstanding cost share payments may request a new invoice from NCTCOG staff. Breanne will continue monitoring payments and will remind members of outstanding balances.

A meeting attendee asked if private entities are eligible to participate in Coalition cost shares. Edith Marvin, NCTCOG, shared that while private entities are not eligible to participate as cost-sharing members, they are able to provide one-time donations to be used toward Coalition activities and events.

Breanne shared that NCTCOG staff continue to monitor grant funding opportunities that may pertain to RISE Coalition goals, but that no such opportunities are identified at this time.

- 5. NCTCOG Transportation Presentation.** (*Shawn Conrad & Gypsy Gavia, NCTCOG*) Staff from NCTCOG's Sustainable Development and Transit teams will provide an overview of their work on these topics and available resources for communities engaged in transportation management and planning.

Shawn Conrad, NCTCOG, presented on her team's efforts around integrated land use and transportation planning, and how this can be used to further sustainable outcomes for communities. The Safe Routes to School (SR2S) program allows children to walk and bike more safely, which in turn reduces traffic congestion and vehicle emissions around schools and increases physical activity for kids. A Regional Action Plan developed by NCTCOG supports cities in developing SR2S programs and related infrastructure improvements, such as sidewalk improvements, bike lanes, and other paths. This effort is funded by the federal Transportation Alternatives program. NCTCOG also sponsors a



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Walk to School Day event for communities in October. Mendie suggested that a “No Idling” campaign around schools may be built into the SR2S program.

Shawn also presented on the Blue-Green-Grey funding initiative, which funds integrated projects like community gardens, bicycle parking, and improved bus stop design. This program is focused on removing silos between water, the environment, and transportation. Innovative, replicable projects are prioritized for funding, and a Call for Projects will open next year for the next round of applicants. NCTCOG also has a Community Gardens Program Guide that includes an inventory of potential garden sites throughout the region.

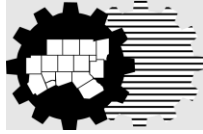
Gypsy Gavia, NCTCOG, shared that NCTCOG is the designated recipient of Federal Transit Administration funds for the region. These funds are used for short-term transit planning studies, mobility management, and subrecipient oversight. NCTCOG gives a portion of this funding to DART, Trinity Metro, and other large transit providers as well as smaller and more rural community transit agencies. NCTCOG has developed the Access North Texas Plan to expand transit access for seniors, those with disabilities, and low-income populations. Gypsy’s team also works to integrate electric vehicles into transit.

- 6. RISE Member Presentation.** (*Jaime Bretzmann & Nicole Warhoftig, City of Plano*) Sustainability staff from the City of Plano will give a presentation on the City’s ongoing environmental and community initiatives.

Nicole Warhoftig, City of Plano, presented on the City’s sustainability initiatives. The City of Plano has thirteen staff members (11 full-time, 2 part-time) focused on sustainability, including a garden coordinator and an outreach and engagement coordinator. The City has a Sustainability Implementation Plan and is updating their CARE strategy. Among the City’s sustainability initiatives is a residential Food Scrap Composting Pilot Program, funding through an NCTCOG/TCEQ Solid Waste grant. The program is currently open to 500 residents and has 8 drop-off locations throughout the city. The City has collected 2,700 lbs of food scraps to date, after just 2.5 weeks of collection, and has seen zero contamination.

The City of Plano has a Green Schools Program with 20 schools enrolled. Each school has a Green Team leader to oversee the program, and City of Plano sustainability staff educate students as part of the curriculum. Plano ISD and the City’s recycling hauler are working together to focus on reducing recycling contamination.

The City also puts on a tree giveaway in partnership with Texas Trees Foundation, and gave away 900 trees to residents in 2022 across two events. The City’s Solar United Neighbors solar co-op opened in Fall 2022, with 227 residents signing up to learn more. Plano is a CDP A-list city. The City is pursuing the LEED for Cities cohort and is working toward becoming a National Wildlife Foundation certified community.



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- 7. Featured Sustainability Presentation.** (*Donna Huff, TCEQ*) The Deputy Director for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's Office of Air/Air Quality Division will discuss the upcoming State Implementation Plan for the 2008 ozone standards reclassification.

Donna Huff, TCEQ, presented on how the State is planning to address new EPA guidance related to ozone standards. The DFW area is in nonattainment for federal ozone standards, meaning the region has additional vehicle emissions testing requirements. Attainment is required by the end of 2026. Continued nonattainment past that date will trigger Clean Air Act Section 185 fees applied to point sources. Up to \$45 million could be due from the region in 2028 if it remains in nonattainment. The US EPA has also proposed to lower the PM 2.5 standards, which would put Dallas and Tarrant Counties into nonattainment for particulate matter standards. TCEQ is in the early stages of strategizing how to address this if it happens.

INFORMATION ITEMS

- 8. 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.

NCTCOG staff shared various upcoming events and programs. Communities were reminded to fill out NCTCOG's Regional Energy Management Survey. Local Government Energy Reporting for entities in nonattainment areas is also due to SECO by Friday, March 3rd.

Applications for funding under TxDOT's Texas EV Charging Plan to install additional EV chargers the state and increase urban infrastructure for EVs is opening soon. This will be a competitive grant program for communities.

OTHER BUSINESS

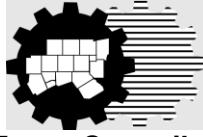
- 9. Participant Roundtable.** (*All*) Participants will have an opportunity to share activities happening in their communities/organizations to identify areas for collaboration and sharing sustainability programs or success stories.

City of Denton: Katherine Barnett shared that the City held a public Town Hall on sustainability with 40 participants.

City of Lewisville: Mendie White flagged an upcoming event – a Food & Justice Panel Discussion as part of the Denton Black Film Festival.

City of Dallas: Pharr Andrews introduced new Dallas sustainability staff member Rosa Ciscernos.

City of Farmers Branch: Alex Pharmakis shared that the City is continuing progress of the landfill solar array and is promoting community solar. The City is issuing energy ordinances



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for all new construction of single- and multi-family homes to include EV charging and solar capabilities. Alex also proposed the idea to host a day-long event where RISE communities can showcase what they're doing, and to invite elected officials to spark their interest in sustainability and show them what is already happening in the region. Cassidy Ellis, Ameresco, suggested reaching out to the Texas Municipal League, whose annual meeting is in Dallas this October and will include elected officials from throughout the state.

City of Carrollton: The City is working to develop its first Sustainability Plan.

Texas PACE Authority: Autumn Radle shared that HUD housing projects are now eligible for PACE financing (multi-family only).

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

11. Next Meeting Date. The next meeting is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. on Friday, April 21, 2023. This meeting will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams.

12. 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 Lilianna 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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