

North Texas Regional Integration of Sustainability Efforts (RISE) Coalition

January 28, 2026



Welcome and Introductions

- Virtual attendance form today in-lieu of sign-in sheet.
- Please keep your microphone on mute unless you are speaking.
- Use the "raise hand" feature if you would like to speak. When called on, state your name and the entity you are representing.
- Approval of action items will still be done by a voice vote. Please only vote if you are a member of the RISE Coalition.
- Thank you all for attending!

January 28, 2026

RISE Coalition Agenda

Welcome

1) Welcome and Introductions

Presentation

2) Switch Together 2026

3) HAQ App: A Scalable Approach to Integrating Heat and Air Quality Risk

Action Items

4) Meeting Summary

Discussion

5) Vice Chair Nominations

6) FY2026 Work Plan and Project Updates

Information Items

7) FY2026 Member Cost Share Commitments

8) NCTCOG Regional Opportunities

Other Business

9) Participant Roundtable

10) Future Agenda Items

11) Next Meeting Date

Switch Together 2026

Joaquin Escalante, Senior Texas
Program Associate, Solar United
Neighbors



Switch Together 2026

January 28, 2026



Introductions

Joaquin Escalante, Sr. Texas Program Associate

- Lives in Hillsboro, TX
- Formerly with NCTCOG



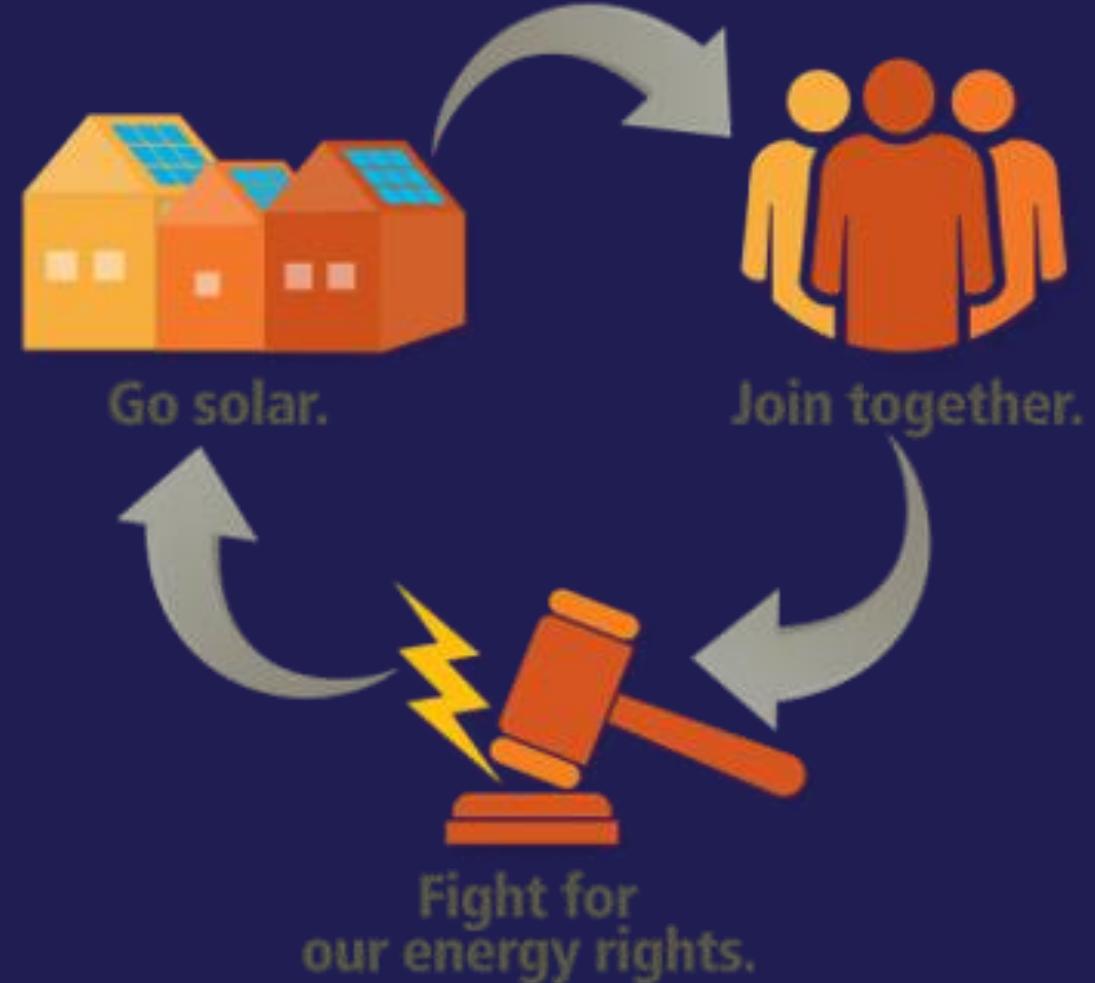
WHO IS SOLAR UNITED NEIGHBORS?

**We're a vendor
neutral, national
501(c)(3) nonprofit.**



WHAT DOES SOLAR UNITED NEIGHBORS DO?

**We help people
go solar,
join together,
and fight for their
energy rights.**



Recent work in Texas

State Level Policy Efforts:

- El Paso Rate Case
- Active in the recent TX legislative session
- Petitioning PUC for a study on the value of incorporating DERs into ERCOT

Recent Project:

- NE Houston Hub Homes
 - 20 homes with solar
 - 7 with battery backup
 - Refuge for nearby residents during power outages

Why solar? Local solar benefits everyone

Benefits of local solar:

- Make the energy system **more secure, resilient, and reliable**
- Protect solar owners from rising energy bills while also **lowering costs for everyone**
- Reduce need for **expensive centralized generation and grid upgrades**
- Reduce air, water, and climate **pollution**
- **Grow the local economy** with good-paying jobs and keeping investments local

SUN keeps it simple

Whether going solar together or on your own

Solar Co-ops, Switch Together, or
SUN Help Desk



What is Switch Together?

Group purchasing campaign that focuses on:

- Collaborating with municipalities to educate residents on solar and battery storage
- Below-market prices for going solar + storage
- Consumer protection
- Excellent equipment and warranties



Why should your local government join Switch Together?

- Consumer protection and below-market prices for your residents; save an average of 15-25%
- Added resiliency and lower electric bills for residents
- Support throughout the entire process
- No cost to the local government to participate
- Vetted, trusted installers
- Direct mailers with municipality logo sent out to selected zip codes at no cost



Partnership with iChoosr

A collaboration which includes:

- SUN is the organizer and iChoosr is our key implementation partner
- Scaling up the solar co-op model SUN to assist 1000s of individuals vs around 100
- Free direct mailer program for larger participating local governments; online marketing campaign for all local governments
- Larger installer vetting and management



iChoosr.



Participating Switch Together City: City of Dallas

- The City of Dallas **promotes the program** through multiple resident-facing platforms, including **water bill inserts** to all Dallas Water Utilities customers, **The Observer**, and **advertisements** on DART buses and rail.
- Program **outcomes directly support** the City's Comprehensive Environmental & Climate Action Plan (**CECAP**) goals.
- **Resident feedback** highlights strong results: participants report **smooth installation support**, costs more than 20% lower than other bids, and **solar systems producing up to 90% of household electricity use**—exceeding the program's projected 80% offset.



Switch Together Timeline 2026

- Website open for registration: April 29, 2026
- Campaign start: April 29, 2026
- DM approval deadline: May 6, 2026
- Auction date: May 20, 2026
- All offers out: June 17, 2026
- Direct mail 1 arrival: Week of June 24, 2026
- Direct mail 2 arrival: Week of September 9, 2026
- Decision deadline: October 14, 2026
- Installation deadline: July 14, 2027



Join the TX-wide campaign

- Dallas
- Harris County
- Farmers Branch
- Lewisville
- Waco
- And yours...

- Let us know before April 1, 2026
 - Direct Mail Approval April 29
 - Auction May 20
 - Offers sent June 17



Thank You!

Sam Silerio – State Director,

Joaquin Escalante, Dori Wolfe

TXteam@solarunitedneighbors.org

Solar Help Desk:

Helpdesk@solarunitedneighbors.org



HAQ App: A Scalable Approach to Integrating Heat and Air Quality Risk



Marsha Prior, PhD
Director of Equity &
Community Partnerships



Anusha Govind, MD
Director of Clinical
Research & Evidence
Translation



Keith Thode, MS
Director of Technology &
Operations

HAQ YOUR HEALTH

A Smart Tool for Our Changing Climate

January 28, 2026

RISE Coalition



HAQ
Heat and Air Quality™

HAQ Team



Marsha Prior, PhD
Equity & Community Health Integration



Sheila Modi, MD
Health Integration



Keith Thode, MS
Tech & Operations



Anusha Govind, MD
Clinical Education



Rose Jones, PhD
Executive Director

MISSION

HAQ bridges technology, health education, and community resources to help patients, families, and health systems prevent and manage the health impacts of a changing climate.

Agenda



1 Background

2 The Dual Threat: AQ & Heat

3 App Demo

4 From Challenges to Solutions

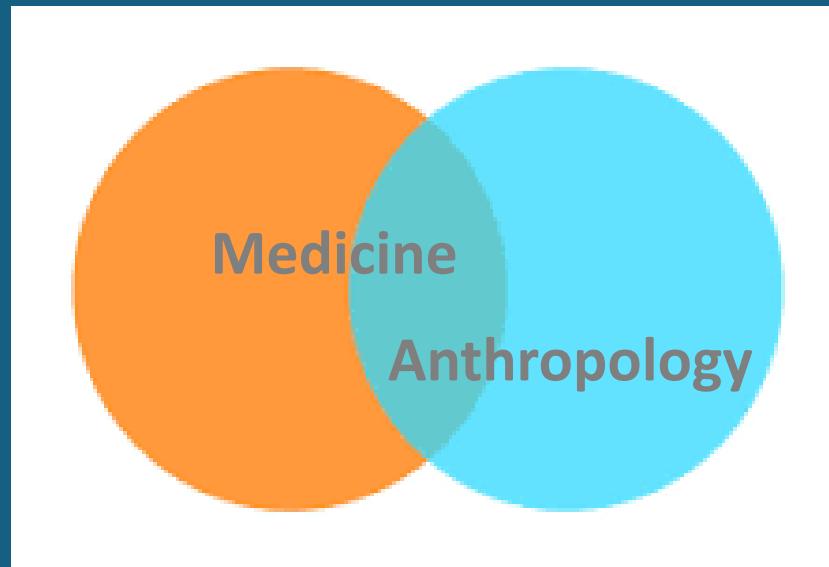
5 Q&A

Background

1



Two Worlds, One Solution





Problem-Solving Approach



Dual Threat = AQ + Heat



Scattered Resources & Services



Generic, Ad hoc Messaging



Climate Health Crisis

Dual threat: Heat and Air Quality

2

Risk of death surges when extreme heat and air pollution coincide

Keck School of Medicine of USC researchers used a new analytic approach to study more than 1.5 million deaths across the state of California.

Zara Abrams June 29, 2022

Heat and pollution impacts on mortality risk

Bars show how **normal (baseline)** death risk **increases** on days with...



Based on deaths of all causes in California between 2014-2019. Extreme days are those that are in the 99th percentiles of daily maximum temperatures and $PM_{2.5}$ exposure.

Chart: Emily Barone • Source: *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine*

TIME

American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine

Home > American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine > List of Issues > Volume 206, Issue 9

► The Effects of Coexposure to Extremes of Heat and Particulate Air Pollution on Mortality in California: Implications for Climate Change

Md Mostafijur Rahman ¹, Rob McConnell ¹, Hannah Schlaerth ², Joseph Ko ², Sam Silva ³, Frederick W. Lurmann ⁴, Lawrence Palinkas ¹, Jill Johnston ¹, Michael Hurlbert ^{1,5}, Hao Yin ^{6,7}, George Ban-Weiss ^{2,1}, and Show All ¹
+ Author Affiliations

An investigation of air pollution-induced temperature sensitivity and susceptibility to heat-related hospitalization in the Medicare population

Lauren Mock^a, Rachel C. Nethery^a, Poonam Gandhi^b, Ashwaghosh Parthasarathi^b, Melanie Rua^b, David Robinson^c, Soko Setoguchi^{*b,d}, and Kevin Josey^e

“When extreme heat and air pollution coincide, the mortality risk is far greater than either hazard alone—on the order of a 20% to 30% increase.”

~ Md Mostafijur Rahman, USC (2022)

ehp Environmental Health Perspectives

► Environ Health Perspect. 2024 Jan 23;132(1):015003. doi: [10.1289/EHP13402](https://doi.org/10.1289/EHP13402)

Concurrent Heat and Air Pollution Exposures among People Experiencing Homelessness

Zachary Van Tol ^{1,✉}, Jennifer K Vanos ¹, Ariane Middel ², Kristin M Ferguson ³

► Author information ► Article notes ► Copyright and License information

PMCID: PMC10805133 PMID: [38261303](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/38261303/)

See "A Matter of Climate Justice: Heat and Air Pollution Combine to Worsen Effects of Homelessness", 054001

Circulation

EDITORIAL | Originally Published 24 July 2023 | [Check for updates](#)

Extreme Heat and Poor Air Quality: Dual Threats to Cardiovascular Health

Sameed Ahmed M. Khatana, MD, MPH and Peter W. Groteweld, MD, MS AUTHOR INFO & AFFILIATIONS

Circulation • Volume 148, Number 4 • <https://doi.org/10.1161/CIRCULATIONAHA.123.065572>

**AQ + Heat
Dual threat**

Vulnerable & At-Risk Groups

**Outdoor Workers
Clinic patients
Visitors/Tourists
Students/Athletes
Elderly
Young Children
Unhoused
Pregnant People
People with Chronic Disease**



Costs = Human & Economic

- In 2023, uncontrolled asthma caused 109,000 ED visits, 8,500 hospitalizations in adults and children in Texas, costing over \$1.3 billion
- Four metropolitan areas in Texas did not meet federal standards for ozone pollution (including DFW) in 2024, and made up 59% of ED visits/hospitalizations for asthma
 - (DSHS, *Strategic plan for asthma control in Texas, 2025-2028*)
- A summer in Texas averages \$85 million in healthcare costs, extreme heat adds \$20 million
 - (Dallas Morning News, *Extreme heat could impact the promise of economic growth in North Texas, 2025*)



What if HAQ could help mitigate
disease exacerbations in our
community?

The HAQ App

3

About The App

- Live on Android and iOS app stores
- Real-time heat + air quality alerts at neighborhood scale
- Plain language risk insights grounded in public health evidence to support planning and operational decisions
- Designed to support planning, preparedness, and on-the-ground decision making
- Flexible, scalable platform adaptable to regional needs and local data



Let's See it!

Roadmap



Advanced Solution
Development



Notification
Infrastructure



Advanced
Integrations



Group-Specific
Communications &
Monitoring



Flexible and
Extendable



Increased
Accessibility



From Challenges to Solutions

4

Connecting Climate + Care + Community



Challenges

- Dual Threat: Heat + AQ
- Fragmented Resources and Care
- Siloed Systems & Inconsistent Response
- Growing Climate-Health Risks

HAQ Solution

- One Integrated Platform
- Real-Time Alerts & Targeted Education
- Customized and Scalable
- Data-Driven, Equity Focused

Collaboration Opportunities

Heat + Air Quality Integration – Collaborate to address **extreme heat as a compounding factor in air quality risk**, supporting a more complete and health-protective regional approach.

System Integration – Integrate real-time services from **cities, counties, and regional partners** into the HAQ platform to support **coordinated local decision-making** during extreme climate events.

Action Toolkit – Co-develop a **regional Heat & Air Quality Action Toolkit** to support coordinated, evidence-based local action during extreme heat and air quality events (e.g., major regional events, summer heat waves).

Research and Data for Local Action – Partner on applied research and data collection using HAQ to assess **public use, reach, and effectiveness** (e.g., uptake in high-risk ZIP codes), supporting reporting, funding, and policy design.

Regional Knowledge Exchange – Use HAQ as a shared platform **for RISE communities to exchange strategies, policy approaches, and practical tools** related to heat, air quality, and climate resilience.



HAQ Sponsors



MINTS-AI @ The text "MINTS-AI @" is written in a large, dark green, sans-serif font. To the right of the text is a circular logo containing the letters "UP" in white, with a dark orange border.



Q&A

5

Q&A



 Download on the
App Store

 GET IT ON
Google Play



To learn more about the HAQ app:
Rose.jones@rapidanthropology.com

For technical questions:
support@advancenet.co

Visit us at:
www.Haqapp.com

Follow us at:
Linkedin.com/company/haq-app

Action Items

Meeting Summary

Action Item: Vote to Approve October 29, 2025, Meeting Summary.

Discussion Items

Vice Chair Nominations

- Lindsay Graf has left City of Plano and will no longer be serving as Chair
- Per the bylaws, when the Chair is unable to fulfill their term, the Vice Chair assumes the responsibilities of Chair and serves for the remainder of the unexpired term
- We are now seeking nominations from current Voting Members for a new Vice Chair to fill the remainder of the FY2026 term
- Voting Members are eligible to serve, and will move into the role of Chair for FY2027
- A vote on Vice Chair nomination(s) will be conducted electronically after the meeting

Call for Nominations

Discussion Items

FY2026 Work Plan and Updates

Guided by [FY2026 Work Plan](#)

- **Summary of FY2026 Goals:**
 - Hold up to 4 public meetings
 - Support work on Climate Action Plan
 - Establish at least 1 partnership with a local university
 - Host 2 webinars or workshops on key topics of interest
 - Host a regional training workshop
 - Conduct Regional Sustainability Survey

Approved Focus Topics



Regional Climate Action Planning



Energy Efficiency



Sustainable Procurement



Incorporating Regional Greenspaces

Discussion Items

Task 2. Regional Climate Action Planning

- The EPA has extended the submission deadline for the Comprehensive Action Plan to June 1, 2026
- The Dallas-Fort Worth Air Quality Improvement Plan Comprehensive Action Plan Draft will be posted to the [program website](#) by January 30th for a month-long public comment period
- Public comment feedback will then be incorporated and the final document submitted to the EPA

Discussion Items

Task 4. Educational Resources

Workshops and Webinars

Sustainable Procurement

- Currently coordinating webinar on sustainable procurement in March
- Webinar will share information about how to approach a sustainable procurement policy and provide success stories within this space
- Registration coming soon – will be sent out via email when open!

Energy Efficiency

- Specific topics? E.g. energy codes, policy development, grid modernization

Discussion Items

Task 5. Regional Training Workshop

NCTCOG will organize and host a one-day training workshop highlighting regional sustainability topics, with cost share paying members able to attend at a reduced cost.

- Based on feedback at last meeting, interest in a professional development training
- LEED Green Associate Certification – type of training?
 - Exam Preparation Course
 - Continuing Education Credits

Information Items

FY2026 Cost Shares

Cost share amounts for each entity are based on the 2025 population estimates and are the same as FY25.

Membership is open to governmental, quasi-governmental, university, and non-profit organizations.

2025 Population (NCTCOG Estimates)	Cost-Share
1 million+	\$3,750
750,000 - 999,999	\$3,500
500,000 - 749,999	\$3,000
350,000 - 499,999	\$2,500
200,000 - 349,999	\$2,075
100,000 - 199,999	\$1,625
50,000 - 99,999	\$1,075
25,000 - 49,999	\$700
10,000 - 24,999	\$500
Less than 10,000	\$250
Other Local Government Partners, Universities, and Non-Profit Environmental/Public Interest Groups	\$1,000

Invoices were emailed out on **January 9th** and are **due 30 days after receipt**. If you did not receive your invoice, please email Corinne Buckley at cbuckley@nctcog.org ASAP

If you are interested in becoming a cost sharing member, please email Corinne Buckley at cbuckley@nctcog.org to request an invoice.

NCTCOG Regional Updates and Opportunities

NCTEDD Upcoming Board Meeting

- The North Central Texas Economic Development District (NCTEDD) Board will be meeting on **February 2nd at 10:00 AM**
- The meeting will feature a presentation from the new U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Region VI Administrator, Ashlea J. Quinonez
 - Presentation will cover HUD programs and initiatives related to topics such as affordable housing, community planning and development, and more
- Meeting information and registration details can be found in the [meeting agenda](#), located on the [NCTEDD website](#)

Other Regional Updates and Opportunities

Creating Connections: A Community Engagement Model Webinar

- Texas Municipal League is hosting a webinar on **February 5th at 10:00 AM** on the topic of community engagement
- The webinar will explore the key pillars of successful public engagement, including trust-building, clarity of purpose, and collaboration
- All city leaders, including mayors, councilmembers, city managers, and city staff, are the target audience of this webinar
- Registration is open on the [TML website](#)

Other Regional Updates and Opportunities

2026 TRACS Summit

- Registration for this year's Texas Regional Alliance for Campus Sustainability Summit is now open
- The 2026 Summit will be held **March 1st-3rd at St. Edward's University in Austin**
- Early bird registration is available through January 30
- Register to attend on the [TRACS Summit website](#)

Other Regional Updates and Opportunities

2026 South Central Climate Resilience Forum

- The 2026 South Central Climate Resilience Forum (SCCRF) is a 3-day event focused on fostering meaningful dialogue and action on climate resilience and adaptation across the region
- The Forum will be held **April 15th-17th in San Antonio**
- Non-profit organizations, all levels of government, community groups, the private sector, and academia are encouraged to attend
- Early-bird registration is open on the [Forum's website](#) through February 28th

Other Business

Participant Roundtable

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

Future Agenda Items

Future meeting presentation topics?

Next Meeting Date

Next RISE Coalition Meeting:

Wednesday, April 29, 2026, at 9:30 a.m.

In person at NCTCOG Offices

[Add to Calendar](#)

Tentative Upcoming 2026 Meeting Dates:

- July 29, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. – Online

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Thank you!

NCTCOG's Free E-Mail Lists and Committee Updates

- ✉ General: <https://www.nctcog.org/stay-informed?ext=>
- ✉ Environment and Development: <https://www.nctcog.org/envir/mail>

RISE Websites

- 💻 Information page: <https://www.nctcog.org/envir/development-excellence/rise-coalition>
- 💻 Committee page: <https://www.nctcog.org/envir/committees/regional-integration-of-sustainability-efforts-ris>

