

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

January 28, 2026



North Central Texas  
Council of Governments

**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>

# 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](mailto:TXteam@solarunitedneighbors.org)  
Solar Help Desk:  
[Helpdesk@solarunitedneighbors.org](mailto: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

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January 28, 2026

RISE Coalition



# HAQ

Heat and Air Quality™



# HAQ Team



**Marsha Prior, PhD**  
**Equity & Community**



**Sheila Modi, MD**  
**Health Integration**



**Keith Thode, MS**  
**Tech & Operations**



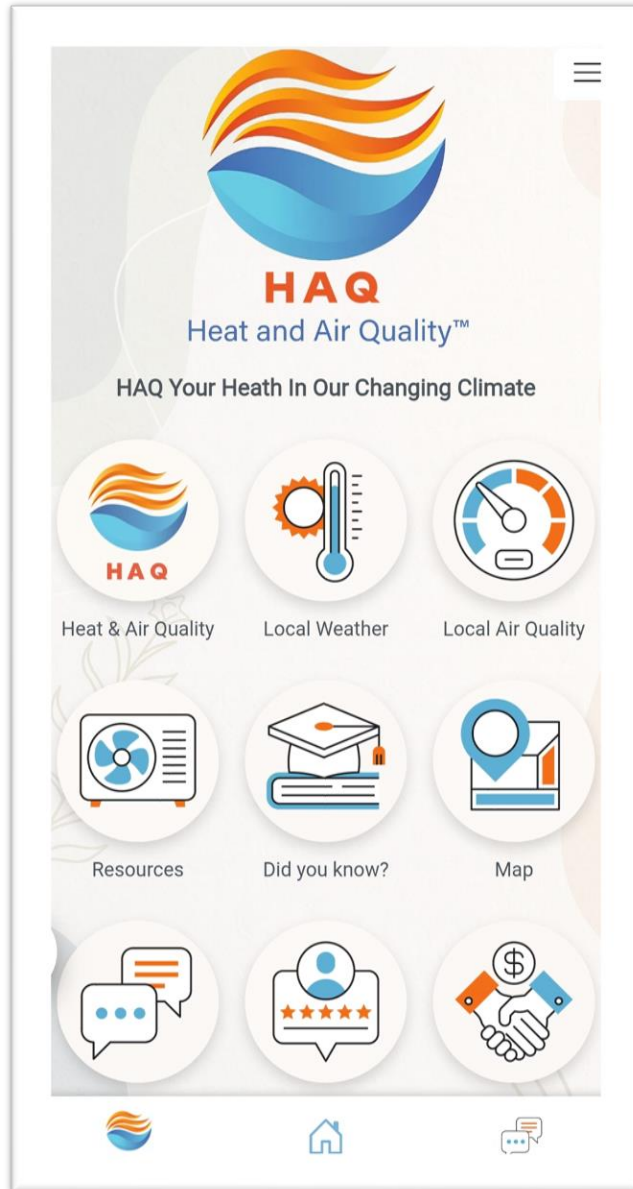
**Anusha Govind, MD**  
**Clinical Education**



**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

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2 The Dual Threat: AQ & Heat

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3 App Demo

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4 From Challenges to Solutions

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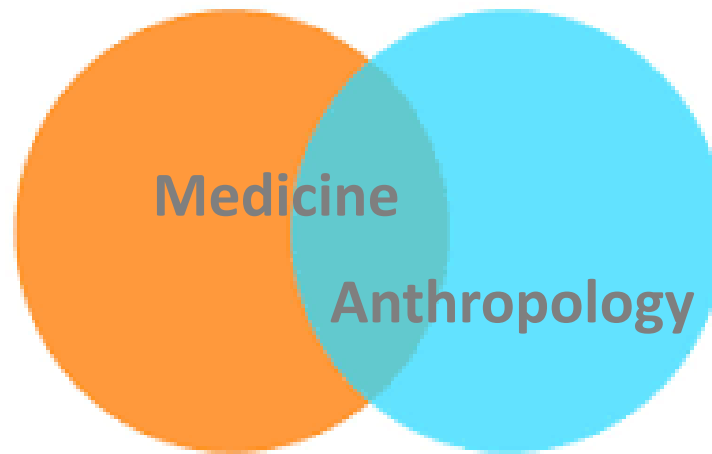
5 Q&A

# 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

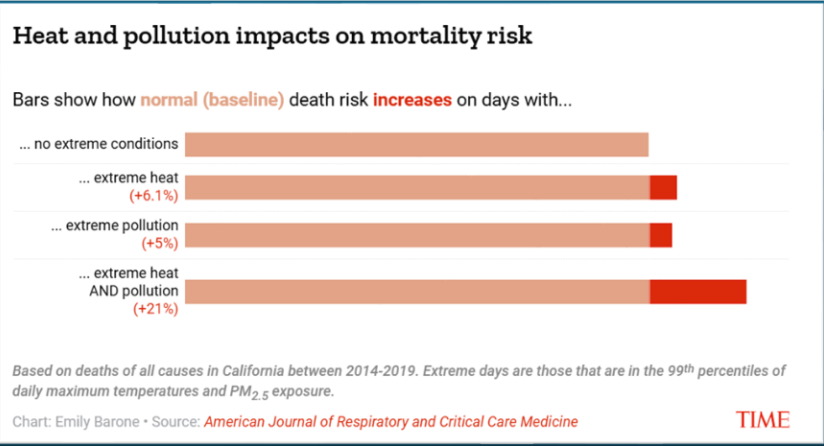
2



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



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](#)<sup>1,✉</sup>, [Jennifer K Vanos](#)<sup>1</sup>, [Ariane Middel](#)<sup>2</sup>, [Kristin M Ferguson](#)<sup>3</sup>

► 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.

AUGUST 18, 2025 The GIST

**Texas study reveals heat waves can cause more polluted air**

by American Chemical Society

edited by Sadie Harley, reviewed by Robert Egan

Editors' notes

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<sup>1</sup>, Rob McConnell<sup>1</sup>, Hannah Schlaerth<sup>2</sup>, Joseph Ko<sup>2</sup>, Sam Silva<sup>3</sup>, Frederick W. Lurmann<sup>4</sup>, Lawrence Palinkas<sup>1,5</sup>, Jill Johnston<sup>1</sup>, Michael Hurlburt<sup>1,5</sup>, Hao Yin<sup>6,7</sup>, George Ban-Weiss<sup>2,1</sup>, and Show All...

► Author Affiliations

AHA/ASA Journals JOURNALS | BROWSE | RESOURCES | INFORMATION

**Circulation** CURRENT ISSUE | ARCHIVE

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. Groeneveld, MD, MS

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

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

Lauren Mock<sup>a</sup>, Rachel C. Nethery<sup>a</sup>, Poonam Gandhi<sup>b</sup>, Ashwaghosha Parthasarathi<sup>b</sup>, Melanie Rua<sup>b</sup>, David Robinson<sup>c</sup>, Soko Setoguchi<sup>\*b,d</sup>, and Kevin Josey<sup>e</sup>

“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)

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

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**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**

Heat and Air Quality™

# HAQ Sponsors





**Q&A**

**5**

# Q&A

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To learn more about the HAQ app:  
[Rose.jones@rapidanthropology.com](mailto:Rose.jones@rapidanthropology.com)

For technical questions:  
[support@advancenet.co](mailto:support@advancenet.co)

Visit us at:  
[www.Haqapp.com](http://www.Haqapp.com)

Follow us at:  
[Linkedin.com/company/haq-app](https://www.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](mailto:cbuckley@nctcog.org) ASAP

If you are interested in becoming a cost sharing member, please email Corinne Buckley at [cbuckley@nctcog.org](mailto: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.*

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## Future Agenda Items

*Future meeting presentation topics?*

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# 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

# NCTCOG RISE Coalition Contacts

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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>

