

North Central Texas Council of Governments

SUMMARY

North Texas Regional Integration of Sustainability Efforts (RISE) Coalition

Wednesday, July 30, 2025

9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Virtual: [Microsoft Teams](#)

Chair: Alexander Pharmakis, City of Farmers Branch

Vice Chair: Lindsay Graf, City of Plano

1. Welcome and Introductions.

[Corinne Buckley \(NCTCOG\)](#) welcomed attendees and reviewed housekeeping items.

PRESENTATION

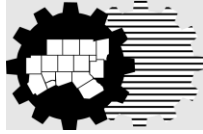
- Solar Energy Consulting Services.** Robert Anderson, Senior Vice President, and Andrew Linowes, Vice President, Jones Lang LaSalle Americas, Inc, will present on the MSA recently signed with NCTCOG to provide NCTCOG members with Solar Energy Consulting Services.

[Craig Johnson \(NCTCOG\)](#) provided a brief overview of the TXShare platform and introduced NCTCOG's [recently signed MSA with Jones Lang LaSalle](#) to provide local governments with various energy consulting services. Robert Anderson, Senior Vice President, and Andrew Linowes, Vice President, Jones Lang LaSalle Americas, Inc., provided further details on the solar, EV, and resiliency services Jones Lang LaSalle can provide under this contract. They outlined the various energy consulting services they offer, as well as explored why local governments may be interested in tapping into these types of services. Additional slides highlighting case studies that have utilized these services can be found in the [meeting presentation](#).

ACTION ITEMS

- Meeting Summary.** Review and approve the May 14, 2025, meeting summary, which can be viewed [here](#).

[Alexander Pharmakis \(City of Farmers Branch\)](#) made a motion to approve the meeting summary. [Dorothy Kindell \(TRWD\)](#) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.



North Central Texas Council of Governments

4. **Appoint FY2026 Vice Chair.** RISE Members will vote to appoint a new Vice Chair from those nominated, to serve a one-year term of FY2026. The FY2025 Vice Chair will be appointed to the role of Chair for FY2026, as per the RISE Coalition bylaws.

NCTCOG opened the floor for any final vice chair nominations. With no additional nominations brought forward, Alexander Pharmakis (City of Farmers Branch) made a motion to appoint Cory Heiple, City of Carrollton, as Vice Chair for FY2026 effective October 1, 2025. Lenna Smith (City of Plano) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

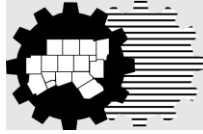
5. **FY2026 Work Plan Discussion and Approval.** The Draft FY2026 Work Plan will be brought forward for approval by RISE Coalition members. NCTCOG will share a list of potential priority topics identified in the Regional Sustainability Survey and lead a discussion on which topics should be incorporated into the Work Plan.

NCTCOG reviewed the Draft FY2026 Work Plan and brought forward four focus topics identified based on discussion at the May RISE Coalition meeting and responses to the Regional Sustainability Survey. The topics identified and incorporated into the Draft FY2026 Work Plan were Regional Climate Action Planning, Energy Efficiency, Sustainable Procurement, and Incorporating Regional Greenspaces. Alexander Pharmakis (City of Farmers Branch) made a motion to approve the Draft FY2026 Work Plan. Cory Heiple (City of Carrollton) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION

6. **Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Update.** NCTCOG will briefly go over the Air Quality Improvement Plan's 2022 emissions inventory and business as usual projections to receive feedback from the RISE Coalition as NCTCOG staff continues to work on the Comprehensive Action Plan.

Savana Nance (NCTCOG) provided an update on the progress of the Dallas-Fort Worth Air Quality Improvement Plan (DFW-AQIP). The draft results of the completed 2022 CO_{2e} inventory, as well as the business-as-usual projections for 2030 and 2050, were shared with the group. There was a question from the group regarding how the emissions and projections compare to those of other regions, to which Savana confirmed that NCTCOG would be performing a comparison of these results with other COGs and the state. An update on the status of the measures was also provided, with more details to be shared once the measures are available for comment in the fall. Those interested in being involved with the DFW-AQIP process can visit the [program website](#) for more details.



North Central Texas Council of Governments

INFORMATION ITEMS

7. **FY2025 Work Plan and Project Updates.** NCTCOG will discuss progress on the FY2025 Work Plan initiatives.

NCTCOG provided an update on the progress of the FY2025 Work Plan. Staff shared about the RISE-focused webinar that was held on July 29 on the topic of *Engaging Communities on Sustainability*. Staff also highlighted the June edition of the Center of Development Excellence newsletter, which featured the University of North Texas. Regarding the administration of the CLIDE Awards, staff shared the six winners who were announced at NCTCOG's General Assembly. Finally, staff reviewed the results of the Regional Sustainability Survey that was conducted.

8. **FY2025 Member Cost Share Commitments.** NCTCOG will provide an update on the status of cost shares for FY2025.

NCTCOG shared who has committed cost shares to date, with current commitments totaling \$13,925. Those interested in joining the RISE Coalition can reach out to Corinne Buckley at cbuckley@nctcog.org to request an invoice or inquire about how to become a member.

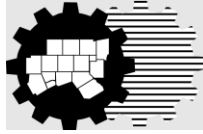
9. **FY2026 Member Cost Share Update.** NCTCOG will share updates and changes being made to invoice distribution for FY2026.

NCTCOG staff shared a reminder that cost share distribution will be conducted electronically for FY2026, with cost shares anticipated to be emailed out in late August/early September. Staff highlighted that cost shares should be sent directly to the person who approves them. Members are encouraged to reach out to Corinne Buckley at cbuckley@nctcog.org if the person who approves cost share invoices is different than the contact who currently receives the invoices to minimize disruptions to the new process.

10. **89th Texas Legislative Session Key Takeaways.** NCTCOG staff will discuss key outcomes from the Legislative Session and their impact on the work of the RISE Coalition.

NCTCOG staff highlighted key takeaways from the 89th Texas Legislative Session. Staff shared bills that passed that align with the group's interests and concerns, bills that passed with impacts of concerns, and bills of interest that did not pass. Staff also shared agenda items of interest being covered in the current Special Session.

11. **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.



North Central Texas Council of Governments

- **Engine Off North Texas: Working Together for Cleaner Air.** The presentation, provided by Trey Pope, NCTCOG Air Quality Planner, provides an overview of the Engine Off North Texas (EONT) program – an initiative focused on reducing unnecessary idling from heavy-duty diesel vehicles in the 10-county ozone nonattainment region. Heavy-duty vehicles are a major source of NOx emissions, as they significantly contribute to air pollution within the region.

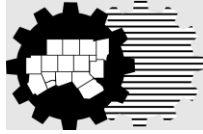
Trey Pope (NCTCOG) shared about the Engine Off North Texas program, highlighting the various impacts of idling and sharing various resource and funding available to local governments interested in reducing idling.

- **North Texas Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Call for Projects.** Joslyn Billings, NCTCOG Air Quality Planner, will provide an overview of the North Texas Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Call for Projects and discuss eligible projects and applicants for this funding.

Joslyn Billings (NCTCOG) shared about NCTCOG's recent receipt of a Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Community Award to support the construction of EV charging stations on public property. Distribution of this funding will be identified through a Call for Projects, which allows public agencies to request funding for electric vehicle infrastructure. The Call for Projects will close on Friday, October 31, 2025.

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

- Regional EV Infrastructure Working Group Codes Roundtable – This working group hosted a roundtable on July 30 for local governments and subject matter experts to discuss EV-Ready codes. The recording and presentation can be found on the DFW Clean Cities events page.
- Meeting to Discuss the TRAPPA-DFW Air Quality Impacts Tool – NCTCOG will be hosting a meeting on the TRact-level Air Pollution Policy Assessment for Dallas-Fort Worth (TRAPPA-DFW) tool, which allows the user to estimate the benefits to air quality of vehicle activity changes in Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan area. The meeting date is TBD.
- 2025 DFW National Drive Electric Month (NDEM) – NCTCOG will be participating in upcoming NDEM events that support the nationwide effort to provide education to the public about EVs.
- North Texas Zero Emissions Vehicles Project – NCTCOG has been awarded \$60 million to replace existing non-zero-emission Class 6 & 7 vocational vehicles with



North Central Texas Council of Governments

non-zero emission vehicles, with a Call for Projects now expected to open in Fall 2025.

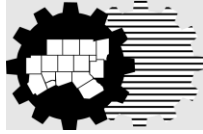
- Air Quality Funding Opportunities – Multiple funding opportunities for projects that address air quality are currently open.
- Building Management Systems: Scalable Solutions to Help You Manage What Matters Webinar – NCTCOG is hosting a webinar on Building Management Systems (BMS), which will explore what a BMS is and how it can support your goals at any step of the journey. The webinar is scheduled for August 19, 2025, at 1:00 PM.
- SECO Issues RFP for Home Energy Rebates Program – SECO recently issued an RFP to secure services for the Inflation Reduction Act Home Energy Rebates Program Comprehensive Program Management, Administration, and Implementation. The deadline was extended to July 30, with services to commence in September.
- USGBC Health, equity, & Social Sustainability Webinar – As part of the Advancing Sustainability in the Built Environment webinar series, this USGBC webinar will focus on the social dimensions of sustainability. The webinar is scheduled for August 20, 2025, at 1:00 PM.
- Green Communities Conference – The Waco Sustainability Network is hosting their annual conference on September 17-18, 2025, at the Waco Convention Center. This year's theme is "Rooted in Resilience".
- Green Business Certification Launched – A new initiative has been launched to help drive sustainable business practices during the FIFA World Cup 26 Dallas.

OTHER BUSINESS

12. **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 still working on their LEED for Cities certification, with the goal to complete it by the end of the year. Next month, they are presenting their active transportation plan and clean streets program to council to see how they plan to approach those.

Julissa Amador, City of Denton – Denton has launched their lawn equipment rebate program and have so far approved 83 projects. They also recently launched their e-bike and EV rebates and are working with UNT to promote e-bikes to students. Their climate action plan had its one-year review in June, and they are now moving forward with a sustainability framework.



North Central Texas Council of Governments

Kylie Wieden, City of Grand Prairie – Grand Prairie is starting meetings with other departments to track sustainability efforts while working on their sustainability plan.

Cory Heiple, City of Carrollton – Carrollton is picking up their Green Business Program again. They also recently received council approval for the third phase of their storm drain art contest.

Dorothy Kindell, TRWD – TRWD is currently looking at putting out an RFP for Solar PPA at one of their pump stations and is working on getting assistance drafting the RFP. They are also wrapping up their sustainability plan and getting it prepared for executive approval.

Lenna Smith, City of Plano – Plano received a response back from USGBC on LEED for Cities and is working on getting together some additional information before their final submittal. They are working on a greenhouse gas emissions inventory and are open to feedback from others on the best approach. They are also gearing up for some fall events, which include a tree giveaway and Texas Recycles Day.

Natalie Nava, City of Fort Worth – Fort Worth is currently working closely with FIFA and recently relaunched their Green Business Certification. Although a pre-existing program, they have revamped it to focus more on restaurants and hotels which will be featured in the FIFA app. They are also partnering with FIFA and their Park's Department for a tree planting in November. Finally, Fort Worth is on track to finish construction of their new Materials Recycling Facility this Fall.

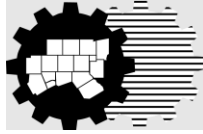
Shaun Auckland, SPEER – SPEER shared about their monthly CELC Virtual Coffee Hour, which is an opportunity to hear about energy efficiency work in other communities. SPEER also shared that registration is open for their upcoming Industry + Policy Workshop on September 18-19.

Larry Howe, Citizens' Climate Lobby – Larry posed the question for how NCTCOG may be able to help ensure accurate information on energy is being shared with council members, citing an example of a group in Lamar County spreading misinformation about Battery Energy Storage. A suggestion was made for NCTCOG to create resources that provide factual information for county officials to ensure that they are receiving the correct information. The group discussed the possibility of reaching out to Lamar County to understand the challenges they are facing with this topic to gain insight on what resources would be beneficial.

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

There were no suggestions for future agenda items.

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www.nctcog.org/envir



North Central Texas Council of Governments

14. Next Meeting Date. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, October 30, 2025. This meeting will be held in person at the NCTCOG Offices. [Add to calendar.](#)

Upcoming meeting dates for 2026:

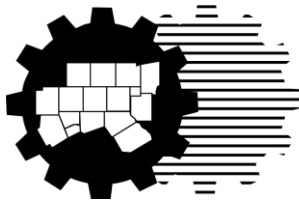
- January 28, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. – Online
- April 29, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. – In person at NCTCOG Offices
- July 29, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. – Online

15. Adjournment.

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

Alexander Pharmakis (City of Farmers Branch) made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Cory Heiple (City of Carrollton) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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 at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Reasonable accommodations will be made to assist your needs.



RISE Coalition Meeting

9:30 am, Wednesday, July 30, 2025

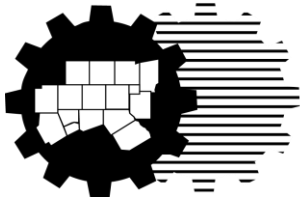
Microsoft Teams

Attendees

RISE Coalition Members		
Name	Entity	Signature
Alexander Pharmakis (Chair)	City of Farmers Branch	X
Lindsay Graf (Vice Chair)	City of Plano	
Lenna Smith*	City of Plano	X
Cory Heiple	City of Carrollton	X
Lauren Foust	City of Cedar Hill	
Rosaerlinda Cisneros	City of Dallas	
Julissa Amador	City of Denton	X
Avery Pesek	City of Fort Worth	
Natalie Nava*	City of Fort Worth	X
Kylie Wieden	City of Grand Prairie	X
Dorothy Kindell	TRWD	X

* Indicates alternate member

Other Attendees	
Name	Entity
Mary Decker	Atmos Energy
Larry Howe	Citizens' Climate Lobby
Novella Landau	City of Carrollton
Miranda Ynostrosa	City of Cedar Hill
Khurram Qadri	City of Dallas
Nicholas Nix	City of Forney
Jody Cason	City of Grand Prairie
Cindy Mendez	City of Grand Prairie
Melissa Canclini	City of Lewisville
Mike Marshall	Energy Systems Group
Umair Surani	Environ Energy
Angela Lewallen	Fusion Academy
Robert Anderson	JLL
Andrew Linowes	JLL
Gabriel Marty	JLL
Sean Selas	JLL
Lane Rylander	Moonshot Composting
Shaun Auckland	SPEER
James A. McClinton	Tarrant County
Jennifer Spring	WRA Architects
Corinne Buckley	NCTCOG
Crysta Guzman	NCTCOG
Cassidy Campbell	NCTCOG



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Joslyn Billings	NCTCOG
Savana Nance	NCTCOG
Craigan Johnson	NCTCOG
Jason Brown	NCTCOG
Trey Pope	NCTCOG
Chris Northup	NCTCOG
Lori Clark	NCTCOG

DRAFT