

North Texas Regional Integration of Sustainability Efforts (RISE) Coalition



April 29, 2022

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Coalition

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



April 29, 2022 RISE Coalition Agenda

1) Welcome and Introductions – Member Roll Call

Action Items

2) Meeting Summary

Discussion

- 3) FY 2022 Work Plan Program and Project Update and Discussion
- 4) City of Denton Sustainability Framework
- 5) Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Funding

Informational Items

6) NCTCOG Regional Opportunities

Other Business

- 7) Participant Roundtable
- 8) Future Agenda Items
- 9) Next Meeting Date
- 10) Adjournment

Action Items

2. Meeting Summary: <u>Approve January 28 Meeting Summary</u>

FY 2022 Project Update and Discussion

Guided by FY2022 Work Program

FY2022 focus on four key topic areas

Under Development:

- First regional greenhouse gas inventory
- Emission reduction strategy toolkit for local government
- FY2022: Urban heat island emphasis; developing an equity working group; continuing to grow membership; and continuing existing projects (GHG Inventory and Toolkit)

Regional Emissions Assessment XX 12+ **Emissions Impact Analysis** and Mitigation/Adaptation **Strategy Toolkit Urban Heat Island Reduction Strategy** Analysis

Topics

Sn

Current



Food Diversion and Waste Reduction Programs

Task 2. Regional Greenhouse Gas Emissions Project

Regional GHG Inventory

 NCTCOG continuing data analysis related to Energy, Transportation, Waste, Water, and Wastewater for region and cohort participants

NCTCOG GHG Inventory Cohort

- Weekly meetings for progress updates
- Inventory schedule:
 - 2019 inventory in progress
 - NCTCOG and the Cohort will have access to ClearPath until May 2023
 - Second inventory for some cities
 - Unlimited access to "Read Only" mode afterwards
- GHG Emissions Reductions Toolkit:
 - Environmental Defense Fund Fellowship for Summer 2022

Update on Regional Tree Cooperative Concept

NCTCOG managed Tree Cooperative Purchase Program

- Open to local governments in region
- Two phases:
 - Replacement Program: source trees now to replace damaged stock (local govt. owned/managed properties)
 - Planting Program: source trees for local govt. use and/or residential giveaway programs in years thereafter

Next steps:

- Focus Group to meet on May 3rd at 11:00 am. Will help identify which tree species and sizes should be specified in RFP
- Issue RFP summer 2022
- Gather program commitments from local governments
- Replacement Program: how many trees (of each type) needed now
- Planting Program: how many trees (of each type) needed each year after

Representation of the second s

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 preparing to begin assessments of potential AD sites in North Texas, using UTA's POWER Tool as the data model.
 - Stakeholder Workshop held on March 31st to get feedback on Feedstock Availability & Collection Evaluation, Market Assessment, and RNG Vehicle Inventory & Consumption Analysis.
 - To join the stakeholder group, contact Breanne Johnson at <u>BJohnson@nctcog.org</u>.

More information here: https://nctcog.org/envir/materials-management/materials-management-plan-1

Related to RISE focus area: Food Diversion and Waste Reduction Programs

March 11th Virtual Sustainability Survey Results

- NCTCOG and the RISE Coalition conducted a virtual survey on March 11, 2022, examining the state of sustainability in North Texas.
- The goals of the survey were to:
 - 1. Assess the current state of sustainability in North Texas communities.
 - 2. Foster discussion between communities on shared goals and challenges.
 - 3. Explore opportunities for future initiatives and collaboration between partners.
 - 4. Identify regional priorities for integration into the RISE FY2023 Work Plan and topics for future NCTCOG-hosted webinars.
- Survey participants represented 13 cities, 3 utility providers, and 1 school district.
- Conducted using MURAL, a collaborative online whiteboarding tool.

Question 1: Goals & Targets

Does your community have any official environmental/sustainability-related goals? What are they? (i.e. climate and emissions reduction goals, zero waste, more greenspace, etc.) Be as specific as possible.

the community City of Lewisville has multiple I'll say what we're not - Jaime City of Dallas goals across 7 different broad measuring as far as I GHG City of Denton has Bretzmann, CECAP codifies the categories, covered in our can tell is how the Inventory proposed adoption of environmental Plano Sustainability Action Plan community (co's and (annually, but commitments. 8 SBT for GHG reduction. GHG Not that I'm aware of. In Goals, 97 citizens) participate solid waste diversion (includes access to green may change) Objectives. Inventory and act to achieve goals and numerous space, emissions reduction, this respect, I'm speaking every 3 results other goals in our energy and water efficiency. as a citizen instead of an Sustainability health and wellness years Solid Waste and Municipal Natura Framework. Resource Recycling Waste outcomes in the community, employee, as I work for a Conservation Characterization and Programs (Tracking etc.) Annual Diversion programs and Reporting K-12 school district. As a Plano has a CARE Diversion Rate. strategy with a focus to Progress ower emissions. We also school district, our goal is Contamination have several goals in our Reduction Reports to We use EnergyCAP to position Department Strategic to lower our usage and in litter plan and are working to Council finalize our City Waste audit bills and calculate Minimization Plan cost by >20% Fleet fuel usage changes and cost usage and Online vehicle yes city of avoidance against a Dashboard for emissions Dallas CECAP baseline year. This Annual updates to public to track Broad council on major has 8 topic Dallas to continue conservation Our target is to software also calculates progress of "goals". None milestones; to be a leader in areas with official CECAP reduce methane tracking energy efforts to reduce drops in emissions. and fleet fuel usage metrics emissions in our emissions and metrics kgal's, and KBTUs. improve our air natural gas Zero quality. waste distribution system City of Plano: by 50 percent from GHG Emissions 2017 to 2035. Inventory Mesquite does not Environmental Master Plan: https:// have any official www.fortworthtexas.gov/files/assets/public/code compliance/env/documents/code-environmental-empgoals but my work environmental-master-plan-2021.pdf program has been approved by City Manager.

Question 2: Measuring Success

How does your community or organization measure the success of its sustainability initiatives? How do you quantify sustainability?

Question 3: Successes Achieved

List some successes (projects, programs, policies) that your community has achieved related to your environmental and sustainability goals.



March 11th Virtual Sustainability Survey Results

Sustainability Goals and Reporting

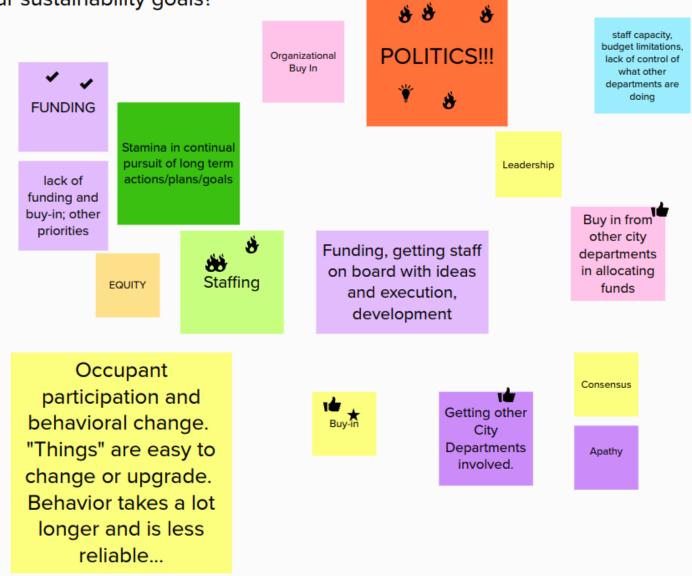
- Six participating cities had public plans around sustainability, the environment, and air quality.
 - E.g. Dallas's CECAP; Plano's CARE strategy; Lewisville's and Farmers Branch's Sustainability Action Plans
- Six respondents had public emissions reduction goals and initiatives.
- The most common sustainability reporting methods were internally tracking energy, water, and fuel usage, and conducting or participating in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventories.
- Several tied sustainability goals to public health and wellbeing.

Successes Achieved in Sustainability

- Recognition from third-party rating agencies for sustainability projects and metrics.
 - E.g. Mansfield ISD achieved recognition from TCEQ and EPA's ENERGY STAR division; Plano has increased LEED benchmarking and CDP and STAR scores; Tarrant Regional Water District (TRWD) has two ENVISION-certified projects (one with a platinum rating)
- Increasing institutional and public buy-in through Board/Council recognition and citizen sustainability councils.

Question 4: Challenges

What have been the biggest challenges or barriers you've faced in achieving your sustainability goals?



March 11th Virtual Sustainability Survey Results

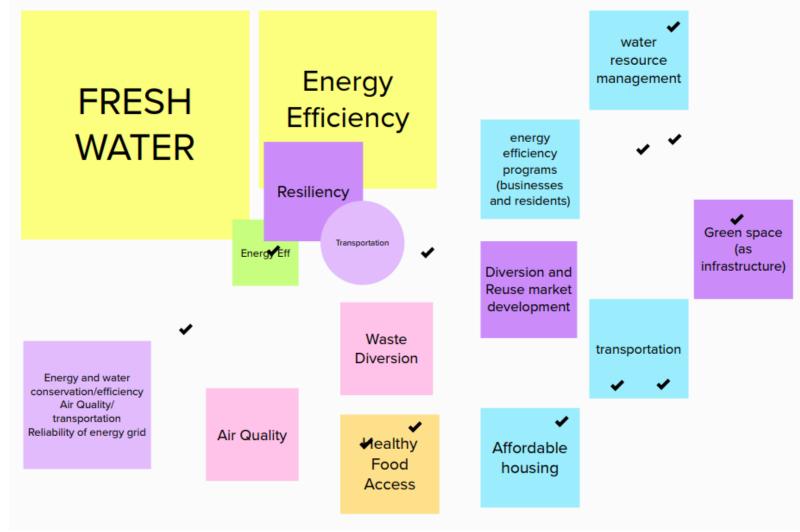
Major Challenges Faced

- The #1 challenge faced by participants was staffing constraints.
 - 80% of participants have 5 or fewer staff members working specifically on sustainability either full- or part-time, and 45% have one or fewer.
- Another major challenge was securing buy-in on sustainability initiatives, both vertically (from organizational leadership), and horizontally (from other departments within the organization).
 - Collaboration between departments would help increase buy-in from leadership
- Other challenging questions:
 - How do we fund new and existing sustainability projects on a limited budget?
 - How do we navigate political barriers to increasing sustainability?
 - How do we generate the stamina to continue pursuing long-term goals/actions/plans?
 - We have no sustainability goals organization-wide; where do we even begin?

Question 6: Regional Needs

What do you see as the most pressing sustainability needs in North Texas?

After participants have added their stickies, we will vote on the top three "priority" responses.



March 11th Virtual Sustainability Survey Results

Sustainability Needs in North Texas

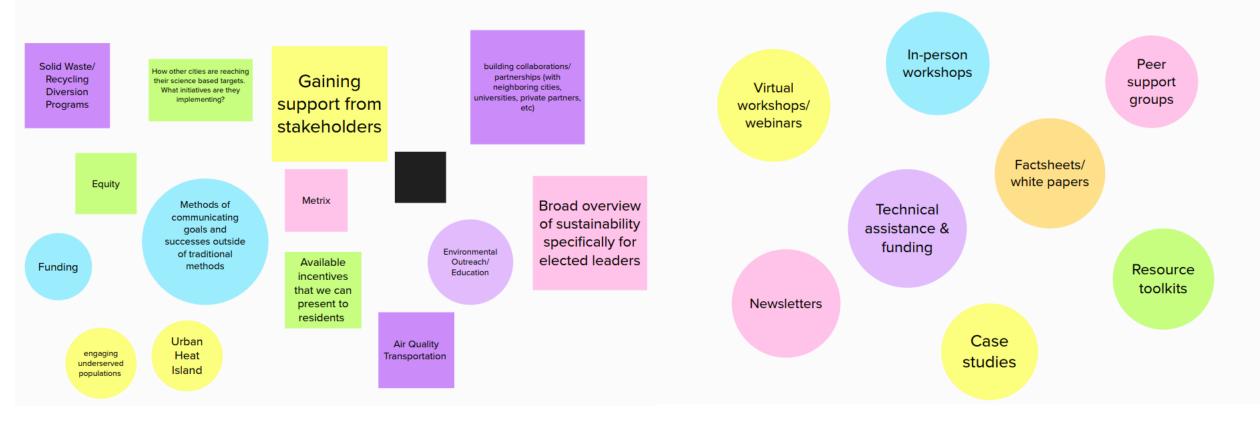
- The #1 most pressing sustainability need identified was related to transportation.
 - Broad category encompassing: vehicle emissions and air quality, road and bridge infrastructure, public/alternative transportation access, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, future development
- Other primary responses included:
 - Energy efficiency and energy resilience
 - Water resource management and water conservation
 - Waste diversion and beneficial reuse
- Current FY22 RISE Work Program focus areas:
 - GHG Emissions Inventory and Impact Mitigation (vehicle emissions and air quality, energy efficiency)
 - Urban Heat Island Mitigation
 - Food Diversion and Waste Reduction (waste diversion and beneficial reuse)

Question 7: Sustainability Topics

What topics are you most interested in learning more about, or would be most helpful in supporting your community's sustainability initiatives? After participants have added their stickies, we will vote on the top three "priority" responses.

Question 8: Resources

What types of resources are you most interested in for diving further into sustainability topics? Select your top three preferences, or add additional ideas in the Teams chat.



March 11th Virtual Sustainability Survey Results

Topics for Further Learning

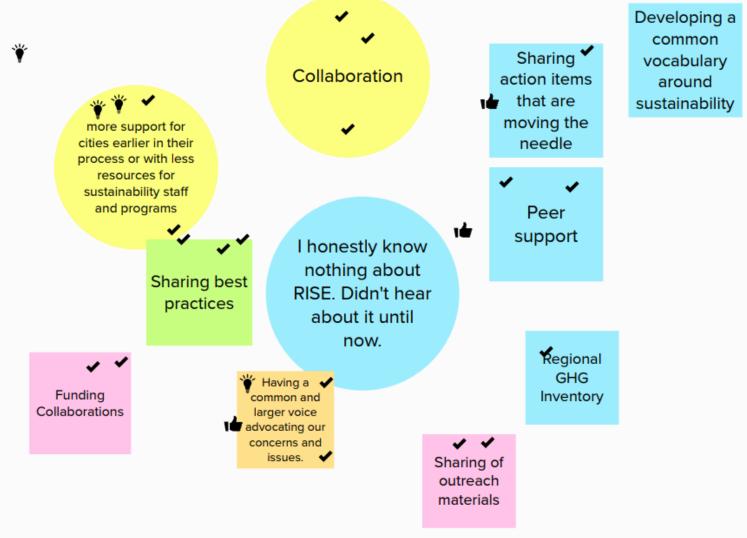
- Most participants were interested in learning more about setting science-based sustainability targets and how other cities are making progress towards targets.
- Several participants were interested in communicating sustainability to different audiences, such as city or organizational leadership, elected officials, and residents.
- Other responses included:
 - Engaging underserved populations in project planning and implementation
 - Building collaborations and partnerships, such as with neighboring cities, educational institutions, and private entities

Preferred Resources

- Most indicated virtual workshops and webinars as their preferred learning resource.
- Other priority resources included in-person workshops and resource toolkits.

Question 9: RISE Membership

If you are a RISE member, what do you see as the biggest benefits to membership? If you are not a member, what benefits would you like to see RISE membership provide?



March 11th Virtual Sustainability Survey Results

Perceived Benefits to RISE Coalition Membership

- Most participants liked that RISE provides a forum for cities and organizations to share best practices in setting and achieving sustainability goals or implementing sustainability initiatives.
- Participants recognized that RISE membership allows them to collaborate with others and to receive peer support around sustainability.
- Other benefits mentioned:
 - Regional focus addresses North Texas-specific challenges not always prioritized by national sustainability organizations.
 - GHG Cohort allows cities to access resources and software to undertake a GHG inventory.
 - Increases awareness of funding opportunities and existing regional programs.

Perceived Barriers or Desired Benefits to Membership

- Need for increased visibility: some participants had never heard of RISE or had little awareness of the group and its goals.
- Desire for more support for cities early in their sustainability process or with little to no resources/staff for sustainability programs.

FY 2022 Project Update and Discussion

Future Events and Workshops

- Urban Heat Island Mitigation & Urban Forests Webinar
 - This webinar will be hosted in collaboration with NCTCOG's Center for Development Excellence and will
 focus on the topic of how increased tree cover can reduce the urban heat island effect, with an emphasis
 on equity and environmental justice considerations
 - Presenters confirmed from Texas A&M Forest Service and Texas Trees Foundation
 - Date TBD in late May
- Equity Workshop: Summer 2022
 - The Equity Subcommittee will meet on May 5th to discuss workshop planning and other ways to integrate equity into RISE activities.
 - Topic and/or presenter ideas?

City of Denton Sustainability Framework

Katherine Barnett Sustainability Manager City of Denton

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Funding For Local Governments

Bailey Muller, Lori Clark, Breanne Johnson North Central Texas Council of Governments

Key Website to Know: www.build.gov

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Guidebook Transportation Climate, Energy, and the Environment Broadband

CURRENT GRANT OPPORTUNITY

Renewables Advancing Community Energy Resilience (RACER)

Topic Areas:

- Topic 1: Innovative Community-Based Energy Resilience Planning develop new metrics for measuring resilience and integrate into planning procedures and processes
- Topic 2: Automation Strategies for Rapid Energy Restoration develop technologies and tools to integrate automation into restoration of power systems utilizing distributed solar plus storage
- Topic 3: Innovative Solutions to Increase the Resilience and Hardening of PV Power Plants

Teaming Requirements: community-based stakeholders (includes local governments and local utilities) are required as part of Topic Areas 1 and 2

Funding Opportunity Announcement: Concept Paper Due May 26, Full Proposal Due July 25

CURRENT REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Section 40502: Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund Capitalization Grant Program – Estimated \$3 Million/Year

Project Types: Create revolving loan funds to serve borrowers with access to energy efficiency products and services and enable private sector capital to scale access to financing

Administrator: Likely State Energy Conservation Office (SECO); potentially other entities

<u>Request for Information</u>: Comments due May 6, 2022

- Equitable Access to Financing
- Program Success and Sustainability
- Supporting Tools & Resources
- Job Quality, Buy America, and Climate Impact
- Open Response to Program Design

CURRENT REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Section 40541: Energy Improvements at Public School Facilities

Purpose: Provides grants for energy improvements including: any improvement, repair, or renovation that : results in direct reduction in school energy costs, improves teacher/student health, or achieves energy savings; installation of renewable energy; or installation of alternative fuel infrastructure, or purchase/lease of alternative fuel vehicles to be used by a school

<u>Request for Information</u>: Comments due May 18, 2022

- Capacity Development and Technical Assistance Needs of Applicants and Stakeholders
- How to Define, Support, and Leverage the Needs Assessments Required of Applicants
- Appropriate Criteria and Metrics
- Workforce Development and Supporting High-Quality Jobs
- Potential Partnerships Structures and Models to Achieve Goals
- Pathways and Models to Leverage Financial Investments to Achieve Deeper Impact

CURRENT REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Section 40511: Cost-Effective Codes Implementation for Efficiency and Resilience – Estimated \$3 Million/Year; Competitive Program

Project Types: create partnerships for training; collect and share quantitative data on code implementations; develop and implement a plan for code implementation; address implementation needs; implement updates in energy codes

Recipients: Relevant state agency (e.g. SECO) or an organizational partnership including an eligible entity (local building code agency; code/standard developer; associations of builders and design/construction professionals; local and utility energy efficiency programs; consumer, energy efficiency, and environmental advocates; others) through competitive bid

<u>Request for Information</u>: Comments due May 20, 2022

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES COMING SOON

Section 40109: State Energy Program – Estimated \$7 Million/Year Nationwide

Recipients: State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) will pass-through funding to other public entities. **Survey Coming Soon!**

Sign up for SECO Funding Notices: https://comptroller.texas.gov/programs/seco/

Section 40552: Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grants – Estimated \$2 Million/Year

New section under "Use of Funds": Programs for financing energy efficiency, renewable energy, and zero-emission transportation (and associated infrastructure), capital investments, projects and programs for leveraging additional public and private funds, and programs that allow rebates, grants, or other incentive for purchase and installation of the same

Recipients: SECO; will pass through funding to other public entities

Section 40503: Energy Auditor Training –\$2 Million, Competitive Program

Purpose: Competitive grant program for states to train individuals to conduct energy audits or surveys of commercial and residential buildings

Potential Recipient: SECO

Delivering Clean Power: ~21.3 Billion

Projects: Deployment of new transmission lines; financial support to nuclear plants at risk of closing and being replaced by higher-emitting power sources; upgrades to hydropower plants

Recipients: states, tribes, communities, and utilities, **including utilities that operate under regulatory supervision by local governments** and State commissions

Clean Energy Demonstrations: ~21.5 Billion

Projects: Demonstrations to test real-world effectiveness of innovative technologies (e.g. clean hydrogen, carbon capture, grid-scale energy storage, advanced nuclear reactors) at scale

Recipients: unclear at this time

Clean Energy Manufacturing and Workforce Development, ~\$8.6 Billion

Projects: Create jobs up and down the supply chain, especially manufacturing jobs and skillsmatched opportunities for fossil fuel workers; modernize maps of critical minerals necessary for clean energy and other manufacturing sectors

Recipients: Clean energy manufacturing facilities (via Department of Energy), US Geological Survey Earth Mapping Resources Initiative (via Department of Interior)

BIL Funding for Transportation Projects

GRANT OPPORTUNITY

Healthy Streets Program

Purpose: Advancing projects to mitigate urban heat islands, improve air quality, and lower impact risks to streets by reducing the extent of impervious surfaces that contribute to excessive stormwater runoff and extreme heat.

Recipients: State Department of Transportation, Metropolitan Planning Organization (NCTCOG Transportation Department and Regional Transportation Council), Local Government, Tribal Government, Non-Profit Organization (apply jointly with above entities)

Project Types:

- Urban heat island assessment of "hot spot areas"
- Comprehensive tree canopy inventory/assessment
- Equity assessment of tree canopy gaps, flood-prone locations, and "hot spot areas" compared to public/active transportation facilities and disadvantaged communities
- Investment planning to address heat island, flooding,
 & tree canopy gap assessments
- Purchasing/deployment of "cool" and/or porous

pavements in pedestrian-only and/or lowvolume/speed vehicular use areas

- Tree (native species) purchasing, site preparation, planting, maintenance/monitoring for projects in neighborhoods with comparatively low tree cover or higher maximum daytime summer temperatures
- Underground infrastructure assessments coordinated with local transportation/utility providers
- Hiring staff to conduct all above activities

BIL Funding for Transportation Projects, continued

Healthy Streets Program, continued

Total Funding: \$500 million (\$100 million/year FY 2022 — FY 2026)

Maximum Award Limit: \$15 million

Set-Aside Limit: Urbanized Area 80%

Federal Share: 80% total but 100% for projects the demonstrate economic hardship

Priority: Will be given to eligible entities:

- Whose projects will be carried out in low-income or disadvantaged communities,
- Who have entered into a community benefits agreement with representatives of the community, or
- Who are partnering with a qualified youth or conservation corps.

Notice of Funding Opportunity Release: Date not specified

BIL Funding for Transportation Projects, continued

National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Program

Total Funding: \$5 Billion **Purpose:** Filling EV designated corridors **Recipients:** All state DOTs to complete statewide infrastructure deployment plan in accordance to template provided by NEVI Formula Program

Grants for Charging & Fueling Infrastructure for Corridors & Communities

Total Funding: \$2.5 Billion **Purpose:** EV, CNG, LNG, LPG, Hydrogen Infrastructure Competitive Grants **Allocation:** 50% along designated corridors, 50% within communities **Recipients:** State, Local Governments, MPOs/Planning Agencies, Transit/Port Authority, Tribal

Joint DOT/DOE Deployment Support Program to Provide Tools & Technical Assistance to Funding Recipients - <u>www.driveelectric.gov</u>

LOW-INTEREST AND PRINCIPAL FORGIVENESS LOANS

Clean Water State Revolving Funds (CWSRF)

Purpose: Assists communities by providing low-cost financing for a wide range of wastewater, stormwater, reuse, and other pollution control projects.

Available Funds: Additional \$82 million for the State of Texas, available year-round

Recipients: Cities, counties, districts, river authorities, designated management agencies, and public and private entities proposing nonpoint source projects.

Eligible Projects: Planning, design, acquisition, and construction of: wastewater treatment facilities, wastewater recycling and reuse facilities, nonpotable reuse, wastewater collection systems, existing wastewater facilities, stormwater control, nonpoint source pollution control projects. Priority given to projects serving disadvantaged communities.

Funds administered by the Texas Water Development Board. To apply, entities must complete a <u>Project Information Form</u> to be considered for the State's Intended Use Plan project priority list.

More information here: www.twdb.texas.gov/financial/programs/CWSRF/.

LOW-INTEREST AND PRINCIPAL FORGIVENESS LOANS

Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (DWSRF)

Purpose: Assists communities by providing low-cost financing for a wide range of water projects that facilitate compliance with drinking water standards.

Available Funds: Additional \$140 million for the State of Texas, available year-round

Recipients: Publicly and privately-owned community water systems, including nonprofit water supply corporations and nonprofit, non-community public water systems.

Eligible Projects: Planning, design, acquisition, and construction to: correct water system deficiencies, upgrade or replace water systems, consolidate systems, purchase capacity, purchase other systems, implement green projects, implement source water protection projects. Priority given to projects serving disadvantaged communities.

Funds administered by the Texas Water Development Board. To apply, entities must complete a <u>Project Information Form</u> to be considered for the State's Intended Use Plan project priority list.

More information here: www.twdb.texas.gov/financial/programs/DWSRF/.

LOW-INTEREST AND PRINCIPAL FORGIVENESS LOANS

Lead Service Line Replacement Under DWSRF

Funding under the DWSRF specifically allocated for lead service line replacement and associated activities related to identification, planning, design and removal.

Available Funds: \$222 million for the State of Texas

Emerging Contaminants Under CWSRF and DWSRF

Funding under the CWSRF and the DWSRF specifically allocated to address emerging contaminants, including PFAS, in water systems in small and underserved/disadvantaged communities. Small communities are those with a population of 10,000 or fewer.

Available Funds: \$4 million for the State of Texas under CWSF; \$60 million under DWSRF

LOW-INTEREST AND PRINCIPAL FORGIVENESS LOANS

Rural Water Assistance Fund (RWAF)

Purpose: The RWAF provides small, rural water utilities with low-cost, long-term financing for water and wastewater projects.

Recipients: Available to rural political subdivisions and nonprofit water suppliers serving a population of 10,000 or less, and to counties in which no urban area has a population exceeding 50,000.

Eligible Projects: Planning, design, acquisition, and construction of water, wastewater, or consolidation and regionalization projects.

More information here: www.twdb.texas.gov/financial/programs/RWAF/

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Rural Playbook: Resources and grant opportunities for rural communities, focused on expanding broadband access, cleaning up pollution, improving transportation infrastructure, and increasing hazard mitigation and resiliency.

NCTCOG Regional Updates and Opportunities

REGIONAL INITIATIVES AND UPDATES

Property Assessed Clean Energy Regional Program

- Regional program
- Issuing a Request for Proposals in Summer 2022
- Developing documents, etc. to initiate efforts
- Presenting to NCTCOG Executive Board in May 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

TxDOT Public Input Opportunity

- Opportunity to inform statewide EV infrastructure plan required under National EV Infrastructure Formula Program (\$408 million in Texas)
- Submit comments by May 15, 2022 at https://txdot.mysocialpinpoint.com/tx_ev_plan

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



Participant Roundtable

How does your community fund its sustainability initiatives? What challenges have you faced in securing or increasing sustainability funding?

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

Future Agenda Items

Next Meeting Dates

Next RISE Coalition Meeting:

Friday, July 22, 2022 9:30 a.m.

FY23 RISE Vice Chair and Member Representatives to be selected at July meeting.

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

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Thank you!