

North Central Texas Council of Governments

# SUMMARY

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

July 22, 2022

9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Teams Meeting

Chair: Pharr Andrews, City of Dallas

Vice Chair: Katherine Barnett, City of Denton

### 1. Welcome and Introductions.

RISE Chair Pharr Andrews, City of Dallas, welcomed the group to the meeting. Participants introduced themselves via the Teams chat.

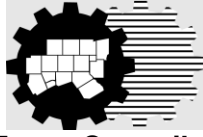
### ACTION ITEMS

2. **Meeting Summary.** Review previous meeting summary and vote on approval. The April 29, 2022 Meeting Summary can be viewed [here](#).

A motion to approve the April 29, 2022 Meeting Summary was made by Katherine Barnett, City of Denton. The motion was seconded by Alex Pharmakis, City of Farmers Branch. There was no opposition, and the summary was approved unanimously.

3. **Approve Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Work Plan.** The Draft FY 2023 Work Plan will be considered for approval by the RISE Coalition members. Staff will review the updates with the members and seek approval.

Breanne Johnson, NCTCOG, went over the draft FY2023 Work Plan and highlighted the major differences from the previous work plan. The group provided feedback on Work Plan focus areas, including guidance to explicitly spell out the inclusion of equity considerations within each focus area. As the greenhouse gas inventory will wrap up in early FY2023, members suggested including a Phase 2 to the project that includes comparing areas of overlap between different cities' Climate Action Plans, and creating resources focused on those overlapping areas. Members expressed interest in hosting a workshop series at various locations throughout the region aligning with the Work Plan priorities. The City of Dallas committed \$25,000 to fund three workshops centered around energy efficiency, weatherization, and renewable energy. NCTCOG will work with Dallas throughout FY23 to coordinate and host this workshop series.



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A motion to approve the FY2023 Work Plan with the discussed edits was made by Katherine Barnett, City of Denton. The motion was seconded by Mendie White, City of Lewisville. The work plan was approved unanimously by all voting members present.

- 4. Appoint FY23/FY24 Chair and Vice Chair.** RISE members will vote to appoint a new Vice Chair from among those nominated, to serve a two-year term. The FY21/FY22 Vice Chair will be appointed to the role of Chair for FY23 and FY24, as per the [RISE Coalition bylaws](#).

Katherine Barnett was promoted to the role of RISE Coalition Chair for FYs 2023-24. There were two nominees submitted for the role of Vice Chair for FYs 2023-24: Mendie White, City of Lewisville, and Alex Pharmakis, City of Farmers Branch. Both nominees accepted their nomination, and the voting members present voted to elect Mendie White as the new Vice Chair. Mendie received 4 votes, and Alex received 1, with one member abstaining. The group thanked Pharr Andrews, City of Dallas, for her service as RISE Coalition Chair for FYs 2020-22.

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 5. FY2022 Work Program and Project Update.** (*Members and NCTCOG*) NCTCOG will provide an update to the group on FY2022 Work Program initiatives:

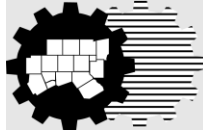
Breanne Johnson, NCTCOG, provided a summary of the Coalition's accomplishments for FY2022, including holding four quarterly meetings, maintaining a membership of 9 local government entities, convening meetings of the Recruitment and Equity Subcommittees, conducting the first Regional Sustainability Virtual Survey, and hosting a webinar on Urban Heat Islands & Urban Forests.

- Regional GHG Inventory & ICLEI GHG Inventory Cohort

Jenny Narvaez, NCTCOG, provided an update on the regional greenhouse gas inventory being undertaken by NCTCOG and a cohort of ten North Texas cities. Data collection and analysis is still underway for the energy, transportation, water, and wastewater sectors. The cohort continues to meet weekly to discuss inventory progress and outstanding data needs.

- Organic Waste to Fuel Feasibility Study

Breanne Johnson, NCTCOG, updated the group on the status of NCTCOG's EPA-funded Organic Waste to Fuel Feasibility Study. The study contractor has begun assessments of potential anaerobic digestion sites in North Texas, using UTA's POWER



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Tool as the data model. The next stakeholder meeting sharing the results of this site assessment will be held on August 9, 2022. More information on this project [online here](#).

- ~~FY2023 Event Planning~~ — Discuss regional education opportunities including potential ideas for workshops and webinars.

6. **RISE Member Presentation.** (*Alexander Pharmakis, City of Farmers Branch*) Alex Pharmakis will share information on the City of Farmers Branch's recent sustainability initiatives, specifically their partnerships to advance affordable and clean energy within the City. The City of Farmers Branch recently approved a new solar farm that is estimated to eventually generate 100% of the energy for City facilities.

Alex Pharmakis, City of Farmers Branch, presented on the City's efforts to expand renewable energy for City facilities and residents. The City adopted its Sustainability Plan in February 2022, and has since approved a 20-acre landfill solar project to provide solar energy to City facilities through a 20-year power purchase agreement (PPA). The energy generated by the project will go to the Oncor power grid, and the City will buy it back through the PPA. There are also solar installations on three city facilities, with a fourth in development. The RFP utilized by Farmers Branch to develop the site is [online here](#). Farmers Branch has also contracted with iChoosr on a residential Power Switch program to provide residents with options for lower-priced renewable energy contracts and a Solar Switch program to install solar panels on residential roofs, with no cost to the City.

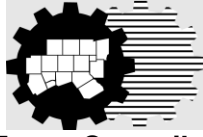
7. **Featured Sustainability Presentation.** (*Andrew Robison, TEPRI*) A representative from the Texas Energy Poverty Research Institute (TEPRI) will share the Institute's work on social equity, energy affordability, and energy resilience throughout the state of Texas, with a particular focus on TEPRI's Energy Opportunity Coalition.

Andrew Robison and Bobuchi Ken-Oporum with TEPRI presented on their work with the Texas Energy Opportunities Coalition (EOC), a cross-sector group of stakeholders advancing affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy to underserved Texans across the state. The EOC has identified three main opportunities for collaboration in the spaces of mobility, health, and housing and distributed energy resources (DERs). TEPRI is conducting research and community needs assessments across these areas to further support their energy goals. TEPRI has local government membership options for communities looking to get involved in their work.

## 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.

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Several key items were briefly covered by NCTCOG staff.

- PACE – NCTCOG is moving forward with a regional PACE program and is currently working internally to brief NCTCOG's Board on the concept at their August 2022 meeting.
- Public Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Working Group – This group meets monthly to discuss publicly accessible EV charging project ideas in anticipation of competitive grant opportunities. To join, contact Bailey Muller at [BMuller@nctcog.org](mailto:BMuller@nctcog.org).
- EV Ride and Drive Capacity Building – This working group was created to brainstorm ways to build electric vehicle Ride and Drives into local events. To join, contact Soria Adibi at [SAdibi@nctcog.org](mailto:SAdibi@nctcog.org).

### OTHER BUSINESS

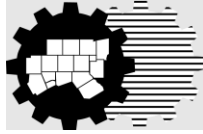
9. **Participant Roundtable** (*All*) Participants will have an opportunity to share activities happening in their communities/organizations to identify areas for collaboration and sharing sustainability programs or success stories.

- Denton: Kat Barnett shared that the City uses 100% renewable energy through Denton Municipal Electric, and that they are expanding their energy efficiency rebate program for residents.
- Plano: Jaime Bretzmann shared that Plano is launching a residential food scrap composting pilot project in late September.
- Tarrant Regional Water District (TRWD): Dorothy Kindell shared that she will be the new RISE representative from TRWD, and that TRWD is exploring an onsite solar PPA.
- Dallas: Pharr Andrews shared that Dallas is developing a Whole Home weatherization website to connect community members with existing services and resources, and that they are looking to expand certified green jobs for weatherization contractors through potential tuition reimbursements.

10. **Fiscal Year 2023 Meeting Dates.** (*Members and NCTCOG*) NCTCOG will request feedback on the members preferred meeting format (virtual or in-person) and when to start implementing any changes to the current virtual format.

Participants voted on whether they would like to keep the current virtual meeting format, return to in-person meetings, or do a combination of both. The majority voted to have a combination of in-person and virtual meetings, starting with one in-person meeting per year. The upcoming October meeting will be held virtually, with the January 2023 meeting tentatively planned to be held in-person.

11. **Future Agenda Items.** Suggestions for future agenda items.



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12. **Next Meeting Date.** The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for 9:30 a.m. on Friday, October 21, 2022. This date may change based on feedback regarding the FY2023 meeting schedule.

Coalition members agreed that the October 21<sup>st</sup> meeting will be held virtually.

## 13. Adjournment.

If you have any questions regarding the meeting or agenda items, please contact Breanne Johnson at (817) 695-9148 or [bjohnson@nctcog.org](mailto: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 Liliانا Sheppard at (817) 695-9231 or [LSheppard@nctcog.org](mailto:LSheppard@nctcog.org) at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Reasonable accommodations will be made to assist your needs.