

GO SOLAR NORTH TEXAS

March 30, 2016

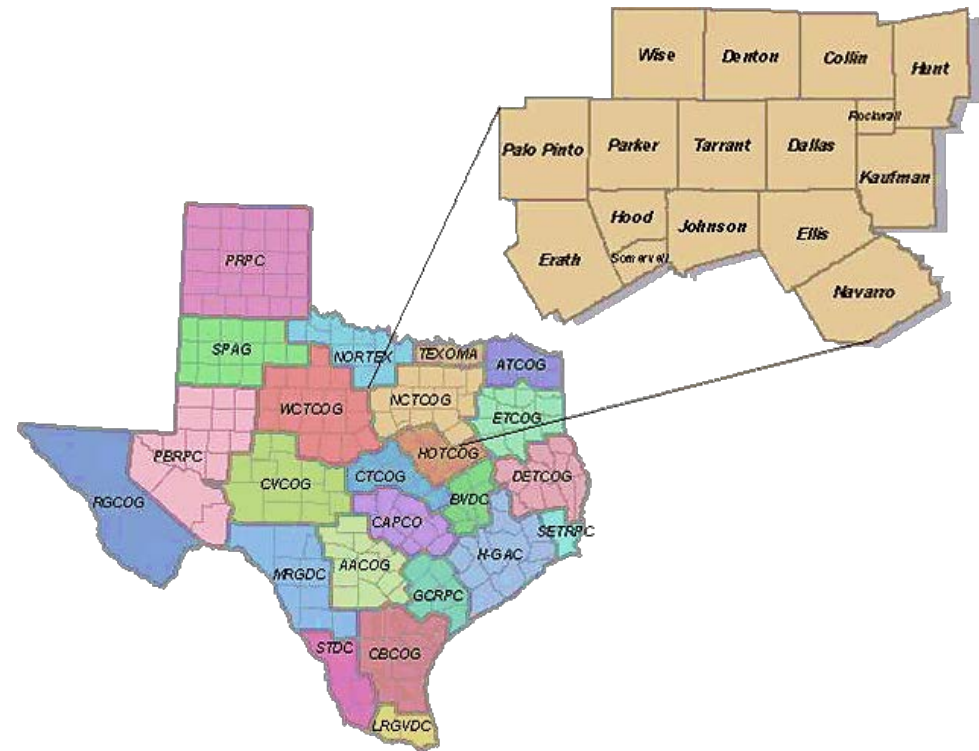
Presenter: Soria Adibi

North Central Texas Council of Governments



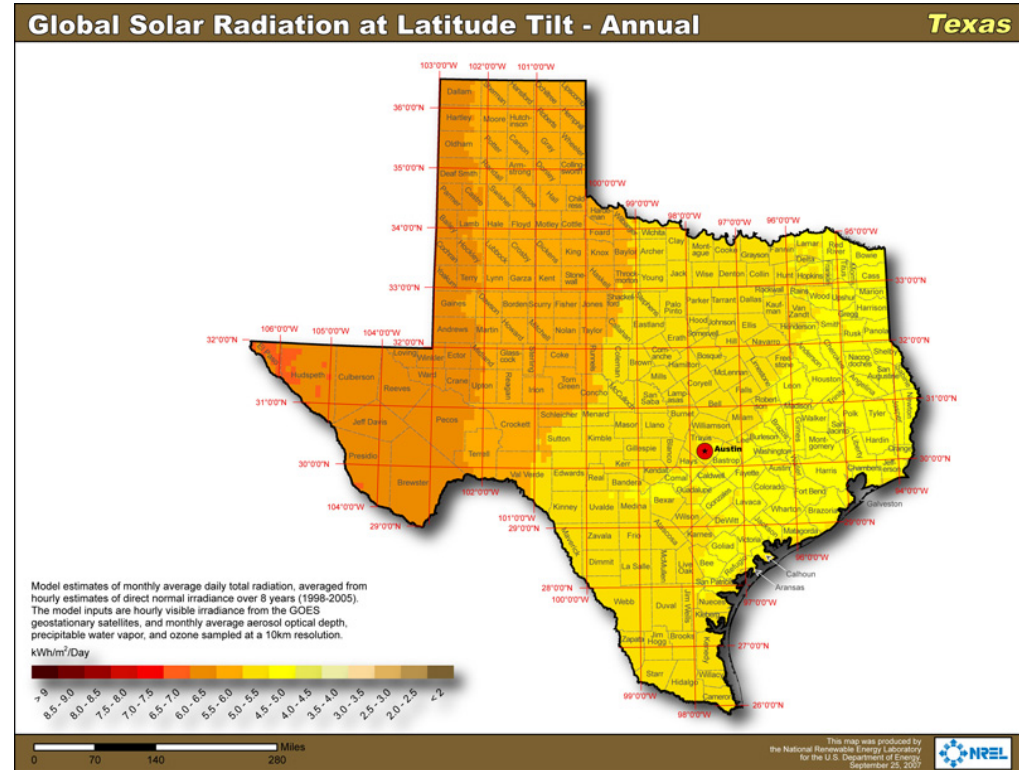
What is NCTCOG?

- Voluntary association of local governments
- Established in 1966
- Assists local governments in:
 - Planning for common needs
 - Cooperating for mutual benefit
 - Recognizing regional opportunities
 - Resolving regional problems
 - Making joint decisions
- One of 24 COGs in Texas



Why is NCTCOG focused on Solar?

- Improve Air Quality
- Increase Local Energy Reliability
- Facilitate Local Government Efforts
- Provide Consistency Among Region
- Reduce Costs (for everyone)



SECO Project Overview

- NCTCOG contractor to State Energy Conservation Office (SECO)
- Performing activities through August 2016
- *Goal: Encourage local governments and other partners to establish processes and procedures that expand access to solar energy systems across the state.*

Major Tasks

- Developing and Distributing Solar Energy Expedited Permit and Model Ordinance
- Conducting Outreach to Niche Markets (Municipal Owned Utilities/Electric Coops, ISD's)
- Conducting Solar Energy System Training (Statewide)
- Developing and Distributing Statewide Solar 101 Toolkits
- Completing Solar Applications Cost-Benefit Analysis
- Completing a Statewide Solar Information Clearinghouse



Solar PV Permitting, Plan Guidelines, and Model Ordinance

- **Solar PV Permit Application Checklist**
 - Intended to be used as a best management practice when establishing local government requirements for residential and commercial solar photovoltaic (PV) system permits
- **Solar PV Expedited Permit Checklist**
 - If the solar energy system complies with all the criteria specified, then it will qualify for an expedited permit approval which will be granted within [x days or over the counter]
- **Residential Solar PV Standard Plan Guidelines (DRAFT UNTIL APRIL)**
 - Provides guidelines for installers and local governments on components that make up a good standard plan
- **Model Ordinance**
 - Provides guidelines with language options for a proactive solar PV ordinance

Niche Market Outreach

- *Goal: "encourage local governments and other key partners to establish processes and procedures that encourage and expand access to solar energy systems throughout the state"*
 - Electric Cooperatives ("co-ops") – 74 Co-ops in Texas*
 - Municipally Owned Utilities ("munis") – 76 Munis in Texas*
 - Independent School Districts (ISDs) - 1,266 school districts in Texas
- Developing case studies
- Develop community solar guidelines
- Identify potential community solar demonstration sites with co-ops, munis, or ISDs
- Develop Solar Energy Toolkit for niche markets

*Public Utility Commission of Texas,
<http://www.puc.texas.gov/industry/Electric/directories/Default.aspx>,
Accessed March 2016

Trainings and Workshops

- In person trainings and workshops will occur in April and May 2016
- All workshops will be held in Dallas/Fort Worth, Austin, San Antonio, and Houston
- All trainings and workshops are FREE and recordings will be made available online

Solar for Local Governments

Financing Solar Energy Systems

Solar for Real Estate Professionals

Fire Inspector Training and Fire Code Compliance for Solar Energy

Cost-Benefit Analysis of Solar Applications Study

- **Cost-benefit analysis of four case studies to demonstrate practical applications for solar on public facilities:**
 - Evaluating the cost of solar powered back up power generation at critical sites, such as on weather radar systems, at hospitals, local emergency operation centers, public safety answering points (911 Centers), or emergency shelters;
 - Installing solar panels on covered parking (in new and existing development, airports, or other city owned facilities);
 - Installing back-up generation on traffic lights along critical thoroughfares and changeable message signs
 - Installing solar panels on landfills and contaminated sites (e.g. brownfields, RCRA permitted, Superfund sites)

Go Solar Texas Website

- Clearinghouse for solar resources
 - FAQ sheets for:
 - Individuals/Business Owners
 - Local governments
 - Solar industry professionals
 - Step by step guides on how to adopt solar
 - Guidelines for Solar Financing
 - Calculating Return on Investment
 - Financing Options
 - Tax incentives and Rebates
- Visit <http://www.gosolartexas.org/> to learn more!



Next Steps

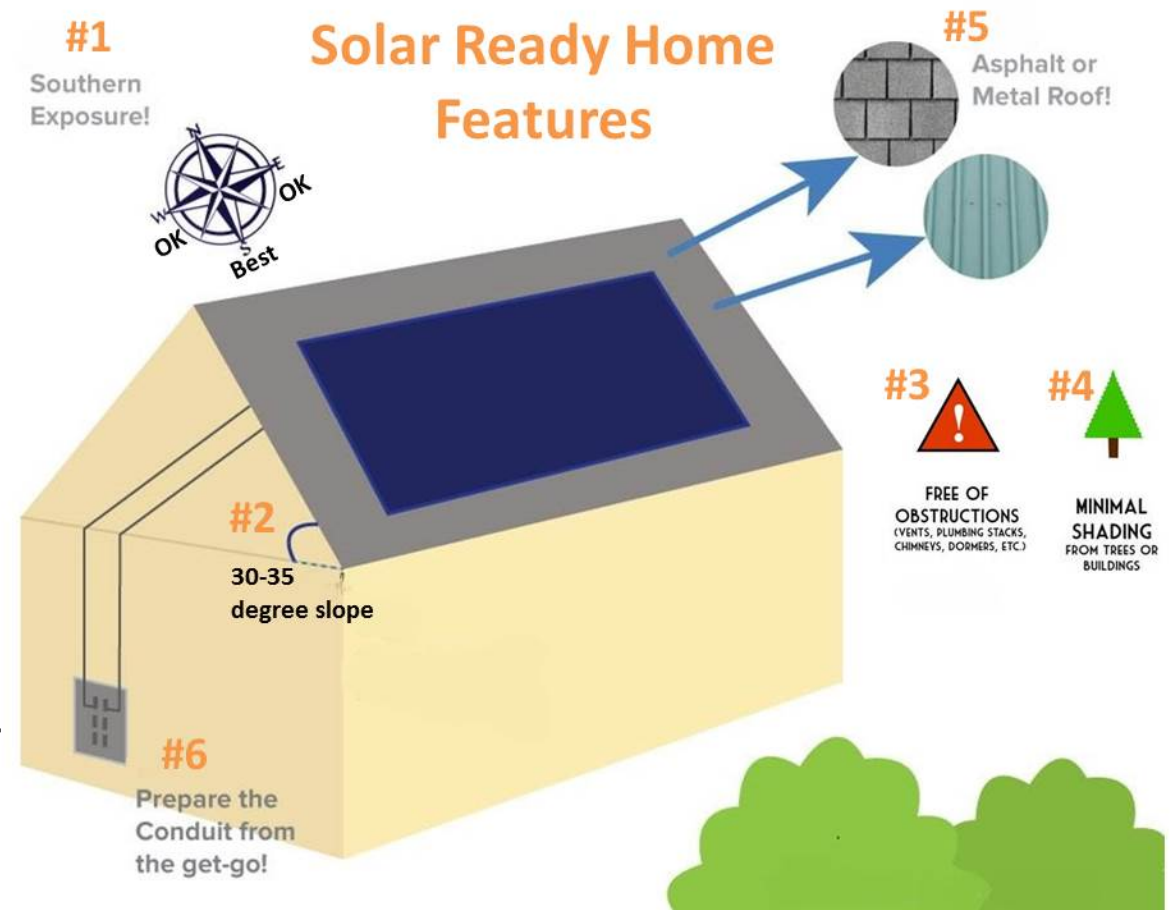
- Webinar Series (Next Few Months):
 - Financing Solar in Texas
 - Community Solar for Co-ops and Municipal Owned Utilities (Munis)
 - Putting Solar on Underutilized Land
 - Solar For Independent School Districts
- Continuing to work with COG's/RPC's throughout Texas
- Serve as a resource to local governments
- Continue to address emerging challenges with Solar PV and identifying opportunities to support solar ready communities



Solar Ready Homes

Solar Ready Resources Available

- [Appendix U](#), 2015 International Residential Codes now include definitions and descriptions for “Solar-Ready” provisions
- Consider one of these options for your city/community:
 - Offer builder incentives to design and build solar-ready homes (e.g. [Energy Trust.org](#))
 - Adopt the solar-ready provision as a requirement for new home builds in your local jurisdictions



Contact Information

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