

## North Central Texas Council of Governments

# DRAFT Summary

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

October 15, 2021

9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Teams Meeting

#### Click here to join the meeting

[https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_MjNmOGY0Y2EtNDNhNC00OGM4LWI3OWItNzA1NmU1ZWwNDZm%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22tid%22%3a%222f5e7ebc-22b0-4fbe-934c-aabddb4e29b1%22%2c%22oid%22%3a%22cab28b78-d671-4384-9c8e-6035f7c46b7d%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MjNmOGY0Y2EtNDNhNC00OGM4LWI3OWItNzA1NmU1ZWwNDZm%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22tid%22%3a%222f5e7ebc-22b0-4fbe-934c-aabddb4e29b1%22%2c%22oid%22%3a%22cab28b78-d671-4384-9c8e-6035f7c46b7d%22%7d)

Or call in (audio only)

+1 903-508-4574, 806536149#

Phone Conference ID: 806 536 149#

#### 1. Welcome and Introductions.

#### ACTION ITEMS

2. **Meeting Summary.** Review previous meeting summary and vote on approval. The July 9, 2021 Members' Meeting Summary can be viewed [here](#).

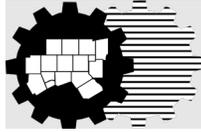
A motion to approve the July 9, 2021 Meeting Summary was made by Katherine Barnett, City of Denton. The motion was seconded by Yarcus Lewis, City of Plano. There was no opposition, so the summary was approved unanimously.

#### DISCUSSION ITEMS

3. **FY2022 Work Program and Project Update and Discussion.** (45 minutes, Members and NCTCOG)  
NCTCOG will provide an update to the group on several initiatives related to the FY2022 Work Program:
  - Regional GHG Inventory
  - ICLEI GHG Inventory Cohort
  - Update on Emissions Reduction Strategy Toolkit
  - Urban Heat Island Mitigation Brainstorm
    - Regional Tree Cooperative Concept
  - FY2022 Event Planning – Discuss regional education opportunities including potential ideas for workshops, webinars, etc.

Jenny Narvaez (NCTCOG) provided an update on the status of the Regional Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory. NCTCOG has contracted with ICLEI thanks to a generous contribution by Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad. NCTCOG is continuing to collect data on energy, transportation, waste, water and wastewater for the region and cohort participants. There are currently twelve city participants in the GHG inventory cohort who are producing their own city-wide GHG inventory through this process. In effort to have accurate training, there are nine different trainings between August 18, 2021 and February 9, 2022 for the cohort cities.

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In addition, NCTCOG has begun development of an Emissions Reductions Toolkit. A draft Energy Sector Emissions Reduction portion has been developed over the summer by an Environmental Defense Fund intern. NCTCOG is currently reviewing that work product internally and will work through the RISE Coalition to determine next steps. Other sectors, such as Waste, Water, Wastewater, and Transportation will be developed over the coming 12 to 18 months and will be published on the NCTCOG website for use by local government members.

Jenny provided an update on several Federal initiatives including the Federal Transit Administration's Sustainable Transit for a Healthy Planet Challenge. NCTCOG is working with transit agencies in the region to aid those who have signed up and encourage others to sign up. The deadline for transit agencies to sign up for the challenge is Oct. 29, 2021.

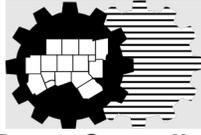
Tamara Cook (NCTCOG) covered several requests and topics that have been brought forward by RISE Coalition members since the last meeting for discussion. The idea of conducting a regional sustainability survey was presented. This survey would be useful in determining where member governments are needing support in planning or implementing sustainability planning related efforts. The survey results and input from a wider audience of members would inform the group's direction and selection of topics and what is most valuable to the region. Sangita Rana (TRWD) expressed interest in learning what the top 2-3 goals at each agency is related to sustainability. Pharr Andrews (City of Dallas) suggested conducting the survey as a virtual survey, using a tool like Poll Everywhere, that is attached to a short meeting where answers are entered in real-time and then discussed. Katherine Barnett (City of Denton) expressed support for a virtual survey. NCTCOG will follow-up with the Chair and Vice-Chair to determine how to host the virtual survey and what questions would be appropriate for this survey.

Yarcus Lewis (City of Plano) brought forward the idea of implementing a regional tree purchasing cooperative. Yarcus explained that Winter storm Uri had significant impact on the availability, quality, and quantity of trees available for cities to purchase for resident giveaways, etc. Kathy Fonville (City of Mesquite) was excited about the idea and the educational opportunity with water conservation, resilience, etc. behind this type of initiative. Kathy suggested approaching the water districts to help fund the idea. Tamara Cook (NCTCOG) briefly explained the Regional SHARE program and how it could help move the program forward. Shaun Auckland suggested using a local non-profit to help grow the trees. It is possible that a working group could be pulled together to assist in defining the tree criteria, list, etc. before a procurement is conducted. NCTCOG will explore this concept further internally and bring back details on next steps at the next RISE Coalition meeting.

Alex Pharmakis (City of Farmers Branch) shared his perspective and thoughts on the topic of urban heat resilience and addressing it through the RISE Coalition because of its connection to other sustainability and climate initiatives. Farmers Branch is working on a sustainability plan that is being written internally and then going to city council for review. Pharr Andrews (City of Dallas) agreed this was an important topic to focus on and that the sustainability survey could serve as a mechanism to gather input from other governments as to what the region is doing, how it fits together, and a direction on the urban heat resilience topic going forward. Cassidy Ellis (Audience Attendee) mentioned the connection between urban heat island (UHI) resilience and building codes, and sections of the codes that address mitigation measures for UHI. NCTCOG will coordinate and include questions related to regional needs, resources, and potential tools of interest related to UHI for inclusion in the regional virtual survey.

Tamara Cook (NCTCOG) also provided some updates on the products that NCTCOG will be working to produce for the RISE Coalition this coming Fiscal Year, including 2 webinars and a regional workshop focused on the topic of equity. Sangita Rana (TRWD) shared that she would be willing to collaborate and coordinate on an equity workshop as she has recently taken some equity workshop classes and has some good resources that could be shared. NCTCOG will explore this workshop further over the next three

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months to define a timeframe and potential content that could be shared during a workshop next Spring or Summer, depending on input from the Coalition members.

- 4. Coalition Member Recruitment Strategy.** *(5 minutes, Members and NCTCOG)* A major goal of the Coalition is to grow the membership over the next year. NCTCOG Staff will give a brief update on recruitment activities since the last meeting as well as any upcoming recruitment and funding opportunities. The Members will discuss a recruitment strategy. Staff will provide an update on the FY2022 Call for Members and current membership commitments.

Tamar Cook (NCTCOG) covered updates on the RISE Coalition recruitment strategy. RISE has been working hard to recruit new member governments into the group over the first year. The Coalition grew from four cities to 10 members in one year. In August, NCTCOG staff presented to the Regional Transportation Council about the RISE Coalition and the activities underway. NCTCOG will also be sharing a presentation with three RISE Coalition member cities, Cedar Hill, Denton, and Plano, at the upcoming American Planning Association (APA) Conference in Fort Worth on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Currently, the RISE Coalition has seven members who have committed as cost-share participants, with a budget of \$11,025 as of the meeting date. Tamara talked about where members can go to submit their commitment form and the different options for membership.

- 5. RISE Member Presentation.** *(15 minutes, Mendie White, City of Lewisville)* In April of 2021, the City of Lewisville adopted an update to their Comprehensive Plan “Lewisville 2025” which was originally adopted in 2014. The Plan establishes specific steps to take and sets targets to reach for eight important aspects of sustainability. Mendie White will talk about steps taken since the initial adoption of the plan as well as updates to the sustainability section of the plan.

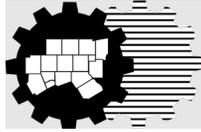
This presentation will be moved to the next meeting date.

- 6. Featured Sustainability Presentation.** *(15 minutes, Stephanie Glenn and Gavin Dillingham, HARC)* Stephanie and Gavin from the Houston Advanced Research Center (HARC) will demonstrate the online tool Resilience Science Information Network (RESIN) Portal which promotes resilience and helps communities create performance-focused plans to prepare for and adapt to future climate conditions.

Stephanie Glenn with the Houston Advanced Research Center (HARC) explained a new tool that HARC has developed for the Houston region called the Resilience Science Information Network (RESIN). Based on stakeholder outreach, Stephanie explained that one of the largest barriers to climate planning in the Houston region was access to good data that was easily retrievable, technical expertise, and resources. She walked through the basics of the climate data sources that include statistically significant downscaled data for the community and region. The stakeholders and HARC came up with a list of the top climate indicators for the Houston region that are included in the RESIN tool both as interactive maps and hard copy/printable fact sheets. Stephanie provided a virtual tour of the RESIN website and the different indicators available such as days over 100, nights over 80, severe repetitive flooding properties, etc. that city or regional planners will want to focus efforts on particularly when it comes to equity.

Tamara Cook (NCTCOG) provided information to the membership that HARC had approached NCTCOG as a potential partner in developing a similar tool for the DFW region. But, before that effort was initiated, NCTCOG wanted to seek input from its member governments to see if there was interest in this type of information for planning purposes. The Coalition members discussed how this type of tool may be useful in the DFW region. There was also discussion on how the development of this tool was funded through grants that HARC had received. The data is already available for the entire state, but the RESIN portal would have to be created for the DFW region. There was support from various members and audience participants for having a regional dataset and tool like the RESIN for the DFW area. NCTCOG will follow up with HARC on

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next steps and discuss opportunities to partner to find funding to support development of a similar tool for the DFW area.

### INFORMATION ITEMS

7. **NCTCOG Regional Opportunities.** (10 minutes, NCTCOG Staff) NCTCOG will go over other opportunities in the North Central Texas region that relate to sustainability and the Coalition's focus areas.

Several key items were briefly covered by NCTCOG staff.

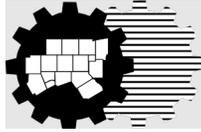
- PACE – NCTCOG is moving forward with a regional PACE program and is currently working internally to brief NCTCOG's Board and put the pieces in place to issue a Request of Proposals for a 3<sup>rd</sup> party contractor. NCTCOG will share more concrete information on this in the next few months.
- Local Government Energy Reporting – Reports will be due Feb. 1, 2022 for period of January through December 2021. Contact Dorothy Gilliam, [dgilliam@nctcog.org](mailto:dgilliam@nctcog.org) with any questions.
- Regional Codes Coordinating Committee – NCTCOG has posted the International Building Code Regional Amendments to the NCTCOG website. The 2021 IECC will be approved by the NCTCOG Executive Board in October and posted to the website in November.
- 2021 Fall DEA Med Take Back – This event is coming up and sponsored by the DEA to collect medications. Visit <https://takebackday.dea.gov/> for more information.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Regional Holiday Grease Roundup is currently asking interested cities and entities to join for this year's grease collection event. Contact Hannah Allen, [hallen@nctcog.org](mailto:hallen@nctcog.org) if interested in joining.
- First Annual North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge is currently underway until October 31. Currently Grand Prairie is in the lead position with the most litter picked up during the competition timeframe. Over 20 cities have signed up for this inaugural regional competition. Contact Crysta Guzman at [cguzman@nctcog.org](mailto:cguzman@nctcog.org) for more information.
- Various Funding Opportunities were shared with direct links to the opportunities.
- Various Upcoming Meetings of importance were shared with links to register.

### OTHER BUSINESS

8. **Participant Roundtable** (25 minutes, All) Coalition member governments will be asked to briefly share what is happening in their communities. As time allows, participants will have an opportunity to share activities happening in their communities/organizations. This roundtable serves as an opportunity to identify areas for collaboration and sharing sustainability programs or success stories.

- Plano: Yarcus Lewis provided an update on a PST Cohort and an opportunity for cities to provide comments on a Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) docket. A cohort of Texas cities have developed a draft response to the Docket and include comments on issues of equity, energy efficiency, weatherization, more resilient grid and communities, and stakeholder engagement. This cohort effort is designed for city staff working on sustainability. If any city would like to learn more or review the PST Cohort comments, please contact Jessie Ciulla (Rocky Mountain Institute), [jciulla@rmi.org](mailto:jciulla@rmi.org) by October 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Dallas: Just concluded the first year of implementation of the Dallas Comprehensive Environmental and Climate Action Plan (CECAP). The city has worked on 48 of the 97 actions over a one-year period. A lot of planning efforts have been started and concluded last FY. There are several different efforts that Dallas will be seeking input from neighboring cities. The city now has 7 elected officials serving in environmental activities and an environmental commission comprised of 15 community representatives. There will also be a technical sub-committee.
- Farmer's Branch: The city is working on developing a sustainability plan. The city recently completed three solar installations at city facilities and are working on another. The city received funding from the

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Volkswagen settlement to install EV charging stations and received funding from SECO for LED lighting upgrades.

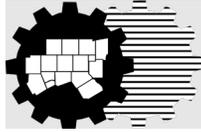
- Mesquite: The City worked with an intern from the Environmental Defense Fund last summer to develop an EV Transition plan for the city.
- Larry Howe: Larry would like to help explore adult education challenges to get more people working in the same direction on items. He would like to know if anyone would be interested in exploring adult education going forward.

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

- Item 5, Mendie White's presentation on the City of Lewisville's Sustainability Plan will be moved to the next meeting agenda.
- No other future agenda items were discussed.

10. **Next Meeting Date.** The next meeting is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. on Friday, January 28, 2022.

11. **Adjournment.**

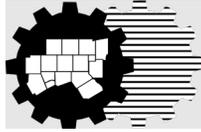


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### Attendance at the October 15, 2021 Regional Integration of Sustainability Efforts Coalition Meeting

Full Name
Sangita Rana
Bob Hart
Tamara Cook
Dorothy Gilliam
Bailey Muller
Evans, Katy
Heather Douglas
Schmidt, Judy
Alexander Pharmakis
Betz, Lauren
Anne Mattia
Edith Marvin
Lauren Patterson
Calvery, Greta
Barnett, Katherine S.
Richard Abramowitz
Andrews, Pharr
Carroll, Courtney
Lori Clark
Douglas, James
Cory Heiple
Troy Wynne
Landfair, Danai
Kathy Fonville
Crysta Guzman
Julianah Marie
Shaun Auckland
Vivek Thimmavajjhala
Ellis, Cassidy
Tyler Leverenz-Soetaert
Jaime Bretzmann
Kate Zielke
Jenny Narvaez
Howard, Michael - HPC-HPW
Loiselle, EmilyA.
Stephanie Glenn

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Chris Flanigan
Krista Pender
Larry Howe (Guest)
Yarcus Lewis (Guest)
James Orenstein
City of White Settlement (Guest)
Rita Beving (Guest)
Ron patel (Guest)
Autumn Radle (Guest)
Molly Rooke
Lee Battle (Guest)

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