

SolSmart: Helping North Central Texas Earn Recognition as a "Solar Friendly" Region



Earlier this year, five North Central Texas cities took the first steps to participate in the national SolSmart program through which they will work with The Solar Foundation and technical advisors to reduce solar soft costs and adopt solar friendly policies. Through participation, cities are sending the solar market a signal that they are "open for business" and can receive national recognition for their efforts. If your city would like to become a SolSmart city, applications and more information can be found at www.gosparc.org/apply-now. NCTCOG staff is available to assist interested cities with applications and intake forms; if interested, contact **Kristina Ronneberg** at kronneberg@nctcog.org or **Rachel Evans** at revans@nctcog.org.

North Texas Ozone Season Underway

The ozone season began in North Texas on March 1 and will last through the end of November. The height of ozone season typically begins in May when temperatures begin rising, but now is a good time for North Texans to begin considering how their actions could improve the air during ozone season, which has been extended by one month.

With the Environmental Protection Agency recently lowering the ozone standard from 75 parts per billion (ppb) to 70 ppb, the region will need to continue to work together to improve air quality. The 2016 design value for the North Texas region was 80 ppb, with seven counties in nonattainment for the 70 ppb standard. The EPA anticipates announcing the nonattainment designations for the 70 ppb standard in October. For current information on the region's ozone levels, visit www.nctcog.org/ozone.

The North Central Texas Council of Governments maintains many policies and programs intended to help residents and businesses participate in clean air efforts. One is Air North Texas, which provides individuals, local governments and businesses lists of strategies they can implement when air quality is forecast to be poor.

Air North Texas implements a regional clean air event, Clean Air Action Day, on the first Friday of each summer. Clean Air Action Day 2017 will fall on June 23, and participants are asked to implement a clean air action that will help reduce ozone in the region. Visit www.airnorthtexas.org to learn more about how to improve air quality and to sign up for air pollution alerts, which will help residents and employers stay informed of when additional clean air actions are recommended.

New iSWM (Integrated Stormwater Management) Certified Communities: Grand Prairie and Kennedale



The NCTCOG Public Works Council and the iSWM Implementation Subcommittee are pleased to announce new iSWM Certified Communities! The City of Grand Prairie was awarded Silver Status at their City Council Meeting on January 6, 2017, and the City of Kennedale will be awarded Silver Status at their City Council meeting on April 17, 2017. The other certified communities are Denton (Silver) and Frisco (Silver). iSWM recognizes communities that implement responsible stormwater management regulations and practices. Find more at www.iSWM.NCTCOG.org.

Floodplain Administrators/CRS Users Group Meeting Scheduled in April

The next Floodplain Administrators/CRS Users Group meeting will be held Tuesday, April 11th from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. in the Pitstick Conference Room at NCTCOG. Guest speaker Steven Eubanks, City of Fort Worth, will give a presentation on the challenges of urban flooding and the major capital projects Fort Worth is working on to alleviate flooding issues. CFMs will receive two continuing education credits. This is an easy way to get your CECs throughout the year. To register, visit www.tfma.org. Lunch is included in the \$7.00 registration cost for the meeting. Cash or credit cards can be accepted.

NCTCOG Sponsoring Car Care Clinics in April

NCTCOG is partnering with local automotive repair shops to sponsor FREE Car Care Clinics throughout April to help North Texas drivers whose vehicles have the check engine light illuminated.

A vehicle's check engine light turns on when there may be an issue that could impact its emissions. These clinics will provide drivers with an opportunity to talk to a technician about their vehicle's issues.

Staff will be at each clinic to discuss financial assistance that is available to help drivers with repairs. To find a clinic near you, visit www.NTXCarCare.org. For more information, email NTXCarCare@nctcog.org or call 817-704-5697.

Time to Recycle.com

Visit TimetoRecycle.com to Find Locations to Recycle Many Household Items

TimeToRecycle.com is a website designed for easy access to recycling programs in your city and find locations to recycle many different items in the North Central Texas region. The goal of this web site is to increase awareness of the benefits of recycling and encourage all citizens in the region to participate in local recycling programs. This web site was developed and is maintained by the North Central Texas Council of Governments in cooperation with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. For more information please contact Soria Adibi at sadibi@nctcog.org or 817.608.2363 or visit www.timetorecycle.com.

NCTCOG to Participate in Spring Outreach Events

NCTCOG is participating in several community outreach events this spring to discuss air quality initiatives and transportation planning in North Texas.

Residents who attend Fort Worth Earth Party, Colorpalooza: A Celebration of Spring, UNT University Day and Earth Day Texas at Fair Park, among others, can stop by the NCTCOG table to visit with staff about transportation projects and programs and learn how they can help improve air quality in the rapidly growing Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Information on NCTCOG transportation and air quality programs, including Try Parking It, Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Coalition, Air North Texas and AirCheckTexas Drive a Clean Machine Program will also be available. Brochures and publications will be distributed, as well as lunch bags, water bottles, activity books, crayons and other educational items. For more information, visit www.airnorthtexas.org.



Center of Development Excellence Technical Tools

Do you need guidance on developing best practices and regulations for your community? Check out the Center of Development Excellence Technical Tools Library. This library contains sustainable planning documents including but not limited to, zoning ordinances, form-based codes, comprehensive plans, thoroughfare plans, transit-oriented development, design guidelines, incentives, and other innovative local and regional government practices from the North Central Texas region, as well as around the country. These tools can serve as practical examples to support you in providing sustainable planning and development. The Library allows the user to tailor their search of the documents by either setting filters such as municipality, year, category, Principles of Development Excellence, or by typing in a document title. Visit www.developmentexcellence.com/tools/TechTools.asp.

Defend Your Drains – Medicine Take-Back Event April 29, 2017

When medicines (antibiotics, vitamins, cough syrup, pain medicines, etc.) are put down the drain or into the toilet, they end up polluting the water supply because water treatment processes can't completely remove them. So, instead of flushing medications, check our locator map to find a take-back location near you to dispose of them properly. Additionally, the Drug Enforcement Agency sponsors take-back events twice per year, with the next one taking place on April 29, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Check with your city to find more information about locations near you to dispose of medication on April 29. For more information on how to properly dispose of medicines, go to <http://www.defendyourdrainsnorthtexas.com/>.



Field Technician Training Instructor Opportunity

The North Central Texas Council of Governments is seeking applications from qualified instructors for The Wastewater and Treatment Education Roundtable (WATER) Field Technician Training. The training is expected to be 1.5 to 2 days in duration, will be held in late May or early June in Arlington, Texas, and will include both field and classroom components. The training will cover sampling techniques appropriate for collecting non-potable water samples, 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 136, and chain of custody requirements. For more information and to apply for the opportunity go to the Training and Development Institute (TDI) Instructor Portal.



Upcoming Texas SmartScape Plant Events

Searching for the best plants for your landscape? Texas SmartScape™ plants are native or adapted to North Central Texas, so they can thrive—come rain or shine—with little to no pesticides or fertilizers and less water. Come to one of the educational plant events hosted by member cities of the Texas SmartScape program and participating retailers to get a deal on select Texas SmartScape plants.

All Events Take Place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. More information can be found at www.txsmartscape.com/events/plant-sale.php.

Become an I-30 Insider, Earn Rewards

The I-30 Insider Challenge, which encourages alternative commuting modes such as carpooling or telecommuting through the use of incentives, concludes April 28. When logging their alternatives to driving alone along I-30, commuters can earn rewards, which can be exchanged for gift cards to merchants.

Residents who do not regularly commute on I-30 can still benefit. That's because all North Texans can be entered into a drawing for a \$250 Amazon gift card when they register for Try Parking It and take a survey. Register at www.i30insider.com.





SAVE the DATES!

North Texas Urban Feral Hog Forum

When? May 1, 2017, 8:00 AM—12:00 PM

Where? Brookhaven College
Miles Building H, Room H-126
3939 Valley View Ln, Farmers Branch TX 75244

Register for this free event at www.nctcog.org/envir/events

Feral hogs present increasing challenges to both rural and urban communities in North Texas. Feral hogs are not only destructive, but are also a source of bacteria loading in North Texas waterways through waste contributions and destabilization of riparian areas.

This event will convene policymakers, stakeholders, and experts to continue the conversation about management strategies, the impact of urban feral hogs, and the development of potential next steps for regional coordination of feral hog management.

Hear from: Texas Parks and Wildlife, Texas Department of Agriculture, Fort Worth Nature Center, City of Dallas, City of Grand Prairie, City of Irving, City of Arlington, and City of Carrollton.

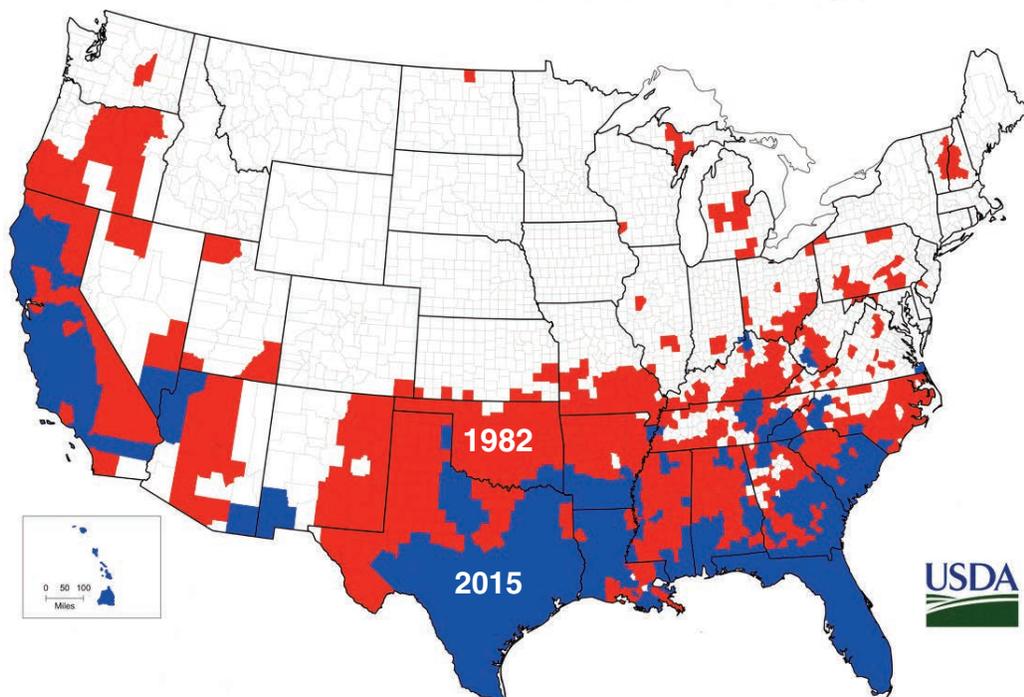
Be a part of the conversation!

Tweet your feral hog questions to [@nctcogenv](https://twitter.com/nctcogenv) with the hashtag [#FeralHogForum](https://twitter.com/hashtag/FeralHogForum)

These questions will be used to guide the roundtable discussions.

This event is funded by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) through the Greater Trinity River Region TMDL and Implementation Plan Program. Interested in learning more about the Greater Trinity River Region TMDL and Implementation Plan? Visit www.nctcog.org/TMDL

**Feral Swine
Distribution
by County
1982-2015**





SAVE the DATES!



SAVE THE DATE!

NCTCOG 18th Annual Public Works Roundup

The North Central Texas Council of Governments' Public Works Council (PWC) is excited to announce the 18th Annual Public Works Roundup on May 10, 2017 at the Grapevine Convention Center. The Roundup is a day-long event that draws public works professionals from across the region to communicate and coordinate on regional public works issues. A complimentary continental breakfast and buffet lunch will be served. There is no cost to attend the Roundup; however, due to limited seating, registration is required. This is an event you don't want to miss so to learn more and register visit <http://bit.ly/PublicWorksRoundup>.

Mark Your Calendars! Med Take-Back Workshop

NCTCOG will be hosting a Med Take-Back Workshop in May 2017. The event will bring together a diverse group of stakeholders to develop a strong understanding of the environmental and health impacts of improper drug disposal, current regional challenges, and build support for a long-term permanent solution for the North Central Texas region.

NCTCOG will conduct a stakeholder survey and distribute educational materials to circulate and build knowledge on the issue prior to the workshop. Sponsorship is requested in the form of financial contributions to cover lunch and refreshments at the workshop. As a sponsor, your organization would be featured on event flyers and other promotional materials. If you are interested in participating in the workshop or sponsoring the event, contact Soria Adibi at sadibi@nctcog.org or 817.608.2363.

It is Easy to Anonymously Report Locations of Illegal Dump Sites in Your Community



Trash dumped in unauthorized locations is not just appalling, it can cause major public health and safety concerns such as an increase in rodents and mosquitoes, related illnesses, and physical and chemical hazards like protruding nails and harmful fluids. Dumping is also illegal and punishable by the **Texas Health and Safety Code 365**.

ReportDFWdumping.com is a website designed for easy access to illegal dumping reporting and solid waste programs available in the North Central Texas region. The goal of this web site is to increase awareness of the hazards of illegally dumping trash and to encourage all citizens in the region to participate in local recycling and solid waste programs.

Reports are the primary way to eliminate illegal dumping. Submitting one is easy and only a few details are needed such as the type of waste and the location. Report illegal dumping anonymously by calling: **1-888-335-DUMP** or on your computer or smart phone at: <http://reportdfwdumping.org>.

For more information please contact Soria Adibi at sadibi@nctcog.org or **817.608.2363**.



Road to 2020

As mandated by the U.S. Constitution, each decade America counts its population. The data collected by the decennial census determine the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives and are used to distribute billions in federal funds to local communities.

The next Census in 2020 will require counting an increasingly diverse and growing population of around 330 million people in more than 140 million housing units. To get an accurate count, the Census Bureau must build an accurate address list of every housing unit, maximize self-response to the census, and efficiently follow up with those who do not respond.

The decennial census is the largest mobilization and operation conducted in the United States and requires years of research, planning, and development of methods and infrastructure to ensure an accurate and complete count. You are invited to attend **Road to 2020**. At this event, you can:

- Learn about current and upcoming efforts
- Find out what your community needs to do to get ready
- Provide valuable input

For more information or to RSVP, visit <http://www.nctcog.org/ris/census/2020/workshop.asp>.

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