

North Central Texas Council of Governments

SUMMARY

North Texas Regional Integration of Sustainability Efforts (RISE) Coalition

Wednesday, July 29, 2026

9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Virtual: [Microsoft Teams](#)

Chair: Cory Heiple, City of Carrollton

Vice Chair: Julissa Amador, City of Denton

1. Welcome and Introductions.

Corinne Buckley (NCTCOG) welcomed attendees and reviewed housekeeping items. Corinne announced that Vice Chair Julissa Amador (City of Denton) would fill the role of Chair during the meeting due to Cory Heiple's (City of Carrollton) absence.

PRESENTATION

2. **Resilience Hubs Update.** Autumn Gallardo, Sustainability Manager, Foundation Communities, and Kathy Jack, Director of Programs, Texas Energy Poverty Research Institute, will provide information on their efforts with resilience hubs in the Austin area and their recent expansion into North Texas.

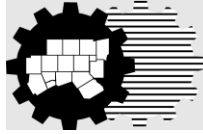
Autumn Gallardo (Foundation Communities) and Kathy Jack (Texas Energy Poverty Research Institute) presented on their recent partnership to establish two resilience hubs at multifamily communities in Arlington. They shared how these hubs are designed to support disenfranchised communities during severe weather events or power outages, as well as highlighted the various services these facilities provide to residents such as free after-school programs and a community food pantry. The presenters also talked about how they are powered, explaining the role of distributed power plants, as well as highlighted their future plans for the project. More details on the community resilience hubs can be found in the [meeting presentation](#).

ACTION ITEMS

3. **Meeting Summary.** Review and approve the April 29, 2026, draft meeting summary, which can be viewed [here](#).

Melissa Canclini (City of Lewisville) made a motion to approve the meeting summary. Rosaerlinda Mendez (City of Dallas) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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4. **FY2027 Work Plan Discussion and Approval.** The Draft FY2027 Work Plan will be brought forward for approval by RISE Coalition members.

NCTCOG reviewed the Draft FY2027 Work Plan and brought forward four focus topics identified based on discussion at the April RISE Coalition meeting and responses to the Regional Sustainability Survey. The topics identified and incorporated into the Draft FY2027 Work Plan were Regional Air Quality Planning, Resilience Hubs, Sustainability Wins for Small Communities, and Green Business. Alex Pharmakis (City of Farmers Branch) made a motion to approve the Draft FY2027 Work Plan. Melissa Canclini seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

5. **FY2026 Work Plan and Project Updates.** NCTCOG will discuss progress on the FY2026 Work Plan initiatives.

NCTCOG shared an update on the progress of the FY2026 Work Plan. Staff shared about the RISE prioritized webinar on Energy Efficiency in Codes that was held on July 28. Staff also shared about the upcoming RISE prioritized webinar on Sustainable Procurement for Local Governments that will be held on August 18.

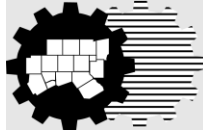
NCTCOG also provided an update on the LEED Green Associate exam preparation course, which had to be pushed back to September due to scheduling issues. The course will be open to the public at a cost, with RISE members to receive one complimentary registration.

Finally, NCTCOG reviewed the results of the Regional Sustainability Survey. The analysis of the results can be found in the meeting presentation.

6. **FY2027 Member Cost Share Commitments.** NCTCOG will provide an update on the status of cost shares for FY2027.

NCTCOG shared that cost shares for FY2027 will be distributed electronically in late August/early September. Cost shares will be sent to all current RISE Coalition members; any entities interested in becoming a voting member are encouraged to reach out to Corinne Buckley at cbuckley@nctcog.org.

NCTCOG also provided an update on the Ad hoc Bylaws Subcommittee, who will meet in September to discuss adjustments to cost share amounts brought up during the April RISE Coalition meeting. Any participants interested in participating in the subcommittee are encouraged to reach out to Corinne Buckley at cbuckley@nctcog.org.

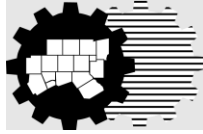


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7. **NCTCOG Regional Opportunities.** NCTCOG will provide information on other opportunities in the North Central Texas region that relate to sustainability and the Coalition's focus areas.

NCTCOG staff presented updates on upcoming meetings, opportunities, and funding that may be of interest to members. More details are available in the [meeting presentation](#).

- [Sustainable Public Rights of Way Subcommittee \(SPROW\)](#) – SPROW provides support and technical advice to NCTCOG's Public Works Council on sustainability issues associated with public works infrastructure. Their next meeting will be held virtually on [September 9 at 10:00 a.m.](#)
- [Powering Local Governments: Energy Benchmarking and Reporting Roundtable](#) – NCTCOG hosted an event on Local Government Energy Reporting and led discussions on energy benchmarking challenges and opportunities.
- [Data Centers in Texas – Water Resources Impacts and Policy Recommendations Webinar](#) – NCTCOG hosted a webinar on data centers as they relate to water usage on August 7, with plans to host a second webinar on energy usage in the coming weeks.
- [SolSmart 101 Webinar](#) – NCTCOG is hosting a SolSmart 101 webinar on August 26 at 2:00 PM. The webinar will cover SolSmart program basics, explore tools and assistance available for participants, and highlight an example of a SolSmart participant in the region.
- [Power Texas Energy Strategies: Summer Workshop Series](#) – Capital Area Council of Governments, the State Energy Conservation Office, and the South-central Partnership for Energy Efficiency as a Resource are partnering to present a three-part summer workshop series, with upcoming sessions on August 11 and August 25.
- [2026 Better Buildings & Better Plants Summer Webinars](#) – The Department of Energy has announced the dates and topics for this year's Better Buildings & Better Plants Summer Webinar series.
- [Lone Star Sustainability Forum](#) - The 2026 Lone Star Sustainability Forum is being held by the Institute for Leadership in Capital Projects (I-LinCP) on August 5-7, 2026, in San Antonio.
- [Green Communities Conference](#) – Keep Waco Beautiful is hosting their 5th annual Green Communities Conference on September 17 in Waco.
- [APATX26](#) – The Texas Chapter of the American Planning Association will host their 2026 Chapter Conference on October 14-16 in Irving.
- [Texas Energy Summit](#) – Energy Systems Laboratory will be hosting the Texas Energy Summit 2026 in Austin from October 26-28.
- [Simple Planning Tool for Climate Hazards](#) – The Southern Climate Impacts Planning Program has announced that version 2.1 of the Simple Planning Tool for Climate Hazards is now available which includes additional hazard data tools.



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- Funding Opportunities – Multiple funding opportunities for vehicle replacements, energy efficiency upgrades, and emission reductions are currently open through TCEQ, SECO, and NCTCOG.

OTHER BUSINESS

8. **Participant Roundtable.** Participants will have an opportunity to share activities happening within their communities or organizations to identify areas for collaboration and sharing of sustainability programs or success stories.

Corinne Buckley, NCTCOG – NCTCOG shared that they will be setting up a private LinkedIn group for voting members to collaborate on. NCTCOG also sought feedback from the group on AI usage in meetings, with Cory in favor and Melissa requesting responsible use and transparency if used. Hannah Smith (City of Flower Mound) expressed she is against its use and does not see the need.

Lauren Foust, City of Cedar Hill – Cedar Hill had no updates to share.

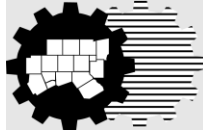
Julissa Amador, City of Denton – Denton recently added four new businesses to their green business program. They are currently working towards coordinating a collection event for household hazard waste. Denton also recently finished and adopted their sustainability plan and have plans to utilize a dashboard to help track metrics. Finally, Denton has plans to provide council an update on their climate plan, which was adopted two years ago.

Alex Pharmakis, City of Farmers Branch – Farmers Branch has launched a residential water dashboard to analyze smart meters and leak detection, with efforts to educate residents on utilizing this tool. Farmers Branch is also working with their Parks department on improving their irrigation practices and reducing water usage.

Kylie Wieden, City of Grand Prairie – Grand Prairie had no updates to share.

Melissa Canclini, City of Lewisville – Lewisville recently won and received the trophy for the North Texas Community Clean Up Challenge, which will be presented to Council with NCTCOG and FIFA representatives. They have a Plastic Free July campaign and created an EcoGames initiative for employees to encourage reduced plastic use, which they have been sharing on social media.

Rosa Mendez, City of Dallas – Dallas recently released an extreme heat guidebook, which includes strategies at both the household and city level. Rosa will be moving to a different position in the Water Utilities department.



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Sujata Gautam, City of McKinney – McKinney is working on several grant funded projects in support of their sustainability goals. They recently received funding to put cameras on recycling trucks to identify where contamination is occurring and send targeted educational postcards to these residents. McKinney also received funding through a watershed protection plan grant to plant trees and improve watershed health. Finally, McKinney is working towards their Charging Smart designation.

Cory Heiple, City of Carrollton – Carrollton shared that the Mayor recently added a sustainability committee with councilmembers and will share an update at the next RISE meeting.

Shaun Auckland, SPEER – SPEER shared that there is currently an open funding opportunity through the State Energy Conservation Office for community center upgrades.

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

There were no suggestions for future agenda items.

10. **Next Meeting Date.** The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, October 21, 2026. This meeting will be held in person at the NCTCOG Offices. [RSVP and add to calendar.](#)

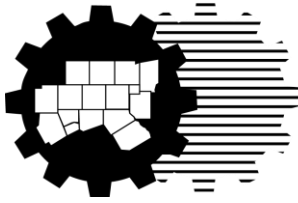
NCTCOG shared alternative dates for the April meeting. Melissa Canclini, Sujata Gautam, Cory Heiple, Alex Pharmakis, and Julissa Amador expressed a preference for Thursday, April 29.

11. **Adjournment.**

Cory Heiple made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Sujata Gautam seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

If you have any questions regarding the meeting or agenda items, please contact Corinne Buckley at (817) 704-2510 or cbuckley@nctcog.org.

If you plan to attend this public meeting and you have a disability that requires special arrangements at the meeting, please contact Ashley Barnett at (817) 695-9231 or abarnett@nctcog.org at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Reasonable accommodations will be made to assist your needs.



RISE Coalition Meeting

9:30 am, Wednesday, July 29, 2026

Microsoft Teams

Attendees

RISE Coalition Members		
Name	Entity	Signature
Cory Heiple (Chair)	City of Carrollton	X
Lauren Foust	City of Cedar Hill	X
Rosaerlinda Mendez	City of Dallas	X
Julissa Amador	City of Denton	X
Alexander Pharmakis	City of Farmers Branch	X
Natalie Nava	City of Fort Worth	
Kylie Wieden	City of Grand Prairie	X
Sujata Gautam	City of McKinney	X
Melissa Canclini	City of Lewisville	X
Olivia Osborne	City of Plano	
Devin Taylor	TRWD	

* Indicates alternate member

Other Attendees	
Name	Entity
Caleb Robins	Atmos Energy
Cindy Mendez	City of Grand Prairie
Jody Cason	City of Grand Prairie
Zach Riggs	City of Plano
Shaun Auckland	SPEER
Hannah Smith	Town of Flower Mound
Alexa Zahradnik	UT Dallas
Adeline Robertson	NCTCOG
Analisa Garcia	NCTCOG
Bill Prieto	NCTCOG
Cassidy Campbell	NCTCOG
Corinne Buckley	NCTCOG
Crysta Guzman	NCTCOG
Madisson Dunn	NCTCOG
Quinnton DeBolt	NCTCOG