

North Texas Regional Sustainability Virtual Survey

Hosted by the RISE Coalition and NCTCOG | March 11, 2022

The [Regional Integration of Sustainability Efforts \(RISE\) Coalition](#), in partnership with the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG), held the first North Texas Regional Sustainability Virtual Survey on March 11, 2022, via Microsoft Teams. The results of the survey and discussion are summarized below.

The purpose of the survey was to assess the current state of sustainability in North Texas communities, to foster discussion between communities on shared goals and challenges, and to explore opportunities for future initiatives and collaborations. Survey responses will also be used to identify regional priorities for integration into the RISE Coalition’s FY2023 Work Plan and topics for future NCTCOG-hosted webinars.

Participants represented: 13 cities, 3 utility providers, and 1 school district.

Does your community/organization have any official sustainability-related goals? What are they?

- ◇ Dallas has 8 goals & 97 objectives codified in [their CECAP](#).
- ◇ Plano’s [CARE strategy](#) focuses on lowering emissions.
- ◇ [Lewisville](#) and [Farmers Branch](#) both have Sustainability Action Plans with goals across several categories.
- ◇ [Atmos Energy](#) set a target to reduce methane emissions in distribution systems by 50% from 2017 to 2035.

List some successes (projects, programs, policies) that your community has achieved related to sustainability.

- ◇ Mansfield ISD was recognized by EPA’s ENERGY STAR division and by TCEQ for their efforts on efficiency projects.
- ◇ Denton and Farmers Branch both introduced citizen-led Sustainability Advisory Committees.
- ◇ Several communities have increased accessibility of EV charging stations and are adopting EVs into their fleets.

How do you measure the success of your sustainability initiatives?

GHG emissions inventories **Waste contamination/diversion rates**
Tracking energy, water, fuel usage
Third-party ratings **Annual progress reports**

What have been the biggest challenges or barriers you’ve faced in achieving your sustainability goals?

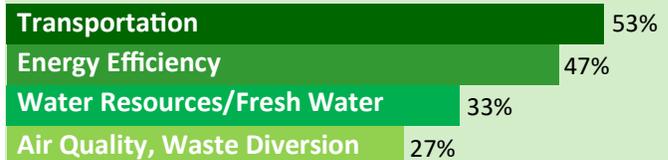
Collaboration between departments **Funding**
Staffing constraints*
Buy-in from leadership **Politics**

*80% of respondents have 5 or fewer staff members working specifically on sustainability, and 45% have one or fewer.

What topics are you interested in learning more about?



What do you see as the most pressing sustainability needs in North Texas?



What types of resources are you most interested in?

Virtual workshops/webinars, in-person workshops, resource toolkits

What do you consider the biggest benefits to being a member of the RISE Coalition?

- ◇ More localized peer support than a national sustainability org.
- ◇ Developing a common vocabulary around sustainability
- ◇ Sharing best practices, action items, and outreach materials
- ◇ Fostering collaboration, especially on funding opportunities
- ◇ Having a unified regional voice advocating for sustainability
- ◇ Participation in regional GHG inventory

The RISE Coalition works to engage interested local governments in peer-exchange opportunities to support sustainability and environmental initiatives throughout North Texas. RISE member communities facilitate conversations about sustainability in the region, share resources and best practices, and inform topics for trainings, webinars, and resource development by NCTCOG. For more information about the RISE Coalition, visit the [information page](#), or see the [committee webpage](#) for future meeting dates and past meeting materials.



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