

Single-Use Plastic Reduction Workgroup

Engaging Restaurants in a Trash Free Texas

Connecting volunteers to litter cleanup opportunities

TrashFreeTexas.org

Monday, November 7, 2022



**TRASH
FREE
TEXAS**

This project funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Trash Free Waters Grant Program

Friendly Reminders for Online Meeting

- Please keep your microphone on mute when not speaking.
- Please try to remember to state your name and entity when providing a comment or asking a question.



Introduction of Trash Free Texas Project Team



Introduction of Attendees

- We will pause for a moment so that everyone can introduce themselves. Please list your name and entity you are representing in the chat. If you are joining by phone, please speak up and introduce yourself. Thank you!



- We appreciate your input and time today. Thank you for attending!



Please Take Our One-Question Live Poll

How to answer poll:

Go to www.PollEv.com/nctcogenv444

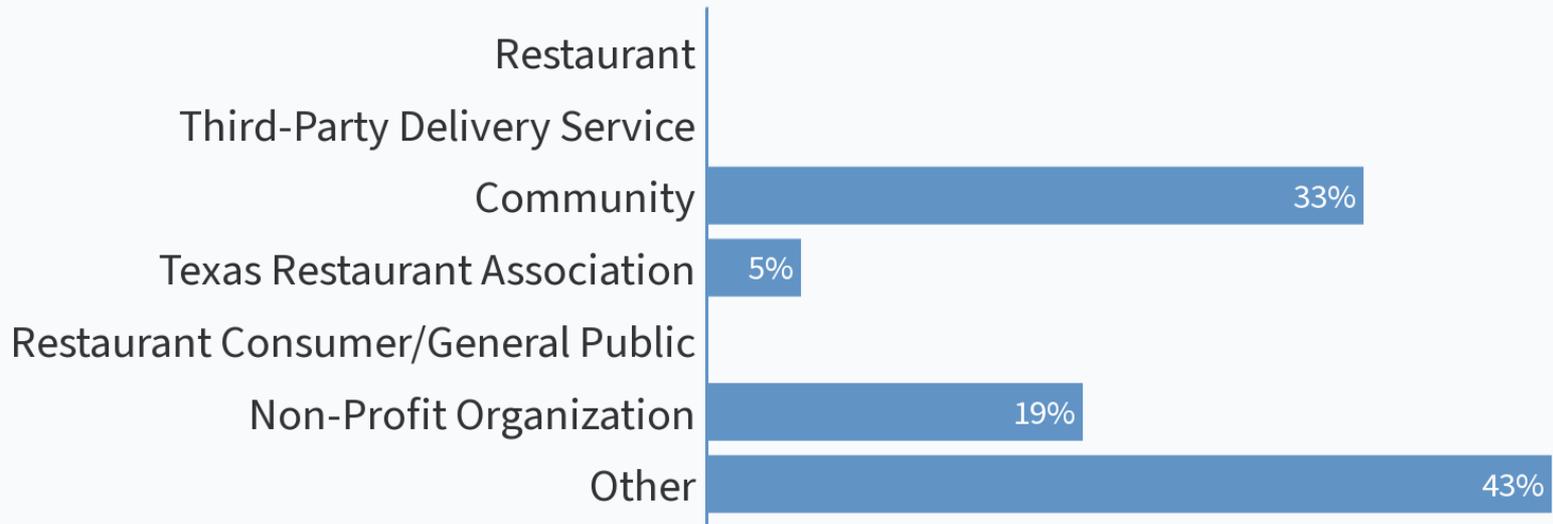
--OR--

Text NCTCOGENV444 to 22333 once to join.

When poll is active, respond at pollev.com/nctcogenv444

Text **NCTCOGENV444** to **22333** once to join

What type of organization are you representing today?



Today's Agenda



1. Project Overview

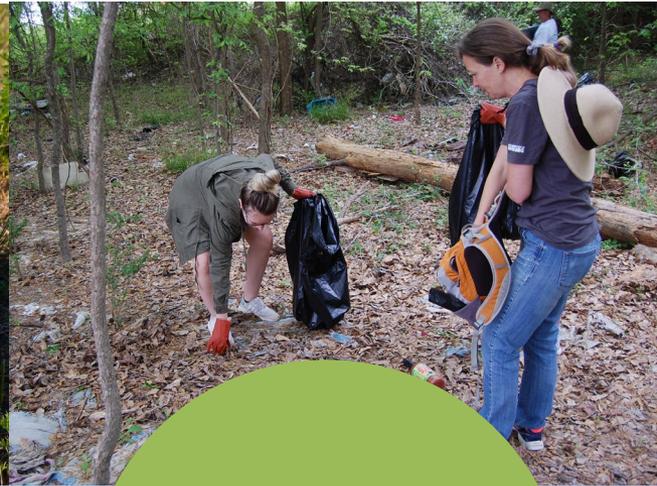


2. Feedback on the Community and Restaurant Toolkits



3. Next Steps: Piloting the Toolkits

1. Project Overview



362

Million Pieces of
Visible Litter

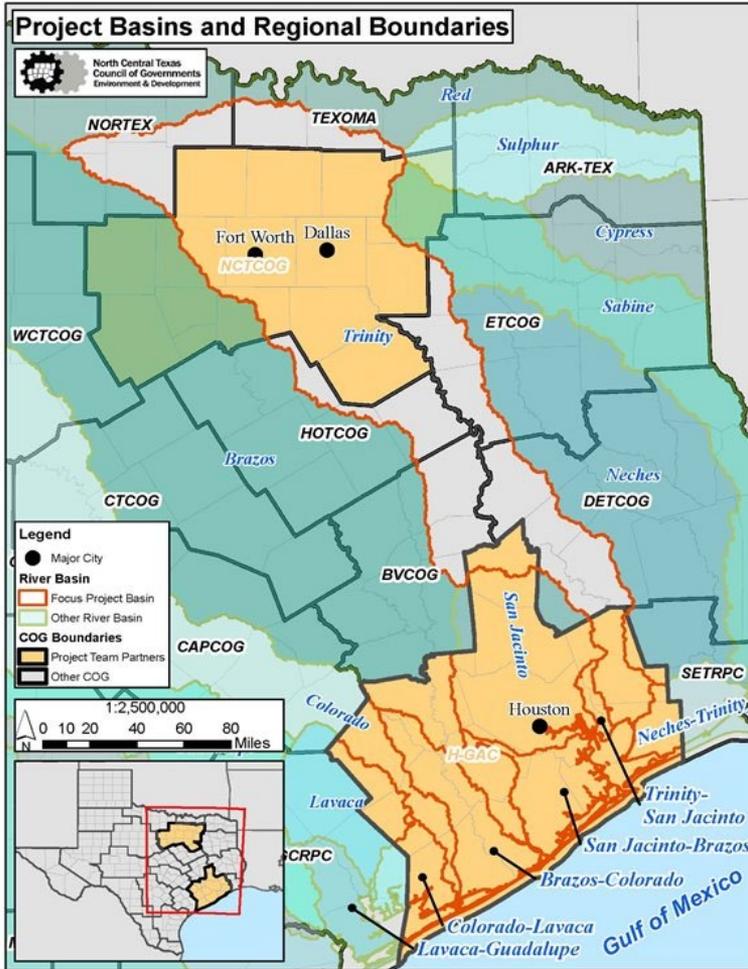
\$50 M

Annual cost to
Texas taxpayers

80%

Waterway trash
comes from land

1. Project Overview



A collaborative effort between NCTCOG, H-GAC and The Meadow's Center



Funded by the U.S. EPA's Trash Free Waters Grant Program



Project area includes more than 50% of Texas' total population



Project to be completed over a three-year period.

1. Project Overview (cont.)

Project Goals

The project team seeks to:

- 1 Increase Adopt-A-Spot locations on the Trash Free Texas map and promote a statewide trash collection database → The Texas Litter Database
- 2 Support regional clean-up events through partnerships with local governments, recreational clubs, and Keep Texas Beautiful affiliates
- 3 Partner with communities and Texas-based restaurants to reduce the use of single-use plastic
- 4 Share project successes with other councils of government and replicate work across state

1. Project Overview (cont.)

Why Engage Restaurants?

- Together communities and restaurants can help shift the mindset of restaurant patrons
- Strategies can reduce costs
- Strategies can help reduce litter
- Restaurants already implementing strategies have stated that strategies “help with overall customer experience.” – Sunhee’s Farm and Kitchen. Troy, New York; and Organic Crush Restaurant Group

2. Feedback on Toolkits

Overall Information about the Toolkits

- They are intended to be guides with templates you can follow/fill-in. You can even give your program its own name.
- Single-use plastics in the toolkits mainly refers to plastic utensils and straws, but you can expand the program beyond those items.
- Strategies provided have varying levels of effort/difficulty



2. Feedback on Toolkits

Toolkit for Restaurants

Table of Contents

Purpose of Toolkit and How to Use It	2
Naming of the Trash Free Texas Restaurant Program.....	2
Single-Use Plastic Reduction Strategies and Resources for Restaurants	2
Customer Opt-In and Opt-Out Strategies.....	2
Strategies for Restaurants Looking for Sustainable Plastic Alternatives.....	5
Positive Promotion of Plastic Reduction Efforts	7
Additional Resources.....	7
Appendix A – Templates for Signage Asking Patrons to Reconsider Straws, Lids, and Plastic Utensils	9
Appendix B – Example Signage for Reusable Cups.....	15



2. Feedback on Toolkits

Toolkit for Restaurants

- Overall comments?
- What concerns do you have?
- Is something missing from toolkit, i.e. text or graphic?
- Are the flyers in the appendix useful?
- What is a barrier to strategy implementation that we can address in the toolkit?
- How can we get the word out about the toolkit to the restaurant community?

2. Feedback on Toolkits

Toolkit for Communities

Table of Contents

Purpose of Toolkit and How to Use It	2
Naming of the Trash Free Texas Restaurant Program for Your Community	3
Resources for Community-Run Certification or Recognition Program	3
Restaurant Commitment Form	3
Program Certificate	3
Annual Recommitment Form And Schedule.....	4
Resident/Customer Feedback Form	4
Advertising the Program	4
Measuring Success	4
Incentives to Offer Restaurants for Participation	5
Examples of Certification Programs or Other Initiatives Already Implemented	7
Resources to Assist Restaurants with Starting and Implementing Plastic Reduction Measures	9
Appendix A – Template for Initial Commitment Form	10
Appendix B – Template for Program Certificate	13
Appendix C – Template for Annual Recommitment Form and Tracking Sheet	15
Appendix D – Example Resident/Customer Feedback Form	19
Appendix E – Patron Leave Behind Cards	22
Appendix F – Resolution of Local Government Commitment to Plastic Reduction (City of Galveston)	27



2. Feedback on Toolkits

Toolkit for Communities

- Overall comments?
- What concerns do you have?
- Are the resources in here sufficient to help you start and manage your own program/recognitions with restaurants? Why or why not?

3. Next Steps: Piloting the Toolkits

- Trash Free Texas team will work to incorporate feedback into the toolkits. Please provide all feedback [HERE](#) by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, November 18, 2022.
- Planning to start pilots in early 2023.
- Trash Free Texas Team will reach out to those who are interested in piloting to assist. If you are interested in piloting, complete [this form](#).
- How do you envision the pilot going? How can the project team assist?

Connect With Us!

Crysta Guzman

North Central Texas Council of Governments
CGuzman@nctcog.org

Breanne Johnson

North Central Texas Council of Governments
BJohnson@nctcog.org

Kendall Guidroz

Houston-Galveston Area Council
Kendall.Guidroz@h-gac.com



nctcog.org/trashfreetexas (Sign-up for newsletter here!)



h-gac.com/TrashFreeTexas (Sign-up for newsletter here!)

Trash Free Texas

<https://www.trashfreetexas.org/>



<https://www.facebook.com/TrashFreeTexas>



<https://twitter.com/TrashFreeTexas>



<https://www.instagram.com/trashfreetexas/>