

Fiscal Year 2021 Work Plan Regional Integration of Sustainability Efforts (RISE) Coalition

Background and FY2021 Work Plan Priorities

The North Central Texas Stewardship Forum (Forum) began as an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant funded effort dedicated to bringing together North Central Texas (NCT) governmental and quasi-governmental organizations to share best practices, lessons learned and resources to ease the burden of developing and supporting sustainability and environmental initiatives. At the conclusion of the grant, participating cities and EPA acknowledged the value the Forum brought to communicating and collaborating to achieve environmental goals. Since 2014, the Forum has continued to collaborate to advance regional sustainability and stewardship initiatives. The Forum is expanding its composition and scope to meet the increasing challenges of rising global temperatures. To align with the expanded purpose the Forum rebranded in FY2020 and is now referred to as the Regional Integration of Sustainability Efforts (RISE) Coalition.

The RISE Coalition, herein referred to as the Coalition, establishes this Work Plan to initiate work to compile data and identify local strategies to make improvements on key topics the Coalition believes are not fully addressed, or addressed at all, in existing regional initiatives of the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG). This work plan serves to establish regional collaborative efforts to engage local governments on a broader scale and foster peer exchange on key topics, including:

- Regional Emissions Assessment
- Emissions Impact Analysis and Mitigation/Adaptation Strategy Development
- Urban Heat Island Reduction Strategy Analysis
- Food Diversion and Waste Reduction Programs

In general, the FY2021 Work Plan supports activities that seek to:

- Align regional partner initiatives
- Leverage regional resources and share best practices
- Provide networking and capacity building opportunities
- Identify funding opportunities for projects
- Provide mentorship
- Collaborate as a group on regional sustainability projects and initiatives

Administrative Support

The Coalition will utilize the NCTCOG as a partner and in an administrative capacity to support the activities outlined in the FY2021 Work Plan. NCTCOG will identify the appropriate staff to work on the activities identified by the Coalition. Key contacts for FY2021 are included in the Work Plan and may change depending on the focus areas. The RISE Coalition website is: <https://www.nctcog.org/envir/development-excellence/rise-coalition>.

Task 1: RISE Coalition Administrative Support and Hosting Coalition Meetings, Roundtables, Webinars and Workshops

NCTCOG will support the Coalition participants with administrative needs associated with meetings, roundtables, and workshops. Coalition participants will identify the frequency of regular meetings to discuss business and what participants they desire to attend these meetings. Additionally, roundtables, webinars and workshops focused on specific topics that the Coalition participants desire to host for the benefit of the region, would be identified by the Coalition participants and coordinated by NCTCOG. The purpose of these roundtables and workshops is to foster conversations, peer exchange, explore best practices, and build capacity of local government staff and leadership on topics of interest to the Coalition participants or to reduce harmful emissions in the region. Additional administration support includes, but is not limited to: maintenance and updating of a Coalition website; interested parties contact list; recruitment activities; developing presentations and presenting at meetings/conferences/etc.;

coordination of email communication with Coalition members; searching for, writing, and submitting grants on behalf of the Coalition; and, other administrative duties that arise.

Deliverables:

- 4 meetings and/or conference calls per year of the Steering Committee (Year 1 to get started) – Includes: Coordinating and sending meeting, roundtable, and workshop announcements; Preparing agendas, sign-in sheets, etc.; Hosting the meetings at NCTCOG offices or coordinating with other locations as identified by the Coalition participants; Preparing meeting materials, including coordinating speakers and/or presentations; and, Taking meeting notes and publishing meeting summaries
- Development of best practices for use by local governments (e.g. sustainability presentation for use in city training)
- Plan, coordinate, and host at least 1 Roundtable/workshop on topics identified by Steering Committee. Topic ideas suggested by NCTCOG staff for discussion:
 - Global Conference of Mayors
 - Electrification Coalition/Climate Mayors Purchasing Collaborative
 - Climate/urban heat island influences on ozone formation and associated green infrastructure connections/benefits
- Building code implications of increasing emissions from area source sector, potentially associated with population growth and use of natural gas appliances
- Maintain/update website, contact list management, presentations, newsletter, etc.
- Support coordination with outside entities on complementary efforts and support local government activities.
- Developing presentations and presenting at meetings
- Coordinating and applying for grants

Task 2. Regional Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Project

The Coalition members will guide the work of NCTCOG, assist in procuring and accepting funds from external organizations, provide data, and other support to complete development of a regional greenhouse gas emissions inventory. A summarized scope of work and tasks for this project has been developed by NCTCOG and is available as Attachment 1 to this Work Plan. Further detail and deliverables have been included in the individual grant and funding applications and are available for review.

Deliverables:

- Various. Outlined in the individual funding applications and guided by the Coalition members.

Estimated FY2021 Budget by Task: The completion of the full work plan is contingent upon receiving the full amount of funding from members.

Task	Estimated Budget Total	Comments/Notes
Task 1: Administrative Support and Hosting Coalition Meetings, Roundtables, and Workshops	\$20,000	
Task 2: Regional Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Project	\$0.00	No additional funding required at this time from Coalition members. Grant and funding identified through the Regional Transportation Council will support this task in addition to external funds from foundations or other grant agencies.
Total Year 1	\$20,000	

Key NCTCOG Staff Contacts: Lori Clark, Program Manager, NCTCOG Transportation Department, (817) 695-9232, lclark@nctcog.org; Tamara Cook, Senior Program Manager, NCTCOG Environment and Development, (817) 695-9221, tcook@nctcog.org

**RISE Coalition FY2021 Work Program
Attachment 1**

Proposal for North Central Texas Regional Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory

The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) works in cooperation with federal, state, and local partners to ensure all air quality requirements are met in the North Central Texas (NCT) Region. NCTCOG, along with its local governments members, strives to attain the ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) as early as possible. As part of this, NCTCOG has quantified and designed various strategies to reduce ozone precursors and contribute to a better quality of life for all North Texans.

NCTCOG, in partnership with the North Central Texas Stewardship Forum and other local government partners, now seeks to broaden work beyond regulatory requirements into a broader effort to improve air quality. As a next step, NCTCOG is seeking to develop a greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory for the NCT 12-county Metropolitan Planning Area. The development of a regional GHG emissions inventory would be useful to set initial regional goals, enable cities who have their own emissions inventories to compare themselves against a regional inventory, and would provide a framework upon which to evaluate future regional actions to reduce GHG emissions and identify mitigation and adaptation strategies. NCTCOG also wishes to develop a methodology to apportion the regional level emission inventory to individual cities and/or counties, so that benchmarking of one entity against another is possible.

Proposed work tasks:

1. Identify major sectors that contribute to GHGs, such as (but not limited to) transportation, electricity, wastewater, solid waste, etc.
2. Data Collection: Emissions quantification/inventory development depends on various activities. Collect activity data in various sectors mentioned above.
3. Identify/customize tools available to quantify GHG emissions, for example, EPA's MOVES Model, ICLEI ClearPath Software, etc.
4. Develop regional inventory.
5. Develop methodology to apportion the region level emission inventory to city level/county level.
6. Develop city-level inventories (if needed).
7. Analyze the results.
8. Set goals/identify strategies to reduce GHG emissions in the region.