

City of Dallas Comprehensive Environmental and Climate Action Plan

Environmental Planning Task Force (EPTF) Workshop 1 Summary

April 2nd, 2019

Overview

The first Environmental Planning Task Force meeting was held on April 2nd, 2019. The meeting was attended by 22 city staff members representing 13 departments.

Attendees

- Sana Drissi- *Aviation*
- Eleese Foster- *Building Services*
- Laila Alequresh- *City Manager's Office*
- Kim Dewailly- *Dallas Water Utilities- Floodplain Management*
- Karen E Menard- *Dallas Water Utilities*
- Heather Lepeska- *Economic Development*
- Eric Kuhns- *Fleet Services*
- Rocky Vaz- *Office of Emergency Management*
- John Jenkins- *Park and Recreation*
- Peter Bratt- *Park and Recreation*
- Monique Ward- *Planning and Urban Design*
- Amani Saleh- *Sanitation services*
- David Cossum- *Sustainable Development*
- Jared White- *Transportation*
- Chelsea St. Louis- *Transportation*
- Murray Myers- *Office of Environmental Quality and Sustainability*
- James McGuire- *Office of Environmental Quality and Sustainability*
- Brittany Hailey- *Office of Environmental Quality and Sustainability*
- Kevin Overton- *Office of Environmental Quality and Sustainability*
- Susan Alvarez- *Office of Environmental Quality and Sustainability*
- Danielle McClelland- *Office of Environmental Quality and Sustainability*
- Nedra Richard- *Office of Environmental Quality and Sustainability*

Absentees

- Densi Qualis- *Dallas Water Utilities*
- Neva Dean- *Sustainable Development*
- Meenal Chauk- *Sustainable Development*
- Luis Tamayo- *Planning and Urban Design*
- Liz Cedillo- Pererira- *Office of Welcoming Communities and Immigrant Affairs*
- Robin Bentley- *Economic Development*
- Katlin Bower- *City Manager's Office*

The purpose of the first meeting was to introduce staff to the project objectives, scope and schedule and to gather cross departmental information on concerns, opportunities and goals on each sector likely to be part of the plan. The project team presented the main sectors and invited ideas on opportunity for further action within each.

The project team also sought information on ongoing and future planning initiatives in other departments to investigate possible collaboration to avoid duplication of efforts and align recommendations. Finally, the progress status on actions as documented in existing plans was collected through one-on-one conversation with departmental staff.



Photos from the session

Agenda

12.00 - 12.15	Lunch
12.15 - 12.30	Introductions
12.30 - 1.00	Introduction to the CECAP
1.00 - 2.00	Key initiatives for each sector and departmental goals (Session 1)
2.00 - 2.15	Break
2.15 - 3.15	Key initiatives for each sector and departmental goals (Session 2)
3.15 - 3.30	Wrap-up and next steps
3.30 - 4.30	One-on-one actions collection from key department leads

What success looks like?

As an ice breaker, participants shared what they considered success for the plan would be.

- Pathways to integrated working together
- Engage neighborhoods not usually reached and very affected
- Understanding balance of providing services within the city and outside
- Public and staff to understand environmental tradeoff of decisions
- Cultivate shift in leadership
- Get people to talk about the environment
- Residents feel like a part of the plan and their interests are reflected in it
- Better educating staff and residents on the importance of the plan
- Plan aligned across different departments
- Create a living breathing document
- Decision making tool
- A plan that is sustainable and measurable
- Plan implementation is successful
- Consensus with residents and business on climate adaptation and actions
- Realistic goals within financial constraints

- Feasible but small goals
- Tangible outcomes not just recommendations- e.g. land use changes
- Monitoring success
- Plan to help residents prepare for disasters
- Heavy on education: Dallas affects the whole region
- Energy efficient buildings and more incentives
- Address urban heat island impact in city
- Better use of PACE funding
- Dallas listed above Austin in Green City listings

Feedback on Scope, Engagement Strategy and Plan/ Data Review

The committee was happy with the scope, engagement strategy and plan/ data review memos. Department representatives were happy to collaborate with project team on ongoing planning initiatives where possible. The attendees requested that subsequent meetings are scheduled well in advance and material for review is provided at least a week before the meeting to provide sufficient time for preparation.

Issues, Initiatives and Departmental Goals

Water and Wastewater

Issues and concerns

Themes	Concerns
Flooding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of investment in infrastructure – for both energy and water- exacerbates the inequalities of that community (flood plain concerns) and is a social justice issue. • Flooding in areas which previously were not prone to flooding.
Stormwater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stormwater retention standards are needed.
Water quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water quality of water ways- both ecological and recreational waterbodies.

Initiatives and Opportunities

Themes

Ideas and Opportunities

Reclaimed water	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Purple pipes (2) supplies reclaimed water to city golf course for watering landscape from the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Opportunity for more?• Reclaimed water for fleet cleaning.• Collect water from fleet cleaning for other uses such as watering landscape.
Landscape and irrigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promote xeriscape.• Use less water for irrigation through installing smart water technology.• Install drought tolerant turf for lawns and sports fields.• Time of use of irrigation equipment to reduce loss through evaporation.• Incorporation of green infrastructure into right of ways from the Complete Streets manual to go into code.
Energy generation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Solar farm at waste water treatment plants.• Cogen facilities exist at the treatment plants exists. This contributes to 50% of the plant's operation energy requirements.
Operation efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• More efficient fuel filling of Dallas Water Utilities' fleet.• More efficient route and job scheduling for Dallas Water Utilities' fleet.
Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dallas Water Utilities' strategy plan to be updated in May 2019. The plan will further water conservation and drought contingency efforts.• 32 watersheds plans will be consolidated into one master plan.• All new sites are required to use alternate pavement material e.g. permeable.• Need to prioritize funding for neighborhood drainage plans.• Education: create a public place to learn about water and Dallas ecology.• Target 5% less usage.

Food and Urban Agriculture

Issues and concerns

Themes

Concerns

All	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dallas doesn't have a strong local food production system.• Climate is not as conducive as Austin's to growing food.• Definition of 'local' is not clear.• Within food deserts, the market doesn't support grocery stores. This is an income based problem. Mobile options may also be expensive.• Affordability of healthy food options.• Barriers to access e.g. Amazon Prime membership to access discounted rates at Whole Foods.
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Initiatives and Opportunities

Themes

Ideas and Opportunities

Food recovery initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Love Field Airport donates food to 3rd party distributor (via an EPA program). Initiative to expand to all concession stands.• Convention center donates to NGO (homeless in downtown) via an EPA program.
Food security	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Blue cross blue shield meal kit delivery- on going pilot program.• CIO: 2016 food security plan- lists 5 goals. This included programs for indoor urban agriculture.• UNT Dallas+ Toyota+ DART pilot project: mobile grocery store that goes to food deserts.

Transportation and Land use

Issues and concerns

- NA

Initiatives and Opportunities

Themes

Ideas and Opportunities

Transportation Demand Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focus on Transportation Demand Management (TDM) strategies. Increase outreach to employers to promote TDM measures.• Alternate work schedules.• Coordinate with employers and stagger commuting.• Congestion pricing.
Transportation Network Companies (TNC) and scooter/ e-bike	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The city has access to TNC (e.g. Uber and Lyft) data snapshots but no access to all data sets.• The city has access to data from e-bike/ scooter vendors (e.g. Line, Bird).• SMU and other data analyst companies to work with city to look at trends of TNC and scooters.• Dedicated drop off and pick-up areas for TNC in busy neighborhoods. Pilot project in Deep Ellum.• DART tracks if TNC's impact transit usage.
Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Safe route to schools program.• Uber elevate to launch by 2020 –Dallas to be pilot site.

Buildings and Energy

Issues and concerns

Themes	Concerns
All	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Energy audits are conducted independently by each department and not on a regular basis.• Results from the weatherization program not analyzed.• Refurbishment of existing buildings in a sustainable manner.

Initiatives and Opportunities

Themes	Ideas and Opportunities
Efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hire a consultant to advice on energy efficiency- Energy audits are conducted independently by each department and not on a regular basis.• 13% decrease of energy usage over last 10 years (for City buildings).• More LED lights, HVAC efficiency and solar roofs.• A code for International Energy Conservation standards for buildings was adopted this year.• City should partner to oversee the weatherization program. Habitat for Humanity could be a potential partner.• Oncor commercial efficiency program has good cost benefit incentive.• PACE funding is available for multifamily/commercial buildings. It was launched in 2016 but only 2 projects applied. Need to market the program.
Adoption of renewable energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The city has hired a consultant to formulate a green energy policy. Previously, this was commitment for city facilities and 100% Renewable energy goal was achieved through purchasing credits.• Desire to self-generate renewable energy for the city.• Batteries for energy storage in downtown neighborhoods. Similar to program in LA. The batteries are only the size of dumpsters.• State level incentives to encourage adoption of renewables at grid level.• A study by Rice University shows that wind and solar can generate all energy required for Dallas.
Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Energy benchmarking ordinance/ Energy consumption disclosure ordinance.

Solid Waste

Issues and concerns

Themes	Concerns
All	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dallas throws away most trash per capita in the region.• 2/3rds of the waste is from commercial sector.• Texas has cheapest disposal rates in the country.• Don't have citywide facilities for composting.

Initiatives and Opportunities

Themes	Ideas and Opportunities
Recycle	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Apartment buildings have no mandatory recycling. By 2020 ordinance will require recycling- valet waste must also include recycling.• Dallas recycled material is sold locally but increasing pricing pressure on US market.• There is less market potential for collecting low value recycling material – as there is less return.• There are ~400 drop off recycling points in Dallas.
Compost	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Separate Ordinance for composting can be considered. Currently this is a strategy and a chapter in the Solid Waste plan.• Dallas's compostable waste is majority garden waste. Need dedicated facility for composting (chicken and egg conundrum)• Landfill already has a dedicated area for composting.• Sanitation department does not take enough effort to divert municipal green turf waste from waste stream.
Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adaptation strategies for operation during extreme heat: increase in staffing, workers take a break when it's over 100 degrees and have different schedule.• WWTP sludge treated and disposed onsite. It does not contribute to landfill waste.• In 2015 City looked at creating food waste into slurry for generating energy. But cost was too high.

Parks and Open Spaces

Issues and concerns

- NA

Initiatives and Opportunities

Themes	Ideas and Opportunities
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Masterplans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The last Parks Master Plan was completed in 2016. The plan focused on open space linkages and trails use for commuters. • Trails master plan needs updates. • 8 mile creek masterplan just updated.
Ordinance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amendments to landscape ordinance to promote drought tolerant trees, and encourage large canopy trees. • Ordinance for large developments with over 100 units mandates conservation easements. • Ordinance for tree preservation mandate that for new development, over 2 acres, any trees cut down must be mitigated. • Required to have trees in all single family residential dwelling front yards. Raise awareness about this rule. Difficult to enforce.
Right- of- way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NCTCOG is working with department of transportation on tree canopy in right of ways. • The city has an urban forestry advising committee that advocates for canopy cover on street medians.
Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities for partnership between private and public agencies. • TPL smart growth Dallas is a decision making tool. • Encourage replacement of trees lost during intense storms. • Tree give away programs. • Tree count inventory through crowdsourcing. • Wildflower initiatives, "no-mow" areas.

Air Quality

Issues and concerns

- NA

Initiatives and Opportunities

Themes	Ideas and Opportunities
All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost- benefits for parks should take improvements to air quality into account. • Promote alternative fuels and methods to use equipment more efficiently. • Smart metering- Expand to DISD owned property. • Pilot projects that include nature based solutions, urban design and TDM strategies. • Subsidies for carpooling. • Employer incentives to walk to work.

Climate

Issues and concerns

Themes	Concerns
All	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drainage standards based on record storms. These are inadequate and outdated standards.• Schools have to build tornado shelters. This increases construction cost.• Impact on health care costs (asthma).• Increased ground level ozone.• Impact on public health- increase in water, air and vector borne diseases.

Initiatives and Opportunities

Themes	Ideas and Opportunities
All	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trees lost to drought are not replaced. Need reforestation programs.• Existing 2015 study of risk to critical transportation infrastructure. Study conducted by UTA, NCTCOG and MPO for Dallas-Fort Worth Metropolitan Region.• Building code requires updates to reflect changing climate.

Follow up

There are several ongoing planning initiatives in other departments the project team can collaborate with. These are-

- The Strategic Mobility Plan (SMP) - The SMP will need to lead on mobility recommendations. The timeline aligns with CECAPs and there are possible opportunities to collaborate on public engagement and recommendation formulation. The SMP will test three transit investment scenarios. The project team should work collaboratively in testing these scenarios for achieving GHG emissions target. Conversely, the SMP could include emission reduction as a key performance index. The SMP will address all themes except fuel mix. Chelsea St. Louis to provide scope of work with AECOM.
- Share Stakeholder Engagement Plan with SMP team and liaise over transportation content used in community meetings so that it can be used by the SMP team.
- The comprehensive plan Forward Dallas will begin its update in fall 2019. Any 'climate smart development' actions can be included in the comprehensive plan
- The Solid waste plan will be updated this year. It includes a component of stakeholder engagement and a potential opportunity for collaboration.
- Urban forestry masterplan to be undertaken by Texas Trees Foundation.

At the end of the session, the project team had one-on-one conversations with department representatives to record progress on actions collected in the plan review inventory. The project teams coordinated follow-ups to complete this exercise.

The attendees requested that subsequent meetings are scheduled well in advance and material for review is provided at least a week before the meeting.