

CECAP Community Meetings Round 1

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Hello and thank you for taking the time to share your concerns and ideas that will shape Dallas' Comprehensive Environmental and Climate Action Plan. We'll refer to it as 'the CECAP' for short. With your help, together, we'll create a roadmap that the city can use to improve the quality of life for Dallasites and protect our community from impacts of climate change.

This presentation is intended to provide an alternative for those unable to attend the in-person community workshops but includes much of the same information.

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Today's presentation will give you an introduction to some climate and environmental topics that affect Dallas and North Texas, the project's objectives, ways in which you can be involved, and finally a short survey where you can provide feedback today!

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Last year, Mayors across the U.S., including Mayor Mike Rawlings committed to meeting the targets set by the International Paris Agreement, which aims to limit global temperatures from rising above 1.5 degrees Celsius.¹ Doing this will substantially reduce the impacts we'll discuss further in this presentation.

Dallas City council approved this initiative in September 2018 and is being led by the department of Environmental Quality and Sustainability.

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Let's start with a short video produced by the Future of Storytelling with Climate Scientist, Dr. Katherine Hayhoe explaining why temperature rise is a problem.

<https://vimeo.com/151923918>

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So how will climate change impact Dallas specifically?

Recent reports² predict that:

- The average temperature is likely to increase by 5 degrees F by 2040.

¹ "Climate Mayors". 2019. *ClimateMayors.Org*. <http://climatemayors.org/>.

² "Fourth National Climate Assessment". 2019. *Nca2018.Globalchange.Gov*.
<https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/>.

- There are likely to be 30-60 additional days of extreme heat by 2100.
- Extreme thunderstorms are expected to increase by 40% by the year 2100.
- We are likely to experience more intense droughts and floods.
- And more days of poor air quality exacerbated by the heat.

For those of you who have lived in Dallas for a while, you've probably experienced most of these things first-hand.

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Some of you may remember the drought in 2011.

According to the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts the state received an average of about 11 inches of rain, about 16 inches less than on average years.

The drought created several challenges for us. Much of Texas is covered in clay-rich soils that expand and contract when soil moisture is lost. That meant our schools and recreation centers closed more than two dozen athletic fields due to cracks in the soil up to two feet deep. You can only imagine how dangerous this was for kids using these facilities.³

The Texas Forest Service reported that the 2011 drought killed about 5.6 million trees in urban areas across the state, and without trees, our streets only get hotter⁴. From this example, you can see how interconnected these challenges are!

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The pictures show Loop 12 at I-30 flooded on May 29th, 2015. Hundreds of vehicles became trapped when high water submerged the lowest points of Loop 12. Some drivers were stranded for nearly six hours, gridlocked by vehicles and water.⁵

This storm caused about \$50 million in storm damage to parks, roads, fire and police vehicles, and the cost of debris removal. For the state of Texas, 2015 was the wettest year on record.

The unincorporated areas of Dallas County estimated \$10,500 related to oil spill cleanup.⁶

³ Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. 2012. "The Impact Of The 2011 Drought And Beyond". https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth542095/m2/1/high_res_d/txcs-0790.pdf.

⁴ "Texas Tree Death Toll From Drought Hits 5.6 Million, Says Forest Service". 2012, <https://www.chron.com/neighborhood/bellaire/news/article/Texas-tree-death-toll-from-drought-hits-5-6-9326605.php>.

⁵ "Loop 12 Reopens At Interstate 30 After Flooding Friday". 2015. <https://www.nbcdfw.com/news/local/Loop-12-at-I-30-Could-Re-Open-Monday-TXDOT-305640101.html>.

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Every summer, Dallas County releases a 'heat related illness surveillance report.' In the summer of 2018, around 600 heat related illnesses were recorded. These include heat cramps, exhaustion, heat strokes and death.⁷

As we know, the elderly and young are particularly vulnerable to heat related illnesses. Texas has the nearly 840,000 people aged 65 and older, or less than 5 years old, living below the poverty line.⁸

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We already know that ozone can trigger a variety of health problems including chest pain, coughing, throat irritation, and worsen existing lung conditions such bronchitis and asthma.

Ground-level ozone (or "smog") is formed when pollution from vehicles and power plants is released into the air and combines with sunlight and heat. So, if there's more sunlight and heat, there will be more ozone in the air.

As you can see from the examples, there is a cascading effect and these extreme weather events will create challenges for all of us, but even more for those living in poverty.

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How can the CECAP help?

- Prepare our community for the impacts of climate change
- Create a healthier and prosperous community
- Improve the quality of life for our residents
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- And encourage our residents and businesses to take action!

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Now that we've looked at what climate change is, what is causing it, why it is a threat to our community, let's look at where 'our heat trapping gasses' or our emissions are coming from.

The city of Dallas conducted a green house gas inventory for community wide emissions in 2015.

⁶ NCTCOG. 2015. "North Central Texas Floods May-June 2015".

<https://www.nctcog.org/nctcg/media/Environment-and-Development/Documents/Floodplain%20Management/FloodReportFinal.pdf>.

⁷ "Heat Related Report". 2019. *Dallascounty.Org*.

<https://www.dallascounty.org/departments/dchhs/heat-related-report.php>.

⁸ "Texas Is Behind In Preparing For Its Climate Threats". 2019. *Reportcard.Statesatrisk.Org*.

<http://reportcard.statesatrisk.org/report-card/texas>.

64% of our emissions come from buildings and energy. This refers to all the energy that is required for us to power our buildings- Everything from air-conditioning, heating, lighting, and cooking, requires energy. Our plan will need to find ways to reduce emissions from buildings.

The second largest sector is transportation which contributes to 34% of all emissions. This includes pollution released by our cars, trucks, busses, trains and airplanes. We will look to reduce emissions from this sector by working the City of Dallas Transportation Department on their Strategic Mobility Plan.

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In this project, we'll begin by understanding the challenges and actions the city is already doing. With you, we will create a vision for the future, develop community-based solutions and develop a pathway, or roadmap towards implementation. Throughout this process, a stakeholder advisory committee with broad representation will also provide input. We'll wrap up in early 2020 and create a document for the community to celebrate at Earth Day in 2020!

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Throughout the process, a stakeholder advisory committee will oversee the progress of the project and provide targeted input at each stage. This committee is made of individuals representing Dallas' businesses, and folks in advocacy, governance, public health and academia.

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We're having 6 meetings across the city so please tell your friends and family in case they can come! Find more details on this website.

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Thank you so much for tuning in and please now take the survey! Please also share the survey with anyone concerned about the future of our City. The survey will focus on issues that you are concerned about and get your initial ideas on how we should be addressing them. Thank you!

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(End)