

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE April 1, 2024

TO Honorable Chair Stewart and Members of the Parks, Trails, and the Environment Committee

SUBJECT **Environmental Commission Update**

2024 Environmental Commission Strategic Planning Workshop

On January 27, 2024, the commission held its second annual strategic planning workshop. The report was approved during the commission's March 6, 2024, meeting and is attached for your review.

Vote to Recommend Support of Spring and Fall Lights Out DFW Initiative

The commission unanimously voted in favor of recommending that the council support a twice-annual Lights Out DFW initiative via proclamation or ordinance. The city currently issues a proclamation during the spring peak bird migration season (March 1 – June 15) to reduce bird fatalities caused by building illumination. The commission's recommendation would add the peak fall migration period (August 15 – November 30).

Examples of bird-safe codes from across the country can be found at: <https://bird-friendly.yale.edu/usa-policy-database>.

A draft proposed lighting ordinance was provided by Audubon Texas:

EXAMPLE ORDINANCE

TEXAS MODEL OUTDOOR LIGHTING ORDINANCE

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE XX.X OF DALLAS CODE OF ORDINANCES; MODIFYING REGULATIONS FOR LIGHTING; PROVIDING FOR THE FOLLOWING: RULES; STANDARDS; PROCEDURES; AND, AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Section X. Chapter X of title X of the administrative code of the City of _____ is amended by adding a new section xxx read as follows:

§ XXX Limitation on nighttime illumination in city-owned or leased buildings during peak avian migration periods. a. For the purposes of this article, the following terms shall have the following meanings.

Non-essential outdoor lighting. The term "non-essential outdoor lighting" means lighting that has not been deemed essential for either safety or functionality as determined by an agency designated by the mayor or by the owner of a leased building.

Peak avian migration period. The term “peak avian migration period” means the period from March 1 through June 15 and the period from August 15 through November 30, as recommended by Audubon Texas and Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

b. For city-owned buildings, and buildings leased by the city in which the city is the only tenant, non-essential outdoor lighting shall be turned off between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. during peak avian migration periods.

c. For buildings leased by the city, where the city is not the only tenant, the agency leasing such building shall use its best efforts to include a provision in such lease requiring that non-essential outdoor as well as indoor lighting be turned off between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. during peak avian migration periods.

§ 2. This local law takes effect immediately, provided that it shall apply only to leases entered into on or after such date.

Commission Events and Outreach

With Earth Month and Earth Day approaching, the commission will be supporting several upcoming events, including:

- North Texas Climate Symposium on Thursday, April 4, at the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center
- Oak Cliff Earth Day on Sunday, April 21 at Lake Cliff Park
- EarthX from April 22 – April 26

Please reach out with any questions.



Kathryn Bazan
Chair, City of Dallas Environmental Commission

c: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
Tammy Palomino, Interim City Attorney
Mark Swann, City Auditor
Billierae Johnson, City Secretary
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge
Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, Deputy City Manager
Jon Fortune, Deputy City Manager

Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager
M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira, Assistant City Manager
Dr. Robert Perez, Assistant City Manager
Jack Ireland, Chief Financial Officer
Genesis D. Gavino, Chief of Staff to the City Manager
Directors and Assistant Directors



Environmental Commission Strategic Planning Workshop Report

January 27, 2024

4DWN | 2633 Ferris St. Dallas, TX 75226

Meeting facilitated by Clark Brockman, Brockman Climate Strategies

[Agenda](#)

Common Abbreviations

OEQS: Office of Environmental Quality & Sustainability

EVC: Environmental Commission

CECAP: Comprehensive Environmental & Climate Action Plan

PTE: Parks, Trails, & the Environment Council Committee

EJ: Environmental Justice Subcommittee

EHC: Environmental Health Committee

O&E: Outreach & Engagement Subcommittee

IMP: Implementation Subcommittee

SPI: Strategic Partnerships & Innovation Subcommittee

Resources

[Brockman Climate Strategies](#)

[4DWN](#)

[EVC Webpage](#)

[CECAP - full plan](#)

[OEQS Webpage \(Green Dallas\)](#)

[PTE Committee Members](#)

[PTE Committee Priorities](#)

[EVC 2022 Strategic Planning Workshop Report](#)

[EVC FY23 Annual Report](#)

[CECAP FY24 Implementation Work Plan](#)

[City of Dallas Sustainable Procurement Policy](#)

[Dallas Community Air Management Program \(D-CAMP\) Dashboard](#)

[City of Dallas Racial Equity Plan](#)

[City of Dallas Forward Dallas Comprehensive Land Use Plan Draft #3](#)

[City of Dallas Comprehensive Urban Agriculture Plan](#)

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP

January 27, 2024

All Commission Discussion

The commission discussed ground rules, reviewed background materials, and deliberated desired outcomes.

Committee Breakouts

Each of the 5 subcommittees separated into groups to develop up to 3 priorities for the year in line with the [CECAP FY24 Implementation Work Plan](#) and the [PTE Committee priorities](#).

Committee Report-outs

- **Outreach & Engagement (O&E):** “Create inclusive, two-way community communication and support community-led accountability related to environmental issues.”
 - **Goal 1:** Support every commissioner in hosting at least one community meeting in their district before the end of 2024.
 - This includes development of a questionnaire including names of known partners, venues, and challenges.
 - This also includes creation of a "meeting in a box" toolkit with a PowerPoint and outreach materials.
 - Conduct an end-of-year engagement audit.
 - Who are we reaching and not reaching? Identify opportunities for more equitable outreach.
 - **Goal 2:** Generate awareness through digital platforms.
 - Create one post a month of content each commissioner can share on their own personal channels (includes an image, graphic and caption), which will be distributed through the Board Coordinator. These can be shared on social media, in newsletters, on Nextdoor, etc.
 - Collaborate with subcommittees on content ideas related to what each subcommittee is working on and/or topics that are pertinent to them.
- **Implementation (IMP):** “Identify and leverage all resources, including data, funding, incentives, and strategic partnerships needed to accomplish the CECAP’s goals.”
 - **Goal 1:** Review the [sustainable procurement policy](#).
 - Remove barriers; improve execution and follow-through.
 - Identify loopholes that allow procurement of goods and services that are not compliant with this policy.
 - Prioritize and recommend changes that include mandates.
 - Coordinate with the O&E Subcommittee to educate staff and contractors.
 - Quarterly goals

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- Q1: Gather information; research the sustainable procurement policy.
 - Q2: Prioritize recommendations.
 - Q2-Q4: Coordinate with O&E and SPI Subcommittees to educate staff and contractors.
 - Q3: Provide a formal recommendation to the PTE Committee.
 - Bike rack (important ideas that should be revisited)
 - Explore nature-based infrastructure instead of lawns at City-owned property.
 - Support implementation of radiant barrier requirements for re-roofing.
 - Support storing all electric lawn equipment batteries at resilience hubs / recreation centers where the equipment will be used.
 - Support action SW3 on the CECAP FY24 Implementation Work Plan by focusing on recycling education at community cleanup events.
 - Support food waste to energy programs.
 - Greening factor and parking reform.
 - Code enforcement reform.
 - Support CECAP branding; add the CECAP logo and goal branding to all City communications (internal and external), similar to the United Nations Sustainability Goals, to show which efforts align with which CECAP goals.
- **Environmental Justice (EJ):** “Advance environmental equity by encouraging the City to codify equity into its laws and processes. Equitable solutions should meet the varying needs of each community.”
 - **Goal 1:** Hold 6 meetings (including 3 with stakeholders and Council Members).
 - Discuss food access; identify a Council Member (potentially a member of the PTE Committee) who will assist with the FA14 action within Goal 7 on the CECAP FY24 Implementation Work Plan.
 - Hold 3 meetings with neighbors to address food access and connect them to resources, including City staff.
 - Work with the O&E Subcommittee on social media content; work on persuasive storytelling.
 - Quarterly goals
 - Q1: Preparation and research.
 - Q2: Hold 2 meetings; work on social media outreach.
 - Q3 – Q4: Hold 2 meetings each quarter.
- **Environmental Health (EH):** “Prioritize public and environmental health by advancing the City’s Greenhouse Gas emissions reductions efforts to meet the 2030 Interim Target and 2050 Carbon Neutrality Target.”

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- **Goal 1:** Improve indoor air quality by improving weatherization through integrated business education and partnership development.
 - Impact: Number of businesses engaged.
 - Relevance: Improved weatherization decreases greenhouse gas emissions.
 - Quarterly goals
 - Q1: Reach out to OEQS to identify target businesses.
 - Q2: Research weatherization programs.
 - Q3 – Q4: Educate businesses on these programs.
- **Goal 2:** Strengthen the City of Dallas Environmental Justice Screening Tool (under development) and the Dallas Community Air Management Program (D-CAMP) with greater data integration and partnerships with hospital systems and higher education.
 - Quarterly goals
 - Q1: Reach out to OEQS to establish target partnerships, establish a protocol for outreach, and engage outside stakeholders.
 - Q2: Look for 4 institutions to partner with; get at least 1 to engage.
 - Q3: Develop an implementation plan.
 - Q4: Begin implementing.
- **Strategic Partnerships & Innovation (SPI):** “Identify and leverage all resources, including data, funding, incentives, and strategic partnerships needed to accomplish the CECAP’s goals. Transform the City of Dallas into a hub for environmental innovation.”
 - Prior to the workshop, the SPI Subcommittee took a survey to identify interests, technical knowledge, and relationships to help engage the private sector on the topics of Buildings, Renewable Energy, Alternate Fuel Infrastructure (within the Transportation goal). Upon reviewing the survey results, the group highlighted 3 potential priority actions from the FY24 CECAP Implementation Work Plan:
 - B13: Establish urban greening factor requirements for new developments that quantify how projects contribute to urban greening for reduced stormwater runoff and urban heat island improvements.
 - B15: Evaluate potential city-owned properties for the creation of ‘resilience hubs.’
 - E5: Build regional strategic partnerships to promote adopting renewable energy (rooftop solar).
 - The group decided to focus on incentives to motivate the private sector to realize meaningful positive change in action B13 (urban greening), which easily encompasses 6 of the 8 CECAP goals. This focus will allow alignment with other subcommittee goals (EHC and EJ), with ongoing work by City of Dallas departments (like the [ForwardDallas plan](#)), and with other regional organizations.

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- S.M.A.R.T. goal: By year end, SPI will work with the City Council to recommend an ordinance to establish incentives deemed most effective by stakeholders. The group will develop a quarterly workplan to outline process, partners, and key decisions.
 - Quarterly goals
 - Q1: Discovery to understand history and precedence, within and beyond Dallas. Prepare for stakeholder engagement. Partner with O&E, EHC, and EJ Subcommittees.
 - Q2: Stakeholder engagement; what would effectively incentivize change? Identify possible pilot locations to add context and specificity.
 - Q3: Finalize stakeholder engagement.
 - Q4: Incorporate any additional feedback received. Draft ordinance recommendation with IMP Subcommittee.

Cross-Committee Collaboration

- Alignment
 - SPI + O&E
 - Support urban greening factor efforts.
 - Hold district meetings to inform potential SPI incentives.
 - The innovation aspect of SPI has synergies with O&E.
 - SPI will approach business groups and can use O&E presentation materials.
 - SPI + IMP
 - IMP can support SPI implementation (e.g. on the 2024 Bond recommendations).
 - SPI + EHC
 - Can collaborate on business outreach related to weatherization.
 - EJ + O&E + EHC
 - Collaborate on weatherization education internally.
 - O&E + EJ
 - Collaborate on “sizzle reel” for social media.
 - IMP + O&E
 - Identify environmental groups for outreach.

Summary and Next Steps

- Each subcommittee should finish their workplan for the year by March 1st.
- Each subcommittee chair should do a brief presentation on their report during the March EVC meeting.
- Anyone who is absent during this workshop should get a briefing from their subcommittee chair before the draft workplan is finalized.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP
January 27, 2024

Erin Diehl

Drafted by:
Erin Diehl, Board Coordinator
Office of Environmental Quality & Sustainability

03/01/2024

Date

Kathryn Bazan

Approved by:
Kathryn Bazan, Chair
Environmental Commission

03/06/2024

Date