

# Memorandum



DATE August 1, 2022

CITY OF DALLAS

TO Honorable Members of the Environment & Sustainability Committee: Paula Blackmon (Chair), Paul Ridley (Vice Chair), Carolyn King Arnold, Adam Bazaldua, Jaime Resendez, Jaynie Schultz, Chad West

SUBJECT **OEQS Legislative Priorities**

The 88<sup>th</sup> Session of the Texas Legislature will convene in January 2023 and many issues affecting local governments will be considered. This memorandum provides information on recommendations the Office of Environmental Quality and Sustainability submitted to the Office of Government Affairs for possible inclusion in the City of Dallas Legislative Program. Items included in the adopted legislative program will be submitted the Texas Legislature for their consideration.

As background, In May 2020, the City adopted the Comprehensive Environmental and Climate Action Plan (CECAP) that established the pathway to guide the city towards addressing climate and environmental risk with effective, equitable, and common-sense solutions. The CECAP has established a goal to reduce the City of Dallas greenhouse gas emissions by 43 percent by 2030 and 100% by 2050. The following recommended environmental legislative priorities support the actions in the City's CECAP:

- Support legislation related to batch plants that require, for example: buffers between the plant and neighborhoods; onsite air monitoring; controls on stacks; annual inspections.
- Support legislation related to grid improvements and distributed energy resources (e.g., battery, solar, wind).
- Supporting legislation related to climate and climate mitigation and adaptation actions.
- Supporting legislation that advances the use of electric vehicles and EV infrastructure.
- Supporting legislation that advances environmental justice, such as: incentives for infrastructure investment in populations disproportionately impacted by pollution; enhanced community engagement by State agencies; and fund an Office of Environmental Justice in the Office of the Public Interest Counsel.
- Support legislation that encourages the donation of pre-consumer edible food from food service vendors directly to those in need.
- Prevent the narrowing of the definition of State waters.

- Support legislation that expands public participation/community involvement in State decision-making processes.
- Support legislation that expands producer responsibility.
- Support legislation that advances the reduction of harmful greenhouse gas emissions.
- Support legislation that bans the disposal into landfills of certain recyclable and organic materials.
- Support legislation to update substandard home stock (e.g., weatherization, energy efficiency, health and safety upgrades).
- Support legislation that promotes clean energy job creation and training.
- Support legislation that bans single use food containers (e.g., polystyrene).
- Support legislation that ensures greater coordination between TCEQ departments when issuing permits.
- Support legislation that requires and incentivizes the recycling of certain construction, remodeling, and demolition debris.
- Support legislation that encourages the use of alternative modes of transportation.
- Support legislation that requires the incorporation of reusable and recyclable materials into municipal road construction and maintenance projects.
- Support legislation that encourages the pickup and delivery of food and organic waste from food service vendors for composting.
- Support legislation that allows per ton surcharges on materials disposed in landfills to fund a variety of waste reduction and diversion activities.

The Office of Government Affairs is currently reviewing recommendations from all City departments. An update on the City of Dallas Legislative Program will be presented to the Legislative Ad Hoc Committee August 2, 2022. The final program will be presented to the full Council during the first quarter of FY23. If you have questions, or need additional information, please contact Carlos Evans, OEQS Director (214-670-1642), Susan Alvarez, OEQS Assistant Director (214-671-9505) or Sr. Climate Coordinator, Pharr Andrews (214-670-3291).



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