

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE March 6, 2023

TO Honorable Chair Blackmon and Members of the Environment & Sustainability Committee

SUBJECT **Environmental Commission Recommendations on 2024 Bond Performance Criteria**

On February 8, 2023, the Environmental Commission unanimously voted to approve the recommendation of the Strategic Partnerships and Innovation committee that 1) 2024 bond funding must support the goals and actions outlined in the Comprehensive Environmental & Climate Action Plan (CECAP) and earlier commitments made by the City of Dallas, prioritizing net zero carbon and social equity; and 2) performance specifications shall be easy to understand, aspirational and achievable.

This initiative is now underway, and the committee has invited expert third-party certification bodies and national and international real estate and construction industry policy NGOs to make performance specification recommendations. In early March, the committee will host two video conferences (one focused on buildings and another focused on parks and infrastructure) with city departments and offices to receive recommendations and guidance from the invited experts. The committee will then build consensus with local industry organizations and business leaders. The Office of Environmental Quality & Sustainability (OEQS) and the Environmental Commission look forward to working alongside the Environment & Sustainability Committee on this important initiative.

Strategic Partnerships and Innovation Committee Recommendations

The City of Dallas has demonstrated an **ongoing commitment to GHG reduction and comprehensive climate action for human health and equity since adopting its first Green Policy in 2003**. In 2006, through the U.S. Conference of Mayors Resolution #50,¹ Dallas pledged all new buildings to meet the 2030 Challenge targets: 70% below the regional (or country) average/ median GHG emissions for that building type, 80% reduction by 2020, 90% reduction by 2025 and carbon neutral in 2030. Significant renovations should achieve at least 70% reductions.²

In 2022, The City committed to the **U.S. Department of Energy's Better Building Challenge**³ to reduce by 50% scopes 1 and 2 GHG emissions for all 140 buildings in the city portfolio within 10 years. In the most recent audit, our 2019 performance shows scope 1 and 2 building

¹ <https://www.usmayors.org/the-conference/resolutions/?category=c1632&meeting=74th%20Annual%20Meeting>

² https://architecture2030.org/2030_challenges/2030-challenge/

³ <https://betterbuildingssolutioncenter.energy.gov/partners/dallas-tx>

DATE March 6, 2023
SUBJECT **Environmental Commission Recommendations on 2024 Bond Performance Criteria**

performance GHG reductions at 33%⁴ of the 2015 baseline, largely from converting to renewable energy.

Recommendation 1: 2024 bond funding must support the goals and actions outlined in CECAP and earlier commitments made by the City of Dallas, prioritizing net zero carbon and social equity.

In May 2020, City Council unanimously passed the Dallas CECAP after extensive stakeholder engagement and overwhelming support from diverse communities, businesses and policy organizations. Because climate change has the potential to **disrupt City operations** and **poses risk to infrastructure, built environment and public health**, our elected officials committed to:

- effectively and equitably protect the public health, safety and welfare of its residents
- lead the region in addressing climate change and environmental efforts
- reduce emissions, improve regional air quality and address the real consequences of climate change through coordinated local, state and federal action.

The 2024 Bond Program should demonstrate **fiscal responsibility** by integrating and holistically addressing the City's commitments, investments and opportunities for impact. The focus of the current (fiscal year 2022-23) budget is "Responsible, Equitable, Accountable and Legitimate (R.E.A.L) Impact." The City of Dallas is committed to deliver core programs and services, while also finding innovative ways to provide those things with greater efficiency, high effectiveness and increased transparency.⁵

Time is of the essence. If we are to reach our stated goals, City administration, City programs, industry and business leaders must collectively and urgently realize meaningful change to achieve CECAP goals, actions and other commitments the City of Dallas has made. This includes leading by example, demonstrating the market and business cases for high performance design and staying focused on fundamental and proven tactics of **urgent and sustained climate action**.

Recommendation 2: Performance specifications shall be easy to understand, aspirational and achievable.

In November 2022, OEQS requested the Environmental Commission recommend **building performance specifications** to achieve CECAP goals, with a priority on net zero carbon. The Strategic Partnership & Innovation subcommittee offered to solicit

⁴ Does not include airports, transportation or waste water treatment facilities

⁵ <https://www.dallascitynews.net/city-of-dallas-releases-proposed-budget-for-fy-2022-23-and-fy-2023-24>

DATE March 6, 2023
SUBJECT **Environmental Commission Recommendations on 2024 Bond Performance Criteria**

recommendations from national and international third-party certification bodies as well as policy NGOs. Then build consensus among local industry organizations and business leaders.



Kathryn Bazan
Chair, Environmental Commission

Attachment: *Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability. Summary for Policymakers*

CC:	T.C. Broadnax, City Manager	Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager
	Tammy Palomino, Interim City Attorney	M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira, Assistant City Manager
	Mark Swann, City Auditor	Dr. Robert Perez, Assistant City Manager
	Biliera Johnson, City Secretary	Carl Simpson, Assistant City Manager
	Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge	Jack Ireland, Chief Financial Officer
	Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, Deputy City Manager	Genesis D. Gavino, Chief of Staff to the City Manager
	Jon Fortune, Deputy City Manager	Directors and Assistant Directors

DATE March 6, 2023
SUBJECT **Environmental Commission Recommendations on 2024 Bond Performance Criteria**

Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability,⁶ contributing to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report (AR6), presents the **cumulative risk resulting from rising greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions** layered atop "strong interactions of the natural, social and climate systems."

- The most vulnerable people and systems are disproportionately affected and climate extremes have led to irreversible impacts. Climate resilience development across sectors and regions is critical to achieve a fair, equitable and sustainable world. As such, this demands the urgent attention of both policymakers and the general public.⁷
- In urban settings, climate change has caused impacts on human health, livelihoods and key infrastructure. Multiple climate and non-climate hazards impact cities, settlements and infrastructure and sometimes coincide, magnifying damage. Hot extremes including heat waves have intensified in cities, where they have also aggravated air pollution and limited functioning of key infrastructure. Observed impacts are concentrated amongst the economically and socially marginalized urban residents. Infrastructure, including transportation, water, sanitation and energy systems have been compromised by extreme and slow-onset events, with resulting economic losses, disruptions of services and impacts to well-being.⁸
- Global warming, reaching 1.5°C in the near-term, would cause unavoidable increases in multiple climate hazards and present multiple risks to ecosystems and humans. Near-term actions that limit global warming to close to 1.5°C would substantially reduce projected losses and damages related to climate change in human systems and ecosystems, compared to higher warming levels, but cannot eliminate them all.⁹
- Climate resilient development is enabled when governments, civil society and the private sector make inclusive development choices that prioritize risk reduction, equity and justice, and when decision-making processes, finance and actions are integrated across governance levels, sectors and timeframes. Climate resilient development is facilitated by governments at all levels, working with communities, civil society, educational bodies, scientific and other institutions, media, investors and businesses; and by developing partnerships with traditionally marginalized groups. These partnerships are most effective when supported by enabling political leadership, institutions, resources, including finance, as well as climate services, information and decision support tools.¹⁰

⁶ https://report.ipcc.ch/ar6/wg2/IPCC_AR6_WGII_FullReport.pdf

⁷ IPCC, 2022: Summary for Policymakers [H.-O. Pörtner, D.C. Roberts, E.S. Poloczanska, K. Mintenbeck, M. Tignor, A. Alegría, M. Craig, S. Langsdorf, S. Löschke, V. Möller, A. Okem (eds.)]. In: *Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability. Contribution of Working Group II to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change* [H.-O. Pörtner, D.C. Roberts, M. Tignor, E.S. Poloczanska, K. Mintenbeck, A. Alegría, M. Craig, S. Langsdorf, S. Löschke, V. Möller, A. Okem, B. Rama (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK and New York, NY, USA, pp. 3–33, doi:10.1017/9781009325844.001.

⁸ https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGII_SummaryForPolicymakers.pdf (B.1.5)

⁹ https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGII_SummaryForPolicymakers.pdf (B.3)

¹⁰ https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGII_SummaryForPolicymakers.pdf (D.2)