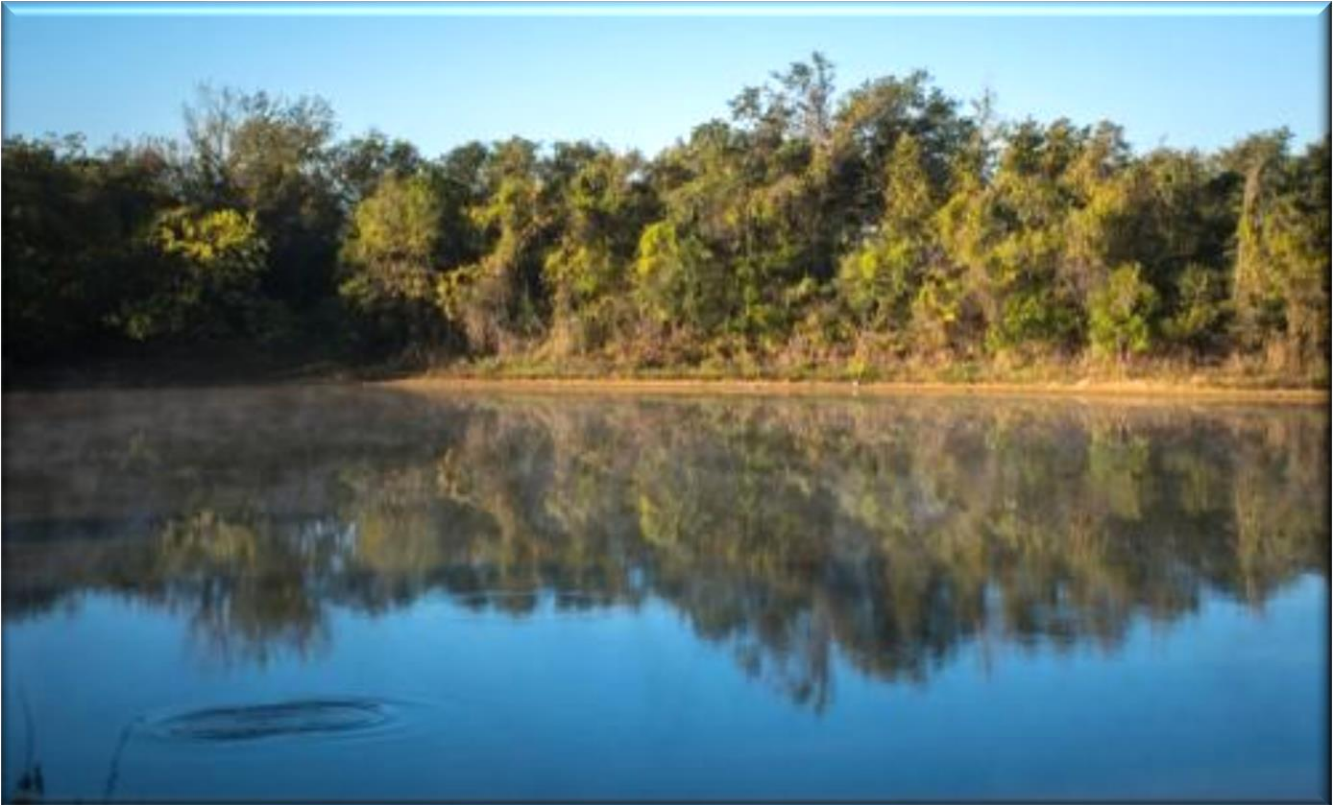


Presenting the Application for

*North Texas Regional Centre of Expertise  
on  
Education for Sustainable Development*



*Collective Impact Driven by Common Purpose*

## **Final Draft Submission September 7, 2018**

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*Cover Photo: Great Trinity Forest and River between Dallas and Fort Worth*

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# Introduction

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Texas is known the world over for its friendliness and southern hospitality, and for a frontier ethos of taking risks in hopes of big rewards. Cattle ranching, cotton farming and the discovery of oil made Texas an economic and development powerhouse. Today, technology, banking, telecommunications and research ensures Texas is at the forefront of growth. Texas is situated at the edge of the western frontier and stretches into the American Southwest of the United States. Being so large has contributed to a distinctly independent streak. Texas was even an independent republic for some time after gaining independence from Mexico and before joining the United States of America. This spirit of independence even extends to electrical power generation, transmission and distribution, whereby Texas is the only state in the nation to maintain its own electrical power grid. Compared to most states, Texas is physically enormous. As the second most populous state in the nation, the region of North Texas alone has a larger population than most of the other fifty states. The sixteen counties of North Texas encompass a diverse and vibrant demographic and economic region. Our region has grown dramatically over the past forty years, and it's about to get much more crowded, with growth projections indicating a more than doubling in population size from the current 7.2 million residents by the year 2050<sup>1</sup>. In this rapid growth scenario, all sectors of the region have grave concerns and raise the question: How will North Texas fare as it confronts exploding population projections and associated environmental, economic and social challenges?

At this pivotal moment for North Texas, the formation of a Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE) on Education for Sustainable Development would be an influencer in the community as cities expand, providing the resources to maximize the potential economic opportunity that well-managed communities can offer. The status quo is not sustainable; North Texas must embrace a proactive approach to addressing the challenges of urbanization. This conclusion – and the desire for a future that is better than a ‘business as usual’ scenario – is at the center of the sustainable development dialogue in North Texas. Fortunately, our region has an enviable cross section of higher educational institutions, US Fortune 500 companies, global corporations and tens of thousands of small, medium and large-sized businesses within the region. Many of these entities are working on award-winning sustainability and environmental projects within their own organizations but often without the inclusion of formal educational institutions. While admirable in their accomplishments, these projects often occur in individual ‘silos’ with little cross-sector learning being achieved. The time is right for the formation a North Texas RCE that will provide an overarching structure, allowing various organizations and institutions to align, connect, and collaborate in pursuit of commonly identified Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and embed a culture of continuous improvement and learning with a cross-sector approach to education for sustainable development.

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<sup>1</sup> Population expected to be 9.1 million in 2030, according to data from the North Central Texas Council of Governments

# A North Texas RCE: From Inspiration to Mobilization

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George Bernard Shaw once said, “If you have an apple and I have an apple and we exchange these apples then you and I will still each have one apple. But if you have an idea and I have an idea and we exchange these ideas, then each of us will have two ideas.” This inspiring quote captures the essence of the RCE concept and the development of an RCE for North Texas. Sharing ideas, best practices and education through the RCE gives everyone a chance to gain from the process.

The inspiration for North Texas RCE was sparked by a presentation highlighting the Greater Portland RCE. The potential revealed for North Texas was immediately obvious, namely the tying together of economic, environmental and social pillars of sustainability that reflect the complexity of pressing issues the region is confronting. Preliminary conversations with regional stakeholders revealed that so many sustainability professionals have been working in silos, with limited resources, and a network like the RCE concept would provide a platform to engage and expand the potential of everyone’s work. Additionally, there is significant growth in the corporate sector, with high-profile multinational corporations establishing North American headquarters in the region. Many of these companies are notable for corporate social responsibility (CSR), and a regional network would be invaluable to leverage their CSR efforts. Lastly, local governments recognize the potential for aligning their sustainability plans with the SDG framework and goals.

Ultimately, an RCE will draw people together: the success of any sustainability program requires engagement, participation and collaboration at all levels, across campus and beyond. Working together is vital in any successful endeavor, and sharing ideas is especially important in education. Institutions of higher education act as catalysts for sustainability efforts in cities and regions in which they are located. They are uniquely positioned to influence students, faculty and staff within their distinct campus community and the wider community. Today, most campus sustainability initiatives are comprised of cost savings initiatives, but economic benefits cannot be the only force behind sustainability. We must tap into the “moral imperative” rooted in systems thinking that everything is part of the puzzle of life on earth and aim to enhance the quality of life for everyone by developing more sustainable communities focused on the natural, built, economic, cultural and social environments.

As the anchor institution for a North Texas RCE, the Institute for Sustainable Global Impact (ISGI) was motivated to extend the reach of University of Texas at Arlington’s (UTA) Strategic Plan 2020, a bold set of initiatives and partnerships encompassing the four overarching themes of Health & the Human Condition, Sustainable Urban Communities, Global Environmental Impact and Data-Driven Discovery. Most, if not all, of the SDGs can be aligned underneath those themes, so it was a natural fit to bring the formal structure of a Regional Centre of Expertise to North Texas. Due to the collaborative nature of the RCE concept, the Strategic Plan was used to provide a structural starting point to begin analysis and is by no means intended to place UTA at the top of the organization’s structure. Outreach to multiple stakeholders across sectors was followed by a kickoff meeting in March 2018, in which representatives convened to determine the direction and focus of the North Texas RCE. Breakout sessions resulted in almost universal consensus that three SDGs would be the best focus for the region and provide a solid starting point to build capacity.

Ms. Meghna Tare, Executive Director of UTA's Institute for Sustainability Global Impact, leveraged the strong working relationships already in place between the university and various organizations representing multiple sectors. The RCE concept paper and other background information was well received, and a kickoff meeting was scheduled. At the kickoff meeting, a core group of diverse stakeholders representing a cross section of voices from various sectors volunteered to serve as the Coordinating Committee. Following the submittal of the application, this core group will use the momentum gained thus far to jumpstart the work on our selected target SDGs. In addition, we are continuing to introduce the RCE concept to other corporations, nonprofits and government institutions that either have programs that align with our SDGs or have expressed interest in developing programs that would fall within the scope of our SDGs. The response so far has been extremely positive, the private sector has been enthusiastic, and we are engaging more prominent stakeholders that will make a significant contribution to the success of the North Texas RCE.

In April of 2018, the Coordinating Committee and participating stakeholders convened to conduct in-depth work for the RCE application. Mission, vision, goal and objectives were addressed, and the team reached agreement on a proposed governance structure. A Steering Committee is currently being formed along with working groups to begin determining the best approach to address the team's stated goals and objectives. The teams will continue to develop over the autumn and winter of 2018 while the Ubuntu Committee of Peers evaluates this application.

Note: Evidently, a North Texas RCE existed in the past, but we have no knowledge of who was involved in creating or administering it, and what led to its apparent dissolution, nor have we been able to find administrator contact information of any kind. The Global RCE Network has also been unable to locate documentation on this RCE.

# North Texas RCE Geographical Scope

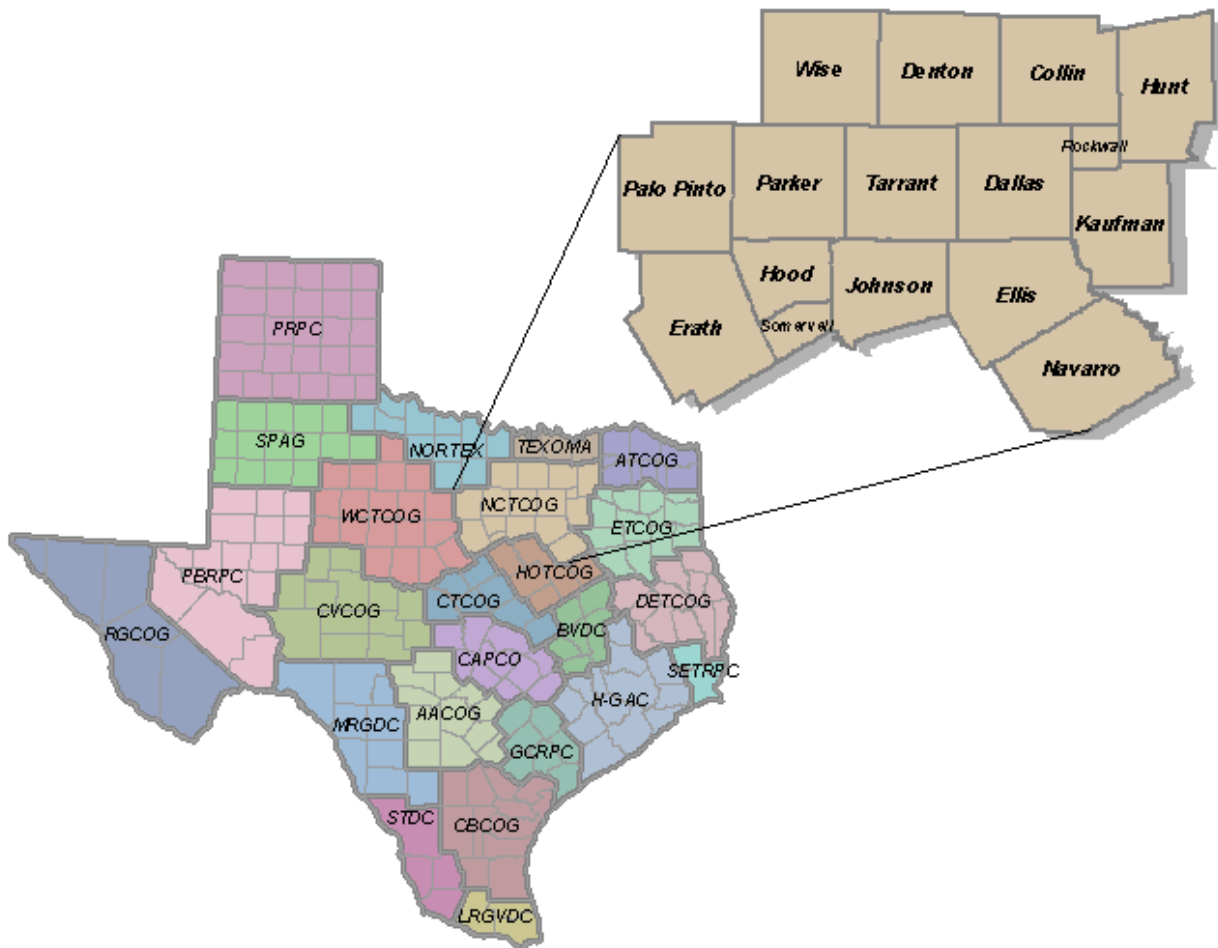
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The proposed geographical scope of the North Texas RCE comprises the sixteen counties of North Texas as shown in the maps below. This Regional delineation serves to describe the primary locations of the RCE stakeholders and the area in which our work will take place. However, as some of the stakeholders are multinational corporations or companies with other locations outside of the North Texas region, there is no doubt that the benefits of addressing the SDGs will be far reaching, felt well beyond North Texas.





Detail map of North Texas, formed by Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Erath, Hood, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Navarro, Palo Pinto, Parker, Rockwall, Somerville, Tarrant and Wise counties.<sup>2</sup>



<sup>2</sup> Much of the data used in this application is sourced from NCTCOG, a major stakeholder for the NTRCE.

# Overview of North Texas Ecosystems

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Of the ten ecoregions within the state of Texas, the sixteen-county North Texas RCE is located predominantly in two of them. Collin, Dallas, Ellis, Navarro, Hunt, Rockwall and Kaufman counties are in what is known as the Blackland Prairies ecoregion; while Denton, Tarrant, Johnson, Wise, Parker, Hood, Somervell, Palo Pinto and Erath counties are in the Cross-Timber ecoregion. The proximate dividing line between the two is the main corridor of the Trinity River as it runs between Dallas and Fort Worth. The Blackland Prairies ecoregion spans 6.1 million hectares from the Red River on the Texas-Oklahoma border to near San Antonio in South Texas. The Cross Timbers ecoregion stretches from Kansas and Oklahoma to an area just south of the North Texas geographic region.

## **Blackland Prairies Ecoregion**

The Texas Blackland Prairie is a temperate grassland ecoregion. The main belt consists of oak lands and savannas. The area was shaped from wildfires ignited by lightning which frequently swept the area, stimulating forbs and grasses. Large herds of bison grazed on the grasses and would trample and fertilize the soil, stimulating growth of the tallgrass system. Hunter-gatherers inhabited the prairie but were gradually replaced by a settled agrarian society. The advent of large-scale irrigated farming and ranching in the area ended the expansionary period of the prairie's formation and quickly led to widespread habitat loss. Because of soil and climate this ecoregion is ideally suited to crop agriculture. Most of the region has been converted to agricultural production, making the tallgrass the most endangered large ecosystem in North America.

The fauna of the ecoregion includes fox, frogs, lizards, rattlesnakes, opossums, coyotes, white-tailed deer and striped skunks. The area was formally home to buffalo, wolves and jaguars before overhunting and agriculture destroyed most of the tallgrass ecosystems. The soil from which the "Blackland" gets its name is a deep, dark-gray alkaline clay which was blackened from wildfires and controlled burns. In dry weather deep cracks form in the clay which can cause serious foundation problems to buildings and infrastructure. The landscape is gently rolling to nearly level, and elevations range from 300 to 800 feet above sea level.

## **Cross Timbers Ecoregion**

Early travelers who crossed through North Texas coined the name Cross Timbers as they encountered heavily timbered areas that impeded their travel. No metropolitan area lies wholly within the Cross Timbers region, with the boundary between Cross Timbers and Blackland Prairies being roughly the half-way point between the cities of Dallas on the east and Fort Worth on the west, thus bisecting what is known as the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex.

The Cross Timbers ecoregion is home to diverse flora and fauna. Historically, bison, prairie dogs, black-footed ferrets, burrowing owls, mountain lions and black bears inhabited the region, but these are mostly gone. The region is still a sanctuary for coyotes, bobcats, foxes, wild turkeys and white-tailed deer. The ecoregion lies within the Central Flyway of avian migration, and migratory birds, waterfowl and raptors pass through the area or stop for breeding and wintering. The ecoregion has areas with a high density of eastern red cedar, black oak, black hickory, ash and other trees across irregular plains and prairies. Soils are primarily sandy to loamy. Rainfall can be moderate and inconsistent, limiting moisture during part of the growing season. Irrigation is a necessity for agricultural production. Vegetation varies from savannah and woodland to shorter mixed grasses in the prairie. Fire, topography and drought have maintained the prairie and established the location of the woodlands.

Cross Timbers ranks as one of the lowest ecoregions in conserved status.<sup>3</sup> There is little public land, few private preserves, and a low percentage of private land under wildlife management plans. The potential for rapid conversion and fragmentation is imminent, and protecting the ecoregion's prairies, woodlands, and river corridors should be a priority. The ecoregion preserves components of eroding biodiversity and can play a significant role in research and education in understanding the role of forests and prairies in ecology, biodiversity and climate change. The following section will explore in detail the specific threats facing North Texas.

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<sup>3</sup> Vision North Texas

## Historical & Socio-Cultural Context of North Texas

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There is a strong regional identity in North Texas; although the region is situated historically and geographically in the American South, there is a distinct frontier ethos connected to the westward expansion of the nation into the Southwest United States. The cities of Dallas and Fort Worth serve as regional urban anchors. Fort Worth is situated on the western edge of the region, along what used to be the Chisholm Cattle Trail. Fort Worth was established in 1889 by the U.S. War Department as its northernmost fortification during the Mexican-American War and is still considered where the American West begins. Dallas is the eastern urban anchor, founded at the banks of the Trinity River to support thriving trade and commerce based on oil, cotton, and cattle.

North Texas is situated in what was once Mexico, hence there is a significant Hispanic influence on the regional culture. As with all regions in the American South, injustice and poor treatment of former slaves in the post-Civil War era was instituted in state and local codes, and we will highlight in subsequent sections how North Texas is working to confront the effects of unjust policies that have constrained access to resources such as health care and quality education. It is the desire of the applicants to support organizations that focused on these crucial issues by amplifying their efforts.



*Figure 1: Visitors gather at the State Fair of Texas, an annual event in Dallas, enjoyed by residents and visitors from all over the world*

Texas has always been a welcoming state, originally through land grants to settlers, and currently enticing to businesses with lower taxes and fewer regulations. Domestic and international migration have fueled an increasingly diversified economy and culture, allowing North Texas to become an international economic powerhouse that attracts people and companies from all over the world. Demographers estimate that all U.S. workforce growth will consist of immigrants and their children over the next two decades, so immigrants are crucial to the economic and cultural vibrancy of Texas.<sup>4</sup> As the section on Demographics will detail, North Texas is adapting to the changing face of its residents.

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<sup>4</sup> [dallasfed.org/migration](https://dallasfed.org/migration)

## Demographics

Urbanization, diversity and aging dominate demographic trends in North Texas, as millennials (born 1982-2000) have overtaken the baby boomer generation (born 1945-1964) in total number. Migration into North Texas is crucial to replacing the baby boomer generation that is rapidly leaving the work force. The state of Texas was the second-largest recipient of domestic migrants in the period from 2010-2017 (920,000 net domestic migrants). Additionally, Texas is the largest recipient of H1-B worker visas (high-skilled workers) in the country. If the region’s economy expands as projected, migration into the area will explode, doubling by 2050.<sup>5</sup>

Approximately 54% of North Texas residents identify as Caucasian, 27% are Hispanic, 14% are African American, and the remaining five percent are Asian or of another race. The average number of people in each household is 2.65. The median age is 33.5 years. The younger the population age groups comprise a lower percentage of Caucasians compared to Hispanic, African American and other races/ethnicities (Figure 2).

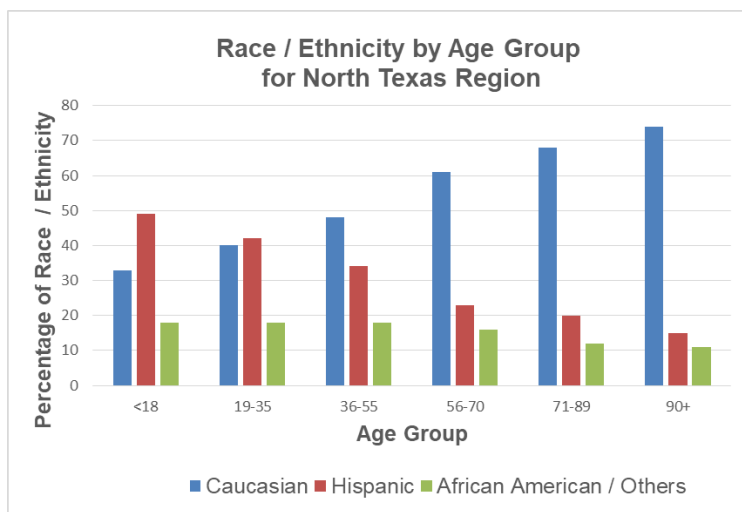


Figure 2: Race/Ethnicity by Age Group (source North Texas Commission)

The region’s high school graduation rate stands at 89% and the four-year college graduation rate is almost 52%. Figure 3 illustrates in percentage terms the highest achieved education levels for the North Texas region by race/ethnicity.

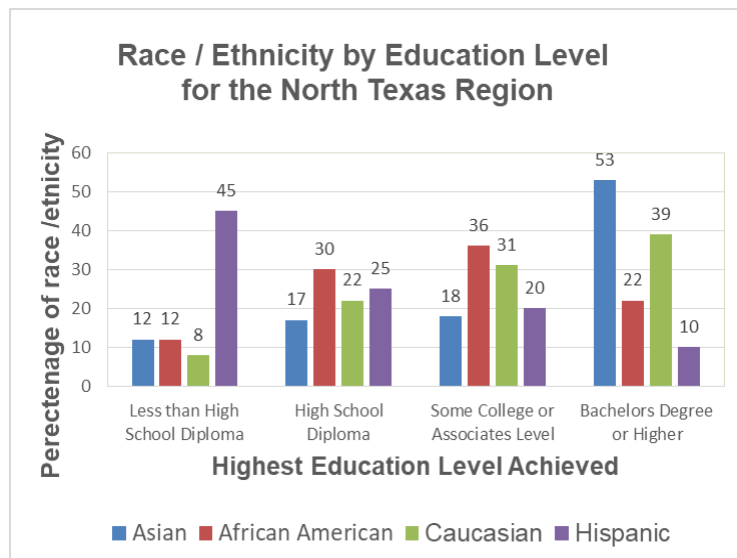


Figure 3: Race/Ethnicity by Education Level (source North Texas Commission)

<sup>5</sup> [dallasfed.org/migration](http://dallasfed.org/migration)

## Urban and Suburban Populations in North Texas

North Texas only contains sixteen of the 254 counties that make up the state of Texas, but it is home to more than a quarter of the entire population, with 7.5 million residents of a total population of 28 million. North Texas follows the 'rural flight' syndrome of the rest of Texas with a concentration of growth in urban areas. The rate of growth in the region is increasing, and North Central Texas is expected to more than double in population size by 2050. Approximately 400 people per day move into the region, with the urban areas experiencing the fastest increase in population. The four urban counties of Collin, Dallas, Denton and Tarrant contain over six million residents of the North Central Texas Region, resulting in 86% of the population living in the four most urban counties. The remaining twelve counties contain just over one million residents.

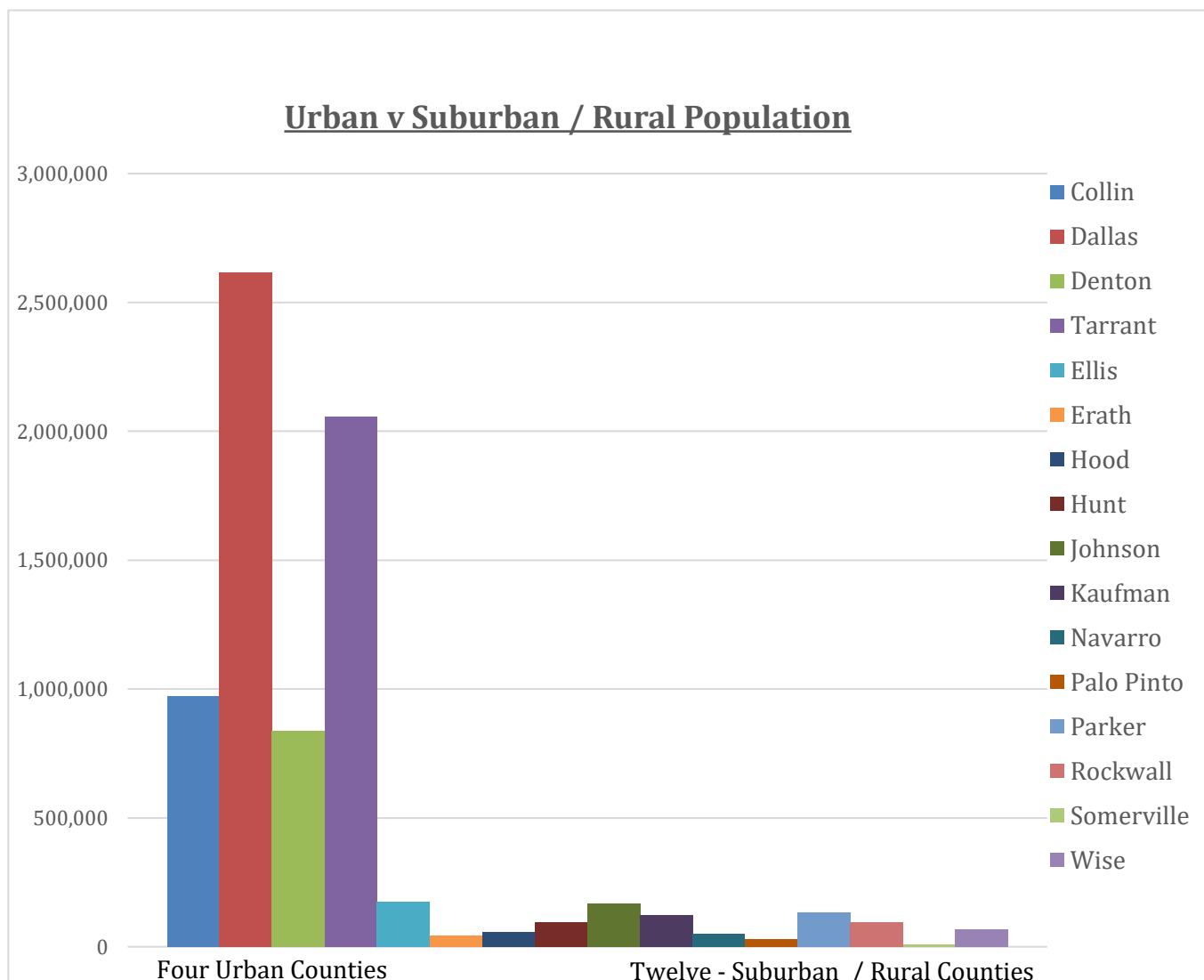


Figure 4: Urban and Rural Population. Source: Population Review

## Diversity & Equity

In North Texas over half of the population is classified as millennial.<sup>6</sup> With a median household income of \$40,581, millennials earn 20% less than baby boomers did at the same stage of life (adjusted for inflation), despite having more formal education. Millennial home ownership rates are lower, while their student debt is drastically higher. North Texas Millennials are a diverse population, with 44% belonging to a minority or ethnic group (a group other than non-Hispanic, single-race Caucasian).<sup>7</sup> This decline has occurred even though younger Americans are increasingly college-educated. Education helps to boost incomes, but the median college-educated millennial with student debt is earning only slightly more than a baby boomer without a degree in 1989. Additionally, millennial homeownership rates have dipped to 43%. The median net worth of millennials is 56% less than it was for boomers. White millennials earn significantly more than their African-American and Hispanic counterparts, reflecting the legacy of discrimination for jobs, education and housing mentioned in the introduction to this section. However, White millennials are not immune to downward mobility, where median income has tumbled more than 21% to \$47,688. Median income for African-American millennials has fallen 1.4% to \$27,892 while Hispanic millennials have seen their incomes rise, earning nearly 29% more than their boomer predecessors, making \$30,436.

Downward mobility trends are also reflected in the statistics for women. Even though women are gaining ground in education attainment, regardless of their education level, women still earn less than men with an equivalent education. A growing share of employed women in Texas are in managerial or professional occupations. About 40% of women in Texas hold these positions, which tend to require a four-year degree and often have higher wages and employment benefits. The share of employed women in managerial or professional occupations varies by county, from a low of 37.9% in Dallas County to a high of 53.9% in Collin County. Hispanic women in Collin, Dallas, and Denton counties are the racial/ethnic group of women least likely to be employed in managerial or professional occupations. North Texas follows the nationwide trend of paying women an average of 70 cents for every dollar that men are paid. Seventeen percent of Texas women aged 18 and older live in poverty; smaller shares of women in Collin and Denton counties are poor (7.4 and 10.1%, respectively). Comparing women in the three counties, White women in Collin County have the lowest poverty rate at 5.3%, and Hispanic women in Dallas County have the highest poverty rate at 22.8%. A complex set of factors impact pay but addressing poverty and opportunity for women and girls, including disparities that are intensified along racial and ethnic lines, is the key to closing these gaps.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> [census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2015](https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2015)

<sup>7</sup> [worldpopulationreview.com/states/texas-population/](https://www.worldpopulationreview.com/states/texas-population/)

<sup>8</sup> [dallaswomensfdn.org/statusofwomen](https://dallaswomensfdn.org/statusofwomen)

Local governments and businesses in North Texas have been focused on inclusion and equity for everyone, including the LGBT community. According to the Human Rights Campaign's Municipal Equality Index (nationwide survey that ranks cities based on how much local laws and policies foster greater acceptance for the LGBT community) Dallas and Fort Worth are two of the friendliest cities for LGBT Texans to live.<sup>9</sup> Unsurprisingly, the rest of the region continues to lag. Each city's rank was calculated by considering five categories:

- Nondiscrimination ordinances: The presence or absence of local laws barring discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations
- Municipality as an employer: Whether the city protects its LGBT workers from discrimination on the job and offers inclusive health care benefits
- Municipal services: Whether the city has a local "human rights commission" focused on LGBT citizens with a designated community liaison and whether anti-bullying rules are in place in schools
- Law enforcement: Evaluates the relationship of the police force to LGBT citizens and tracks whether law enforcement reports hate crimes to the FBI
- Relationship with the LGBT community: How local leaders publicly express their stance on LGBT rights, and whether they push LGBT legislation

The North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce<sup>10</sup> fosters an inclusive business community that promotes economic vitality, connects members, and advocates on their behalf. Since 2005, the Chamber has been a leading voice for LGBT and allied businesses in North Texas. The Chamber is a network of LGBT and ally business owners, corporate partners, and community leaders that support business development and equality. Many companies have diversity programs to promote leadership of LGBT employees and for their suppliers to promote the inclusion of LGBT owned businesses. An expanded awareness of the importance of diversity has been key in bringing so many corporate headquarters to the region. Large employers understand the importance of attracting and retaining top talent from a diverse group of people.

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<sup>9</sup> [dallasnews.com/news/lgbt/2016/10/17/lgbt-equality-rankings-put-dallas-top-suburbs-bottom](http://dallasnews.com/news/lgbt/2016/10/17/lgbt-equality-rankings-put-dallas-top-suburbs-bottom)

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.glbtcchamber.com/>



## Economic and Civic Context of the Region

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*Figure 5: Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport, the nation's first carbon neutral airport.*

As the fourth largest population region in the USA, North Texas consists of sixteen counties, containing more than 150 cities, covering an area of more than 9,000 square miles and is home to some 7.2 million people. The region is growing rapidly, (roughly 1 person every 3.3 minutes), with growth estimates of 8 million people by 2020, 10 million by 2030 and 13 million by 2040. By 2050, it is estimated that it will have more than doubled in population size to become home to almost 17 million people. North Texas contributes approximately one third of the total GDP of the state of Texas and, with its current GDP of \$511 billion (and growing each year), North Texas, were it an independent state, would rank 12<sup>th</sup> in terms of GDP behind Massachusetts and ahead of Virginia. If North Texas were a country, it would be 22<sup>nd</sup> in the world in terms of GDP between Argentina and Sweden. Despite this explosive growth, the region maintains the capacity to accommodate grazing and pasture land for cattle, which is still a multi-billion-dollar industry. As more people move into the region, this grazing land is absorbed by suburban sprawl and the loss of undeveloped land.

### **Business Resources**

North Texas is home to more than 10,000 U.S. corporate business headquarters, which is the highest concentration of headquarters within the United States. This includes being home to 22 of the top Fortune 500 US corporations, spanning 13 industries and fields of business. Some private-sector stakeholders such as PepsiCo have been based in the region for decades; other corporations are newcomers to the region, such as Toyota's American headquarters.

**The Healthcare Sector** accounts for 15 percent of the North Texas economy, with \$52 billion in Gross Medical Services. North Texas has five hospitals with Level 1 trauma facilities. The area also boasts six Nobel Laureates for their work in the field of medicine. With over 108,000 people permanently employed in the **Energy Sector**, North Texas is home to two current U.S. Fortune 500 Energy companies: ExxonMobil and Energy Future Holdings. The French Global Fortune 500 company Schneider Electric (and stakeholder for this application) has a large presence in the region and is notable for company CEO Jean Pascal-Tricoire, who is the President of United Nations Global Compact France. North Texas boasts over 900 companies in **Aerospace and defense**, making it the largest single concentration in any area worldwide. The Region's major airport, the **Dallas/Fort Worth International (DFW)**, is the 3rd largest airport worldwide in terms of its operations and 7th largest in terms of its passenger volume. In September 2016, DFW was recognized as the first carbon neutral airport in North America, one of only 26 in the world with the designation.

**The High-Tech Industry Sector** of North Texas has the 6<sup>th</sup> largest concentration of high-tech workers in the United States. 300,000 people work in the **Financial Sector**, and Dallas is the headquarters of the 11<sup>th</sup> Federal Reserve Bank, as well as home to two of the largest banks in Texas. With 300 million square feet of rentable office space plus home and commercial building taking place at record rate, the **Real Estate Sector** is one of the largest growing business areas in Region, currently contributing 17% of the total North Texas economic output and employing 95,000 people. Finally, the **Manufacturing Industry** makes up more than 10% of the North Texas GDP, standing at \$60 billion worth of output.

## **Nongovernmental & Philanthropic Resources**

There is a rich network of charitable, non-profit and advocacy organizations conducting work in North Texas to address the many development issues we face. Below are some of the stakeholders that have engaged with the RCE application process, and in some cases, are major regional partners.

**Blue Zones Project** – A project to assist residents of Fort Worth in adopting and maintaining an all-around healthy lifestyle through better eating habits, physical activity and good mental health habits.

**Climate Reality Project** – The local Dallas/Fort Worth chapter of a national activist organization that is focused on addressing climate change. Climate Reality Leaders and other interested climate activists gather for camaraderie, mutual support, feedback, and continuing education. The group seeks opportunities for chapter members to make presentations aiming to inspire individual action for a livable planet and to build public support for governmental action in promoting renewable energy, reducing our carbon footprint and pollution, and protecting the environment. Additionally, the group builds relationships with other climate advocacy groups to participate in coordinated campaigns and activities.

**EarthX Expo** – An organization focused on environmental education and awareness, EarthX has created the world’s largest environmental experience for sharing the latest initiatives, discoveries, research, innovation, policies, and corporate practices that are reshaping the world. The EarthX three-day annual event is held in April (Earth Day weekend). EarthX brings together environmental organizations, businesses, academic institutions, government agencies, speakers, interactive programming, and subject matter experts along with live music, art and food.

**Environmental Defense Fund** – A global NGO focused on initiatives to stabilize the global climate, build defenses against extreme weather, ensure food security and abundant oceans, and reduce exposure to air pollution and toxic chemicals.

**North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG)** – Since 1966, local governments in North Central Texas have been jointly addressing their common interests and concerns in a voluntary, cooperative venture. Over the decades, NCTCOG has helped local governments increase capacity to serve citizens by defining regional issues, problems and opportunities. Because NCTCOG has been a major regional partner and its contributions to a thriving North Texas can’t be overstated, its programs and partnerships will feature heavily in this application and in the ongoing programs and collaborations that arise from a recognized RCE in North Texas.

**Tarrant Area Food Bank (TAFB)** – Serves thirteen North Texas counties and is partnered with 270 food assistance programs and the local communities they serve to distribute food to hungry people and provides 500,000 nutritious meals to families and seniors each week. TAFB oversees a variety of education programs including sustainable gardening, shopping and cooking on a budget and professional career placement in the culinary field. TAFB strives to help families understand the benefits of nutritious foods and be able to sustain their health over time.

**Texas Trees Foundation** – A foundation in partnership with multiple sectors and stakeholders to focus on Collin, Dallas, Denton, Rockwell, Tarrant and Kaufman counties. Its mission is simple, the greening of the planet. The Foundation sustains a tree planting initiative for neighborhood parkways and medians, schools and other public open spaces, a tree growing facility to assure a healthy supply of trees for the future, and education programs to teach the importance and benefits of maintaining a healthy urban forest. More details about their existing programs and collaborations are in the Program section of the application.

## Governmental Resources

Partnerships with local governmental entities as crucial to the network's success. The cities of Dallas, Plano and Garland are committed RCE stakeholders. Several cities have instituted education and outreach programs tailored to their constituents as well as the region. Of note is Dallas' participation in the *Rockefeller Foundation's 100 Resilient Cities* initiative, which emphasizes addressing SDG 11, Sustainable Cities.

**City of Dallas** is developing multi-stakeholder initiatives aligned with several SDGs detailed further in this application is a key partner for the North Texas RCE. Some of the key departments related to the RCE's work are:

- Office of Environmental Quality – Sustainability, Outreach and Training Groups
- City of Dallas Police Department – Several Outreach/Educational Programs
- Sustainable Development and Construction Team – Administers a green building code

Dallas as a Rockefeller 100 Resilient City has implemented an equity indicators framework. These strong regional action points, some of which are already underway, build on existing efforts or address program and policy gaps to promote equity and resilience. Resilient Dallas is organized into seven leading goals:

1. Advance equity in city government.
2. Ensure Dallas is a Welcoming City to immigrants and all residents.
3. Increase economic mobility for Dallas' vulnerable and marginalized residents.
4. Ensure Dallas provides residents with reasonable, reliable, and equitable access to transit.
5. Leverage partnerships to promote healthy communities.
6. Invest in neighborhood infrastructure to revitalize historically underserved neighborhoods.
7. Promote environmental sustainability to improve public health and alleviate adverse environmental conditions.

**City of Plano** – Plano has the distinction of being a 4 Star Community in accordance with the STAR Community Rating System comprehensive framework and certification program for evaluating local sustainability. Plano is in the process of seeking a 5 Star Distinction.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> The STAR Community framework is in the process of aligning its indicators with the 17 SDGs.

## Higher Education Resources

North Texas boasts 33 colleges and universities, the largest of the universities being the **University of Texas at Arlington** with 60,000 enrolled students. North Texas demonstrates enthusiasm for life-long learning in the region with more than 73,000 students enrolled in its course programs at the Dallas County Community College District alone.

### *University of Texas at Arlington*

As anchor institution for the North Texas RCE effort, the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) has a long record of serving the community as resource and partner for sustainable development. UTA is on track to become a Tier One research institution and a major partner in collaborating with other world-class institutions to advance sustainable development. As a major regional research institution, UTA is integrating sustainability and ESD throughout the curriculum. Through its **Strategic Plan 2020**, UTA is implementing a set of goals that will advance progress in the SDGs locally. The Plan can already boast some major accomplishments, most notable for this application being the **Institute of Sustainability and Global Impact (ISGI)**, formed in alignment with the strategic mission. ISGI will serve as hub and nerve center of NTRCE, as well as provide leadership in all aspects of the network's activities.

**Strategic Plan 2020** – Comprised of a set of four overarching strategic themes:

- ***Health and the Human Condition***
- ***Sustainable Urban Communities***
- ***Global Environmental Impact***
- ***Data Driven Discovery***

Under this plan UTA and its partners are conducting world-class research into topics with strategic themes that are aligned with the principles of the RCE mission and the SDGs. UTA also has enhanced its research focus in bioengineering, neurosciences, kinesiology, gerontology and computational sciences. Furthermore, UTA is developing closer collaborations with the health sector and other regional research partners through joint projects and appointments. Academic Programs that have integrated sustainability into their curricula include Architecture, Urban and Public Affairs, Science, Engineering, Liberal Arts and Business. Some notable institutes have been implemented and more are in progress.

The **UT Arlington Research Institute (UTARI)** formerly known as the Automation and Robotics Research Institute, is undergoing a transformation to become a global research and development leader by 2022. UTARI's research focus is on energy, water and the environment. A state-of-the-art

energy and environment laboratory will help develop solutions for energy storage and conversion, environment and water monitoring and environmentally friendly manufacturing by using advanced system technologies.

The **Center for Renewable Energy Science and Technology (CREST)** serves as a center of excellence in energy research and development in the state of Texas. CREST coordinates energy related research and development across multidisciplinary faculty research teams and partners with national laboratories, the Strategic Partnership for Research in Nanotechnology and the Arlington Technology Incubator to facilitate technology transfer and commercialization of new energy technologies. CREST research supports all aspects of the new energy economy, including smart- and micro-grids; energy conversion and storage; fuel and solar cells; and clean, renewable energy generated from biomass, hydrogen, wind, solar, hydrology and tides.

**Air Research Consortium** The Consortium is a cooperative network of academic institutions, non-profit organizations, communities and local governments committed to using the most current and advanced science and citizen-friendly technologies, to advance understanding of local air quality, provide residents the best information about air quality and develop innovative applications in support of building a healthful environment and improved quality of life for all North Central Texans.

The **Center for Nanostructured Materials (CNM)** is a highly collaborative research center, which brings together physicists, chemists, biologists and materials scientists and integrates both the basic and applied sciences in nanotechnology. The CNM supports interdisciplinary research into areas such as magnetic nanoparticles; nanotechnology for luminescent, thin film; electrically conductive and light-emitting optical polymers; and thin film flow devices and sensors, all of which have applications for sustainable technologies.

**Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center (TMAC)** works with commercial manufacturers to help develop their workforce and improve their operations to compete on a global scale. A TMAC focus on “lean and green” manufacturing consultation and deployment assists manufacturing firms with reducing the environmental impacts of their manufacturing processes.

**Ecology Research Group** is a multidisciplinary research group that studies plant, aquatic and microbial ecology; biogeography; evolution and systematics; physiological and statistical ecology; speciation; and herpetology. The Center for Amphibian and Reptile Diversity Research, one of the largest herpetology collections in the nation, attracts researchers from around the world.

**College of Architecture, Planning and Public Affairs (CAPPA)** UTA’s longstanding schools of Architecture and Urban and Public Affairs are in the final phase of an integration that will strengthen academic and research opportunities under the new College of Architecture, Planning and Public Affairs. Aligned with the Strategic Plan 2020 theme of advancing sustainable communities, bringing

these colleges together offers promising synergies for the region. Within CAPP, the **Institute of Urban Studies** gives students first-hand experience addressing regional issues.

**Arlington Urban Design Center** aims to create public awareness about the importance of urban design and its impact on the quality of life, environment and economic investment. Established through a collaboration between the City of Arlington and UTA. Graduate students and professors from CAPP work with City staff. Students “learn by doing” as they work with City planning staff and benefit from the opportunity of working on real-world projects.

**Solid Waste Institute for Sustainability** will share research with charter and member cities in Texas to better manage their landfills into the next century.

**UTA Water Initiative** Through system upgrades, the installation of water collection and single-reuse systems, and weather-controlled and radio-monitored irrigation systems recognized by the EPA WaterSense program, UTA has reduced irrigation water use and transitioned its open spaces to water-wise habitats. The university is also addressing storm water impacts through the adoption of its Stormwater Management Plan, which includes best management practices for protecting water from storm-water discharges, illegal dumping, and spills.

**Division of Enterprise Development (DED)** is recognized by industry and government employers as a full suite of programs for workforce development. The environmental science certification is particularly noteworthy. Within the DED, UTA’s Environmental Training Institute offers six distinct professional development certifications: Environmental Management Professional, Specialist in Environmental Regulations, Environmental Regulatory Professional, Safety, Health and Environmental Professional, Environmental Science Professional and a Master Certification for the Environmental Professional.

**Unlocking DOORS** is partnered with a multidisciplinary research team at UTA to link transportation and logistical services for re-entry into society for former criminal offenders. Services include assistance with housing, medical access, job retraining, transportation and assistance meeting parole/probation obligations. Clearing these logistical barriers is proven to reduce recidivism.

## ***University of North Texas (UNT)***

UNT is one of the nation's largest universities, offering 103 bachelor's, 86 masters' and 38 doctoral degree programs. The university values access, welcomes diversity and collaboration with educational, business and community partners, as well as building new partnerships across the globe.

**Institutes of Research Excellence** Institutes of Research Excellence bring together a critical mass of knowledge and faculty collaborating on projects designed to create a stronger platform for interdisciplinary research and partnerships with industry to create solutions and further contribute to the North Texas region's economic growth.

**Advanced Environmental Research Institute (AERI)** AERI is founded on UNT's legacy of addressing environmental issues, which began with the eminent scientist, Dr. J.K.G. "Doc" Silvey's research on differences in tap water. For nearly 80 years, a team of researchers has been investigating the complex nature of the natural world and how people's actions influence it.

**Advanced Materials and Manufacturing Processes Institute (AMMPI)** in recognition of the university's strong and growing materials science program, which is part of UNT's fast-growing College of Engineering.

**BioDiscovery Institute (BDI)** The institute delivers research solutions to underpin the utilization of plants, forest products and other biomass for production of biopolymers, new bio-based materials for construction and transportation, bioactive small molecules and biofuels. The institute operates through a pipeline linking sustainable plant production platforms, metabolic engineering and the development of new materials.

**Jim McNatt Institute for Logistics Research (McNatt Institute)** The Institute seeks to advance the understanding of how business, government, technology, the environment and the human element interact within complex logistics systems and enterprises to support sustainable and resilient economic growth.



## ***University of North Texas Health Science Center (UNTHSC)***

UNTHSC is one of the nation's premier graduate academic medical centers. Together with its five schools specializing in patient-centered education, research and healthcare, UNTHSC pursues its mission of creating solutions for a healthier community, a mission that is further served by its dedicated sustainability program. Below are highlighted some colleges, institutes and centers that are relevant to this application.

**UNTHSC Office of Sustainability** The office of sustainability supports the Health Science Center mission to create solutions for a healthier community by encouraging the campus to adopt behaviors that are beneficial to the community and environment. UNTHSC's mission is to plan, develop, implement and assess sustainability efforts on campus that benefit campus and community now and in the future. The strategy is achieved through education, implementation of environmental, social, and economic sustainable practices, and partnerships within and outside the campus community. Examples include initiatives to support alternative transportation, quick-fill water stations, lab efficiency action programs, recycling and a community garden.

**Texas Center for Health Disparities** Designated as a Center of Excellence by the National Institutes of Health, the Center's mission is to prevent, reduce and eliminate health disparities through research, education and outreach. In comparison to the general population of Texas, racial and ethnic minorities suffer from heightened risk factors and poorer overall health and access to health care. The Center's mission is to prevent, reduce and eliminate health disparities in our communities through research, education and training to increase diversity in student and faculty population, and by offering an innovative fellowship program that fosters collaborative research among junior research faculty and community leaders and stakeholders. Finally, outreach is a key component of the Center's work, through leveraging UNTHSC's community partnerships focused on improving efforts to reach women in underserved and low-income communities in North Texas.

**The Center for Diversity and International Program** The program's goal is to advance career paths in biomedical sciences and health professions that reflect the diverse constituency the Center serves. Objectives are to broaden partnerships (local, national and international), unify institutional pipeline programs, innovate education and training, and lead diverse constituencies to opportunities in biomedical/behavioral science career paths:

- **K-12 Outreach** - These programs include multiple initiatives to support students entering biomedical and STEM educational pathways for students in Fort Worth and Arlington Independent School District.
- **Summer Undergraduate Research Programs** - intended to advance The Centers' goals at the undergraduate level include the Summer Multicultural Advanced Research Training (SMART), Historically Black Colleges and Universities Undergraduate Research Programs (HBCU-DOD),

Summer Training Among Research Scientists (STARS), and Joint Admissions Medical Program (JAMP)

- **Graduate Training Fellowships** Initiatives for graduate students include Promoting Diversity in Research Training for Health Professionals, with a goal of providing underrepresented minority individuals, who are enrolled in a health professional program, a challenging and focused research experience in health disparities related to cardiovascular, pulmonary, and hematologic and sleep disorders. A second initiative is the Student Access to Medication Education (SAME) program. The goal of the program is to provide increased access to medical and dental education and career placement to underrepresented minority and economically or educationally disadvantaged individuals.
- **STAR Fellowship Program** This program designed for junior faculty and community leaders who are interested in Health Disparity Research. The STAR (Steps Toward Academic Research) Fellowship Program, offers a full year of collaborative training and interaction with faculty from the UNTHSC and other institutions, directed toward fostering Health Disparities Research Initiatives.

**Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine (TCOM)** TCOM excels through its innovative medical school curriculum, cutting-edge research, quality patient care, and outstanding student performance in both the classroom and in the clinics preparing graduates to distinguish themselves as clinical leaders, teachers, and scholars.

**School of Public Health** The mission of the School of Public Health is to create solutions for a healthier community by advancing public health knowledge through research, service and the education of public health professionals supported by the school's commitment to serving the state and community by developing high-quality education programs that assist public health professionals in the field. Their community-engaged education strategies addressing the following systemic issues:

- Health Equity and Social Justice for All
- Healthy Kids, Healthy Families
- Empowering Refugees

**Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (GSBS)** Through its 25 years of research, the GSBS plays a prominent role in shaping the future of the biomedical workforce by providing high-quality education and training of Ph.D. and Masters' students to become the educators, researchers and professionals of tomorrow. Mentoring, teaching and training students are talented and dedicated faculty, who use state-of-the-art technology and training methods to tackle such major biomedical problems as cancer, cardiovascular disease, infectious disease and Alzheimer's disease.

**School of Health Professions** Through the Department of Physician Assistant Studies and the Department of Physical Therapy, the School of Health Professions delivers the knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary to serve in the healthcare professions. The Graduate Certificate in Lifestyle Health is designed for healthcare professionals and full-time students who have direct contact with patients and clients.

**UNT System College of Pharmacy** The College of Pharmacy trains students to enter any area of pharmacy practice or pharmacy residency. Students receive didactic, laboratory and experiential training, and are required to apply what they learn in each setting. Graduates are expected to provide patient care, including medication therapy management, and to develop life-long learning and self-evaluation skills.

**UNTHSC Health Institutes** In addition to the five schools above, UNTHSC includes five health institutes dedicated to the support of multidisciplinary teams of UNTHSC researchers and educators focused on solving the biggest health problems facing Texas, and positions UNTHSC as an innovative leader among academic health centers for the future. These include the Institutes of Cardiovascular and Metabolic Disease, Healthy Aging, Molecular Medicine, Patient Safety and the North Texas Eye Institute.

## ***University of Texas at Dallas (UTD)***

Regional technological giant Texas Instruments (TI) experienced explosive growth with the revolutionary invention of the integrated circuit in 1958. As there was a shortage in local engineering talent, TI established the Graduate Research Center of the Southwest, and recruited some of the best scientific talent in the nation. In 1969, company founders transferred the Research Center assets to the State of Texas, and the University of Texas at Dallas was born.

### **UTD Office of Sustainability**

Below are highlighted a few of the initiatives administered through the Office of Sustainability:

- **Green Buildings** – To support the campus’ increasing enrollment and infrastructure, Facilities Management has taken steps to build more efficient buildings, pursuing LEED Certification on six of them.
- **Recycling Programs** – Single Stream and Special Stream recycling
- **Recyclemania Competition** – University-wide opportunity to track recyclables and rank the University in comparison to others. Students, staff, and faculty are encouraged to recycle
- **Habitat Programs**
  - Community Garden
  - Compost Program
  - Blackland Prairie Habitat Restoration
  - Monarch Butterfly Migration Waystation
- **Eco-Reps** – Ecology Representatives, or Eco-Reps, are student leaders implementing sustainability programs at UT Dallas
- **Student Leadership** – Student Government provides funding that is designated to bring student ideas for sustainability projects to reality, and the Sustainability Club on campus has partnered with the Food Recovery Network to get extra food from campus to food insecure communities
- **Community Involvement** – UTD has a standing Sustainability Committee comprised of faculty, staff, students and administration, which is charged with affecting change towards sustainability through education, research, operations and community service
- **Sustainable Dining** – Dining Services prides itself in making sustainability a focus of the dining experience for UTD students

- Green Restaurant Certification
- Food waste education
- Partnership with Food Recovery Network
- Certified Sustainable Foods

In addition to campus-wide programs, UTD has instituted several centers and institutes to focus its research and spread impact locally and globally. Below is a selection of centers that are aligned with the SDGs and the mission of the RCE:

**Center for Global Collective Action** The Center identifies mentors and researchers, conducts workshops and short stays for scholars in residence, and to advance publication of publicly beneficial research on the topic of global collective action. These actions apply to problems such as: curbing ozone shield depletion, eradication of diseases and control of greenhouse gas emissions.

**Institute for Public Affairs** The Institute is uniquely positioned to help municipal and local governments and nonprofit organizations address current and emerging challenges. The Institute is part of the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences.

**The Institute for Urban Policy Research** The mission of the Institute is to provide research and evaluation, education and outreach, and guidance and consulting to inform, motivate and inspire community-focused organizations that improve the quality of life. The Institute offers a series of certificate programs designed for professionals who want to make informed, strategic decisions.

**Texas Schools Project** The Project is a national model for using longitudinal data to conduct rigorous education research. It supports and conducts independent, high-quality academic research using individual level administrative data from Texas state education agencies and other sources of Texas education data. The Project has become one of premier education research institutions in the country.

**UT Dallas Education Research Center** The Center facilitates education research to benefit Texas students from pre-K to college by providing access to individual-level administrative data used to study the progress and performance of students, teacher and schools. Starting with de-identified, individual-level data, the Center creates research-ready datasets. Approved researchers then use these data in investigations of topics important to informing education policy and practice.

**WindSTAR** is a National Science Foundation-funded industry/university cooperative research center for wind energy, science, technology and research, between UTD and University of Massachusetts in Lowell. It brings together university and industry to advance the generation of wind energy.

## ***Dallas County Community College District***

The Dallas County Community College District (DCCCD) has been serving the county for over fifty years. The district is comprised of seven colleges across the county. With sustainability and ESD programs administered at the district level, DCCCD will be an integral RCE partner. Two of its colleges will be founding RCE partners; initiatives and distinctions are highlighted below:

**The Cedar Valley College Sustainable Communities Institute (SCI)** A sustainability-minded organization designed to promote and teach environmental awareness, research current and future sustainability techniques, implement carbon neutral policies across the Dallas Community College District, and serve as a convening space for stakeholders to discuss and navigate the difficult questions associated with sustainability.

**Mountain View College (MVC)** The MVC Sustainability Office has adopted the UN Sustainable Development Goals framework consciously integrates them into all projects and programs. Some programs of note include:

- **Food Pantry:** The Office of Student Life manages a small food pantry of dry & canned food for students. The North Texas Food Bank distributes fresh produce to students once a month.
- **Pop-Up Market:** MVC's Slow Food Pop-Up Market launches in summer 2018 with the sale of produce grown in the garden and aquaponics lab and will provide recipes and periodic cooking demonstrations.
- **Community Garden:** The Slow Food Community Garden features 44 raised beds for growing healthy, organic food.
- **Aquaponics Lab:** The Aquaponics Lab contains three closed-loop systems where healthy, organic food is grown in a controlled environment.
- **Outdoor Classroom:** MVC's 210-acre campus boasts an urban forest, geology area and aquatic ecosystem. In summer 2018, a new learning space will open around a shipping container and shaded area featuring a solar energy system and seating area.
- **Outdoor Nation Campus Challenge:** MVC competes annually in the national outdoor competition to get students, faculty, staff and community members participating in outdoor activities for four weeks each fall.
- **RecycleMania:** MVC participates in the annual recycling competition for higher education.
- **Bike Share Program:** MVC recently launched its Spin bike share program with ten bikes.
- **Master Naturalist program:** MVC is collaborating with the North Texas Master Naturalist chapter by hosting their first Fall Class and offering student discounts.

Additionally, MVC is a certified Tree Campus USA site and a Certified Wildlife Habitat. The college has also signed the Second Nature Climate Commitment. Finally, the Sustainability Scholars program is awarded to students who pass specified courses and completing service-learning projects.

***Southern Methodist University (SMU)*** is a nationally ranked private university located near the heart of Dallas. SMU is a distinguished center for global research with a liberal arts tradition. Notable sustainability programs at the university include:

- Bike Share Program
- Energy Curtailment
- Evie the Mobile Greenhouse
- LEED Certifications
- Repurposed Office Supplies
- Repurposed Property Initiative
- SMU Community Garden
- SMU Sustainability Committee
- Student Environmental Society
- Temperature Set Point

**Hunt Institute for Engineering & Humanity at SMU** Within the university, the Lyle School of Engineering is home to the Hunt Institute. Hunt Institute's mission is to serve as a national and international hub to partner with leaders in business, academia, NGOs and government, to develop and scale sustainable and affordable technologies and solutions to the challenges facing people locally and globally. The Hunt Institute's suite of programmatic efforts focus on fostering sustainable and inclusive economic development, with emphasis on sustainable food systems and resilient infrastructure:

### **The Map4Good Project**

The Hunt Institute and its partner organizations are working to improve access to information about free services available in Dallas through an innovative mapping approach. Studies have shown that many services go unused by the people who need them most. With this map, we hope to change that by empowering individuals with the tool to identify and reach services. The map will also provide information and analytics to service providers.

### **SMU-in-Taos Sustainability Plan**

The SMU-in-Taos campus is an educational center of SMU in Fort Burgwin in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains surrounded by the Carson National Forest. Here students learn about the environment and develop a respect for nature as they study the natural history of the area, the fossil record, and plant life

### **The Living Village Project**

Hunt Institute Fellow, Dr. Brett Story, has researched compressed earth block construction methods over the past two years with social entrepreneurial organization Dwell Earth. Dr. Story's team of undergraduate and graduate students have worked on various aspects of what earth block construction could look like for a living village project in the SMU-in-Taos campus.

### **Evie, the Mobile Greenhouse Project**

Evie is the Hunt Institute's mobile greenhouse and solutions lab. Evie was created to explore solutions to food insecurity. The structure was specifically designed to be mobile, low-cost and semi-automated. Student-led research focused on hydroponics, heating and cooling, agriculture optimization, and incorporating 3D printed parts into the system. Finding a solution that combats constraints of urban agriculture resulted in a collection of micro-greenhouse designs by various students housed in Evie, the mobile greenhouse.

### **Evie-in-a-Box**

Evie-in-a-Box was created to be a miniature starter hydroponic system that can be used for education or small scale growing. It is also designed to be expandable and adapted by users to fit their space and needs all for less than \$20.00. All supplies are available at a local hardware store or can be ordered on Amazon.com. Adding 3D parts enhanced the learning process but is not required for hydroponics. How-to videos are filmed and produced by students in addition to online instructions, the CAD files for all 3D parts, and an instruction sheet complete with dimensions and detailed instructions.

**SMU's Caruth Institute for Engineering Education** The mission of the Caruth Institute for Engineering Education is to increase the number and diversity of students who graduate from U.S. high schools with both the enthusiasm and knowledge to pursue the engineering careers that are necessary for the U.S. to compete in a global economy. Focus areas include K-12 education, summer camps for middle and high school students, K-12 teacher training, and research in higher education.

**SMU's Lyle School of Engineering** is preparing students in sustainable practices through the following programs:

- B.S. Environmental Engineering
- M.S. Environmental Engineering + MBA
- M.A. Sustainability and Development
- Ph.D. Civil and Environmental Engineering

Additionally, Lyle hosts a variety of middle school and high school programs and learning camps designed to increase competencies and interest in STEM learning, with specific intentionality for girls to become involved. In addition to these programs, Lyle leads the Gender Parity Initiative, a focused and driven national effort to create and implement solutions that change the way girls see these critical fields, and solutions that prepare and support girls and women throughout their careers. The Gender Parity Initiative is a partnership of some of the most influential organizations and companies in the country.



**The Budd Center** is based in the Simmons School of Education and Human Development at Southern Methodist University. The Budd Center addresses the negative impact of poverty on childhood education by partnering with local groups in the West Dallas<sup>12</sup> community. The Budd Center offers world class strategy and leadership to connect non-profits with schools and students to create an optimal match for the greatest collective impact. The Center serves the community through data collection and assessment, monitoring and intervention recommendations, and the deployment of interventions. Furthermore, Budd provides legal, social and technical infrastructure, in addition to resource sharing.

The Budd Center's flagship program, The School Zone (TSZ) provides staff training, networking events, faculty-led projects and volunteer placement. The TSZ model embodies collective impact. Another notable Budd Center program, Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), is designed for nonprofit partners within TSZ as a vehicle for expanded data use, coaching and collaborative action. PLCs are a fixture within pre-K through 12 education. PLCs take an innovative approach to this established structure and are primarily composed of nonprofit program staff – those on the frontlines providing direct service to children and families. More detail about this program is highlighted in the Committed Regional Programs and Collaborations section of the application.

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<sup>12</sup> West Dallas has a high concentration of low income and disadvantaged residents.

## **K through 12 Education**

Each city or town in the region has a school board of elected trustees or board members. In Dallas County there are seventeen independent school districts, and twenty independent school districts in Tarrant County. The remainder of districts are spread across the region and primarily governed at the city or town level. It is important to note that school districts in Texas are distinct and, in many ways autonomous. Yet budgetary constraints are affecting even the most affluent school districts, which has cut into not only art and other programs, but some federally mandated programs, and have pressured schools to reduce staff, resulting in larger class size. Public schools in Texas are funded primarily through local property taxes, which are collected and sent to the state. When local tax collection exceeds the target cost per child for the district, excess funds are retained by the state, with no transparency on how they are used (in most cases not being spent on education). Additionally, the funding to support economically disadvantaged children has increased by 20% and state funding rates have decreased. For example, Texas is spending \$795 less per student in Collin County than it did in 2008.<sup>13</sup> It is our belief that these resource constraints have been the cause of many districts' hesitation to commit to the RCE. We are confident that once the RCE is launched, more school districts will see the value and express an interest in participating.

At the time of application submission, the Committee had secured two school districts as official stakeholders with letters of support, although we have reached out and are in contact with several others. It is our hope that once the RCE is launched, we will be able to bring more school districts online. The RCE network will help K-12 education organizations to develop a learning plan to align the language of the SDG Goal 4 (Quality Education) with the curriculum of schools. It may also help explore creation of a sustainability mentoring program for students and expand the number of contacts in the RCE network that are familiar with local school systems. Additionally, the network can survey teachers about their work and interests related to sustainability and how the RCE might be helpful to them. For example, DeSoto ISD is a stakeholder and they have a magnet program focused on Environmental Science; we believe the RCE network can help other ISDs create and replicate this model to educate K—12 students on sustainability with programs such as curriculum development and funding for activity-based learning projects.

North Texas RCE school district stakeholders are listed here; their notable programs are detailed in the Stakeholder Program section:

- **Dallas Independent School District** – Dallas County
- **DeSoto Independent School District** – Dallas County

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<sup>13</sup> Center for Public Policy Priorities, March 2018

# North Texas Environmental Resources at Risk

This section describes the current state of the region’s environmental resources and the pressures they face. The Great Trinity Forest and the Trinity River Basin form the geophysical foundation for the region’s ecosystem services. But these resources are under siege, with areas of concern due to contamination, threat of disastrous floods and drought, uneven and reduced tree canopy, and urban heat temperature increases that are estimated to rival some of the hottest places on earth.

## Water

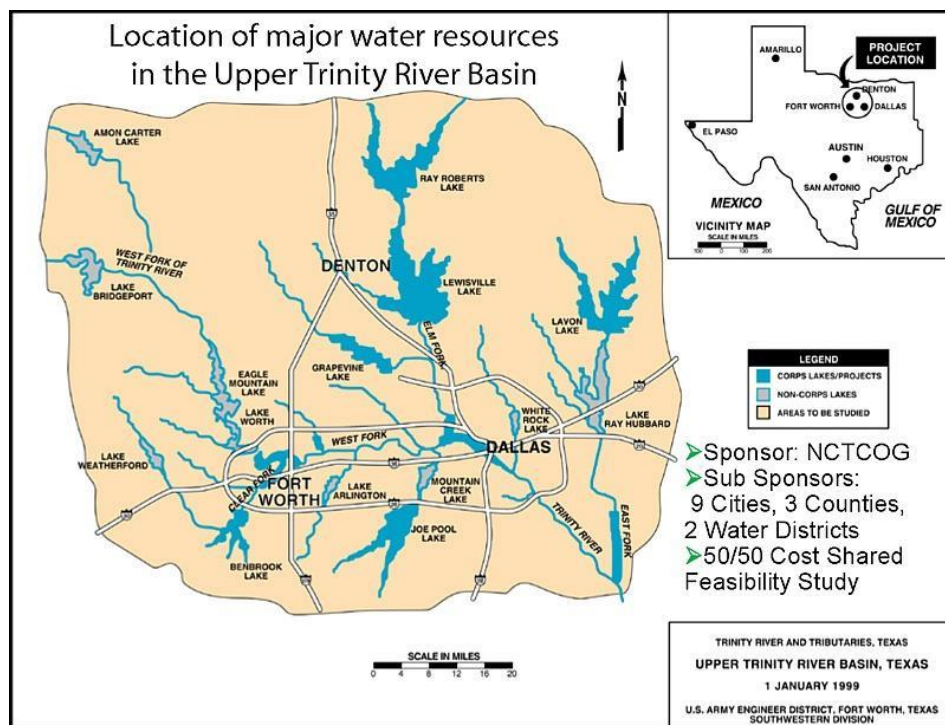


Figure 6: Major sources of fresh water in the Upper Trinity River Basin. The basin itself stretches to the Gulf of Mexico but is outside the geographical scope of this application. Photo courtesy of US Army Corps of Engineers

The Trinity River served as a primary port of entry for the transport of commercial goods during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and is now the focal point of much concern as it is a 100-year flood plain. The Trinity River Basin is the largest river basin whose watershed area is entirely within the State of Texas and the third largest river in Texas by average flow volume. From the confluence of its Elm and West Forks near Dallas, the Trinity River flows to Trinity Bay, which drains to the Gulf of Mexico. Smaller streams within the basin include the Clear, East, Elm, and West forks of the Trinity River and Cedar, Chambers, and Richland creeks. The Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan area is in the upper basin and demands in both urban areas are increasing. The four major rivers serving Texas contain sections that do not meet the state’s minimum water quality standards, and the region is highly

prone to flash flooding and storm water runoff, and pollution.<sup>14</sup> Additionally, invasive species (such as Zebra Mussels) have infested lakes and pose significant threat to aquatic ecosystems and fresh water supplies in North Texas.



*Figure 7: Trinity River flood in 2015, with Dallas in the background. Photo Courtesy WFAA News*

Meeting water needs is an important part of the region's future vitality, just as it is in every region of the world. Most of the water demanded in the 16-county North Texas region is for municipal use, defined as water used by residential and commercial consumers. Municipal water used in the 16 counties is projected to increase from 1.2 million-acre feet in 2000 to 2.1 million-acre feet in 2030 and 2.6 million-acre feet in 2050 to supply as the population reaches 12 to 14 million residents.<sup>15</sup> Water quality will be challenged by major problems of sediment and nutrient loading. Water supply will be largely dependent upon consistent rainfall to keep the region's reservoirs at a serviceable level. Rainfall in the region for the last 20 years has shown a pattern of feast or famine as droughts plague the area on a regular basis. Finally, climatologists predict disaster for this area as weather events increase in intensity and temperatures trend toward the 48-degree Celsius range.

## **Air Quality**

In 2012 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) designated ten of the sixteen counties in the North Central Texas region as nonattainment for the pollutant ozone in accordance with the 2008 8-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). These standards are designed to protect human and environmental health, and ground-level ozone is monitored and targeted for reductions due to its potentially harmful effects.

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<sup>14</sup> Vision North Texas: Understanding the Issues Facing North Texas

<sup>15</sup> [visionnorthtexas.org/regional\\_summit/North\\_Texas\\_2050](http://visionnorthtexas.org/regional_summit/North_Texas_2050)

In 2006, Dallas asked residents to prioritize issues for the future. The environment ranked third in terms of critical priority, after education and public safety, and above jobs and neighborhood quality, indicating the public understands the importance of clean air, clean water and a clean environment. The region has experienced some improvement in ranking by the American Lung Association. In its 2018 State of the Air rankings, the American Lung Association ranked Dallas and Tarrant counties in its list of cleanest cities for Short-Term Particle pollution.<sup>16</sup> Although the region is currently not in compliance with National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)<sup>17</sup>, an exploration of what has driven the improved rankings may offer the RCE some successes to build upon.

The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) works in cooperation with federal, State and local community partners to meet requirements. Development of an air quality plan is required for all nonattainment areas to demonstrate how ozone will be reduced to compliant levels. Strategies are being implemented throughout the region to reduce mobile source emissions since transportation-related activities account for nearly one-half of all ozone-causing pollution in North Central Texas. Addressing impaired air quality is crucial to solving several health-related and climate challenges.

## **Urban Forest**

The Great Trinity Forest is the largest urban hardwood forest in the nation, spanning 6,000 acres along the Trinity River Corridor on the western edge of southern Dallas. There are serious areas of concern due to contamination and a history of unchecked development, clearing of ancient trees and dumping in this natural resource. Fortunately, there are efforts underway with multiple stakeholders to address these issues, such as the Texas Trees Foundation and Dallas Rockefeller 100 Resilient Cities to improve air quality through the strategic planting of trees. Like many urban regions in the southern USA, the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex is steadily warming, and the upward trend of warmer normal temperatures is expected to continue.<sup>18</sup> Because of this, managing our tree canopy and urban forest is crucial.

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<sup>16</sup> [lung.org/assets/documents/healthy-air/state-of-the-air/sota-2018](https://www.lung.org/assets/documents/healthy-air/state-of-the-air/sota-2018)

<sup>17</sup> Texas Trees Annual Report 2015

<sup>18</sup> [climatecentral.org/gallery/graphics/the-new-normal-earth-is-getting-hotter](https://www.climatecentral.org/gallery/graphics/the-new-normal-earth-is-getting-hotter)



Tree canopy percentages in some areas like the city of McKinney in Collin county only attain 15% (half of the recommended ratio). Fort Worth has had a tree ordinance since the 19<sup>th</sup> century, yet Dallas only instituted its tree ordinance in the late 1990s.

*Figure 8: Unauthorized clearing of ancient trees in Fort Worth residential development. The city enforced fines and remediation steps, but the damage is done. Photo credit: Fort Worth Star Telegram*

# North Texas Sustainability Challenges: A Closer Look

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North Texans have been grappling for decades with how to balance a vibrant economic center and accommodate rising demand for ecosystem services, while also addressing pressure on outdated infrastructure. We trace many of the challenges facing the people of our region to *inequity*. It is our hope to build a regional platform committed to disrupting the cycles of inequity impact.

## High Quality Food

Food insecurity in North Texas is of crucial concern. A primary NTRCE stakeholder, the Tarrant Area Food Bank (TAFB) provides some startling statistics for our state and region. One in six people in our local area face hunger. Compared to other states, Texas has the second highest number of hungry children (one in four). Tarrant County (where Fort Worth is centered) is one of the top ten counties in the United States with the highest number of hungry people overall. Many people regularly choose between paying for food and paying for medical care, utilities and transportation.

## K-12 School Systems

Texas school boards are governed by the Texas State Board of Education. Because each school district is funded locally, there is large disparity in resource allocation for schools. The inherent inequalities related to public school funding and operations are an enormous challenge. Funding constraints place student enrichment programs at the mercy of volunteer or parent support. Schools are penalized financially for failing to do well on federally mandated standardized tests, which results in teachers having to teach to the tests. This sets in motion a vicious cycle of inequity that is extremely difficult to confront without implementing systemic change.

## Transportation System

Dallas and Fort Worth were developed under laws that instituted racial segregation, relegating the ethnic minority communities to the floodplains of the Trinity River. Arterial planning and development further kept residents from leaving these neglected neighborhoods. Over the last 30 years, land use trends resulted in ever increasing economic segregation of the region's urban and nonurban residents in unlivable neighborhoods due to automobile-centric transportation policies.

## Summary

This section presented pressing global issues in local and regional context. As with many of the SDGs, the elements of equity and justice are often the root cause. The brief exploration above merely scratches the surface of the systemic issues confronting our region. However, the analysis leads naturally to the targeted approach adopted for the launch and rationale of the NTRCE.

# Targeted Priority Sustainable Development Goals

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Analysis reflected in the previous sections of this application informed the direction of the team to target the following three priority SDGs for the initial focus of the North Texas RCE.

## *Rationale for Priority SDG Selection*

Stakeholders for the North Texas RCE adopted a targeted approach in determining the SDGs chosen for priority. Setting aside the other SDGs for rollout was a difficult decision for the stakeholders. However, we decided building capacity will be crucial to our success.<sup>19</sup> We plan to launch the North Texas RCE with a direct target of three SDGs that are directly aligned with the most critical regional challenges facing North Texas. We appreciate the importance of every SDG and were hesitant to exclude Climate Action or Poverty in our initial focus. We are confident that the interconnectedness of all 17 of the SDGs will allow our RCE to positively impact more than our priority targets:

## *Goal 3 – Good Health & Well-Being*

## *Goal 4 – Quality Education*

## *Goal 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities*

Using our top three priority SDG targets as a lens, the following section reflects analysis conducted to determine region-specific strengths and weaknesses which will impact our capacity to serve North Texas in its efforts to address these challenges.

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<sup>19</sup> The Coordinating Committee believes it can integrate Goal 1, Goal 6, Goal 7 and Goal 13 in the future.



# Strength & Weakness Analysis for Priority SDGs

Once the stakeholders agreed to prioritize the three SDGs as priority for NTRCE launch, an intensive analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of addressing these SDGs was conducted. Below are the results of this analysis, which was conducted in breakout working groups at the RCE application kickoff meeting.

## SDG #3—Good Health and Well Being

*The major strength of the region is its healthcare infrastructure; hospitals, research universities, educational institutions and others. The major weakness involves the challenges faced by one of the fastest growing populations in the nation.*

<b>STRENGTHS</b>	<b>WEAKNESSES</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Private sector partnerships</li> <li>● Buy-in from private sector and schools</li> <li>● Organizational goals and initiatives</li> <li>● Available grant funding</li> <li>● Existing coalitions and resources</li> <li>● Recognizable positive economic impact</li> <li>● Strong healthcare/hospital districts</li> <li>● Research universities</li> <li>● World class medical schools and hospitals</li> <li>● Trinity trails system</li> <li>● Blue zones project</li> <li>● Organized local food access</li> <li>● Access to parks and exercise facilities</li> <li>● Free breakfast and lunch for all students</li> <li>● Abundant local food</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sedentary lifestyles</li> <li>● Obesity/diabetes rates</li> <li>● Food deserts</li> <li>● Poor air quality</li> <li>● Lack of safe bike pathways</li> <li>● Lack of awareness</li> <li>● Funding constraints for R&amp;D</li> <li>● Low impact recognition</li> <li>● Inflexibility at state level</li> <li>● Agency turf protection</li> <li>● Food quality and scarcity</li> <li>● Disconnect between climate change and health</li> <li>● Economic inequality</li> <li>● Access—transportation</li> <li>● Immobility of the poor</li> <li>● Overdependence on county hospital</li> <li>● Teen pregnancy</li> <li>● Deficient tree canopy</li> <li>● Traffic/concrete jungles</li> <li>● Food insecurity</li> <li>● Response to population growth</li> </ul>

## SDG #4—Quality Education

*The major strength in the region is the abundance of high quality educational institutions; recognized public and private K-12 schools and districts, universities and community college systems. The major weakness is the inequity in public education due the disparity in education funding, the over-reliance on property taxes and the politicization of education at the state level.*

<b>STRENGTHS</b>	<b>WEAKNESSES</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Growing population and industry</li> <li>● Multiple large research institutes</li> <li>● Diversity of population</li> <li>● Diversity of higher education opportunities</li> <li>● Well-trained versatile workforce</li> <li>● Green education in private schools</li> <li>● Community colleges</li> <li>● Dallas county promise program</li> <li>● Excellent public and private higher education institutions</li> <li>● Multiple sustainability institutes</li> <li>● Diversified workforce</li> <li>● Diverse career opportunities</li> <li>● Sustainability directors at businesses and colleges</li> <li>● Environmental education programs</li> <li>● Nature centers</li> <li>● Environmental groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Farm to school gardens metrics</li> <li>● Affordable quality childcare and early education</li> <li>● Funding for teacher training</li> <li>● Flexibility in curriculum</li> <li>● Inequality among school districts</li> <li>● Cultural perception of education</li> <li>● Resistance to workforce diversification</li> <li>● Stem programs</li> <li>● Measurement, performance indicators</li> <li>● Pipeline for careers</li> <li>● Regional strategy to advocate for public education</li> <li>● Reduced state funding for education</li> <li>● Over-reliance on property taxes for school funding</li> <li>● Dispersion of environmental educators</li> <li>● Understanding of sustainability among the general population</li> <li>● Increased “teaching to the test”</li> <li>● Poor kids/underperforming schools concentration in south Dallas</li> <li>● Politicized education</li> <li>● Low-performing schools</li> <li>● Food insecurity among school children</li> <li>● Access to education</li> </ul>

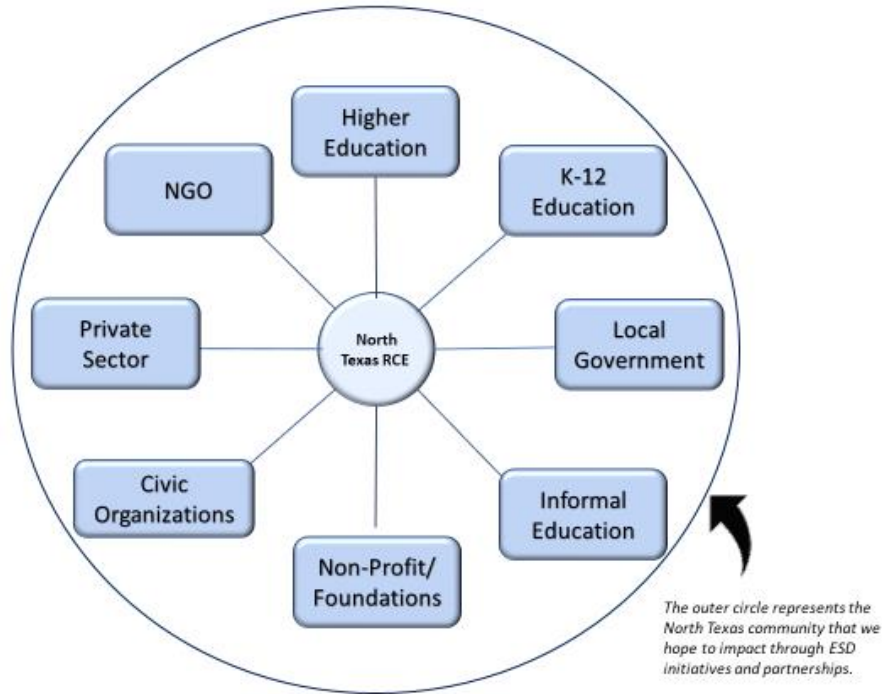
## SDG #11—Sustainable Cities & Communities

*Major strengths are (1) the regional nature of most of the challenges has demanded a degree of partnership and cooperation among local entities that may not have otherwise occurred, and (2) many cities and towns include sustainability and resilience in their comprehensive planning. The weaknesses of the region relate to urban sprawl, the major issue being transportation planning for the rapidly growing population and including air pollution, available clean water, and affordable housing.*

<b>STRENGTHS</b>	<b>WEAKNESSES</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Multi-sector leadership</li> <li>● Existing partnerships</li> <li>● Global super-hub airport</li> <li>● Home of major corporations</li> <li>● Mayors who work together</li> <li>● Public building support</li> <li>● Health education</li> <li>● Urban planning</li> <li>● City of Dallas designated Rockefeller Resilient 100</li> <li>● Available transportation funding</li> <li>● Sustainability/resilience plans among cities and universities</li> <li>● Education network</li> <li>● Increased use of renewable energy</li> <li>● Resources to develop sustainable infrastructure and technology</li> <li>● Multiple mobility options</li> <li>● Green spaces</li> <li>● Improving air and water quality</li> <li>● Active business organizations</li> <li>● Clamor for infrastructure improvement</li> <li>● Industrial-scale governmental support</li> <li>● Business recycling/composting programs</li> <li>● Focus on reversing unsustainable development trends</li> <li>● City of Dallas green codes</li> <li>● Transportation sector expertise</li> <li>● Mass transit—DART</li> <li>● Regional identity</li> <li>● LEED buildings</li> <li>● Regional innovation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Politicized environment</li> <li>● Mass transit to employment centers</li> <li>● Affordable housing</li> <li>● Urban sprawl</li> <li>● Reduced green space</li> <li>● Unchecked development</li> <li>● Economic and racial segregation</li> <li>● Concentration of crime</li> <li>● Economic mobility</li> <li>● Transportation</li> <li>● Reusable waste that not being recycled</li> <li>● Rapidly growing business waste</li> <li>● Efficient, safe bus system</li> <li>● Suburban car-based city transportation design</li> <li>● Public transit safety and efficiency</li> <li>● Recycling infrastructure</li> <li>● Awareness of differences in structure of families</li> <li>● Regional mobility—growth exceeds infrastructure</li> <li>● EPA nonattainment area</li> <li>● Quality water availability susceptible to drought</li> <li>● Cultural awareness</li> <li>● Rising housing prices</li> <li>● Poor resource management</li> <li>● Outdated ordinances and other policies</li> <li>● Gentrification</li> </ul>

# North Texas RCE Stakeholders

Below is a stakeholder wheel that demonstrates where the NTRCE will reside conceptually in the North Texas community. It is crucial for organizational effectiveness to understand stakeholders and beneficiaries that will operate and interact with the entity.



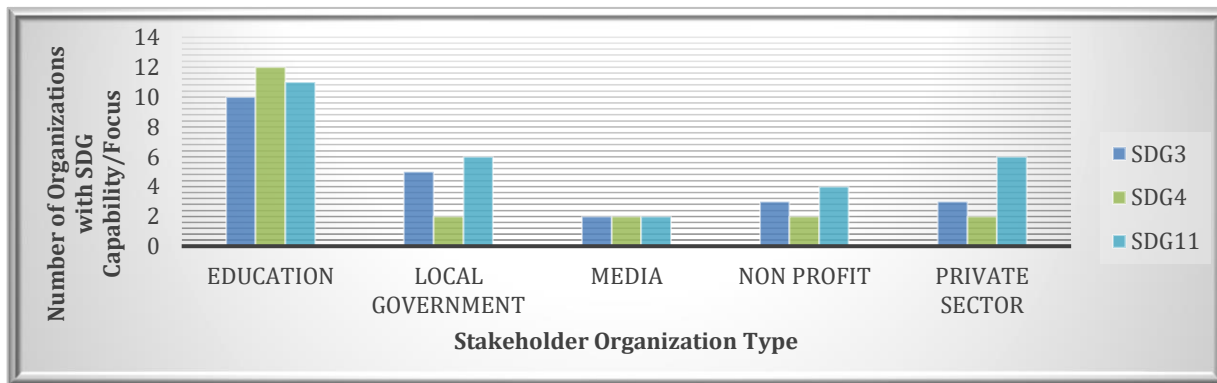
The following table lists stakeholders participating in the RCE process and/or committed to ongoing participation, as well as those that will be included in ongoing outreach, particularly as we round out expertise on priority SDGs, expand our targeted SDGs, or opportunities for collaboration arise. We have received informal support from several corporations that are hesitant to formally sign a letter of support, even though they plan to partner with the NTRCE locally to address SDGs.

NAME OF ORGANIZATION	COMMITTEE	PARTICIPANT	OUTREACH
<b>HIGHER EDUCATION</b>			
Cedar Valley College	X	X	X
Dallas County Community College District	X	X	X
Institute for Sustainability & Global Impact	X	X	X
Mountain View College	X	X	X
SMU Budd Center	X	X	X
SMU Hunt Institute for Engineering & Humanity	X	X	X
University of North Texas		X	X

<b>NAME OF ORGANIZATION</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>PARTICIPANT</b>	<b>OUTREACH</b>
University of North Texas Health Science Center	X	X	X
University of Texas at Arlington	X	X	X
University of Texas at Dallas	X	X	X
<b>K-12 EDUCATION</b>			
Dallas Independent School District	X	X	X
DeSoto ISD Medical and Environmental Magnet	X	X	X
<b>LOCAL GOVERNMENT</b>			
City of Dallas Office of Environmental Quality		X	X
City of Dallas Police Department		X	X
City of Plano	X	X	X
Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART)	X	X	X
Tarrant Regional Water District		X	X
<b>PRIVATE SECTOR</b>			
Andrews Distributing			X
BNSF Railway	X	X	X
C2G Strategies	X	X	X
Children's Health Hospital	X	X	X
Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport	X	X	X
Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas			X
Parkland Hospital	X	X	X
PepsiCo		X	X
Schneider Electric	X	X	X
<b>MEDIA</b>			
Green Source DFW		X	X
Earth People Media		X	X
Natural Awakenings Magazine	X	X	X
<b>NONPROFIT / NGO</b>			
Blue Zones Project	X	X	X
Climate Reality Project	X	X	X
Dallas 2030 Districts	X	X	X
EarthX	X	X	X
Environmental Defense Fund	X	X	X
North Central Texas Council of Governments	X	X	X
North Texas Commission		X	X
Tarrant Area Food Bank	X	X	X

<b>NAME OF ORGANIZATION</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>PARTICIPANT</b>	<b>OUTREACH</b>
Texas Campaign for the Environment		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
Texas Trees Foundation		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>

## Stakeholder Focus and Capacity Mapping



Stakeholder SDG capacity and focus is being analyzed. We will build on this data as working groups form, and resources are allocated for more research. This will allow us to expand the focus to additional SDGs as the NTRCE matures. The graph above demonstrates our priority SDGs will have coverage for launch. The data mapping below demonstrates the richness of focus on addressing sustainable development, particularly the priority SDGs we have selected to prioritize.<sup>20</sup>

NAME OF ORGANIZATION	SDG 3	SDG 4	SDG 11
<b>HIGHER EDUCATION</b>			
Cedar Valley College	X	X	X
Dallas County Community College District	X	X	X
Institute for Sustainability & Global Impact	X	X	X
Mountain View College	X	X	X
SMU Budd Center		X	
SMU Hunt Institute for Engineering & Humanity	X	X	X
University of North Texas	X	X	X
University of North Texas Health Science Center	X	X	X
University of Texas at Arlington	X	X	X
University of Texas at Dallas	X	X	X
<b>K-12 EDUCATION</b>			
Dallas Independent School District	X	X	
DeSoto ISD Medical and Environmental Magnet	X	X	
<b>LOCAL GOVERNMENT</b>			
City of Dallas Office of Environmental Quality	X		X
City of Dallas Police Department		X	X
City of Plano	X	X	X

<sup>20</sup> This exercise represents a snapshot in time; a starting point to build on for further analysis once committees and working groups are formed.

<b>NAME OF ORGANIZATION</b>	<b>SDG 3</b>	<b>SDG 4</b>	<b>SDG 11</b>
Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART)			X
Tarrant Regional Water District		X	X
<b>PRIVATE SECTOR</b>			
Andrews Distributing			X
BNSF Railway			X
C2G Strategies	X	X	X
Children's Health Hospital	X		
Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport			X
Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas			X
Parkland Hospital	X		
PepsiCo			X
Schneider Electric	X	X	X
<b>MEDIA</b>			
Green Source DFW		X	X
Earth People Media		X	X
Natural Awakenings Magazine	X	X	X
<b>NONPROFIT / NGO</b>			
Blue Zones Project	X		
Climate Reality Project	X	X	X
Dallas 2030 Districts			X
EarthX	X	X	X
Environmental Defense Fund	X	X	X
North Central Texas Council of Governments	X	X	X
North Texas Commission			X
Tarrant Area Food Bank	X	X	
Texas Campaign for the Environment	X	X	X
Texas Trees Foundation	X	X	X



# Governance & Management Structure

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The North Texas RCE will be organized in an efficient and collaborative manner with a solid management structure to ensure survival and growth in the long term. The intention of the governance and management model is to serve as an effective and engaging platform for pursuing the mission of the proposed RCE by being inclusive, transparent, democratic and efficient.

The NTRCE will continue to evolve over time and embrace flexibility and openness to adapt to changing stakeholder engagements and future community needs. At the time this proposal is submitted, the Coordinating Committee is led by the Institute for Sustainability and Global Impact at the University of Texas at Arlington. The Coordinating Committee contributed valuable input during working session as well as input for key aspects of the application. Consultant support was secured by UT Arlington to hold stakeholder meetings and identify goals and objectives, the strengths and weakness of the region and to establish priorities and strategy. Kim Smith from the Greater Portland RCE served as a mentor for the development process and helped us understand the intricate details on the benefits and challenges of RCE and guided us with the application process.

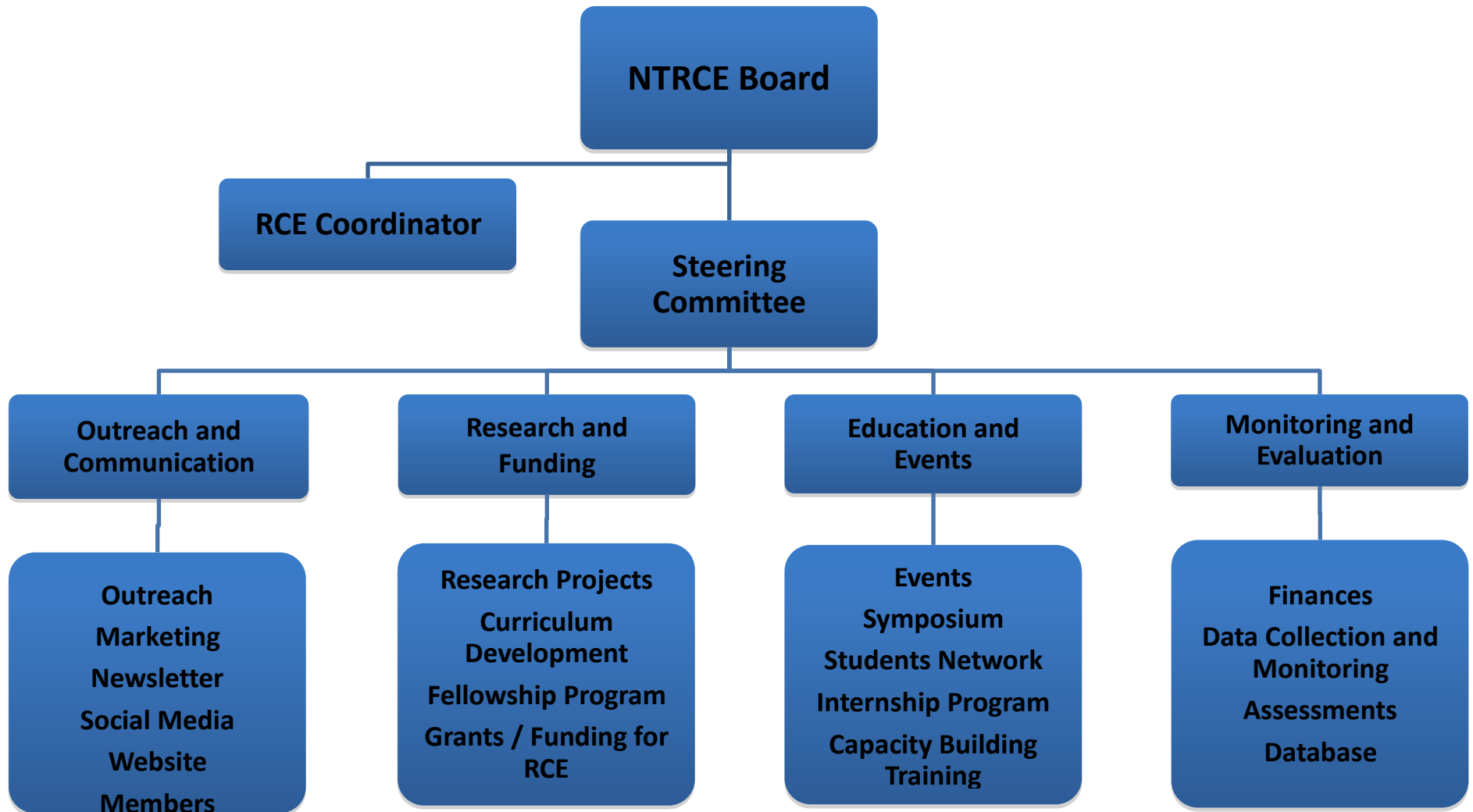
To maintain momentum and build upon enthusiasm in the community for the NTRCE, we are exploring a governance structure anchored at University of Texas at Arlington with UT Arlington as the Lead RCE Coordinator. The NTRCE secretariat will be housed at the Institute for Sustainability and Global Impact at UTA. A Board of Directors (BOD) will be established after the RCE is formally adopted with representation from key sectors. The Board of Directors will provide high level guidance to ensure the RCE is aligned with regional and stakeholder priorities. The Steering Committee will implement goals and objectives of the RCE. Additionally, the Steering Committee will oversee four sub-groups, and the lead for each sub group will serve on the Steering Committee to ensure activities are communicated and coordinated. The NTRCE Coordinator will serve on the Board of Directors and the Steering Committee. Members of the BOD and Steering Committee will serve on a rotation basis. The four Sub-Groups are:

- 1) Outreach and Communication – Responsible for outreach and marketing, newsletter, social media, website, member engagement
- 2) Research and Funding – Responsible for research projects, curriculum development, fellowship and scholarship program, grants and funding sources for RCE
- 3) Education and Events – Responsible for organizing symposium and educational roundtables, engaging with student networks in the region, internship program, capacity building training
- 4) Monitoring and Evaluation – Responsible for finances, data collection and monitoring, assessments and tracking of projects, database for stakeholders, stakeholder mapping

All stakeholders will be offered the opportunity to serve on the Board (we will restrict the BOD to 10-12 members) or the Steering Committee of their choice. Once the RCE is formally adopted, we will draft bylaws for the Board and Steering Committees which will include roles and responsibilities, term served, steps for adopting resolutions, a decision-making process, and how often the group meets. We also have some stakeholders who want to be involved with the RCE and participate without being formally announced as a stakeholder who will serve on the committee or Board.

A common thread has run through many of the discussions regarding the creation of a North Texas RCE, that of moving from concept and structure to the realization of an effective and accountable team. We have identified a few regional partnerships that are already engaged in breaking down sectoral silos, for example, the city of Plano has created a corporate forum that we plan to tap into. We also believe the rotating NTRCE Board of Directors will offer renewed perspectives and outlook and will be important in maintaining accountability and ownership in the mission and goals of the NTRCE.

## Initial Governance Structure Diagram



## Monitoring and Evaluation

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The Coordination Committee plans to implement a logic model to measure the success of the NTRCE program. There are two potential models that fit the essential work of our network, an Outcomes Approach Model and an Activities Approach Model. Either of these model types would be effective for a newly launched RCE. Logic models provide clarity to each element of the RCE's work, and critically, accountability. Tables in the Strategy and Objectives section further in this application demonstrate structural activities of the early stages of the RCE, and will ensure we have the capacity to execute, monitor and evaluate our goals and objectives. STARS standards, developed by AASHE are likely to be incorporated into our metrics, once goals and objectives are finalized. Additionally, SDG Tracker is an open tool that is measuring progress on the 17 SDGs, we plan to investigate the use of this tool as we move forward.

## Funding

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Initial support for the North Texas RCE will be on a voluntary basis. The stakeholders discussed potentially creating a non-profit entity for fundraising, but in the meantime an application for an Environmental Education grant, administered by the EPA is pending approval. These grants support projects that promote environmental awareness and stewardship and help provide skills to take responsible actions to protect the environment. Through this application, funding for the RCE Coordinator position was requested. Additional means of supporting the network will be explored by a Working Group, once instituted.

Some examples of In-Kind resources include space for hosting conferences/symposia/meetings, and miscellaneous office and printing supplies to support meetings and activities. Funding that we raise will be used for:

- Materials, Supplies, and Outreach
- Hosting regional conference
- Creating a Website for the project and a database
- Conducting Gap Analysis and Stakeholder Mapping
- Hiring Student Interns
- Hiring a full time Director for the RCE
- Travel funds for members of RCE
- Raising more funds through foundations, grant, and sponsorships

# Vision, Mission, Goal & Objectives

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## Vision Statement

A healthy, equitable and resilient North Texas.

## Mission Statement

We connect organizations in North Texas to enable healthier communities, shared value and sustainable development through education, collaboration and capacity-building.

## Goal and Objectives

The stated goal of the UNU-IAS Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Programme is to bridge the gap between learning and development through the following objectives:

**Objective 1:** Accelerating local and regional solutions to sustainability issues

**Objective 2:** Re-orienting higher education for societal transformation into SD

**Objective 3:** Develop SD and ESD competencies and capabilities and a science-policy interface

Beyond the overarching goal and objectives set forth by the UNU-IAS, the application process participants defined specific localized objectives for the region. Some of these activities are covered further in the Monitoring and Evaluation section. Strategy for executing our goals and objectives is built around the four key elements of the RCE concept, namely:

Strategy A. Create a dynamic, inclusive and diverse **governance** structure

Strategy B. **Collaborate** with stakeholders from every sector

Strategy C. Be a conduit for **transformative education** in North Texas

Strategy D. Build **research and development** (R&D) capability to strengthen ESD in North Texas

This section reflects preliminary thinking on strategies and activities to allow the NTRCE to focus on priority SDG initiatives and satisfy the strategic objectives of the UNU-IAS. This approach articulates: How we work (Strategies), Who we work with (Responsible Organizations), What we will work on (Short Term Objectives), and What result we seek (Expected Outcomes). Activity detail from stakeholder input during the application development process. Activities prefaced with “Potential” reflect ideas extrapolated from these conversations.

<b>North Texas RCE Strategy Alignment for Year One</b>			
<b>Strategy Element</b>	<b>Responsible Organizations</b>	<b>Short Term Objectives (Year One)</b>	<b>Expected Outcomes</b>
A. Create a dynamic, inclusive and diverse Governance structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NTRCE Board of Directors</li> <li>• NTRCE Steering Committee</li> <li>• All Working Groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create and finalize governance structure by instituting Board of Directors, Steering Committee and Work groups that create diversity in power dynamics</li> <li>• Create an identity for the North Texas RCE that will resonate with stakeholders and the wider regional community to ensure we are perceived as a viable regional partner for existing and potential initiatives</li> <li>• Establish RCE Youth Network</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inclusive and dynamic board and governance structures</li> <li>• Public awareness of the NTRCE is expanded and its benefits to the region are understood</li> <li>• RCE Youth Network is empowered to further SDG and ESD goals</li> </ul>
B. Collaborate with stakeholders from every sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NTRCE Board of Directors</li> <li>• NTRCE Steering Committee</li> <li>• All Working Groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify additional stakeholders by intentionally engaging various and specific sectors</li> <li>• Advance and promote the mission of the Center for Development Excellence (CDE), and Mobility 2040, multi-sector initiatives driven by NCTCOG</li> <li>• Support targets and goals established by Dallas 2030 program to reduce water and energy use in the built environment, and CO2 emissions reduction targets for transportation and infrastructure</li> <li>• Engage and promote educational programs such as the Resilient Cities Masterclass on mobility</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impact of regional models such as Mobility 2040 and CDE is expanded</li> <li>• Measurable Resilient Cities impact</li> <li>• Multi-Sector engagement increases</li> </ul>

<b>North Texas RCE Strategy Alignment for Year One</b>			
<b>Strategy Element</b>	<b>Responsible Organizations</b>	<b>Short Term Objectives (Year One)</b>	<b>Expected Outcomes</b>
C. Be a conduit for transformative education in North Texas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NTRCE Board of Directors</li> <li>• NTRCE Steering Committee</li> <li>• Outreach/Communication Working Group</li> <li>• Education/Events Working Group</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disseminate program and policy information to the private sector, such as Tobacco-Free City initiatives or Take-back drug programs adopted by local cities</li> <li>• Raise awareness of K through 12 school projects being led by Texas Trees Foundation to increase tree plantings</li> <li>• Expand awareness of the links between mental/physical health and green spaces</li> <li>• Promote the importance of better air quality through partnership with Air North Texas</li> <li>• Expand ESD in green sector at professional level</li> <li>• Expand nutrition and healthy food awareness by promoting Grow, Learn, Eat and Go Young Master Gardener programs</li> <li>• Create a Youth Sustainable Community Leadership Academy (YSCLA)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ESD as a concept becomes more prevalent and understood in the community</li> <li>• Increased Tree Canopy</li> <li>• Green Spaces are valued</li> <li>• More widespread health factor awareness</li> <li>• YSCLA program will immerse middle and high school students from at-risk communities in the sustainable planning and design of their neighborhoods while connecting science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) to sustainability</li> </ul>
D. Build research and development (R&D) capability to strengthen existing regional ESD initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NTRCE Board of Directors</li> <li>• NTRCE Steering Committee</li> <li>• Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group</li> <li>• Research Working Group</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct gap analysis/inventory of expertise, resources and needs, and costs of connecting them</li> <li>• Identify gaps between private sector needs and educational organization curricula</li> <li>• Create stakeholder mapping for region</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More data tools and research are available to advance ESD goals</li> <li>• Monitoring and evaluation tools are improved</li> </ul>

First Year Action Plan					
Inputs	Activities	Outputs	Outcomes		
			Short-term	Mid-term	Long-term
RCE Founding Members and Stakeholders	Establish and formalize RCE governance structure: Board of Directors and Steering Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Governance structure</li> <li>• Strategic plan solidifying short-term, mid-term and long-term initiatives</li> <li>• Meeting minutes related to strategic activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RCE Board and Steering Committee established</li> <li>• RCE coordination and communication structure established</li> <li>• Collaborative leadership structure established</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specific actions are taken to include project outcomes in the RCE strategic plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased improvement over time</li> <li>• RCE expands momentum of sustainability-focused advocates/groups and increases collaboration among them</li> </ul>
RCE Founding Members and Stakeholders	Create an identity for the North Texas RCE that will resonate with stakeholders and the wider regional community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outreach to build reputation and brand of North Texas RCE</li> <li>• NTRCE Website</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NTRCE Website launched</li> <li>• RCE programs and policies disseminated to the private sector</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Widespread Education and Public Relations about the NTRCE impact</li> <li>• Web based portal to connect jobs, education and research</li> <li>• Expand public-private partnerships and continue to garner business community buy-in and RCE champions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ease of access and use catalyzes connections and accelerates local progress towards the SDGs while providing value to network participants</li> <li>• NTRCE is perceived as a viable regional partner for existing and potential initiatives</li> </ul>
RCE Founding Members and Stakeholders	Management, Planning and Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project reporting</li> <li>• Record keeping (data, meeting minutes/notes)</li> <li>• Planning documents</li> <li>• Financial documents (budget, financial statements)</li> <li>• Evaluation metrics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress and financial reports</li> <li>• Surveys conducted and analyzed for formative evaluation</li> <li>• Project activities adjusted, as needed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual progress and financial reports</li> <li>• Project findings and recommendations</li> <li>• Action plan to pursue funding (external grants, membership fee structure, annual gifts)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summative evaluation and final report</li> <li>• Final reports and records kept according to Records Retention Policy</li> </ul>



First Year Action Plan					
Inputs	Activities	Outputs	Outcomes		
			Short-term	Mid-term	Long-term
NTRCE Board NTRCE Steering Committee NTRCE Working Groups	Identify additional stakeholders by intentionally engaging various and specific sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Materials and information targeted to specific stakeholders to ensure diversity</li> <li>• Targeted outreach and engagement to grassroots such as Dallas County Promise</li> <li>• Targeted outreach and engagement to museums/zoos</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional diversity of stakeholders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potentially create member mentoring program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RCE reflects the true diversity of experience and perspectives of North Texas, giving it reach and relevance across cultures</li> </ul>
NTRCE Steering Committee NTRCE Working Groups	Conduct a gap analysis to define the inventory of expertise, resources and needs (and the cost of connecting resources with needs).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gap analysis</li> <li>• Inventory of expertise, resources and needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan and action steps developed to address identified gaps</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create SDG Data Hub to ensure quantitative and qualitative data is accessible and useful for regional sustainable development</li> <li>• RCE roles include data collection, curation and translation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing assessment and action plan development for continuous improvement</li> </ul>
NTRCE Board NTRCE Steering Committee NTRCE Working Groups	Engage the community to define a health and well-being survey (SDG 3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health and well-being survey</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Action steps developed in response to survey</li> <li>• Inventory health and well-being resources among the network and identify gaps to address</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potentially develop annual RCE Health and well-being Conference to continue expanding the network and engaging new collaborators</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North Texas RCE amplifies and accelerates existing collaborations, contributing to their success</li> </ul>
NTRCE Board NTRCE Steering Committee NTRCE Working Groups	Identify gaps between business needs and educational organizations (curricula) (SDG 4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business and educational needs survey</li> <li>• Curricula resources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Action steps developed in response to survey</li> <li>• Inventory curricula resources among the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potentially develop annual RCE Education Conference to expand network and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RCE engagement provides a conduit for broader participation in collaborations</li> </ul>

First Year Action Plan					
Inputs	Activities	Outputs	Outcomes		
			Short-term	Mid-term	Long-term
			network and identify gaps in content	engage new collaborators	
NTRCE Board NTRCE Steering Committee NTRCE Working Groups	Create a Youth Sustainable Community Leadership Academy (SDG 4 & 11)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop Workshop Series with</li> <li>• Coordinate Summer Resident Camps</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Middle and high school students build a practical knowledge base for sustainable and resilient community design and planning.</li> <li>• Students understand the connection between STEM and sustainability in design and planning.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current and future civic involvement among young people is increased through the design and development of community projects.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Future leaders are developed through the introduction of youth to current leaders in various professional capacities.</li> </ul>
NTRCE Board NTRCE Steering Committee NT Working Groups	Align and engage with Dallas 100 Resilient Cities Equity Indicators framework (SDG 11)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RCE objectives aligned with Resilient 100 activities to identify overlap and conserve resources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional programs and multisector initiatives are implemented</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaboration between public and private sector for Resilient 100 is deepened</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measurable improvements in city of Dallas resilience metrics</li> </ul>

## **Potential Long-Term Objectives (Years Two-Five)**

The RCE application and discovery process uncovered several structural and SDG-specific potential long-term objectives. The points below reflect potential long-term objectives that will be formalized in late 2019. Over the course of summer 2018 the committee and workgroups will expand on these potential objectives and define their expected outcomes:

1. Increase K-12 school district engagement with NTRCE
2. Expand public-private partnerships and continue to garner business community buy-in and RCE champions
3. Expand multicultural focus, especially through the youth network
4. Expand stakeholder participation to include more grassroots organizations
5. Create awards and recognition program to highlight regional efforts aligned with SDGs
6. Build on NTRCE website to include a web-based portal for connecting regional green jobs, education and research
7. Create a college scholarship program for high school students to encourage RCE Youth development
8. Partner with stakeholders to create workforce development programs, such offering to implement sustainability-specific training and student pathways in college, university and careers through the Dallas County Promise initiative. More information on this program is found in the Committed Regional Programs and Collaborations section.
9. Organize symposia and educational seminars

## Committed Regional Programs & Collaborations

The following table highlights many of the significant collaborations, initiatives and programs from our region’s stakeholders. The NTRCE will work to strengthen these existing programs and leverage them to build additional opportunities.

Program Name	Project Description	Organizations	Primary SDG	Secondary SDG
<b>Air North Texas</b>	Multi-stakeholder partnership to reduce ozone pollution	NCTCOG, UTA	11 – Sustainable Communities	3 – Good Health and Well being
<b>Breathe Easy Dallas</b>	Partnership will collect data on air quality and health (asthma-related absenteeism) in nine Dallas schools and recommend interventions during Phase II of project	Nature Conservancy, City of Dallas OEQ	3 – Good Health and Well Being	11 – Sustainable Communities
<b>Blue in the School program</b>	Aimed at 4th grade students: encompasses four (4) sessions addressing drug awareness, anti-bullying, social media pitfalls and domestic violence through Pillars of Character (respect, responsibility, trustworthiness, caring, fairness and citizenship). Uniformed officers are classroom instructors, and assist students in developing a character roadmap	Dallas Police Department, DISD	4 - Quality Education	3 – Good Health and Well being
<b>Center for Metropolitan Diversity</b>	Addressing the challenges of sustainable development	UTA, NCTCOG	11 – Sustainable Cities	4 - Quality Education
<b>Center of Development Excellence</b>	Promote quality growth in North Central Texas that enhances the built environment, reduces vehicle miles of travel, uses water & energy resources effectively and efficiently	NCTCOG	11 – Sustainable Communities	3 – Good Health and Well being
<b>Clean Air Texas</b>	Provides a stronger voice for voluntary, business-based clean air advocacy. Host of the annual Working for Clean Air Awards.	North Texas Commission Foundation, NCTCOG, UTA	11 – Sustainable Communities	3 – Good Health and Well being

<b>Program Name</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Organizations</b>	<b>Primary SDG</b>	<b>Secondary SDG</b>
<b>Composting Workshops</b>	Participants learn how to make compost that can help garden thrive. They also learn how to install and fill a compost bin	Tarrant Area Food Bank	3 – Good Health and Well being	11 – Sustainable Communities
<b>Cool Schools</b>	Outdoor learning centers to teach students the importance and benefits of trees in healthier outdoor environments and reduce urban heat island effect	Texas Trees Foundation, Dallas ISD	11 – Sustainable Communities	3 – Good Health and Well being
<b>Dallas 2030</b>	A private-public initiative to create ground-breaking high-performance building district in Dallas. The goal is to cost-effectively and reduce environmental impact of building construction/operation.	Dallas 2030 District, Private Sector, Public Sector	11 – Sustainable Communities	3 – Good Health and Well being
<b>Dallas County Promise</b>	Public-private partnership network to enhance pathways from 8th grade to college, university and career options. Partnered with ~200 high schools and ~150 employers in the DFW region for education and workforce training.	DCCCD, SMU, UT Dallas, Private Sector, K-12 Schools	4 – Quality Education	11- Sustainable Cities & Communities
<b>Early Leader Academy</b>	Enhances conventional learning by challenging students to be problem solvers and ethical leaders. Focusing on integrity, courage and impact	BNSF, Goolsby Leadership Academy at UTA	4 - Quality Education	11- Sustainable Cities & Communities
<b>Internships for Air Quality Research</b>	Student engagement with emerging sensing technologies to improve understanding of potential environmental exposures, explore effective communication of environmental health data, and support healthy schools and communities.	UNTHSC School of Public Health, Dallas ISD	11 – Sustainable Communities	3 – Good Health and Well being
<b>Learn, Grow, Eat and Go Program</b>	Magnet academy that supports grades K through 5 with programs focused on environmental science and medical education	DeSoto ISD, Texas A&M Agrilife Extension	4– Quality Education	3 – Good Health and Well being

<b>Program Name</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Organizations</b>	<b>Primary SDG</b>	<b>Secondary SDG</b>
<b>Mobility 2040</b>	Transportation planning solutions. The product of a comprehensive, cooperative, and continuous planning effort.	NCTCOG, Local Government, UTA	11 – Sustainable Communities	3 – Good Health and Well being
<b>Pre-College Transportation Education</b>	Provides students with options for transportation as a career and advanced studies. CTEDD consortium members are actively pursuing this vision.	UTA, Regional high schools	11 – Sustainable Cities	4 - Quality Education
<b>Rockefeller Resilient 100</b>	City of Dallas is designated a Resilient 100 City, and leading multi-sector educational and development initiatives to address resilience challenges	City of Dallas, Private Sector	11 – Sustainable Communities	3 – Good Health and Well being
<b>School Children Nutrition Programs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Breakfast in the Classroom to make sure children have a healthy start</li> <li>• Harvest of the Month teaches gardening basics and healthy eating</li> </ul>	Dallas Independent School District	3 – Good Health and Well being	4 – Quality Education
<b>School Zone</b>	The School Zone – West Dallas is The Budd Center’s flagship project. It is a collective impact partnership between 32 nonprofits, 15 public, private and charter schools, the Dallas Independent School District (Dallas ISD) and SMU. It leverages the power of collaboration, scale and data-based decision making to ensure that low-income children leave high school with the tools they need to exit poverty as adults.	Budd Center	4 – Quality Education	3 – Good Health and Well Being
<b>Solid Food Waste Recycling Plan</b>	A plan to collect food scraps from local businesses with the intention of starting an on-	Toyota, City of Plano	11- Sustainable Cities & Communities	3-Good Health and Well Being

<b>Program Name</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Organizations</b>	<b>Primary SDG</b>	<b>Secondary SDG</b>
	site composting project meant to supply hydrogen for fuel cell technology			
<b>Sustainability Awareness and Global Education (SAGE) Program</b>	Recognition program for students from all majors and career fields through designated coursework and volunteer service. Led by faculty, the SAGE program is a peer-to-peer sharing network from 17 different disciplines who incorporate the SDGs	DCCCD	4 - Quality Education	11- Sustainable Cities & Communities
<b>Tree Campus USA</b>	Urban forest programs on university campuses to improve tree canopy percentages	UTD, DCCCD	3-Good Health and Well Being	11- Sustainable Cities & Communities
<b>Try Parking It</b>	Ride-match and trip-logging program available for commuters in North Central Texas. Carpool and vanpool matches, along with transit, biking, and walking buddy matches.	City of Dallas Office of Environmental Quality	11 – Sustainable Communities	3 – Good Health and Well being
<b>Waste Wise</b>	Program in partnership with the EPA to reduce waste and manage materials through waste prevention and recycling efforts	UTA, EPA	11 – Sustainable Communities	3 – Good Health and Well being
<b>Zero Waste DFW</b>	Grassroots lobbying by concerned citizens. To greatly increase landfill diversion rates	Texas Campaign for the Environment, City of Plano	11-Sustainable Cities and Communities	3- Good Health & Well Being

## Additional Collaborations with Regional Partners

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**NCTCOG Sustainable Environmental Excellence (SEE) Programs** – Multi-sector initiatives, many of which are aligned with our priority SDGs, such as storm water management, transportation planning, air quality, landfill management and workforce development programs.

### **Parkland Hospital Student Programs**

Parkland conducts several outreach and community programs, below are some of the internship, scholarship and leadership programs for students in the region:

- Dallas Mayor’s Intern Fellowship Program
- Rise to Success Youth Program
- Parkland Auxiliary Collegiate Fellows Program
- Dr. Emmett J. Conrad Leadership Program
- Reach for the Stars Nursing Scholarship Program

**Annual Water Symposium** - Hosted at UTA in collaboration with Dallas Water Utilities, North Texas Municipal Water District, Tarrant Regional Water District and Institute for Sustainability and Global Impact.

**North Texas Climate Change Symposium** - Hosted by the City of Dallas and the Dallas Bar Association Environmental Law Section to address how climate change is affecting Texans and how North Texans can address this concern.

**North Texas Green Team Competition** – North Texas colleges compete for “greenest” team at the inaugural College Football Playoff National Championship and NFL draft. Each team competes to plant 10 trees, coordinated by Texas Trees Foundation.

**North Texas Genome Center** – UTA, in partnership with UNTHSC brings genome sequencing capabilities to North Texas through the Center housed on the UTA campus. The goal is enhanced healthcare delivery and facilities to spur growth in the biotech sector.

**60/30TX Initiative** –The overall goal: 60 percent of Texans between the ages of 25 and 34 will have a certificate or degree by 2030. This program is formidable in addressing social inequities experienced by youth in Hispanic, Native American and African-American communities:

- Goal One: Educated Population – at least 60 percent of youth attain degree or certificate
- Goal Two: Completion – at least 60 percent completion rate
- Goal Three: Marketable Skills – translate into jobs/employment
- Goal Four: Student Debt – reduce the debt burden on graduates and families



**UTA Service Learning Courses** – unique interdisciplinary courses that synthesize learning and service:

- Topics in Environmental Literature – Combines donation of fresh produce to various local area food pantries. This course expands students’ environmental and sustainability education through the combination of literary/cultural textual analysis with engagement in environmental spaces that promote land ethic and sustainable eating.
- Site Planning – Course in landscape planning and architecture that emphasizes the importance of all aspects of a project. The selected projects address four areas of aesthetic concern that are relevant in every landscape architecture project:
  - Environmental Psychology
  - Regional and District elements
  - Personal Strategies – Design Aesthetics
  - Environmental Imperatives (ecological aesthetics of North Texas)

## Additional Collaborations – Potential Stakeholders

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The sustainability landscape of North Texas is impressive, and the committee plans to actively engage the wider North Texas community to ensure inclusion and fair representation. Below are several initiatives and additional programs we plan to engage:

**Lady Bird Johnson Middle School** was as designed as a net-zero energy building. Through efficiency technologies and on-site power generation, the use of renewable energies allows the building to produce as much energy as it consumes from the electric grid. The net-zero school reinforces teaching and learning as an extended classroom. Because of the use of efficient materials and cutting-edge renewable energy technology, the building is a three-dimensional learning space. Students learn through practical, hands-on experiences. Issues such as geothermal science, rainwater collection, solar panel usage, and wind turbine efficiency help students learn responsibility for energy conservation.

**The Dallas Innovation Alliance (DIA)** A coalition of stakeholders from the City of Dallas, corporations, Civic and NGO organizations, academia and private individuals who are invested in Dallas' continued evolution as a forward-thinking, innovative, 'smart' global city.

**Workforce Solutions Greater Dallas** A local organization mandated to implement a system of services that complement economic development as a resource for employers to access the quality employees they need, and training individuals to be successfully employed. Workforce Solutions administers a broad range of programs to address local workforce issues with business-directed objectives, including job training, workplace education, child care and educational initiatives.

**The Trust for Public Lands** works to protect working farms, ranches, and forests; lands of historical and cultural importance; rivers, streams, coasts and watersheds; and other special places where people can experience nature close at hand. The Trust hosts community listening sessions across Dallas to ask residents how Dallas can build better, smarter parks to meet the needs of a diverse city.

**Texas Health Resources** Texas Health Resources is one of the largest faith-based, nonprofit health systems in the United States and the largest in North Texas in terms of inpatients and outpatients served. Texas Health Resources is helping to make Fort Worth one of the healthiest cities in the country through the *Blue Zones Project*.

**Harold Simmons Foundation** seeks to improve the quality of life of all members of the community and to ensure they have resources and opportunities to live with dignity and meaning. The Foundation invests strategically in programs that support systemic change and scalability of impact.

## Regional Grassroots Organizations & Initiatives

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The committee has begun identifying and mapping organizations in North Texas that have ESD components for their missions. It is our plan to offer even the smallest organizations a platform for visibility and the support of the NTRCE network where possible. Below are a handful of micro-level initiatives that we've discovered:

**Good Faith Impact** –Workforce development and training for renewable energy jobs and clean technology business practices. Such training will promote environmentally conscious careers that improve local communities. Empowerment programming will address the root causes of poverty.

**Interfaith Environmental Alliance** – To better the Dallas/Fort Worth faith communities' awareness and understanding of critical global environmental problems, as well as identify local and state manifestations of such problems.

**North Texas Renewable Energy Group (NTREG)** – Established in 2001 with the goal of educating North Texans about the power of renewable energy.

**Real School Gardens, North Texas** – Learning gardens that raise hope, spark imaginations and connect children to nature. We partner with high-poverty elementary schools to create learning gardens that become an integral part of culture and community.

**Sustainable East** – Promotes sustainable living in local communities east of Dallas.

**Sustainable Education Solutions** – A nonprofit organization seeking to improve the environmental literacy of Dallas families, particularly younger scholars.

# Sources

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## General

- [Vision North Texas](#)
- [Profile North Texas 2018](#)
- [Center for Development Excellence](#)
- [twri.tamu.edu/](#)
- [agriflifeextension.tamu.edu/](#)
- [State-of-the-air-report-finds-continued-improvement-in-air-quality](#)
- [NCTCOG SEE Program](#)
- [North Texas Commission - DFW](#)
- [Pew Research.org/fact-tank/2015/04/08/reflecting-a-racial-shift](#)
- [Texas Commission on Environmental Quality](#)
- [Sierra Club.org/texas/blog/2018/01/denton-poised-become-renewable-energy-city](#)

## Equity

- [Pew Research.org/fact-tank/2015/06/29/dallas-area-segregation-by-income-and-race](#)
- [The-Road-to-Disinvestment-How-Highways-Divided-the-City-and-Destroyed-Neighborhoods](#)
- [American-racial-history-timeline-1900-1960](#)
- [Healthy North Texas](#)

## Urban Forest

- [D Magazine.com/publications/d-magazine/2018/february/bonton-farms-south-dallas](#)
- [Lets Stop Development Blunders Before They Happen](#)
- [DFW Heat Island Report - Houston Area Research Center](#)
- [Texas Trees Foundation March 2015 Report](#)

## Water

- [nctx-water.tamu.edu](#)
- [Swf.usace.army.mil/Missions/Water-Sustainment/Dallas-Floodway](#)
- [waterworld.com/2018/01/epa-partners-to-bring-new-drinking-water-source-to-north-texas](#)

## Air Quality/Traffic Congestion

- [nctcog.org/trans/air](#)
- [100resilientcities.org/city-dallas-toyota-100-resilient-cities-host-masterclass](#)
- [American Lung Association State of the Air Report 2018](#)

## Appendix: Letters of Support

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Below is a list of letters included with the final draft submission. Several committed stakeholders represent global corporations and have signaled local support for the NTRCE, even though they will not be able to submit formal letters of support with this application.

<b>Organization Name</b>
Blue Zones
C2G Strategies
UTA - CTEDD
Children's Health
City of Dallas
City of Plano
Climate Reality Project
Dallas Area Rapid Transit
DCCCD
DeSoto ISD
Environmental Defense Fund
Green Source DFW Magazine
SMU - Hunt Institute
Mountain View College
Natural Awakenings Magazine
NCTCOG
North Texas Commission
Parkland Hospital
Schneider Electric
Tarrant Area Food Bank
Tarrant Regional Water District
Texas Trees Foundation
UNT Health Science Center
University of Texas at Arlington
University of Texas at Dallas



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April 23, 2018

United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability  
(UNU-IAS) Global Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE) Service Centre  
5-53-70 Jingumae, Shibuya-ku  
Tokyo 150-8925 JAPAN

Dear UNU-IAS RCE Selection Committee:

Blue Zones Project Fort Worth is pleased to support in the North Texas region's application to become a recognized Regional Center of Expertise in Education.

Blue Zones Project is a community-wide well-being improvement initiative to help make healthy choices easier for everyone in Fort Worth. A vital part of Fort Worth's Healthiest City Initiative, Blue Zones Project® encourages changes in our community that lead to healthier options. When our entire community participates – from our worksites and schools to our restaurants and grocery stores – the small changes contribute to huge benefits for all of us: lowered healthcare costs, improved productivity, and ultimately, a higher quality of life. Fort Worth is on its way to becoming a Blue Zones Community®. That means residents and business owners alike are focused on improving well-being for themselves and their neighbors. Together, we can lower obesity rates, smoking and chronic disease to create a healthier, happier place to live, work, and play.

Blue Zones Project supports building partnerships in creating healthy communities. We believe institutions at the local level are best suited to address the challenges of resiliency; therefore, we support the priority goals of Health and Well-Being, Quality Education and Sustainable Cities and Communities for the North Texas RCE as a starting point for the North Texas region. These and the other goals are aligned with our values as an organization.

Sincerely,

*Brandy O'Quinn*

Brandy O'Quinn  
Blue Zones Project Policy Manager

*Tiesa R. Leggett*

Tiesa R. Leggett  
Blue Zones Project Coordinator - Schools

August 20, 2018

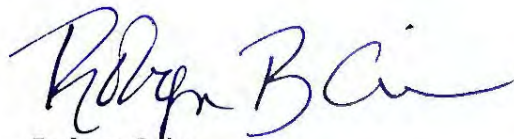
United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability  
(UNU-IAS) Global Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE) Service Centre  
5-53-70 Jingumae, Shibuya-ku  
Tokyo 150-8925 JAPAN

Dear UNU-IAS RCE Selection Committee:

C2G Strategies is honored to have been chosen to develop this application and engage regional stakeholders from various sectors into the process. We are committed to ongoing support for the North Texas region's application to become a recognized Regional Center of Expertise in Education for Sustainable Development as designated by the United Nations University's Institute for Advanced Studies in Sustainability. Furthermore, we look forward to participating in the RCE upon recognition.

As a consulting practice focused on helping our clients integrate the three pillars of sustainability into their organizations, the UN Sustainable Development Goals are at the heart of our work. C2G is based in North Texas and understands that institutions at the local level are best suited to address the challenges of sustainable development; therefore, we support the priority goals of Health and Well-Being, Quality Education and Sustainable Cities and Communities for the North Texas RCE as a starting point for our region. These and the other Sustainable Development Goals are aligned with our values as an organization, so we very much look forward to participating in this collaboration, upon official recognition by the Ubuntu Committee of Peers.

Sincerely,



**Robyn Cain**

*Director, Sustainability Initiatives*

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May 18, 2018

United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability  
(UNU-IAS) Global Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE) Service Centre  
5-53-70 Jingumae, Shibuya-ku  
Tokyo 150-8925 JAPAN

Dear UNU-IAS RCE Selection Committee:

The Center for Transportation, Equity, Decision and Dollars (CTEDD) is pleased to support the North Texas region's application to become a recognized Regional Center of Expertise in Education.

CTEDD is a U.S. Department of Transportation's University Transportation Center housed at the University of Texas at Arlington; and leads a larger consortium of universities including the University of South Florida, Georgia Institute of Technology, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and California Polytechnic State University.

The Center is a leader in cutting-edge transportation policy research that aids in decision making and improves economic development. CTEDD's research projects focus on ensuring more efficient, cost-effective use of the existing transportation system, with better access to jobs and opportunities. CTEDD focuses on providing outreach and research to policy makers, and education of future leaders of the transportation field.

CTEDD supports building partnerships with the entities that have mutual goals, particularly in empowering communities to have equal access to opportunities. We believe that the collaboration of institutions at the local level can well address the challenges of equity; therefore, we support the priority goals of Health and Well-Being, Quality Education, Sustainable Cities, and Communities for the North Texas RCE as a starting point for the North Texas region. These and the other goals will support our mission and values at CTEDD, and provide more opportunities to people of all income levels and backgrounds in the North Texas region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shima Hamidi".

Shima Hamidi, PhD

Executive Director, Center for Transportation Equity, Decisions and Dollars (CTEDD)  
Director, Institute of Urban Studies (IUS)  
University of Texas at Arlington





August 3, 2018

United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability  
(UNU-IAS) Global Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE) Service Centre  
5-53-70 Jingumae, Shibuya-ku  
Tokyo 150-8925 JAPAN

Dear UNU-IAS RCE Selection Committee:

Children's Health<sup>SM</sup>, the eighth-largest pediatric health care system in the U.S. and leading pediatric health system in North Texas, is proud to support and participate in the North Texas region's application to become a recognized Regional Center of Expertise in Education for Sustainable Development. The mission for Children's Health is to Make Life Better for Children, and we support the priority goals of Health and Well-Being, Quality Education and Sustainable Cities and Communities for the North Texas RCE as a starting point for our region. We look forward to participating in the development and maturity of the Regional Center for Expertise in North Texas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thea Junt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Thea" and last name "Junt" clearly distinguishable.

Thea Junt  
Sustainability Manager



June 18, 2018

United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability  
(UNU-IAS) Global Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE) Service Center  
5-53-70 Jingumae, Shibuya-ku  
Tokyo 150-8925 JAPAN

Dear UNU-IAS RCE Selection Committee:

The City of Dallas' Office of Environmental Quality (OEQ) is pleased to support and participate in the North Texas region's application to become a recognized Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE) in Education for Sustainable Development as designated by the United Nations University's Institute for Advanced Studies in Sustainability.

The focus of the project ties directly into our mission to protect and improve the environment by leading and guiding the City of Dallas in its efforts on environmental compliance, pollution prevention and continual improvement. OEQ is committed to sustainability as reflected in our goals to:

- Champion sustainability initiatives for the City and the community
- Develop partnerships with local community groups and stakeholders to advance environmental and quality of life issues
- Promote litter prevention through outreach and special projects
- Monitor and take action to improve air quality

As Application Coordination Committee members, we believe institutions at the local level are best suited to address the challenges of sustainable development; therefore, we support the priority goals of Health and Well-Being, Quality Education, and Sustainable Cities and Communities for the North Texas RCE as a starting point for our region. These and other Sustainable Development Goals are aligned with our values as an organization, and we look forward to further opportunities once the RCE is launched.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J McGuire'.

James McGuire  
Managing Director, Office of Environmental Quality



Environmental Education  
4200 W. Plano Parkway  
Plano, TX 75093  
Tel: 972.769.4130  
Fax: 972.769.4219

City of Plano  
P.O. Box 860358  
Plano, TX 75086-0358  
Tel: 972.941.7000  
plano.gov

April 3, 2018

United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability  
(UNU-IAS) Global Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE) Service Centre  
5-53-70 Jingumae, Shibuya-ku  
Tokyo 150-8925 JAPAN

Dear UNU-IAS RCE Selection Committee:

The City of Plano is pleased to support and participate in the North Texas region's application to become a recognized Regional Center of Expertise in Education for Sustainable Development as designated by the United Nations University's Institute for Advanced Studies in Sustainability. The Sustainability & Environmental Education Division is committed to educating and engaging the community in sustainable practices and environmental stewardship.

In 2015, Plano was awarded a 4-STAR Community Rating for Sustainability which placed us among the top cities in America. Based on STAR results, we developed a Sustainability Implementation Plan that guides current efforts and progress which includes collaborating with businesses to reduce GHG emissions and improve local air quality. Additionally, Plano received SolSmart Bronze designation in 2017 from the U.S. Department of Energy's SunShot Initiative for taking important steps to encourage solar energy growth.

As Application Coordination Committee members, we believe institutions at the local level are best suited to address the challenges of sustainable development; therefore, we support the priority goals of Health and Well-Being, Quality Education, and Sustainable Cities and Communities for the North Texas RCE as a starting point for our region. These and the other Sustainable Development Goals are aligned with our values as an organization, so we very much look forward to participating in this collaboration, upon official recognition by the Ubuntu Committee.

Sincerely,

Heather Merchant  
Sustainability and Environmental Education Manager

August 2nd, 2018

RE: United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS)  
Global Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE) Service Center  
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear UNU-IAS RCE Selection Committee:

Climate Reality Project – DFW Chapter is pleased to support and participate in the North Texas region's application to become a recognized Regional Center of Expertise in Education for Sustainable Development as designated by the United Nations University's Institute for Advanced Studies in Sustainability.

Our focus of the project ties into our mission to gather Climate Reality Leaders and other interested climate activists for camaraderie, mutual support, feedback, continuing education, and fun! Through the project we will actively seek opportunities for chapter members to make presentations across the DFW Metroplex, aiming to both inspire individual action for a livable planet and to build public support for governmental action in promoting renewable energy, reducing our carbon footprint and pollution, and protecting the environment. The Climate Reality Project – DFW Chapter is committed to sustainability as reflected in our 2018 goals:

- Increase attendance at our regular climate education/ advocacy presentations
- Engender community support for adoption of the City of Dallas' coming Climate Action Plan
- At least one group local environmental event (e.g., tree planting or park clean-up)
- Continue participating in regional events (e.g., marches, conferences, etc.) to raise the chapter's profile in the community
- Begin coordinating joint-activities with other local climate/ environmental groups in preparation for eventually hosting a DFW climate leaders summit
- Train and prepare leaders to proactively and opportunistically engage as active climate-minded citizens with any individuals or groups to affect changes that support our mission.

As Application Coordination Committee members, we believe institutions at the local level are best suited to address the challenges of sustainable development; therefore, we support the priority goals of Health and Well-Being, Quality Education and Sustainable Cities and Communities for the North Texas RCE as a starting point for our region. These and the other Sustainable Development Goals are aligned with our values as an organization, so we very much look forward to participating in this collaboration.

Sincerely,



Roger Knudson

Chapter Chair, Climate Reality Project Dallas Fort Worth Chapter



Dallas Area Rapid Transit  
P.O. Box 660163  
Dallas, TX 75266-0163  
214/749-3278

August 6, 2018

United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability  
(UNU-IAS) Global Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE) Service Centre  
5-53-70 Jingumae, Shibuya-ku  
Tokyo 150-8925 JAPAN

Dear UNU-IAS RCE Selection Committee:

Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) is pleased to support and participate in the North Texas region's application to become a recognized Regional Center of Expertise in Education for Sustainable Development as designated by the United Nations University's Institute for Advanced Studies in Sustainability.

The mission of DART is to build, establish, and operate a safe, efficient and effective transportation system that, within the DART Service Area, provides mobility, improves the quality of life and stimulates economic development through the implementation of the DART Service Plan as adopted by the voters on August 13, 1983, as amended from time to time. DART has a long history of sustainable planning, project development, as well as operations and maintenance practices since it was formed in 1983. This commitment was memorialized when DART became a signatory to the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Sustainability Program in December 2011. DART frequently emerges as an industry leader in the field of implementing sustainable practices, particularly in the areas of fuel technologies, facility waste reduction, innovative service planning, business technologies and State of Good Repair.

As Application Coordination Committee members, we believe institutions at the local level are best suited to address the challenges of sustainable development; therefore, we support the priority goals of Health and Well-Being, Quality Education and Sustainable Cities and Communities for the North Texas RCE as a starting point for our region. These and the other Sustainable Development Goals are aligned with our values as an organization, so we very much look forward to participating in this collaboration, upon official recognition by the Ubuntu Committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gary C. Thomas", with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Gary C. Thomas  
President/Executive Director

c: DART Board



# Dallas County Community College District

April 2, 2018

United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability(UNU-IAS)

Global Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE) Service Centre

5-53-70 Jingumae, Shibuya-ku

Tokyo 150-8925 JAPAN

Dear UNU-IAS RCE Selection Committee:

Dallas County Community College District (DCCCD) is pleased to support and participate in the North Texas region's application to become a recognized Regional Center of Expertise in Education for Sustainable Development as designated by the United Nations University's Institute for Advanced Studies in Sustainability.

For more than 50 years the Dallas County Community College District has helped identify and deliver solutions to the real-life challenges faced by individuals, employers and the community. One of those challenges is building a healthy and sustainable future for Dallas County and its citizens.

To that end, we are working to become an environmental leader in our community continually advocating the wise use of natural, financial and human resources through mindful education and action.

Our commitment to sustainability also impacts our everyday decisions— from our academic offerings to our architecture and college operations.

Our strategic goals include:

- 1.the conservation of energy and resources
- 2.minimizing waste
- 3.educating others about sustainability and, finally
- 4.engaging the local, regional and national community on sustainability efforts.

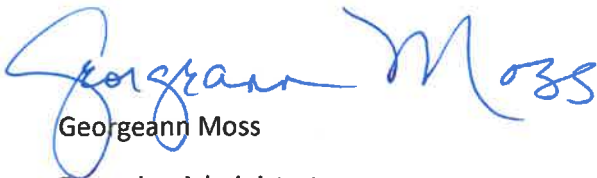
DCCCD uses the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) as a framework for teaching our students, employees and community members about sustainability. We emphasize the following SDG goals, which directly align with our Board of Trustees' priorities:

- Quality education
- Decent work and economic growth
- Reduced income inequalities
- Industry, innovation and infrastructure
- No poverty
- Zero hunger
- Good health and well-being
- Partnerships for the goals

As Application Coordination Committee members, we believe institutions at the local level are best suited to address the challenges of sustainable development; therefore, we support the priority goals of Health and Well-Being, Quality Education and Sustainable Cities and Communities for the North Texas RCE as a starting point for our region. These and the other Sustainable Development Goals are aligned with our values as an organization, so we very much look forward to participating in this collaboration, upon official recognition by the Ubuntu Committee.

If you have questions or need more information, please contact me by email at [gemooss@dcccd.edu](mailto:gemooss@dcccd.edu) or by telephone at 214-378-1823I

Sincerely,



Georgeann Moss

Executive Administrator –

Sustainability Outreach and Initiatives



June 1, 2018

United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of  
Sustainability (UNU-IAS) Global Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE) Service Centre  
5-53-70 Jingumae,  
Shibuya-ku Tokyo 150-8925 JAPAN

Dear UNU-IAS RCE Selection Committee:

DeSoto ISD is pleased to support and participate in the North Texas region's application to become a recognized Regional Center of Expertise in Education.

At Ruby Young Elementary Medical & Environmental Science Magnet Academy, our mission is to develop the foundation of a scientific workforce that will protect and sustain our environment today and for future generations.

The RYE Medical & Environmental Sciences Magnet Academy gives students the opportunity to study different forms of clean energy (solar, wind, hydro), conservation, recycling and other concepts related to environmental sciences. With resources such as the campus' aquaponics farm and the student-run garden which students plant, prune, and harvest crops yielding a variety of produce, students have hands-on engagement opportunities to learn the natural environment of the world around them and how to preserve and protect its rich natural resources.

The RYE Medical & Environmental Sciences Magnet Academy introduces students to themes and studies in health, wellness and modern medicine as supported by local community health partners such as Charlton Methodist Hospital. In the medical magnet program, budding doctors and medical practitioners matriculate to pursue practicums and more in-depth avenues of study available in DeSoto ISD.

Sincerely,

Patty Wallace  
Environmental Science Specialist  
Ruby Young Elementary Medical & Environmental Magnet Academy





*September 5, 2018*

**United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability  
(UNU-IAS) Global Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE) Service Centre  
5-53-70 Jingumae, Shibuya-ku  
Tokyo 150-8925 JAPAN**

**Dear UNU-IAS RCE Selection Committee:**

**Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) is pleased to support and participate in the North Texas region's application to become a recognized Regional Center of Expertise in Education for Sustainable Development as designated by the United Nations University's Institute for Advanced Studies in Sustainability.**

**EDF is one of the world's largest environmental organizations, with more than two million members and a staff of 700 scientists, economists, policy experts, and other professionals around the world. We believe prosperity and environmental stewardship must go hand in hand. We're optimists, because we have seen our ideas make a huge difference. And we build strong partnerships across interests to ensure lasting success. We achieve results by finding solutions that benefit people while protecting natural systems. In Texas, we work closely with many stakeholders, and North Texas is quickly becoming a leader in the sustainability and stewardship space. Now is the right time to create a RCE for moving this region forward.**

**As Application Coordination Committee members, we believe institutions at the local level are best suited to address the challenges of sustainable development; therefore, we support the priority goals of Health and Well-Being, Quality Education and Sustainable Cities and Communities for the North Texas RCE as a starting point for our region. These and the other Sustainable Development Goals are aligned with our values**

as an organization, so we very much look forward to participating in this collaboration, upon official recognition by the Ubuntu Committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kate Zerrenner", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kate Zerrenner  
Senior Manager, Energy-Water Initiatives  
Energy Program  
Environmental Defense Fund  
Texas Regional Office



Green Source DFW  
A Memnosyne Institute Project  
2902 Maple Ave.  
Dallas, Texas 75201

May 17, 2018

United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS) Global Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE) Service Centre  
5-53-70 Jingumae, Shibuya-ku Tokyo 150-8925 JAPAN

Dear UNU-IAS RCE Selection Committee:

Green Source DFW is pleased to support the North Texas region's application to become a recognized Regional Center of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development.

Since 2011, the mission of Green Source DFW has been to grow the North Texas green community by providing a resource for sharing news and information. Our goal is to unite, inform and educate the community on green issues, trends and offerings.

Green Source DFW's primary focus is on producing an online environmental news publication covering the North Texas region via the website [GreenSourceDFW.org](http://GreenSourceDFW.org). The site offers original reporting on environmental issues, sustainable initiatives and green trends and tips for the region each week. The site also features listings of green businesses, nonprofits and jobs, as well as a green calendar. Social media is additional tool used to share news.

In addition, Green Source DFW also hosts an annual awards gala honoring North Texas Sustainable Leaders as well as an annual family-friendly green festival showcasing local green businesses and nonprofits.

Green Source DFW supports the North Texas RCE's targeted Sustainable Development Goals of Good Health & Well Being, Quality Education and Sustainable Cities and Communities. We believe that collaboration and education, such as the RCE NTX proposes, will greatly enhance existing efforts to advance sustainability and improve the health and quality of life for North Texans.

Sincerely,

Julie Thibodeaux  
Green Source DFW Editor  
817-732-0722  
[Julie@GreenSourceDFW.org](mailto:Julie@GreenSourceDFW.org)

Wendel Withrow  
Green Source DFW Director  
214-287-1046  
[Wendel@GreenSourceDFW.org](mailto:Wendel@GreenSourceDFW.org)



April 23, 2018

United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability  
(UNU-IAS) Global Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE) Service Centre  
5-53-70 Jingumae, Shibuya-ku  
Tokyo 150-8925 JAPAN

Dear UNU-IAS RCE Selection Committee:

The Hunt Institute is pleased to support and participate in the North Texas region's application to become a recognized Regional Centre of Expertise in Education for Sustainable Development as designated by the United Nations University's Institute for Advanced Studies in Sustainability.

The Institute is a unique action-oriented group in a theory-oriented environment. We put systems thinking into action. The Institute strives to promote dignity-based disruption, tackling systems from the bottom up. It encourages solutions that promote local resilience and improve quality of life. The Institute is mindful of and intentional about the local-global, urban-rural dichotomies and connections in all of its efforts.

The Institute's three areas of focus are harmonious with the Sustainable Development Goals of the UN:

1. Inclusive Economy
2. Sustainable Food Systems
3. Resilient Infrastructure

As Application Coordination Committee members, we believe institutions at the local level are best suited to address the challenges of sustainable development; therefore, we support the priority goals of Health and Well-Being, Quality Education and Sustainable Cities and Communities for the North Texas RCE as a starting point for our region. These and the other Sustainable Development Goals are aligned with our values as an organization, so we very much look forward to participating in this collaboration, upon official recognition by the Ubuntu Committee of Peers.

Sincerely,

  
Dr. Eva Csaky, Executive Director  
Hunter & Stephanie Hunt Institute for Engineering & Humanity  
[www.smu.edu/HuntInstitute](http://www.smu.edu/HuntInstitute)  
[HuntInstitute@smu.edu](mailto:HuntInstitute@smu.edu)  
214-768-3360



# Mountain View College

DALLAS COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGES

April 16, 2018

United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability  
(UNU-IAS) Global Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE) Service Centre  
5-53-70 Jingumae, Shibuya-ku  
Tokyo 150-8925 JAPAN

Dear UNU-IAS RCE Selection Committee:

Mountain View College is pleased to support and participate in the North Texas region's application to become a recognized Regional Center of Expertise in Education for Sustainable Development as designated by the United Nations University's Institute for Advanced Studies in Sustainability.

Mountain View College's Sustainability Office has adopted the UN Global Goals and integrates them throughout our programs, education and outreach campaigns. We are also signatories of the Second Nature Climate Commitment, working toward carbon neutrality and campus/community resilience.

As part of our Climate Commitment we have implemented these programs:

**Sustainability Scholars:** Students earn green cords by passing specified courses and completing service-learning projects.

**Community Garden:** The Slow Food Community Garden features 44 raised beds for growing healthy, organic food.

**Aquaponics Lab:** The Aquaponics Lab contains three closed-loop systems where healthy, organic food is grown in a controlled environment.

**Outdoor Classroom:** MVC's 210-acre campus boasts an urban forest, geology area and aquatic ecosystem. This summer, a new learning space will open around a shipping container & shaded area featuring a solar energy system and seating area.

**Outdoor Nation Campus Challenge:** MVC competes annually in the national outdoor competition to get students, faculty, staff and community members participating in outdoor activities for four weeks each fall.

**RecycleMania:** MVC participates in the annual recycling competition for higher education.

**Bike Share Program:** MVC recently launched its Spin bike share program with ten bikes.

**Master Naturalist program:** MVC is collaborating with the North Texas Master Naturalist chapter by hosting their first Fall Class and offering student discounts.

**Global Goals:** MVC's Sustainability Office has adopted the UN Sustainable Development Goals and integrates them into all projects and programs. The annual Healthy Not Hungry Campaign aligns with our food-related projects – community garden, aquaponics lab, food pantry.

**Food Pantry:** The Office of Student Life manages a small food pantry of dry & canned food for students. The North Texas Food Bank distributes fresh produce to students once a month. The Sustainability Office conducts a food drive each October for World Food Day.

**Pop-Up Market:** MVC's Slow Food Pop-Up Market will launch this summer as we begin selling produce grown in the garden and aquaponics lab. We will provide recipes and periodic cooking demonstrations.

**Hydration Stations:** MVC has installed 19 hydration stations throughout the campus and actively promotes the use of reusable water bottles rather than purchasing bottled water.

**Sustainability Integration Workbook:** MVC's Sustainability Coordinator has authored a comprehensive workbook on integrating sustainability into higher education courses and provided it to all of the Mountain View faculty as part of a Creative Commons license.

Mountain View College is looking forward to participating in the North Texas Regional Center of Expertise in Education for Sustainable Development at the University of Texas at Arlington and sharing our experiences and expertise in implementing the Global Goals with regional participants.

As Application Coordination Committee members, we believe institutions at the local level are best suited to address the challenges of sustainable development; therefore, we support the priority goals of Health and Well-Being, Quality Education and Sustainable Cities and Communities for the North Texas RCE as a starting point for our region. These and the other Sustainable Development Goals are aligned with our values as an organization, so we very much look forward to participating in this collaboration, upon official recognition by the Ubuntu Committee.

Sincerely,



Dr. Sharon Davis  
Vice President of Business Services  
Mountain View College



# natural awakenings®

healthy living. healthy planet.

P.O. Box 140614, Irving, TX 75014-0614

[www.NADallas.com](http://www.NADallas.com)

Email: [publisher@NADallas.com](mailto:publisher@NADallas.com)

Tel: 972.992.8815

June 5, 2018

United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability  
(UNU-IAS) Global Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE) Service Centre  
5-53-70 Jingumae, Shibuya-ku  
Tokyo 150-8925 JAPAN

Dear UNU-IAS RCE Selection Committee:

Natural Awakenings Dallas Metroplex Magazine is pleased to support and participate in the North Texas region's application to become a recognized Regional Centre of Expertise in Education for Sustainable Development as designated by the United Nations University's Institute for Advanced Studies in Sustainability.

We have been encouraging, facilitating and participating in efforts to coalesce and grow the green, healthy and sustainable living community in North Texas since 2010 when we began publication of our monthly magazine that serves this niche. We partner with practitioners, business owners and local and regional institutions such as the North Central Texas Council of Governments, Dallas Area Rapid Transit, Dallas County Community College District and Baylor Medical Center to tell their stories and increase public awareness of their programs and activities. Our mission in doing this is to frame for the public how these green, healthy and sustainable living programs and activities affect their lives. As the only for-profit, multifaceted media entity in this niche, in this region, we take it as a responsibility of our corporate citizenship to do any and all things we can to promote a livable, sustainable North Texas.

As Application Coordination Committee members, we believe institutions at the local level are best suited to address the challenges of sustainable development; therefore, we support the priority goals of Health and Well-Being, Quality Education and Sustainable Cities and Communities for the North Texas RCE as a starting point for our region. These and the other Sustainable Development Goals are aligned with our values as an organization, so we very much look forward to participating in this collaboration, upon official recognition by the Ubuntu Committee of Peers.

Sincerely,

Bernice Butler

Publisher, Natural Awakenings Dallas Metroplex Magazine



North Central Texas Council Of Governments

July 30, 2018

Meghna Tare, Executive Director  
Institute for Sustainability and Global Impact  
Preston Hall 204  
PO Box 19228  
Arlington, TX 76019-0119

Dear Ms. Tare,

The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) would like to convey support for the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) Institute for Sustainability and Global Impact's efforts to address the challenges of sustainable development in the North Central Texas region. The priority goals identified for focus by the Institute (Health and Well-Being, Quality Education, and Sustainable Cities and Communities) directly align with NCTCOG's Center of Development Excellence Principles of Development Excellence.

NCTCOG serves a 16-county region of North Central Texas, which is centered around the two urban centers of Dallas and Fort Worth. NCTCOG has over 230 member governments, including 16 counties, numerous cities, school districts, and special districts. NCTCOG is a voluntary association established to assist local governments in planning for common needs, cooperating for mutual benefit, and coordinating for sound regional development. NCTCOG's purpose is to strengthen both the individual and collective power of local governments and to help them recognize regional opportunities, eliminate unnecessary duplication, and make joint decisions.

In its capacity to support local governments, NCTCOG administers several programs that support smart development, including the Center of Development Excellence, a regional stormwater management program, a regional public works program, and many regional air quality programs.

NCTCOG pledges support and assistance to UTA and the Institute for Sustainability and Global Impact in its pursuit to bring resources to local governments, industry, businesses, and other sectors in the North Central Texas region. NCTCOG looks forward to partnering with UTA to complement NCTCOG's existing efforts at educating and supporting development excellence and encouraging informed decision-making that will lead to resilient communities in North Central Texas.

Sincerely,

Edith Marvin, P.E.  
Director, Environment and Development Department





May 29, 2018

United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability  
(UNU-IAS) Global Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE) Service Centre  
5-53-70 Jingumae, Shibuya-ku  
Tokyo 150-8925 JAPAN

Dear UNU-IAS RCE Selection Committee:

The North Texas Commission is pleased to support and participate in the North Texas region's application to become a recognized Regional Center of Expertise in Education for Sustainable Development as designated by the United Nations University's Institute for Advanced Studies in Sustainability.

As the fastest growing region in the United States adding a new person every 3.6 minutes, sustainability is extremely important to the livelihood of the 7.4 million people who live in our region. We whole-heartedly support the priority goals of Health and Well-Being, Quality Education and Sustainable Cities and Communities for the North Texas RCE as a starting point for our region. These and the other Sustainable Development Goals are aligned with our values as an organization, so we very much look forward to participating in this collaboration, upon official recognition by the Ubuntu Committee.

The North Texas Commission is a 47-year-old non-partisan, non-profit organization that is dedicated to the vitality of our region through advocacy, education and collaboration. Our membership is made up of municipalities, higher education institutions and the business community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James D. Spaniolo".

James D. Spaniolo

President and CEO



Parkland

May 1, 2018

United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability  
(UNU-IAS) Global Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE) Service Centre  
5-53-70 Jingumae, Shibuya-ku  
Tokyo 150-8925 JAPAN

Dear UNU-IAS RCE Selection Committee:

Parkland Health & Hospital System is proud to support and participate in the North Texas region's application to become a recognized Regional Center of Expertise in Education for Sustainable Development as designated by the United Nations University's Institute for Advanced Studies in Sustainability.

Parkland Hospital has a strong commitment to furthering sustainable practices both within the hospital and the community. Our sustainability program has been in place since 2012. Highlights of our program include the following:

- Parkland's new campus, which opened in 2015, consists of 4 LEED Gold certified buildings and an additional LEED building in progress.
- The on-site laundry facility is committed to sustainable practices through the use of natural cleaners, a rag reuse program and a water reclamation system that saves approximately 1 million gallons of water every month.
- Parkland is currently in the process of re-commissioning several buildings to optimize energy performance. This is expected to save over 1.5 million kwh of electricity each month.
- Two staff members at Parkland are solely dedicated to waste reduction and recycling initiatives throughout the hospital system. There are approximately 10 waste streams and 25 recycling and reuse streams that are tracked and managed through the sustainability program.
- Twice per year, Parkland partners with the Dallas County Hospital District Police Department and the DEA to host a prescription takeback event at several of the community clinics. Not only does this keep potentially dangerous medications out of the communities, it also ensures that the medication is disposed of properly rather than ending up in local waterways.

- Parkland recently received grant funding to plant two pollinator gardens and a community garden with a seasonal high tunnel. The long-term goal of this project is help address nutritional needs for low-income individuals and families.

It is important that institutions at the local level have a structure in place to assist in collaboration as we address the challenges of sustainable development. As a healthcare system, we are proud to support the chosen sustainable development goals for the North Texas RCE as a starting point for our region. These and the other Sustainable Development Goals are aligned with our organizational mission: “Dedicated to the *health and well-being* of individuals and communities entrusted to our care.” We are eager to participate in this collaboration, upon official recognition by the Ubuntu Committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Miranda Skaaning", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Miranda Skaaning, MBA  
Manager, Facilities Business & Sustainability  
Parkland Health & Hospital System

April 23, 2018

United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability  
(UNU-IAS) Global Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE) Service Centre

Dear UNU-IAS RCE Selection Committee:

Schneider Electric supports the North Texas region's application to become a recognized Regional Center of Expertise (RCE) in Education for Sustainable Development as designated by the United Nations University's Institute for Advanced Studies in Sustainability.

As a corporation with more than 500 employees in the North Texas region, we are excited to help our communities address the challenges of sustainable development, while also committing to our own sustainability agenda. We support the North Texas RCE's initial focus on Health and Well-Being, Quality Education, and Sustainable Cities and Communities. These goals align with our values as an organization, and we support the UN sustainable development agenda at a global level with our new partnership with Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL) and our global CEO as President of the UN Global Compact France.

Schneider Electric is leading the Digital Transformation of Energy Management and Automation in Homes, Buildings, Data Centers, Infrastructure and Industries. We believe that great people and partners make Schneider a great company and that our commitment to Innovation, Diversity and Sustainability ensures that Life Is On everywhere, for everyone and at every moment.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Byrd  
Director of State Affairs, Schneider Electric  
Carrollton, Texas, USA

Schneider Electric

1650 W Crosby Rd  
Carrollton, TX 75006  
Phone: 972-323-5419

[schneider-electric.com](https://www.schneider-electric.com)

April 18, 2018

United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability  
(UNU-IAS) Global Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE) Service Centre  
5-53-70 Jingumae, Shibuya-ku  
Tokyo 150-8925 JAPAN

Dear UNU-IAS RCE Selection Committee:

Tarrant Area Food Bank is pleased to support and participate in the North Texas region's application to become a recognized Regional Center of Expertise in Education for Sustainable Development as designated by the United Nations University's Institute for Advanced Studies in Sustainability.

Our mission is to ensure that no one in our community has to go hungry. Through a variety of education programs including sustainable gardening, shopping and cooking on a budget and professional career placement in the culinary field, we strive to help families understand the benefits of nutritious foods and be able to sustain their health over time.

As Application Coordination Committee members, we believe institutions at the local level are best suited to address the challenges of sustainable development; therefore, we support the priority goals of Health and Well-Being, Quality Education and Sustainable Cities and Communities for the North Texas RCE as a starting point for our region. These and the other Sustainable Development Goals are aligned with our values as an organization, so we very much look forward to participating in this collaboration, upon official recognition by the Ubuntu Committee.

Sincerely,



Anita J. Foster,  
Senior Director, Communications & Marketing



July 20, 2018

United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability  
(UNU-IAS) Global Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE) Service Centre  
5-53-70 Jingumae, Shibuya-ku  
Tokyo 150-8925 JAPAN

Dear UNU-IAS RCE Selection Committee:

The Tarrant Regional Water District is pleased to support and participate in the North Texas region's application to become a recognized Regional Center of Expertise in Education for Sustainable Development as designated by the United Nations University's Institute for Advanced Studies in Sustainability.

As a wholesale water provider in North Texas for almost 100 years, Tarrant Regional Water District (TRWD) is committed to meet the water supply needs of our customers. The population of North Texas is expected to double over the next 50 years and sustainable water supplies are essential for the health, safety and prosperity of the region. TRWD has a water supply goal to, "incorporate environmental stewardship, conservation and sustainability into all District practices." Some of the ways we work towards this goal is by extending the lifespan of our assets through proactive management, improving water quality in our lakes and rivers through partnerships, education and research and promoting the value of water and conservation to the general public. The water conservation campaign is extremely successful and data shows an average of 100 million gallons per day are being saved. Continuing to increase sustainability initiatives in our communities will prove to be an indicator of success for our future quality of life.

As Application Coordination Committee members, we believe institutions at the local level are best suited to address the challenges of sustainable development; therefore, we support the priority goals of Health and Well-Being, Quality Education and Sustainable Cities and Communities for the North Texas RCE as a starting point for our region. These and the other Sustainable Development Goals are aligned with our values as an organization, so we very much look forward to participating in this collaboration, upon official recognition by the Ubuntu Committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dustan Compton", written over a horizontal line.

Dustan Compton  
Regional Conservation Program Manager  
Tarrant Regional Water District



June 20, 2018

United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability  
(UNU-IAS) Global Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE) Service Centre  
5-53-70 Jingumae, Shibuya-ku  
Tokyo 150-8925 JAPAN

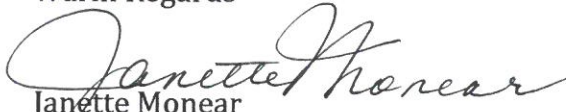
Dear UNU-IAS RCE Selection Committee:

The North Texas region is one of the fastest growing areas in the United State of America. The population growth by 2050 for the area is expected to increase by more than 12 million residents. Currently this unbridled growth is not directed in a strategic nor sustainable manner. The "business as usual" model is not sustainable and the need for support to direct sustainability in North Texas is extremely important.

The Texas Trees Foundation is a 35 year old private nonprofit working to make our cities in the North Texas region "greener, cleaner, cooler and healthy." We support, welcome and look forward to the additional expertise and resources that could come through the North Texas region's application to become a recognized Regional Center of Expertise in Education for Sustainable Development as designated by the United Nations University's Institute for Advanced Studies in Sustainability. It is through collaboration at the local level that we, together, make the greatest difference.

The need is now and we humbly request your consideration for the North Texas region's application.

Warm Regards

  
Janette Monear  
President/CEO

April 25, 2018

Dear UNU-IAS RCE Selection Committee:

As Professor at the University of North Texas Health Science Center School of Public Health (UNTHSC SPH), I am pleased to support and participate in the North Texas region's application to become a recognized Regional Center of Expertise in Education for Sustainable Development as designated by the United Nations University's Institute for Advanced Studies in Sustainability.

The North Texas RCE's three priority goals chosen as a starting point for our region are directly in-line with the mission and programs of our institution. The mission of UNTHSC is to "create solutions for a healthier community". With five schools that specialize in patient-centered education, research and health care, the UNT Health Science Center is one of the nation's premier graduate academic medical centers. UNTHSC schools include the Texas college of Osteopathic Medicine, The graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, The School of Public Health, the School of Health Professions, and the UNT System College of Pharmacy. The Health Science Center is committed to keeping **patients at the center of our efforts in education, research and care**. We create innovative programs for disease prevention and health promotion that deliver care services efficiently, effectively and equitably while minimizing health disparities among populations. The UNTHSC's commitment to solutions for healthier communities is also supported through our Office of Sustainability. The mission of UNTHSC Sustainability program is to plan, develop, implement, and assess sustainability efforts on campus that benefit our campus and community now and in the future. The strategy for carrying our sustainability at UNTHSC is achieved through education, implementation of environmental, social, and economic sustainable practices, and partnerships within and outside the campus community.

As Application Coordination Committee members, we believe institutions at the local level are best suited to address the challenges of sustainable development; therefore, we support the priority goals of Health and Well-Being, Quality Education and Sustainable Cities and Communities for the North Texas RCE as a starting point for our region. These and the other Sustainable Development Goals are aligned with our values as an organization, so we very much look forward to participating in this collaboration, upon official recognition by the Ubuntu Committee of Peers.

#### School of Public Health

The school's primary educational objective is to provide master's and doctoral level degrees and education in public health. In addition, both the master's and doctoral curricula require



that students engage in public health practice experience outside of the academic setting to provide them actual work experience related to their education.

### Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine

The school is also committed to serving the state and community by developing high quality education programs that assist public health professionals in attaining critical core competencies in the field. The school offers certificate programs for working public health professionals, as well as other training opportunities and partnerships.

The school's primary research objective is to engage in high quality research related to pressing public health concerns, locally, statewide, nationally or internationally. Strategic objectives related to research seek to further develop the capabilities of faculty, students (and public health practitioners) to generate research and scholarship that enhances the knowledge base in each of the public health disciplines, thereby improving the public's health.

Named as one of the nation's top medical schools for primary care by *U.S. News & World Report*, TCOM is a leader in training physicians skilled in comprehensive primary care and rural medicine. Over 60 percent of TCOM's graduates practice primary care medicine, helping reduce the shortage of physicians in our Texas communities. Many others successfully practice in specialty careers ranging from aerospace medicine to cardiovascular surgery.

From the first semester, students in the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree program are placed in one of our primary care clinics to directly experience community health care and related issues. Students will continue the clinical phase of their medical education with core rotations in Internal Medicine, Surgery, Pediatrics, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Family Medicine, Psychiatry, Emergency Medicine and Geriatrics.

TCOM excels through its innovative medical school curriculum, cutting-edge research, quality patient care, and outstanding student performance in both the classroom and in the clinics. Whether they are the only doctor serving a rural community or a specialist at a major medical center, TCOM graduates distinguish themselves as clinical leaders, teachers and scholars.

### Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (GSBS)

GSBS is proud to be celebrating its 25th anniversary. Today, the GSBS continues its prominent role in shaping the future of our biomedical workforce by providing high quality education and training of our PhD and Masters students to become the educators, researchers and professionals of tomorrow. Mentoring, teaching and training our students are our talented and dedicated faculty,

who use state-of-the-art technology and training methods to tackle such major biomedical problems as cancer, cardiovascular disease, infectious disease, and Alzheimer's disease.

Our graduate programs are designed with an integrated curriculum at its core that provides students with a broad foundation of knowledge in the biomedical sciences. In addition, our students take several advanced courses that enhance their training in a particular specialty within their selected discipline. Our curriculum promotes a team approach to solving complex problems that we believe is essential to better understand the biological principles that govern health and disease. These didactic and problem-based learning experiences, together with the 'hands-on' training that our students gain, are equipping our students with the tools to undertake the challenges of tomorrow.

The GSBS has also been nationally recognized for achieving a well-balanced representation of diverse populations that is reflective of our society. By studying in this environment, we believe our students are not only better prepared to immerse themselves into the "real world" environment but will have been motivated to apply their training in a way that benefits us all, across the spectrum of age, gender and ethnicity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Sterling". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" and last name "Sterling" clearly distinguishable.

David A. Sterling, PhD, CIH, ROH, FAIHA  
Professor  
Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology  
School of Public Health  
University of North Texas Health Science Center



UNIVERSITY OF  
**TEXAS**  
ARLINGTON

OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATION AND  
CAMPUS OPERATIONS

Aug 6, 2018

United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability  
(UNU-IAS) Global Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE) Service Centre  
5-53-70 Jingumae, Shibuya-ku  
Tokyo 150-8925 JAPAN

Dear UNU-IAS RCE Selection Committee:

University of Texas at Arlington is pleased to support and participate in the North Texas region's application to become a recognized Regional Center of Expertise in Education for Sustainable Development as designated by the United Nations University's Institute for Advanced Studies in Sustainability.

As a public institution, UT Arlington takes seriously its stewardship of its resources by striving to be efficient and effective with what we have available. Our growth in student enrollment and national prestige is a testament to our focus as we continue to excel in research, teaching, service, and community engagement.

Growth brings challenges in managing our environmental footprint and use of resources. Our growth highlights even more why we strive to be a leader in campus sustainability. This leadership is evident in many areas from embedding principles of sustainability across our curriculum and research as well as within our facilities and operations. As we look to the future, the four themes of our Strategic Plan 2020 demonstrate how faculty and students are tackling some of society's greatest challenges and developing innovative solutions in areas of human health, natural and social environments, and data discovery. These themes define what is important to us as we pursue sustainable approaches to our daily impacts and to challenges in the future.

As Application Coordination Committee members, we believe institutions at the local level are best suited to address the challenges of sustainable development; therefore, we support the priority goals of Health and Well-Being, Quality Education and Sustainable Cities and Communities for the North Texas RCE as a starting point for our region. These and the other Sustainable Development Goals are aligned with our values as an organization, so we very much look forward to participating in this collaboration, upon official recognition by the Ubuntu Committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John D. Hall', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

John D. Hall  
Vice President for Administration and Campus Operations  
Box 19119, 701 S. Nedderman Dr  
Arlington, Texas 76019



FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

## THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS

800 W. CAMPBELL RD. RICHARDSON, TEXAS 75080-3021 972-883-2141

April 13, 2018

United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability  
(UNU-IAS) Global Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE) Service Centre  
5-53-70 Jingumae, Shibuya-ku  
Tokyo 150-8925 JAPAN

Dear UNU-IAS RCE Selection Committee:

The University of Texas at Dallas is pleased to support and participate in the North Texas region's application to become a recognized Regional Center of Expertise in Education for Sustainable Development as designated by the United Nations University's Institute for Advanced Studies in Sustainability.

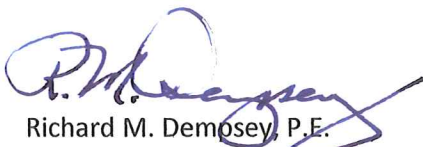
The University of Texas at Dallas (UTD) strives to be a leader in the field of sustainability by minimizing the environmental footprint of our campus while building a culture of sustainability on our campus and beyond. We believe that the role of our university is to model sustainable practices, to educate students that will affect a positive change, and to inspire leaders to take actions that make the world a better place.

- UTD is building a culture of sustainability through a standing Sustainability Committee comprised of students, faculty, and staff which allows the university's sustainability efforts to match the wishes of its community while complementing the efforts of the Office of Sustainability.
- Students lead the way through the efforts of the Student Government's Green Initiative Committee which provides funding to student projects that improve stewardship, through volunteerism with the UTD Sustainability Club, and through peer to peer education from the UTD Eco Reps.
- Earth Week, celebrated each April with events and activities, garners participation and engagement from students, faculty, staff, and community members and highlights the passion for the environment and the diverse talents in our community.
- UTD integrates sustainability in the built environment with six (6) LEED certified buildings, a net zero parking garage, and plans to seek LEED certification for two (2) buildings in design and construction.
- UTD is addressing UN and EPA food waste reduction goals by composting pre-consumer food waste from dining locations and collaborating with the Food Recovery Network to donate leftover food to feed insecure communities.
- UTD provides a sustainable habitat conducive for student learning and a thriving ecosystem. Service learning has contributed greatly to UTD's Tree Campus USA certification, Monarch Waystations, and Blackland Prairie Restoration.

- UTD is minimizing its carbon footprint through solar installations on campus by utilizing reflective roofing, through energy efficiency retrofits, and by promoting a green commute by providing free electric vehicle charging stations.

As Application Coordination Committee members, we believe institutions at the local level are best suited to address the challenges of sustainable development; therefore, we support the priority goals of Health and Well-Being, Quality Education and Sustainable Cities and Communities for the North Texas RCE as a starting point for our region. These and the other Sustainable Development Goals are aligned with our values as an organization, so we very much look forward to participating in this collaboration, upon official recognition by the Ubuntu Committee.

Sincerely,



Richard M. Demosey, P.E.  
Associate Vice President  
for Facilities Management  
University of Texas at Dallas  
972-883-2141