

USGBC TEXAS CHAPTER



TEXAS



Our Mission:

To accelerate the adoption of green building and sustainable development practices in Texas.

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TEXAS

USGBC Town Hall Meeting

Join USGBC and local leaders in Texas green building, resilience and sustainability communities for an engaging event featuring an address from USGBC's President [Mahesh Ramanujam](#). Attendees will learn about the vision and future of USGBC as well as [LEED v4.1](#), the power of [performance data and recertification](#), [LEED Zero](#), and USGBC's [Living Standard](#). The event will include a Q&A, emphasizing an open dialogue between Mahesh and local attendees.

When: **Tuesday, August 11, 2020**, 9:00AM - 11:00AM CST

Location: Virtual Texas Town Hall (login details provided upon registration)

[USGBC Town Hall Meeting Registration](#)



USGBC Summer Camp

[Center for Green Schools](#) at USGBC is hosting a virtual summer camp from July 27 to 31, to engage rising 7th through 12th grade students in exploring sustainable city planning through their own neighborhoods. Throughout the weeklong camp, students will investigate what goes into making a sustainable city, evaluate their own surroundings and apply that knowledge to advocate for sustainable changes in their own cities or towns.

[USGBC Summer Camp Info and Registration](#)

USGBC Committee Volunteers



Call for Volunteers - Join One of Our LEED committees

Applications are due August 31

USGBC is seeking innovative sustainability professionals and experts in the design, construction and operations of buildings and communities to serve on [LEED Committees](#).

LEED Committees now accepting applications:

LEED Advisory Committee
Energy and Atmosphere Technical Advisory Group
Indoor Environmental Quality Technical Advisory Group
Location and Planning Technical Advisory Group
Materials and Resources Technical Advisory Group
Sustainable Sites Technical Advisory Group
Water Efficiency Technical Advisory Group

[Apply Now](#)

Call for Volunteers – Better Buildings Better Lives: Big South Working Group

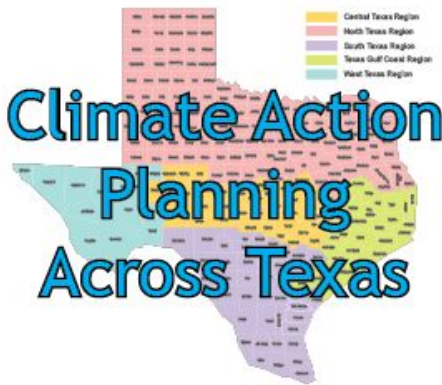
Applications are due July 28

USGBC's Big South region seeks volunteer leaders from across the South Central to participate in a Working Group to plan and implement our Better Buildings, Better Lives regional conference, which will take place virtually Dec. 8-10. This conference will feature people and projects leading the way in our region and explore how green building can raise the standard of living for everyone.

Calling all volunteer leaders! We need your help to plan the 2020 Better Buildings Better Lives: Big South regional conference! Be part of this virtual event exploring regional topics & featuring the people & projects leading the way in the South regions.

[Read more and apply now.](#)

Climate Action Plans In Texas



Current climate models predict a decrease in annual precipitation and an increase in the frequency, intensity, and length of severe droughts. Additionally, seasonal swings in weather will be extreme, with colder, wetter winters and hotter, dryer summers. Climate change will impact every part of daily life in Texas. Climate change will also impact the sensitive urban ecosystem balances that provide food, water and habitat to plant, animal and human life.

Climate change will affect everyone, but not everyone will be affected equally—the effects of climate change will disproportionately impact communities with the least means to adapt, and who have been burdened with negative historic environmental impacts.

In 2017, six Texas cities -- including Austin, Dallas, Houston and San Antonio -- signed onto the Climate Mayors' National Climate Agreement in support of the Paris Agreement and its international emission reduction targets set in 2016 and the goal to keep warming at or below 1.5 degrees Celsius. Additionally, environmental injustices of the past are being recognized and solutions created to address them, placing equity at the center of this effort towards a more resilient future for all.

To fulfill this commitment, each is creating and implementing a climate action and adaptation plan with the help of nonprofit and academic institutions, private sector experts, and community input. To date implementation of these plans has begun in San Antonio, Houston, and Dallas. The update to Austin's existing plan (2014) is due later this summer as well as one from El Paso later this year.

Climate Action Plans:

Austin: [Community Climate Plan Update](#)

Dallas: [Comprehensive Environmental & Climate Action Plan](#)

Houston: [Houston Climate Action Plan](#)

San Antonio: [Climate Action & Adaptation Plan: SA Climate Ready](#)

On August 6th, USGBC Texas will host a conversation with city officials from Austin, Dallas, El Paso, Houston, and San Antonio to discuss the process for creating their climate action plans and USGBC Texas and its members can help move the implementation forward across the state. [Register Now: Climate Action in Texas Webinar](#)

Each of these plans include multiple strategies to address issues across the spectrum of a city's operations, investments, and infrastructure. This discussion will focus on implementing those strategies involving the core competencies of USGBC Texas and our members.

This will be the first in a series of discussions to move implementation forward on these plans as well as how climate action plans fit into the more overarching resilience planning for our regions and Texas as a whole. Future sessions will include virtual Regional breakout rooms to talk directly about local strategies to complement the statewide conversation to explore specific environmental, policy, and equity concerns raised (and omitted) from these plans.

Best Practices Champions

The driving goal of the USGBC Texas Best Practices Committee is to identify and then push through the barriers preventing us from consistently and equitably deploying proven sustainable best practices in all our buildings and communities. [Visit the committee page](#) to learn more about the program and to connect with and learn about our USGBC Texas Best Practices Champions expertise and commitments.

This is not an easy undertaking. We face ingrained institutionalized behaviors, and massive inertia. Many of us have been trying for years to implement above-minimum-code betterments that improve lives. We have had limited results. We need different tactics.

The committee kickoff meeting in June generated quite a few ways to implement change. You can review the consolidated list at [this link](#). To be part of the committee's next steps, join the next meeting on Thursday, July 23 at 1 p.m. [RSVP to receive the online meeting information](#) or contact committee chair [David MacLean](#) by email or at 713.857.6499.

Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE)

50 Local Governments establish PACE Texas programs



In June Bowie, Milam, and San Patricio counties established PACE programs and selected Texas PACE Authority to administer their programs, bringing the total to 50. TPA is proud to serve local governments from El Paso to Texarkana and from the Panhandle to the Valley to bring economic and environmental benefits to Texas communities. Visit Texas PACE Authority's website to learn more about their commercial, manufacturing, multifamily and nonprofit projects.

[Texas PACE Authority](#)

Texas Water Conservation

[The Texas Living Waters Project](#) released the first [Texas Water Conservation Scorecard](#) in 2016, which evaluated water utilities across Texas. The [newly released 2020 Scorecard](#) offers a snapshot of water conservation efforts in Texas using a variety of sources, including 5-year water conservation plans, annual water conservation implementation reports, annual water loss audits, utility websites, interviews, and other publicly accessible information. Key findings from the Scorecard include:

- The submittal rate of statutorily-required Water Loss Audits increased from 86 percent to 99 percent.
- The number of large and medium-size utilities reporting that they had achieved per capita water use of 140 gallons per day or less more than doubled (from 24 utilities to 59 utilities).
- The percentage of large and medium-size utilities embracing limitations on outdoor landscape watering other than during drought periods increased (from about a third to over 40%).
- One area that remains a major challenge for Texas public water utilities is reducing system-wide water loss.
- Overall, most of the water utilities evaluated for the Scorecard could substantially increase their water conservation efforts.

Of the more than 20 best management practices recommended for municipal water providers in the State's BMP Guide, 57% of large and medium-size utilities and less than a quarter of the small utilities report they are using more than five BMPs.

Based on available data, the report offers the following recommendations for public water utilities (more recommendations are available in the report):

- Adopt outdoor watering limitations on an ongoing basis, not just during drought. Studies have shown that, annually, outdoor water use for single-family homes in Texas accounts for approximately 31% of water use. A significant reduction in annual and peak water use could be realized if a municipal water utility implemented required outdoor watering limitations (time-of-day and days-per-week limitations) year-round or at least on a seasonal basis.
- Adjust water rate structures to accurately reflect the cost and value of water and to send a stronger conservation pricing signal that will effectively encourage customers to conserve. Any water rate structure, however, should include life-line rates that provide socially vulnerable populations, such as low-income customers, a sufficient amount of water to meet basic needs at an affordable price.
- Evaluate the potential to tap state financial assistance from the State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT) and the related State Water Implementation Revenue Fund for Texas (SWIRFT), or other TWDB funding mechanisms, to finance certain water conservation activities, including especially water loss control.
- **Encourage their local government officials to consider establishing PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) mechanisms** to provide a new option for commercial, institutional, and industrial operations and owners of multi-family residential units in their communities to obtain attractive long-term financing to make energy efficiency and water efficiency improvements on their properties (some areas such as Travis County, the City of Houston, and others already have established PACE programs)

Approximately 33% of the utilities report a water loss of 13.9% or greater of the water pumped through their systems.

Case Study: Sustainable SITES

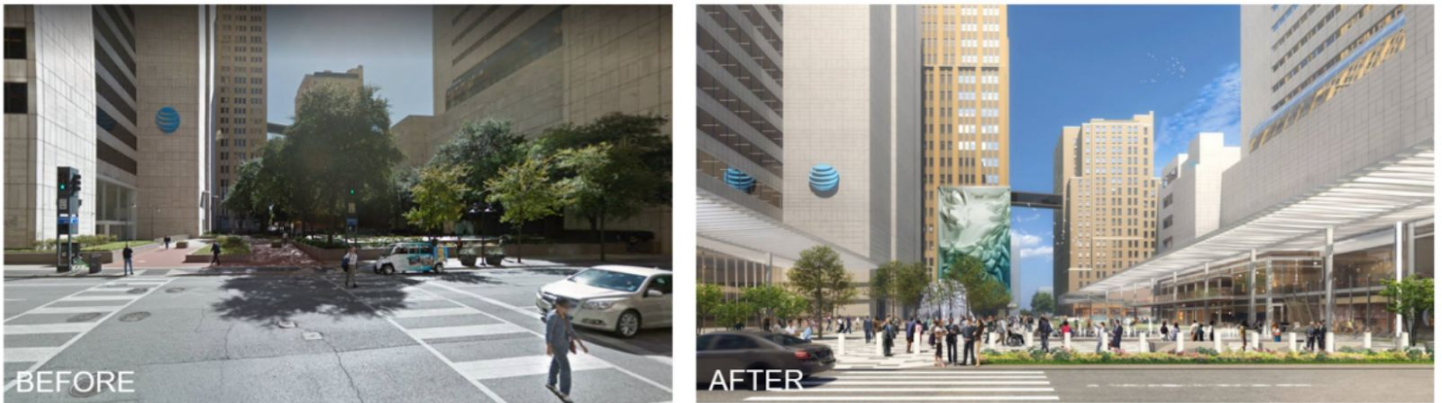


Image from [AT&T Discovery District Case Study \(The Beck Group\)](#)

AT&T Discovery District - Dallas, TX

AT&T is making progress toward reaching several sustainability goals by 2020 and considers the Discovery District project as a publicly visible embodiment of many of its sustainability goals. Some AT&T overall sustainability goals and initiatives include:

- Reduce Scope 1 emissions by 20% using a 2008 Scope 1 baseline of 1,172,476 mtons CO₂e
- Reduce the company's electricity consumption relative to data growth on their network by 60% (baseline of 2013)
- Reduce the emissions of their fleet by 30% from a 2008 baseline
- Collect more than 200 million devices for reuse, refurbishment or recycling
- Develop and deploy robust methodology to understand AT&T's network impacts to society
- For a four-year period beginning in 2015, AT&T will offer up to 1 Gbps service to any eligible school or library requesting E-rate supported services, where they have deployed fiber-based broadband Internet access services
- Demonstrate the environmental and social enablement power of consumer devices and solutions to live smarter, healthier and more independent lives.

Additionally, AT&T's internal sustainability team developed a list of specific sustainability strategies to consider early in the project's design process including but not limited to:

- Ample green spaces
- 100% renewable energy for the campus
- Water reclamation features
- Responsible material disposal
- Smart irrigation
- Smart cities digital infrastructure nodes
- Silva cells for trees
- Recycling and composting bins
- Responsible material disposal
- Bike racks
- Pedestrian walkways
- Quiet areas
- Smoke free areas

[AT&T Discovery District Case Study \(PDF\)](#)

Upcoming Events

Register for upcoming events [here](#).

- July 21** [Measuring Resilience with RELi](#)
- July 21** [Toyota's Renewable Energy & COVID-19 Initiatives](#)
- July 23** [Best Practices Champions](#)
- July 23** [USGBC Texas Trivia Night](#)
- Aug 4-5** [USGBC Healthy Economy Forum](#)
- Aug 6** [Texas Climate Action Plans, Webinar Series](#)
- Aug 8** [Virtual Training: LEED Green Associate Exam Study Session](#)
- Aug 11** [USGBC Town Hall](#)
- Aug 12** [LEED v4.1 Next Evolution of LEED Workshop](#)
- Aug 13** [Arc Performance Pro training](#)
- Sep 9** LEED Specific CEU Day (coming soon!)

The LEED Green Associate

EXAM STUDY SESSION

The Green Associate LEED Version 4 Process

- Address fundamental principles of green building
- Develop basic knowledge of LEED rating systems
- Prepares you to pass the Green Associate exam
- 4-AIA-LU

RSVP to Karla_Alderete@gensler.com
Teams calendar invite will be sent to join the class

Saturday, August 8th
@ 8am-12pm

Future Opportunities:
-October 10th
-December 5th

*We reserve the right to cancel the class if there is a low number of attendees.

Gensler



USGBC Town Hall

August 2020 | South Central Region

If you're interested in sponsoring an upcoming USGBC Texas event, please contact us Chapter@USGBCTexas.org



USGBC Texas is excited to announce that we are stretching our sustainability goals and increasing our impact across Texas. Stay tuned for news about the Texas Gumby Challenge.

**Join USGBC Texas:
Become a Member**



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1801 Royal Lane, Suite 400
Dallas, Texas 75229

