Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Roundtable

Joaquin Escalante May 27, 2025

Who We Are

Regional Planning Agency

North Central Texas Council of Governments

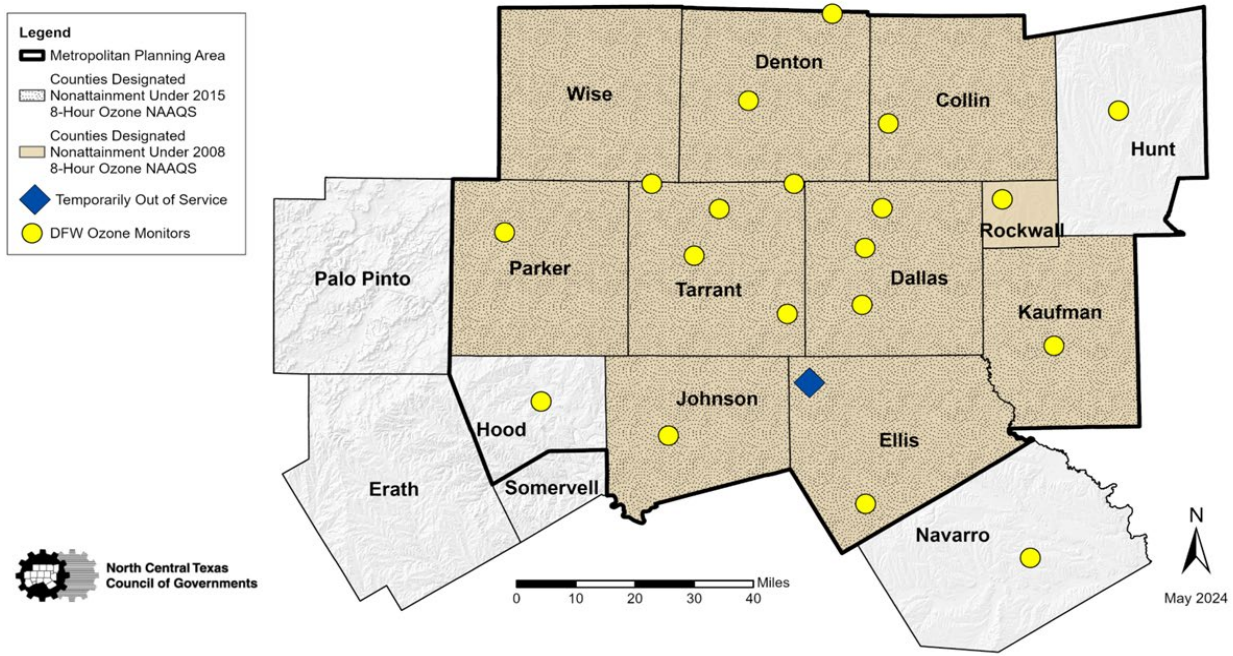
Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

Regional Transportation Council

Department of Energy-Designated Clean Cities Coalition

Dallas-Fort Worth CLEAN CITIES

Sister Coalitions in Texas:
Alamo Area Clean Cities (San Antonio)
Houston-Galveston Clean Cities
Central Texas Clean Cities (Austin)



Dallas Fort Worth Clean Cities

Key Focus Areas & Goals

- Clean Vehicle Initiatives
- Alternative Fuel Infrastructure Initiatives
- Energy Integration & Community Readiness

Go to www.dfwcleancities.org for more information

What We Do

- Funding Support
- Technical Assistance
- Planning the Future
- Raising Awareness

Welcome & Housekeeping

1. Please keep you microphone muted.
2. If you have a question, put it in the chat or use the “Raise Your Hand” feature.
3. Please put your name and organization in the chat.
4. The presentation will be recorded up until we reach the Q&A and open discussion portion.
5. The webinar slides and audio recording will be posted on the Conserve North Texas website under News/Events → Event Archive at the link below. Follow-up emails to come. http://conservenorthtexas.org/event-archive

Webinar Sponsor

NCTCOG receives funding through SECO to work on energy management and efficiency projects within the region. As part of this work, we have provided workshops, webinars, and technical assistance on a variety of energy management, energy efficiency, water efficiency, and renewable energy topics.

Agenda

- Overview
- City of Farmer's Branch – EECBG
- City of Arlington – EECBG
- Q&A
- Energy Efficiency Funding and Resources
- Transportation Electrification Funding and Resources
- Proposed TX Legislation Impact on Local Government Energy Efficiency
- Additional Information, Resources, and Funding

EECBG Background

- To help cities, counties, states, and tribal governments reduce energy use, lower energy costs, and support clean energy goals
- Formula funding (based on population size and energy use) already allocated for eligible recipients
- Eligible projects include:
  - Replacing HVAC systems or lighting in city buildings
  - Installing solar panels or EV chargers
  - Upgrading street lighting
  - Purchase EVs for municipal fleets
  - Etc.

Farmers Branch – EECBG Voucher – EV Purchase

Electric Vehicle Purchase

- Purchased two EVs for city fleet
  - F150 Lightning and Equinox EV

Benefits

- Reduction of air pollution and GHG emissions
- Decrease in environmental exposure

Reporting Used

- Replaced 16- and 19-year-old vehicles
  - Right sized vehicles for job use
- Fuel usage comparison (fleet software)

Implementation

- Vehicles have already entered service
  - Solid Waste and Health divisions

Next Steps:

- Waiting for DOE reimbursement

FARMERS BRANCH

City of Arlington – EECBG
Streetlight Retrofits Program

Project/Process/Program:

- In 2015, the City of Arlington initiated a citywide retrofit program, replacing high-pressure sodium (HPS) fixtures with energy-efficient LED lighting. The initial phase prioritized both major and minor thoroughfares, laying the foundation for a comprehensive lighting upgrade across the city.
- By 2017, the program expanded into residential neighborhoods. Existing high-pressure sodium (HPS) fixtures were systematically upgraded to LED technology, further extending the reach of the city's energy efficiency efforts

Benefits:

- Achieved significant cost reductions through decreased energy consumption, enhanced lighting efficiency to improve safety, realized substantial annual savings on energy expenditures, and increase life expectancy significantly.

Energy Analysis/Reporting Used:

- The City of Arlington, through a service agreement with Oncor has significant cost savings by converting high-pressure sodium (HPS) fixtures to energy-efficient LED lighting. This transition has reduced costs by $0.50 per major thoroughfare streetlight and $0.51 per residential streetlight, resulting in annual savings of over $20,000.

Streetlights on Cooper St

City of Arlington – EECBG Streetlight Retrofits Program

Implementation:

- Leveraging the City's asset management system, Cartegraph, streetlight technicians were assigned targeted locations, ensuring a comprehensive retrofit process in which every fixture was accounted for.
- Utilized various sources—including the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG)—to support energy efficiency initiatives

Next Steps:

- The City of Arlington has successfully achieved 100% LED lighting conversions of all City owned streetlights. Ongoing routine maintenance will continue, with the expectation that the enhanced longevity of LED technology will sustain long-term performance and reliability.

Streetlights on Cooper St

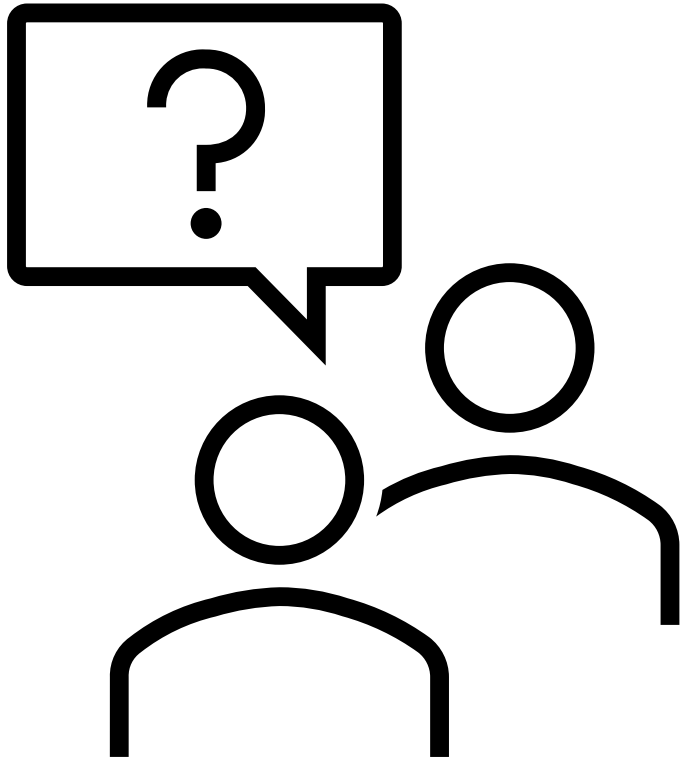
Attendee Introductions

Name

Organization

What Energy Efficiency Efforts Is Your Organization Interested In?

Q & A: City of Arlington and Farmers Branch



Discussion Questions

- What went into deciding the project you selected for your EECBG project?
- Were there any additional programs that assisted you in applying for the grant or helped you determine what improvements to make?
- Have there been any additional opportunities to improve energy efficiency for another area of your department/local government due to the work done through EECBG?
- Has acquiring an EV, changed your organization's perspective on them?
- Were there any other reasons outside of cost on why the department chose retrofit over complete replacement?
- Have you been able to measure any air quality impacts from your energy efficiency efforts?
- What is the associated maintenance with your upgrades?
- Do you have plans for other streetlight retrofit upgrades due to the results of your project?

Energy Efficiency/Renewable Energy Funding

Program/Incentive	Eligible Activities	Funding Amount	Key Dates
Texas LoanSTAR Revolving Loan Program	Provides low-interest loans for projects that reduce energy consumption at your facilities	Up to $6 million for State Energy Program (SEP) funds Up to $8 million for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds	Deadline August 31, 2025
Texas PACE Authority	Pay for permanent improvements to the property that are intended to decrease water or energy consumption or demand	Up to 35% of property's value	Rolling Application
Lone Star PACE	Low-cost, long-term financing for energy efficiency, water conservation and renewable energy improvements at new and existing commercial properties	Up to 25% of property's appraised value	Rolling Application
New Technology Implementation Grant	Funds technologies that reduce emissions of pollutants from facilities and other stationary sources	Up to 50% of project cost	Closed; Expected Spring 2027

Commercial Building Incentives

Energy Efficient Commercial Building Deduction- **Funding for energy efficiency improvements through tax-deduction**

Eligible Applicants:

- Owners of qualified commercial buildings
- Designers of Energy Efficient Commercial Building Property (EECBP) or Energy Efficient Commercial Building Retrofit Property (EEBRP) installed in buildings owned by tax-exempt entities

Qualifying Buildings:

- EECBP: Certified as being installed as part of a plan to reduce total annual energy/power costs by 25% or more
- EEBRP: Originally in service at least 5 years before the building's qualified retrofit plan was established and certified as meeting certain energy savings requirements

Qualifying Improvements:

- Interior lighting; HVAC; Hot water systems; Building envelope

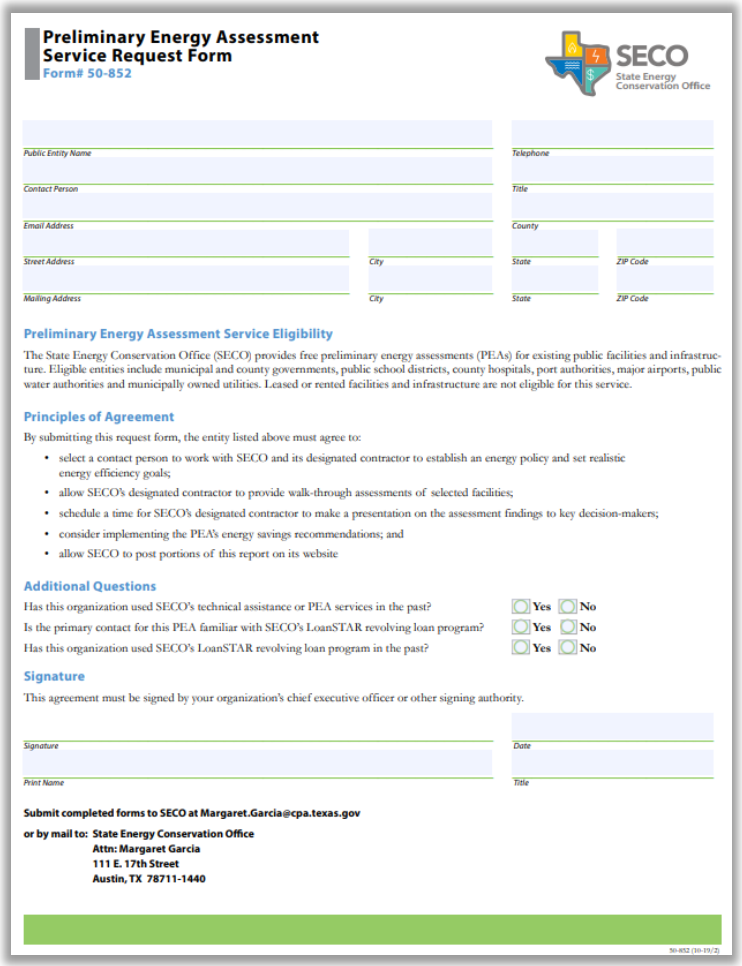
Amount of Deductions on Property:

- Built before 2022, up to $1.80 per square foot for achieving at least 50% energy savings
- Built 2023 or after, base deduction: $0.50 to $1.00 per square foot, depending on energy savings achieved (25% minimum)

Preliminary Energy Assessments (PEAs)

Preliminary Energy Assessments are provided by the State Energy Conservation Office and offer cost effective resource efficiency measures entities can implement to decrease energy consumption at **no cost to you!**

- Help guide the development of an energy management policy
- Provides facility benchmarking using ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager
- Recommended maintenance procedures
- Develop efficiency level guidelines for equipment purchases



Preliminary Energy Assessment Service Request Form
Form# 50-852

SECO State Energy Conservation Office

Public Entity Name | Telephone
Contact Person | Title
Email Address | County
Street Address | City | State | ZIP Code
Mailing Address | City | State | ZIP Code

Preliminary Energy Assessment Service Eligibility

The State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) provides free preliminary energy assessments (PEAs) for existing public facilities and infrastructure. Eligible entities include municipal and county governments, public school districts, county hospitals, port authorities, major airports, public water authorities and municipally owned utilities. Leased or rented facilities and infrastructure are not eligible for this service.

Principles of Agreement

By submitting this request form, the entity listed above must agree to:

- select a contact person to work with SECO and its designated contractor to establish an energy policy and set realistic energy efficiency goals;
- allow SECO's designated contractor to provide walk-through assessments of selected facilities;
- schedule a time for SECO's designated contractor to make a presentation on the assessment findings to key decision-makers;
- consider implementing the PEA's energy savings recommendations; and
- allow SECO to post portions of this report on its website

Additional Questions

Has this organization used SECO's technical assistance or PEA services in the past? ☐ Yes ☐ No
Is the primary contact for this PEA familiar with SECO's LoanSTAR revolving loan program? ☐ Yes ☐ No
Has this organization used SECO's LoanSTAR revolving loan program in the past? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Signature

This agreement must be signed by your organization's chief executive officer or other signing authority.

Signature | Date
Print Name | Title

Submit completed forms to SECO at Margaret.Garcia@cpa.texas.gov

or by mail to: State Energy Conservation Office
Attn: Margaret Garcia
111 E. 17th Street
Austin, TX 78711-1440

50-852 (10-19/2)

Source: SECO

Possible 89th Texas State Legislature Impacts

Bill Number	Topic	Status
SB 1036	Require solar panel sales companies and individual salespersons to register with the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation.	05/26/2025 H Signed in the House
HB 3511	Relating to the interconnection of electric vehicles to the ERCOT power grid. - enable the PUC to create programs that allows EV owners to participate in the ERCOT market by providing power stored in EV batteries back to the grid, or vehicle-to-grid (V2G)	04/30/2025 S Received from the House
HB 3237	Relating to certain energy consumption goals for institutions of higher education and certain governmental entities.	05/05/2025 S Received from the House
SB 783	Relating to certain regulations adopted by governmental entities for the construction or alteration of residential or commercial buildings	*05/20/2025 E Effective on 9/1/25*

Electric Vehicle Funding Opportunities

Federal:

Commercial Clean Vehicle Tax Credit:

- Up to $40,000 for qualified clean vehicles

www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/commercial-clean-vehicle-credit

Other funding potentially available depending on Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act Funding

Local- North Texas Council of Governments:

North Texas Diesel Emissions Reduction Call for Projects

Deadline June 13, 2025

www.nctcog.org/trans/funds/cfps/ntdercfp

North Texas Zero-Emission Vehicle Project Call for Projects

Coming June 2025

www.nctcog.org/NTxZEV

For more information on available funding go to www.nctcog.org/aqfunding

Electric Vehicle Funding Opportunities

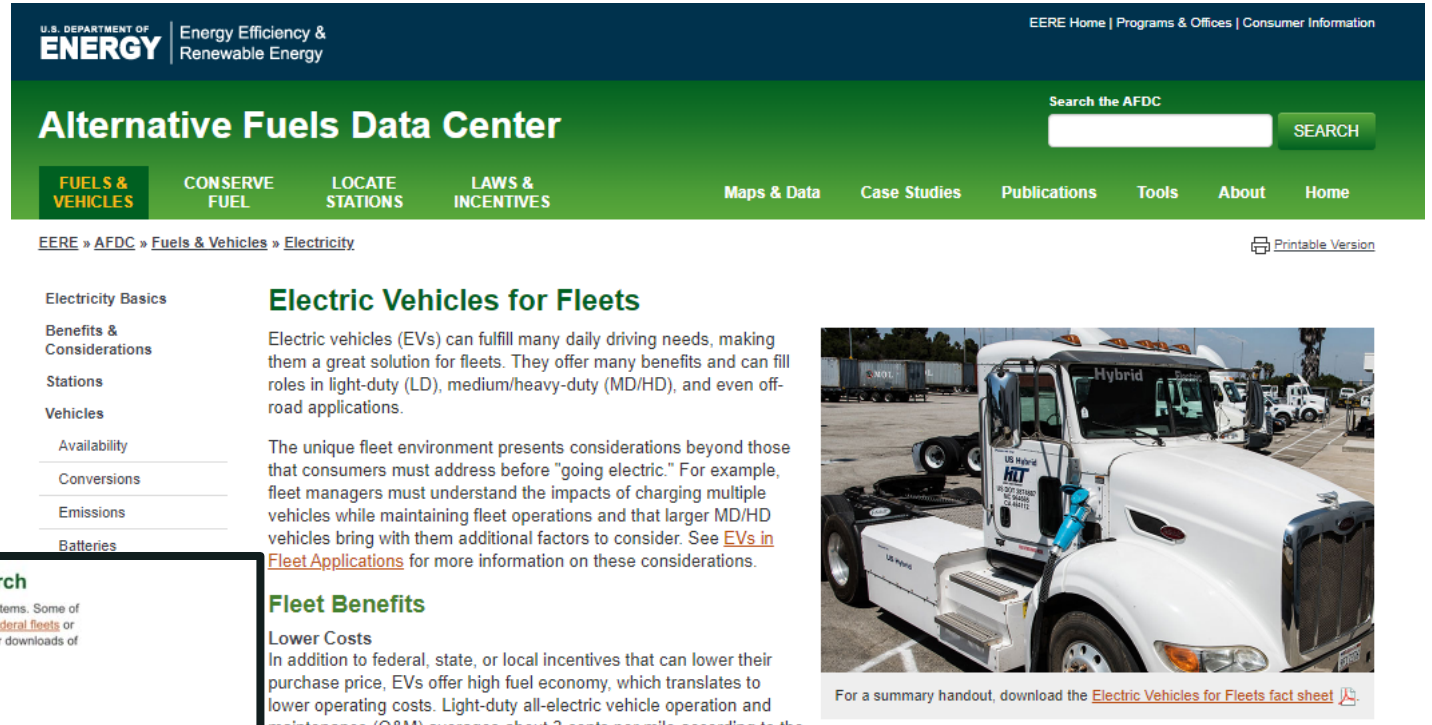
- Rebate Grants - Expected Summer 2026
- Texas Clean School Bus (TCSB) – Expected Spring 2026
- Texas Clean Fleet Program (TCFP) – Expected Spring 2027
- Seaport and Rail Yard Areas Emissions Reduction (SPRY) – Expected Spring 2027
- Texas Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Program – All-Electric Grant Round – Open; August 31, 2025
- Emissions Reduction Incentive Grants (ERIG) – Expected Fall 2026
- Light-Duty Motor Vehicle Purchase or Lease Incentive Program - Expected Fall 2025
- Governmental Alternative Fuel Fleet Grant (GAFF) – Expected Spring 2027

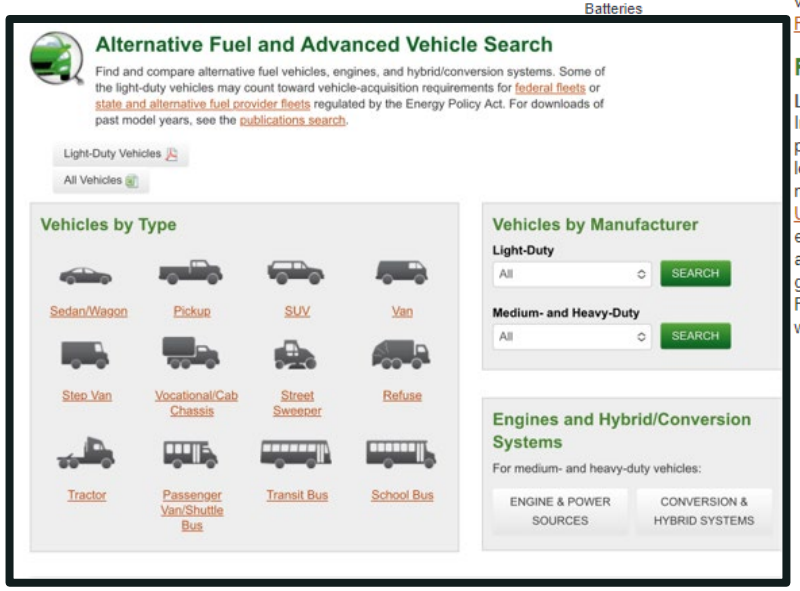
www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/terp

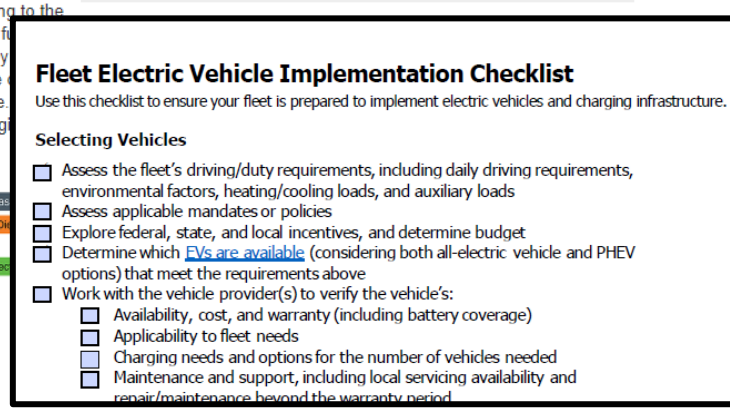
Electrification Resources - AFDC

- Find Available Vehicles
- Fleet Benefits
- Charging EVs
- EVs in Fleet Applications
- Selecting Fleet EVs
- Installing Infrastructure
- EVs for Fleets Fact Sheet

https://afdc.energy.gov/







Contact Us

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