

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE June 28, 2019

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **Environmental Update**

This memorandum provides information on two important environmental topics: (1) an update on planning activities for the Comprehensive Environmental and Climate Action Plan (CECAP); (2) a groundbreaking partnership with Texas Trees Foundation to help the City of Dallas repair, grow, and sustain our urban tree canopy. Both of these are milestones as the City establishes itself as an environmental leader and innovator.

**Progress on Comprehensive Environmental & Climate Action Plan (CECAP):** Over the past several months, the City of Dallas (City) has made significant strides in developing an equitable and effective CECAP consistent with City Council Resolution 19-0223 (January 23, 2019). Since April 2019, City staff: (1) identified and reviewed more than 20 existing plans; (2) developed a website (<https://www.dallasclimateaction.com/>) and social media tools to support CECAP development and engagement; (3) worked with community leaders to develop a multi-pronged public engagement process to support the CECAP development; and (4) engaged thousands of Dallasites to understand their concerns and hopes for the CECAP. After initial staff review, community priorities include transportation access, recycling, food security, energy efficiency & renewables, flooding, and water conservation.

The next steps for the CECAP are to generate and assess proposed City and community-wide actions in coordination with additional stakeholder meetings. City staff will update you and conduct a second round of community engagement activities in the fall to gauge community acceptance. We are on schedule to generate a draft CECAP by the end of the calendar year with adoption prior to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day in April 2020.

Lastly, City staff formally requested membership in the international C40 organization as directed by City Council Resolution 19-0223. The C40 organization exists to support cities in addressing environmental stewardship, resiliency and urban equity. At present, we have been informed by C40 staff that this request is on C40's board agenda for October 2019 meeting.

**Dallas' Urban Tree Canopy:** The City has partnered with Texas Trees Foundation (TTF) to develop an Urban Forest Master Plan (UFMP). An urban forest is comprised of all trees on both private and public lands. This effort represents the first of its kind for the City, and its importance is highlighted by the recent loss of thousands of mature trees. Once developed, an UFMP will help make us a resilient, proactive, tree-smart city that recognizes a robust urban tree canopy as one of our primary tools in combating the urban heat island effect and climate change. The UFMP will also identify timeframes for actions,

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resource opportunities, and sound policy elements while promoting collaboration between residents, businesses, elected officials, and private and non-profit organizations.

TTF, a nonprofit organization, will develop and guide the UFMP in partnership with City staff. TTF is dedicated to creating healthy communities through the protection and enhancement of the urban forests throughout Texas and has raised \$230,000 – matched by \$50,000 from the City’s dedicated reforestation fund – to support the UFMP. The UFMP is a recommended strategy from TTF’s 2017 Urban Heat Island Mitigation Study which concluded that Dallas is warming at a rate surpassed only by Phoenix, Arizona and Louisville, Kentucky. To help develop the UFMP, a steering committee will be formed to coordinate and engage stakeholders in the planning process.

Please contact James McGuire, Director of the Office of Environmental Quality and Sustainability, if you have any questions or concerns about these items.



**Majed Al-Ghafry, P.E.**  
Assistant City Manager

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| Chris Caso, City Attorney (Interim)                         | Nadia Chandler Hardy, Assistant City Manager and Chief Resilience Officer |
| Mark Swann, City Auditor                                    | Michael Mendoza, Chief of Economic Development and Neighborhood Services  |
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