



VISIONS for a GREENER HOUSTON 2012

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Hosted by
Citizens' Environmental Coalition (CEC)

Event sponsored by:



Purpose of the Event

The Visions for a Greener Houston 2012 environmental summit, which took place on February 9, 2012, was hosted by CEC, and designed to foster CEC member collaboration, whereby attendees participated in a series of thematic working sessions, and focused on formulating collaborative tactical and actionable goals for improving the Houston Gulf Coast region's natural and built environment in the year ahead. Summit objectives included:

- ***Providing a forum for our member organizations to participate together in shared dialogue and learning for the purpose of identifying opportunities for collaborative action on issues of importance to them***
- *Identifying how Houston's environmental community can best position itself to address regional environmental issues by the end of 2012*
- ***Formulating realistic, attainable goals and action steps to advance improvements within several environmental areas***
- *Producing a document that summarizes goals that emerged from this collaborative effort*
- ***Sharing this plan with our local governments and the community at large***
- *Facilitating collaborative efforts among environmental agencies to realize mutually-beneficial, short-term goals*
- ***Enlarging the environmental conversation through embracing the perspectives provided by an expanded spectrum of our citizens***



Introduction of Event

Elizabeth Love, grant officer for the Houston Endowment for environmental programs, who is very familiar with local efforts, opened the event with a general welcome. She endorsed the purpose of the summit and the convergent spirit with which CEC member organizations and citizens were jointly participating in identifying tangible, actionable items that our regional community can embrace throughout 2012.

Attendance and Participation

Approximately 125 environmental leaders, including representatives from over 50 area nonprofit groups, came together to participate in the summit, which was viewed by many as a necessary and encouraging first step toward collaboration. CEC members, together with other community individuals helped moderate the following discussion sessions:

***Food and Native Plants**

Linda Knowles, Native Plant Society of Houston

Scott Howard, Urban Harvest

***Land, Prairies, Parks and Greenspace**

Jaime Gonzalez, Katy Prairie Conservancy

Roksana Okan-Vick, Houston Parks Board

***Waste and Recycling**

Tyson Sowell, Texas Campaign for the Environment

Patsy Gillham, Plastic Pollution Texas

***Energy – Efficiencies and Alternatives**

Ralph Parrott, Houston Renewable Energy Group

Cyrus Reed and Dave Cortez, Sierra Club

***Building and Sustainability**

Ed Allday, Fondren Foundation

Lora-Marie Bernard, USGBC

***Transportation, Urban Development, Blight**

David Crossley, Houston Tomorrow

Peter Brown, Better Houston

***Air and Water Quality and Supply**

Matt Tejada, Air Alliance Houston

Jim Lester, HARC

***Bayous, Bays, Watersheds, Flooding**

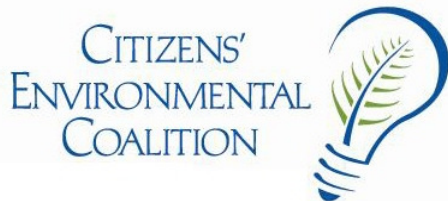
Jim Blackburn, Blackburn & Carter

Bob Stokes, Galveston Bay Foundation



Discussion Summaries with Short-Term Goals:

- 1. Food and Native Plants**
- 2. Land, Prairies, Parks and Greenspace**
- 3. Waste and Recycling**
- 4. Energy – Efficiencies and Alternatives**
- 5. Building and Sustainability**
- 6. Transportation, Urban Development and Blight**
- 7. Air and Water Quality and Supply**
- 8. Bayous, Bays, Watersheds, Flooding**



FOOD AND NATIVE PLANTS

The conversation in this breakout session centered around ways to disseminate to the community more and better information about (1) the benefits of planting native plants and (2) good sources to supply locally-grown food. In particular, there was common interest in increasing awareness by asking local governments to feature prominent links on their websites for the general public.

Also expressed was the desire to create more native food co-ops in more neighborhoods, especially in low-income areas where public or quasi-public space could help provide access to healthy, organic produce and free-range meat products to those who often have the least access to it. Providing education about benefits of organic, locally-grown foods, as well as planting, tending, harvesting and cooking information was identified as an important goal by the participants. Emphasis should be placed on targeting the general public, depressed areas of our community, and our youth in schools.

This discussion also addressed the need to replant trees lost in the recent drought and focused on when this should occur. Organizations were encouraged to help plant native seeds and saplings in area parks and open spaces. There was a very strong desire to create some type of ban on the worst invasive species of plants. The group overwhelmingly agreed that the discussion should be extended to land developers – to help them better understand the value and importance of (1) landscaping with native plants, (2) using fruit and nut trees and other food plants, and to (3) creating more community gardens and green space in areas of concentrated, high-density new construction.

Short-term Goals:

- **When replacing tree canopy, make every effort to use native species.**
- **Increase the availability of locally grown foods to everyone, especially in disadvantaged areas of town, through farmers markets, food co-ops, neighborhood gardens and community supported agriculture (CSA).**
- **Strive to have cities and counties in the Houston/Galveston region provide links on municipal websites to educational information in these specific interest areas.**



LAND, PRAIRIE, PARKS, AND GREEN SPACE

Increasing overall green space was a priority issue. Ideas included extending the “Adopt an Esplanade” program to include pocket parks, etc., preserving and restoring “sponge” prairies wherever possible, and establishing more linear parks using city drainage areas, utility right-of-ways and bayous.

There was considerable interest in creating guidelines for developers, including asking them to utilize native and drought-tolerant varieties of plants in landscape compositions, to avoid invasives, and to save as many trees as possible in areas of new construction. The group also expressed the desire to reduce green space maintenance costs and enhance habitat quality by reducing mowing operations, as well as using a better mix of native growth vs. flat grassland in these areas, thereby reducing the need for pesticide and herbicide applications.

The group also wanted to see developer/builder standards for open space preservation implemented and enforced, in order to create greater permeability around newly-constructed buildings, neighborhoods, and commercial parking lots. This group also cited the need for a focused effort to remove and reduce the quantity of impermeable surface area around under-utilized and empty big-box shopping areas and strip centers.

This discussion group also believes that local government websites should offer greater access to information on creating neighborhood gardens, pocket parks and pocket prairies; as well as information about community grants to implement such work. This group also focused on the need to convert distressed properties into productive green spaces, as well as addressing issues related to native and invasive plants.

Short-term Goals:

- **Encourage all cities and counties in the region to enhance municipal websites to include information on local parks, greenspace and native/invasive plants, including links to area organizations involved in these enterprises.**
- **Develop a “How to Establish a Pocket-Park” packet to give to homeowners associations (HOAs) or individuals interested in establishing such a park in their neighborhoods.**
- **Begin work on proactive, region-wide standards for developers and builders to preserve our existing natural areas, add green space, and mitigate negative impacts on the local environment and flooding.**



WASTE AND RECYCLING

This discussion group focused on various ways to reduce waste and to increase the total amount of recycling in our community by extending recycling programs and facilities into additional areas. The group would like a “Waste Task Force” to be created that would enable city municipalities across our 13-county region to work more effectively together. There was also a unanimous demand for expansion of city curbside, single-stream recycling services, and a strong demand for all 13 counties within the H-GAC metropolitan planning jurisdictional area and their cities to support/take a lead position in favor of the proposed Texas Bottle Bill, calling for recycling containers.

More specific ideas included a tax or ban on plastic grocery bags, similar to other municipal policies and programs around the state and nation; creation of more small, unmanned drive-through recycling centers in neighborhoods and suburbs; and the creation of more special drop events during the year for the collection of electronics, large appliances, hazardous household waste, batteries, etc. It was suggested that businesses and corporate partners could help drive this effort, similar to that of the Westchase Business District and the Energy Corridor Management District in West Houston.

In addition, there was an interest in seeing the municipalities engage the large school districts in expanded recycling efforts, including the installation of more recycling drop boxes on school campuses for plastics, glass and metal, in addition to just paper bins. To facilitate this program, suggestions included recruiting high-school level Ecology Clubs and Environmental Science classes to help manage the various school sites, and to help provide preventative education about recycling to the younger students.

New programs to mobilize the business community and the restaurant industry were also suggested. Initiating and creating incentives for a “Green Office Campaign” intended to recruit commercial real estate management firms to spearhead a recycling effort in their buildings was one idea; another was the creation of an easier recycling collection system for our large, local restaurant industry, to reduce the high quantity of cardboard, metal and glass that currently goes to the landfills. Local and regional municipalities are also urged to engage the Greater Houston Restaurant Association in banning or reducing the use of styrofoam to-go containers.

Short-term Goals:

- **Encourage and support the expansion of recycling services in additional residential and commercial sectors.**



- **Encourage all municipal and county governments within the H-GAC metropolitan area to support the Texas Bottle Bill to recycle containers, if proposed, in the 83rd Texas State Legislative Session (2013).**
- **Establish more public-private partnerships for community recycling events and for more permanent drop-off sites around the region.**



ENERGY – EFFICIENCIES AND ALTERNATIVES

Above all, there was a strong desire for new marketing programs to redefine Houston's image from "The Energy Capital of the World," a moniker once based on oil and gas, to a new focus on being seen as "The CLEAN Energy Capital of the World." There is hope that the cities in the region will focus on adopting new programs pertaining to demand response, energy efficiency, onsite solar facilities and energy efficient building construction, operations and maintenance practices.

Discussion also focused on establishing and enforcing better standards for energy efficiency. For example, consideration should be given to increasing Houston's standards from the current 5% above the State minimum, and adopting the 2012 IECC standards by 2014 for residential/commercial, older existing buildings, financing and the role of utilities. Also highly desirable are new and stronger efforts to uphold building codes for new construction and agreement by counties to enforce such codes in the suburbs.

Also discussed was the need for a commitment to use more renewable energy sources in schools, office and government buildings, as well as big malls and arenas. A strong effort to reduce energy waste was a predominate focus of the conversation. This included requiring office buildings to improve efforts to power down after hours, recruiting the local real estate industry to support and sponsor energy audits on older homes (similar to Austin), and promoting more Smart Metering technology applications to show consumers how to save money and reduce energy consumption overall. Time-of-use discounts could be created and publicized, and best energy conservation practices, such as using more insulation in older public buildings, could be added.

There was also an interest in PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy program) as an innovative way to pay for upgrades to existing inefficient properties to reduce operating costs. There was interest in seeing the current statutes amended now, as well as initiating more public awareness of the program in order to move forward, so it can eventually become a reality next year. There was also some interest in trying to create incentives for voluntarily implementing green building/energy efficiency techniques and best practices, using perks such as community recognition, reduced permit wait times, and possibly financial incentives from the City or the corporate community.

And finally, there was a strong desire for some organized effort to work with homeowners associations (HOAs) to allow individual energy efficiency improvements to individual homeowner properties, and to allow solar gardens in common areas of neighborhoods.



Short-term Goals:

- Increase community recognition of successful green building/energy efficiency initiatives.
- Promote a new moniker, characterizing Houston as “The Clean Energy Capital of the World.”
- Promote more after-hours powering-down of Houston’s office buildings.
- Promote adoption of 2012 IECC standards by 2014.
- Increase the City of Houston’s renewable energy consumption from 33% to 50% by 2013.
- Advance the adoption of PACE within the City of Houston and Harris County.



BUILDING AND SUSTAINABILITY

This discussion group also emphasized the need to offer more support for enterprises that retrofit homes for renewable energy and energy efficiency, including efforts to focus on rooftops – solar panels and green roofs. In addition, there was broad interest in obtaining the support of local real estate firms to include “walk scores,” energy scores, and transit scores in their home listings.

Again, there was a demand to create additional builder standards, especially in the counties where the greatest increase in new residential development and supporting retail centers is occurring. There was also interest in creating a program to assist homeowner associations to support environmentally friendly efforts by individual homeowners, such as clotheslines, front yard gardens vs. flat lawns, water collection systems, and solar panels.

Overall, the group would like to see a regional plan for sustainability, with the City of Houston taking a lead role.

Short-term Goals:

- **Promote systems efficiencies best practices within homeowners associations.**
- **Partner with the Houston real estate firms to include walk, energy, and transit scores within their listings.**
- **Promote increased attention to building cool, green and solar roof treatments.**



TRANSPORTATION, URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND BLIGHT

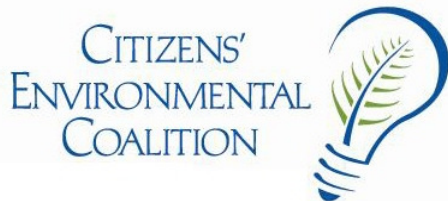
This discussion group rallied around the need for the City of Houston to establish a clear definition and requirements for “Complete Streets,” to include adequate lighting and signage, increased pedestrian amenities and walkability, handicapped access and connected sidewalks, designed to be safe for all users. This also calls for enforcing higher standards when building new streets, within the City limits, as well as surrounding counties. There was a strong desire to see the City of Houston’s Public Works and Engineering Department review and update their codes to reflect these changes and retrain their personnel to enforce compliance.

Commuter rail between Houston and Galveston also received considerable attention. There was a desire for both Houston and Galveston City Councils to pass resolutions supporting future commuter rail lines in order to reduce peak congestion, to facilitate transit-oriented development, and to enhance recreational activities within the metropolitan region. There was also interest in seeing our municipalities and counties work in partnership on a comprehensive transportation and urban development plan for the Houston-Galveston region as an integrated and cohesive unit, similar to efforts in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Also discussed was the need to raise awareness about the desirability and advantages of denser development inside the city, and the creation of, and connections between, more Livable Centers. This would include facilitating new rules for positive development within the city limits, with more transportation access, remote parking centers, and more walkable centers. Also strongly desired are efforts supporting the Bayou Greenway plan for trails and green space along bayous (largely east-west connectors), and supporting the addition of new north-south connectors, possibly using utility easements. Supporting CenterPoint’s utility line access bill in the 83rd Texas Legislative Session (2013) was seen as an important step in advancing this goal.

Short-Term Goals:

- **Increase community recognition, education and awareness of several related initiatives including: the “Complete Streets” concept, Bayou Greenway plans, and the desirability and advantages of denser development inside the City of Houston.**
- **Promote increased attention by the Houston and Galveston City Councils to the initiative of a commuter rail line between these two cities.**
- **Through a unified coalition, begin the conversation for a mass transit/commuter transit plan for the overall Houston-Galveston 13-county region.**



AIR AND WATER QUALITY AND SUPPLY

The air discussion centered around proactive, positive ideas to reduce point and non-point source pollution, including creating special “cleaner air days” for business commuters. Other suggestions included designated car-free days, car-alternative weeks, telecommuting days, and the promotion of more flex-work schedules to reduce peak traffic congestion in a call for observance of a “low car diet.” There was a desire to increase government/agency/business partnerships such as: employer incentives and subsidies for employee mass transit, park-n-ride, etc.

Additional strategies aimed at addressing air concerns included replanting trees lost due to drought, more enforcement of air standards, requirements for “big-box” stores to use emissions-free trucks, reductions in emissions from school buses, and providing an online manual for engine options. There was also a desire for more public electric car charging stations and more publicity for same. There was also active solicitation for more public comment at Port of Houston’s Sunset Review Commission hearings and the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund hearings.

The discussion also focused on power plants. There was strong desire expressed for the cities and counties and environmental organizations to actively engage in the permitting process for any proposed power plants and industrial facilities that are near enough to impact Houston air quality, in order to assure that all legal standards and provisions are met. Further concern was expressed about such power plants redirecting water away from wildlife and marsh areas.

The water discussion included best quality practices, and strategies included improved storm drain markers, more conservation and preservation of wetlands, and education about proper disposal of pet waste. In addition, there was a strong desire to institute permanent water conservation measures, not just in drought periods. There was also a call to support Houston-Galveston Area Council’s BIG (Bacteria Implementation Group) programs.

Short-term Goals:

- **Create a public awareness push to educate area residents about the impacts of new power plants proposed for the Houston area that would affect our air and water quality.**
- **Initiate and publicize additional Business-City-County Commuter Partnerships to reduce peak congestion, offer incentives and soliciting business partners to subsidize better commute solutions for their employees.**

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- **Promote native tree planting initiatives to replace trees lost during the drought for the benefit of air and water quality.**
- **Publicize and demonstrate water conservation measures while the impacts of the current drought remain.**



BAYOUS, BAYS, WATERSHEDS AND FLOODING

Above all else, the greatest concern discussed was flooding. The primary interest of this discussion group was to force immediate attention to the instability of the Addicks and Barker dams. There was an overwhelming concern about the current risk of catastrophic failure, and demand that funding be allocated for substantial repairs to this infrastructure. This should be a first-order priority due to the size of the population at flooding risk should a dam fail.

The group expressed an urgent need for a plan to bring together floodplain administrators from counties and cities across the region to coordinate funding requests and to plan as a region. Since water flows from one entity into another, it is imperative that planning be conducted as a region. Other flooding discussion suggested the creation of a “mitigation bank” for stormwater detention as part of Rebuild Houston; asking the City of Houston and other entities to plan ahead and set aside funds to acquire more lands for stormwater detention; and providing increased public education regarding the watersheds they live in and how their actions affect the watershed, including the whole bayou system and Galveston Bay.

Session participants would like to see developers of new residential and commercial areas held accountable to higher standards for flooding prevention, using such techniques as adequate drainage, sufficient detention ponds, conservation and preservation of area prairies and wetlands and bayous, and to create vegetated buffers adjacent to bayous, our natural drainage system. Additional considerations include instituting a community rating system with insurance companies (such as what the State of Florida has implemented) to lower flood insurance costs for higher rated communities.

More discussion about flooding issues included efforts to utilize existing open space in already-developed areas for more flood protection and stormwater retention. Suggestions were made to excavate parks and playgrounds for dual use – using them as parks when dry, detention ponds when we are in flood state; to create more rain gardens; to lower esplanades that do not already have trees to help retain flood water; and to stage competitions for local universities and businesses to come up with other flooding solutions that fit within the already-built environment. In addition, educate drainage fee customers that credits toward drainage fees could be accrued for rain gardens, french drain installation and other flood reducing strategies. There was interest in making available tools and techniques that property owners can use to reduce flooding.

This discussion group also reiterated concerns about water quality, suggesting a broader education campaign to reduce pharmaceuticals and other toxins and bacteria in the



waterways, and to stage more medicine return days and hazardous waste drop off events, similar to the desires of the recycling discussion group. In the interest of water conservation, this group repeated the call for a continuous water conservation plan for all year, every year.

Short-term goals:

- **Address the Barker and Addicks infrastructure (dams) instability immediately.**
- **Take the first steps to create a region-wide floodplain administration and plan.**
- **Create a list of development covenants and standards for new building construction for the City of Houston and surrounding high-growth counties that ensures preservation of air and water quality, which can be implemented by yearend.**
- **Initiate small-scale pilot projects to sample some innovative low-impact development and flood abatement strategies discussed, like lowering esplanades, vegetated swales, rain gardens, and playgrounds and parks as dual-use areas for both recreation and stormwater retention; to assess feasibility on a larger scale.**
- **Ask political candidates about action plans for flooding.**



Visions Summit: Narrative Supplement

Considering the many environmental issues identified as high priorities for the region, CEC member organizations recognize that the environmental community must continuously build its own capabilities in order to continue responding to these growing challenges. As they considered strategies to build this capability, CEC member organizations repeatedly expressed that CEC take an integral role in supporting the environmental community in their efforts: by (1) enhancing the content and usability of the CEC website and resources, (2) broadening the reach of public information/education, and (3) convening groups to address urgent environmental needs and to recognize measurable accomplishments.

CEC is honored that our member organizations continue to look to CEC for vital resources that support their work. We value feedback from our member organizations on their experience with CEC, and we welcome new ideas that might help us serve our members better in the future. As always, member suggestions are given serious consideration in light of our mission, our current resources, and our capabilities.

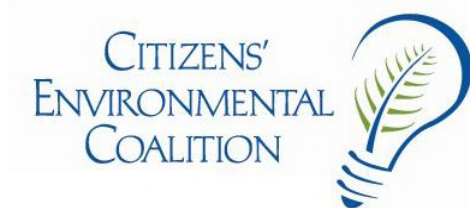
The following is a list of suggestions provided by our member organizations at the Visions for a Greener Houston 2012 summit, followed by a description of CEC program enhancement plans currently in process. These plans are, in part, a direct response to continuous feedback from our member organizations prior to this summit, including both membership and e-Newsletter reader surveys conducted in 2011.

The affirmation of much of CEC's program enhancement plan by feedback from Visions 2012 is welcomed feedback for CEC:

CEC Website

Several suggestions from attendees to the Visions Summit focused on content enhancements to the CEC website and resources:

- 1. Create standard issue sections on CEC website**
 - Offer blog, comment section in each
 - Sort news, events into issue areas to make more manageable – in addition to how most recent and upcoming items appear in weekly e-news
 - Create interactive discussion forum by issue area



2. **Introduce a regular member group feature section on CEC website**
 - Rotate by issue area
 - Educate on/summarize recent activities by various groups in a given issue area, then link out to their websites for promotion, advocacy, call-to-actions, etc.
3. **Improve the Resource Guide Index**
 - Sort groups by subject area, include alpha directory.

Broaden the Reach

Several suggestions involved leveraging the Coalition by reaching a wider public audience with its information and education.

1. **Distribute the Resource Guide and the E-news to more people**
 - Include more City/County contacts
 - Business employers
 - Government workers
 - High Schools
 - College groups
 - HOAs
 - Media
2. **Create a Speakers Bureau by issue area**
 - Recruit participants from all member groups
 - Publicize to media, schools
3. **Help coordinate/schedule having one CEC member at each weekly Council meeting to do 3-minute pitch**
 - One minute on CEC and communal effort, and two minutes about their specific activities/current events



Convene Groups

Additional suggestions included convening groups to address urgent environmental needs and to recognize measurable accomplishments.

1. Reinstitute Synergy Awards

- Recognize positive environmental actions, good “green” behaviors
- Create competition to show measurable improvements

2. Organize and publicize issue roundtables

- Flooding mitigation asap!
- CEC’s Ongoing Program Enhancement

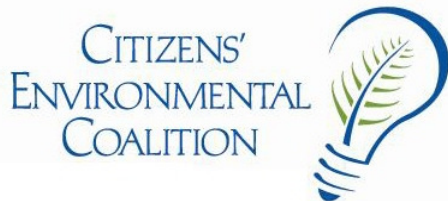
The CEC believes that face-to-face dialogue and collaboration is paramount in order for the environmental community to engage other City and regional stakeholders. In 2011, CEC re-instituted ‘Discussion Roundtables’ as member events to foster dialogue and education around key environmental challenges. CEC intends to continue running these events, eventually offering them on a quarterly basis as a means to bring together subject matter experts from member organizations to discuss current status, needs, and next steps, including how to engage other stakeholders, on specific issues.

CEC also recognizes the role of the internet in meeting its mission statement in the 21st Century, in order to enhance dialogue and foster collaboration among its member organizations. To that end, and pending additional capital resources, the CEC will begin the process of updating its media communications program, including expanding the features and functionality of the CEC website. The CEC e-Newsletter will feature an updated look, as well as function primarily as a conduit for people to access the website. New areas on the website will bring greater exposure to CEC member organizations in addition to featured, relevant environmental issues facing our regional community.

Given adequate funding, CEC is considering the following features for inclusion now or in the future:

1. “Ask the Expert” Q and A capability

To encourage interactive dialogue, a new feature to be implemented includes an “Ask the Expert” area of the website, where subject matter experts pertaining to a range of environmental topics will be invited to post a summary of a relevant issue facing our regional community and then answer questions from readers. Topics may include air quality, water quality, the environmental impacts associated with planned transportation and other municipal and regional projects, renewable energy, sustainability, etc.



2. “Your Environment Now”

Your Environment Now represents a new area within which to feature current information from others pertaining to major environmental events. Readers will be able to rely upon CEC communications media to access and retrieve the most current, up to the minute, factual information on the effects and outcomes of an event, whether it is following proposed environmental legislation being debated in Austin or Washington, D.C., the progress of an impending storm, or the birth of an endangered animal at the Houston Zoo.

3. “Your CEC Community at Work”

Another expanded feature will include an area to showcase the environmental contributions from a CEC member organization. The CEC will partner with a member organization on a rotating basis to provide a summary of a recent or upcoming project involving the organization and how it benefits the region’s environment.

4. Resource Guide Indexing

Another element of the CEC’s enhanced communications program plan is to provide a fully interactive, searchable environmental resource guide on the CEC website.



CEC 2012 Member Agencies

Air Alliance Houston
American Institute of Architects: Houston
American Institute of Chemical Engineers – South Texas Section
American Lung Association – Plains/Gulf Coast Region
Armand Bayou Nature Center
Artist Boat
Bayou Land Conservancy
Bayou Preservation Association, Inc.
Baytown Environmental Education
Big Thicket Association
BikeHouston, Inc.
Blueprint Houston
Brays Bayou Association
Buffalo Bayou Partnership
Center for Houston's Future
Center for Recycled Art
Central City Co-Op
Children At Risk
Children's Museum of Houston's EcoStation
Citizens' Transportation Coalition
Coastal Prairie Partnership
Council for Environmental Education
Cypress Creek Flood Control Coalition
Earth Share of Texas
Energy Corridor District
Environment Texas
Environmental Defense Fund
Environmental Educators' Exchange
Environmental Institute of Houston, EIH UHCL
Friends of Mandell Park
Friends of Texas Wildlife
Galveston Bay Conservation & Preservation Association
Galveston Bay Foundation
Galveston Baykeeper
Great Plains Restoration Council
Greater Houston Off Road Biking Association



**Greater Houston Preservation Alliance
Green Team America
Greener Living in Houston
Greens Bayou Corridor Coalition
Gulf Coast Bird Observatory
Gulf Restoration Network
Help Endangered Animals – Ridley Turtles (H.E.A.R.T.)
Hermann Park Conservancy
Houston Advanced Research Center (HARC)
Houston Arboretum & Nature Center
Houston Audubon
Houston Canoe Club
Houston Climate Protection Alliance
Houston-Galveston Area Council
Houston Habitat for Humanity
Houston History Archives
Houston Parks and Recreation Department
Houston Parks Board
Houston Renewable Energy Group (HREG)
Houston Tomorrow
Houston Urban Gardeners
Houston Zoo Wildlife Conservation Program
Jesse H. Jones Park and Nature Center
Katy Prairie Conservancy
Keep Houston Beautiful
Keep Kingwood Green
League of Women Voters
Living Paradigm CDC
Living Planet Foundation
Memorial Park Conservancy
Mercer Arboretum & Botanic Gardens
Native Plant Society of Texas: Houston Chapter
Native Prairies Association of Texas
The Nature Conservancy
Nature Discovery Center
Outdoor Nature Club
Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast
Plastic Pollution Texas
Pleasantville Environmental Coalition
The Progressive Forum**

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Rice Design Alliance
Scenic Galveston
Scenic Houston
Sheldon Lake State Park and Environmental Learning Center
Sierra Club – Houston Regional Group
Student Conservation Association
Surfrider Foundation, Texas Upper Coast Chapter
Techs & Trainers
Texas Association of Environmental Professionals
Texas Campaign for the Environment
Texas Coastal Partners
Texas Coastal Watershed Program
Texas Master Naturalists - Heartwood Chapter
Transition Houston
Trees for Houston
Trust for Public Land
TWRC Wildlife and Education Center
Urban Harvest
U.S. Green Building Council – Texas Gulf Coast Chapter
White Oak Bayou Association
Wildlife Center of Texas
Willow Waterhole Greenspace Conservancy
The Woodlands G.R.E.E.N.
The Woods Project, Inc.