

# **HOUSTON-GALVESTON CLEAN CITIES COALITION STAKEHOLDERS**

## **MEETING SUMMARY**

Tuesday, August 09, 2023 – 9:30-11:00AM Houston-  
Galveston Area Council of Government Offices

3555 Timmons Lane, Suite 120, Houston, Texas 77027

Virtual Meeting

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### **Overview**

- a) The following Houston-Galveston Clean Cities Coalition (H-GCCC) Stakeholders were present:

#### **Chairs**

METRO – Vincent Sanders (Chair)

Freedom CNG – Eddie Murray (Vice Chair)

#### **Advisory Board**

Center for Houston’s Future – Brett Perlman

Quebec Delegation: Houston – Scott Flukinger

Texas Natural Gas Foundation – Heather Ball

#### **Partners and Stakeholders**

Amerigas - Areeb West

CNG 4 America – Bob Baldwin

EDF – Stephanie Coates

Evolve Houston – Casey Brown

Evolve Houston – Harry Tenenbaum

Freedom CNG - Bryan Carroll

Gage Zero - Iga Hallberg

Harris County – Eric Cadow

Harris County – Jim Smith

Harris County – Lisa Lin

Harris County – Robin Patterson

Hirsch Bach – Kevin Lage

Houston ISD – Emma Lockett

Houston ISD – Kirby Williams

Houston ISD – Stephanie Walker

METRO – Alberto Lyne

NGV – Dimitri Tisnoi

Pasadena ISD – Robert Stock

Port Houston – Justin Ahn

Port of Houston Authority - Kenneth Gathright

Sysco – Robert Veazie

Texas Electric School Bus Project - Jessica  
Keithan

Texas Electric School Bus Project – Laura  
Hester

The Lion Electric – Inga Dedow

The Lion Electric – Johanna Wojciak

TX Propane – Jackie Mason

TxDOT – Mansour Shiraz

#### **Coalition and H-GAC Staff**

H-GAC – Andrew DeCandis

H-GAC – Ben Finley

H-GAC – Cassandra Marshall

H-GAC – Craig Raborn

H-GAC – Allie Isbell

H-GAC – Pharr Andrews

#### **Others Present**

Edgar Hernandez

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- b) There were no action items on the agenda.
- c) There was a series of information items:
  - Item 2: Update on Natural Gas Issues and Activities
  - Item 3: Department of Energy Grant Application: Repowering for Electric School Buses
  - Item 4: Update on the Redesignation Process
  - Item 5: Update on the 2022 Clean Cities Annual Survey
  - Item 6: Current Funding Announcements
  - Item 7: Announcements and Upcoming Activities
- d) Visit <http://www.houston-cleancities.org/stakeholder-meetings/> to view the meeting information.

### **Item 1: Introductions**

- a) Vincent Sanders called the meeting to order.
- b) H-GCCC Stakeholders introduced themselves.

### **ITEM 2: Update on Natural Gas Issues and Activities – Heather Ball, Texas Natural Gas Vehicles Alliance**

- a) Heather Ball updated the members on the goal of American Energy Institute. They broaden their name to focus on all American energy sources. Discussion continued on upcoming lunch and learn webinar for fleet managers and policymakers. The meeting will focus on what the key issues are, how to contact local resources, and follow up with questions or concerns.

### **ITEM 3: Department of Energy Grant Application: Repowering for Electric School Buses - Jessica Keithan, Texas Electric School Bus Project**

- a) Jessica Keithan gave an update on the application to the Department of Energy sponsored by the Texas Electric School Bus Project, University of Houston, and the Houston-Galveston Clean Cities Coalition. They are coapplying with the Clean Cities Coalition to facilitate equitable transition to a zero-emission school bus fleet in Texas. Discussion continued with 95% of school buses in the United States run on diesel fuel. As well as exposure to diesel exhaust impairs cognitive development. Children are especially at risk.
- b) Many factors were discussed surrounding the benefits of electric school buses, such as: electric buses being environmentally safe; reduced operating cost; energy efficient; quiet operation; and health safety guarantee.

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### **ITEM 4. Update on the Redesignation Process - J. Ben Finley, H-GAC**

- a) J. Ben Finley, Codirector of the H-GCCC, gave an update on the redesignation process. Discussion continued that we have achieved redesignation. We are clear to continue challenging work with Clean Cities Coalition goals and activities.
- b) It was further discussed what we need to improve on: increase membership and number of partners; submittal to annual survey report; increase stakeholder activity; and find a better way to document activities of stakeholders.
- c) Additional future needed activities include: conducting a training online seminar in green jobs; plan out and adopt a coalition strategic plan; and set up a webinar on climate action plan.

### **ITEM 5. Update on the 2022 Clean Cities Annual Survey - Andrew DeCandis, H-GAC**

- a) Andrew DeCandis, Codirector of the H-GCCC, gave an update on the strategic plan for the 2023 – 2024 requirement from Department of Energy. This process helps the coalition plan for three to four years, detail objectives for Coalition, and guide the coalition to achieve said objectives.

### **ITEM 6. Current Funding Announcements and Updates – J. Ben Finley, H-GAC**

- a) J. Ben Finley provided an update on the following grant opportunities:
  - 1. 2023 Clean School Bus Program (EPA)
  - 2. 2023 Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA)
  - 3. Domestic Manufacturing Conversion Grants
  - 4. Energy Storage Demonstration and Validation Grants (DOE)
  - 5. Public Transportation eGrants
  - 6. Climate Smart Humanities Organizations
  - 7. Regional Clean Hydrogen Organizations
  - 8. Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Grant Program (Bipartisan Infrastructure Law)
  - 9. Reduction of Truck Emissions at Port Facilities Grant Program (Bipartisan Infrastructure)
  - 10. TERP programs are currently closed.
  - 11. Building Pathways to Infrastructure Jobs Grant Program (Bipartisan Infrastructure Law)
  - 12. Electric Forklift and Cargo Handling Program (Volkswagen Settlement)
  - 13. Electric Airport Ground Support Equipment (Volkswagen Settlement)

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### **ITEM 7. Announcements of Current & Upcoming Activities**

- a) J. Ben Finley will reach out to the four individuals that have already volunteered to be on the advisory committee.
- b) Upcoming Natural Gas and Propane webinar on Wednesday, August 23. An email reminder will be sent out to all Stakeholders.

### **ITEM 8. Adjourn Meeting**

- a) The next meeting will be November 7, 2023
- b) Meeting adjourned at 10:46 A.M.