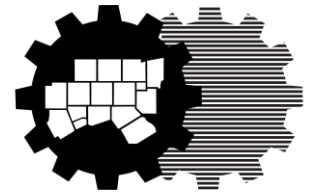


# Engaging Communities on Sustainability

NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

JULY 29, 2025



North Central Texas  
Council of Governments



# Welcome & Housekeeping

- Please keep your microphone on mute until the end of the presentations.
- We will have an open Q&A at the end of all presentations.
- The workshop slides and recording will be posted on the Conserve North Texas website under News/Events -> Event Archive at the link below. Follow-up emails to come.  
<https://www.conservenorthtexas.org/event-archive>
- Please consider donating the value of your time through an in-kind match: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YH6YG9Y>

# Workshop Sponsor

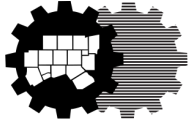


NCTCOG receives funding through SECO to work on energy management and efficiency projects within the region. As part of this work, we have provided workshops, webinars, and technical assistance on a variety of energy management, energy efficiency, water efficiency, and renewable energy topics.

[www.nctcog.org/envir/natural-resources/energy-efficiency](http://www.nctcog.org/envir/natural-resources/energy-efficiency)  
[https://www.conservenorthtexas.org/](http://www.conservenorthtexas.org/)

# Who We Are

**How do we support energy management efforts for entities across the state?**



North Central Texas  
Council of Governments

NCTCOG is a regional planning agency serving North Texas local governments on a variety of topics. NCTCOG's Regional Energy Management Program is an ongoing effort to identify energy management needs, increase awareness to the local government energy reporting requirements, and provide resources to assist local governments in energy conservation efforts.



SECO partners with local governments, public K-12 schools, public institutions of higher education and state agencies, across Texas to reduce utility costs and maximize energy efficiencies.





# Today's Agenda

## 1. Speaker Presentations

- *Speaking of Climate Change*
- *Nature Smart Libraries: A Community Hub for Nature*
- *Building Resilience from the Ground Up: Lesson from Waco's S.C.R.A.P. Collective*

## 2. Q&A

## 3. Upcoming Events

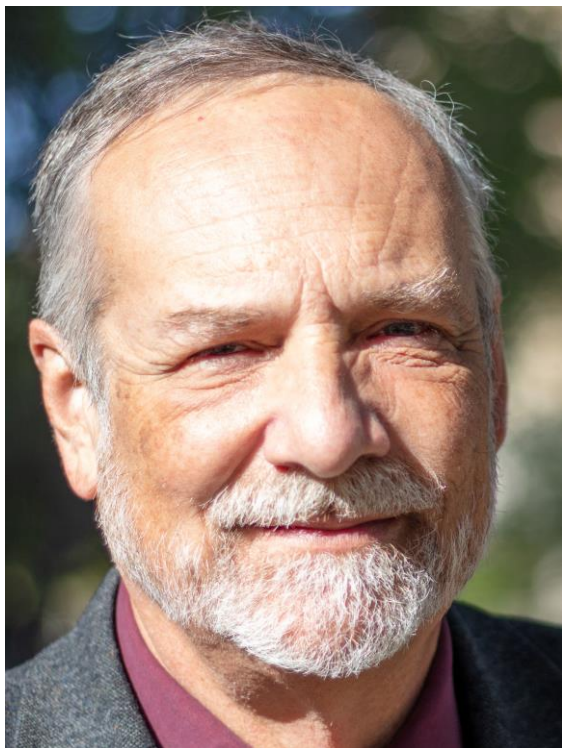
## 4. Resources and Funding



**01**

# Speaker Presentations





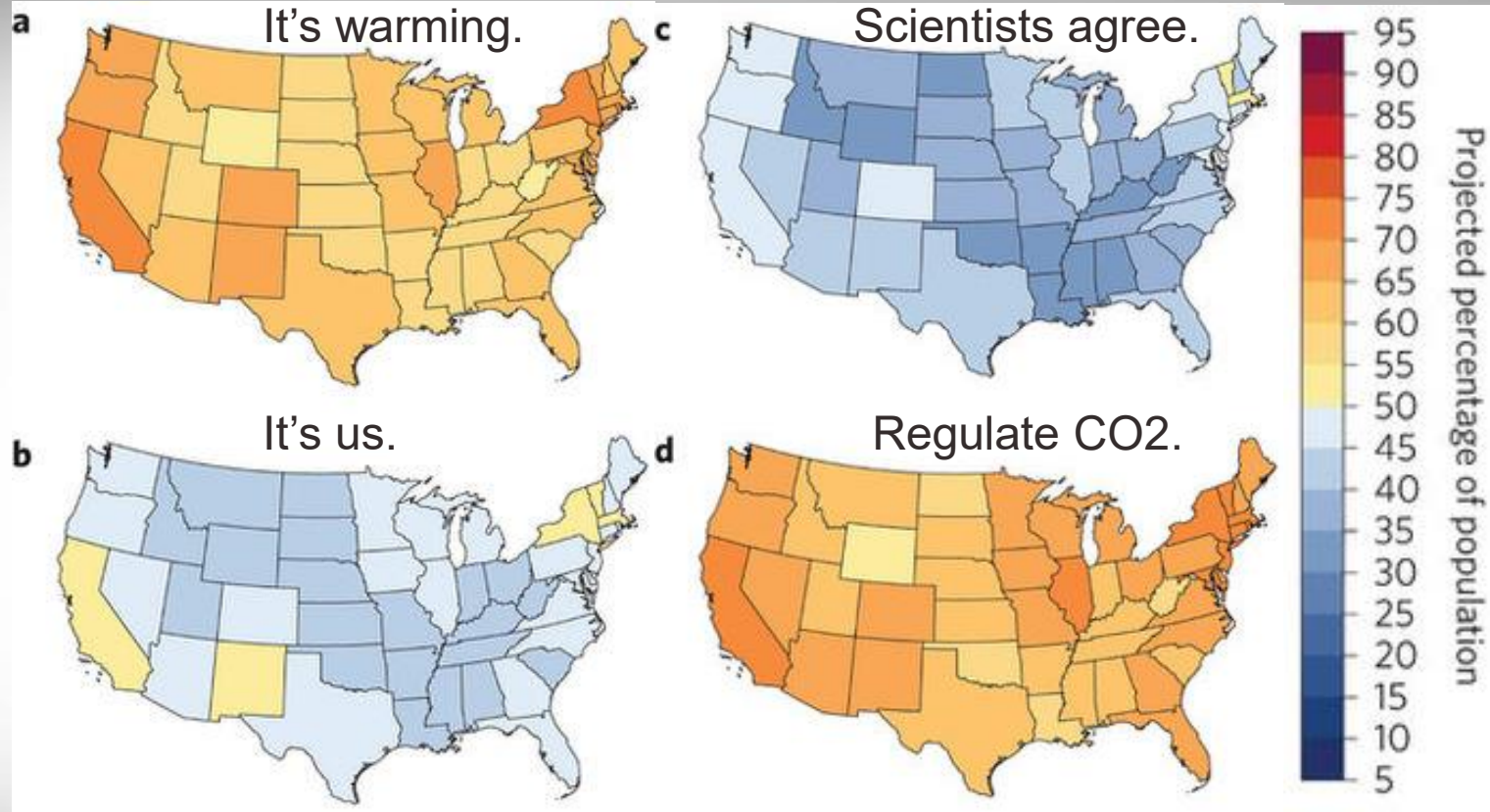
# Dr. John Nielsen-Gammon

Regent Professor of Atmospheric Sciences  
at Texas A&M University  
Texas State Climatologist  
Director of the Southern Regional Climate  
Center

# Speaking of Climate Change

John W. Nielsen-Gammon  
Dept. of Atmospheric Sciences, Texas A&M University  
Texas State Climatologist  
Director, Southern Regional Climate Center





Howe et al. 2015 *Nat. Cli. Ch.* doi:10.1038/nclimate2583

# “Climate change” in Austin legislative history

- Passed in 2007: convene a workshop to
  - Review potential impacts of climate change on far west Texas surface water supplies
  - Review recommendations to incorporate climate change into Far West Texas water plan



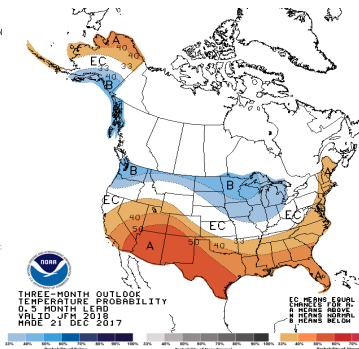
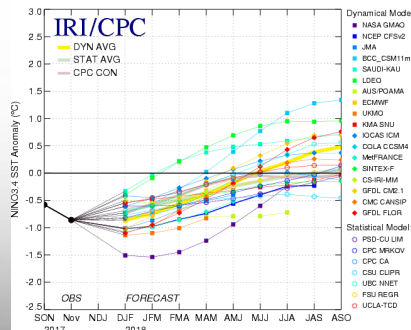
# “Climate change” since then

- 2021: ERCOT, PUC, and TRC: Consult with the State Climatologist
- 2023: TWDB: Consult with the State Climatologist
- 2025: H.B. 2618: Would require agencies to publish “severe weather adaptation plans”, and they “may” consult with the State Climatologist
  - Passed by House 106-41
  - Did not receive a hearing in the Senate

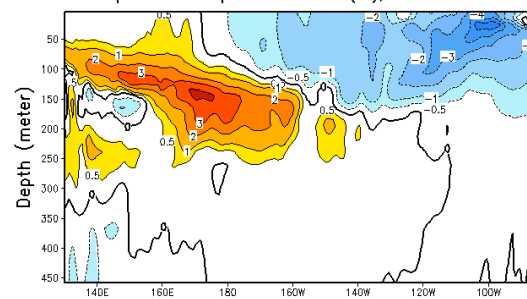
# Climate Services

- Diagnosing the state of the climate
- Placing current climate (events) into historical context
- Interpreting seasonal outlooks
- Explaining climate projections

Mid-Dec 2017 Plume of Model ENSO Predictions



Equatorial Temperature Anom (°C), Dec 29 2017





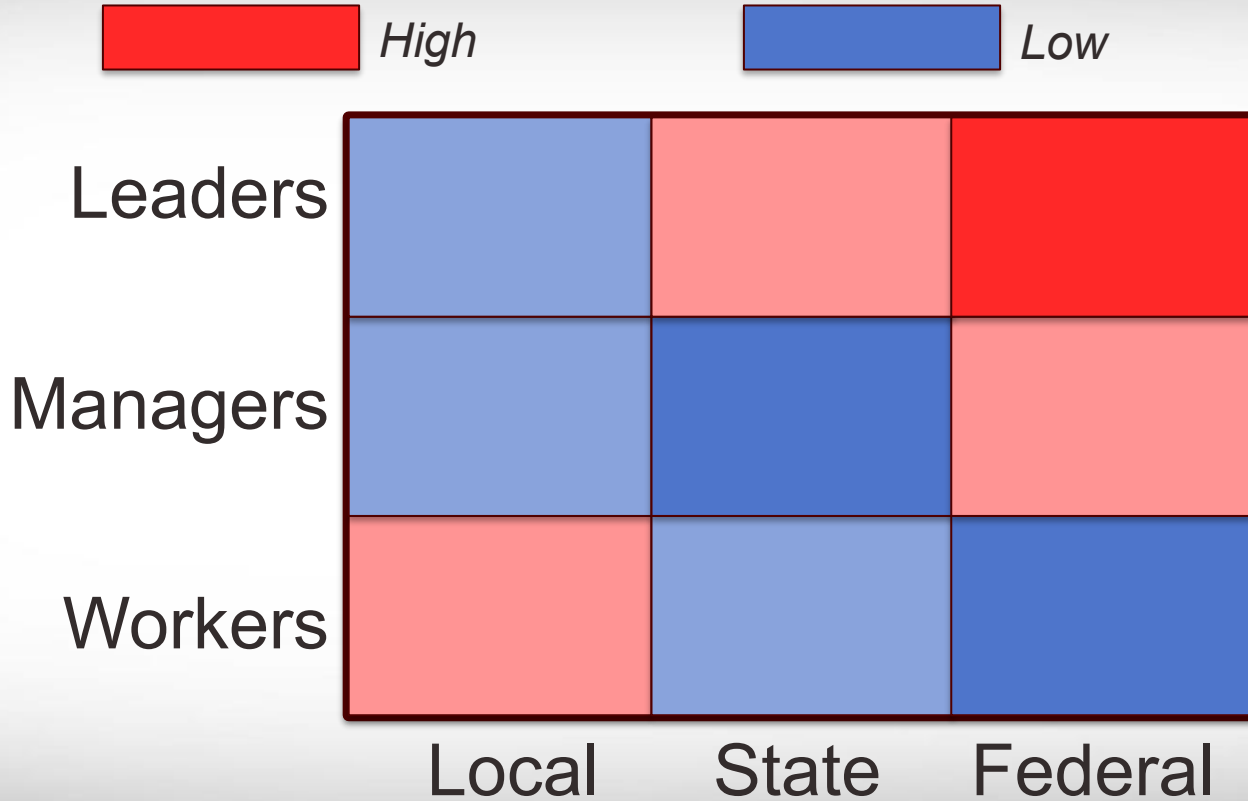
# What to say?

- Speak to your audience
- Proceed chronologically
- Focus on your mission
- Earn trust
- Be politically correct when necessary

# Understand Your Audience

- Skeptics are not evil
- Catastrophists are not evil
- Skeptics are not created by knowledge deficits
- Catastrophists are not created by knowledge deficits

# Politicization of Climate Change



*Source: my own experiences and perceptions*

# NOAA Atlas 14: Process and Changes

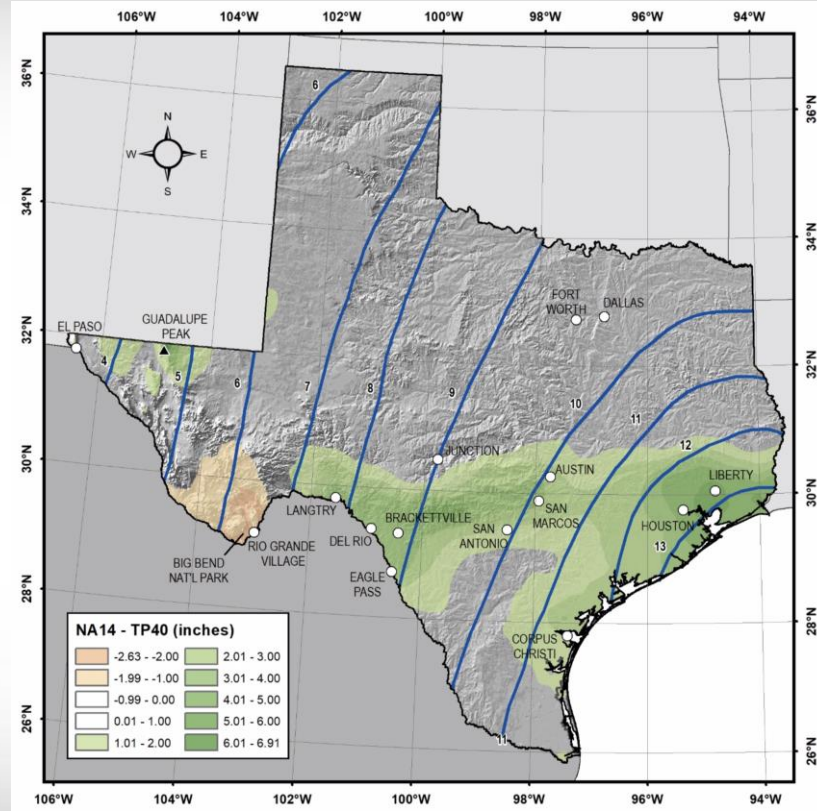
John Nielsen-Gammon

*Texas A&M University*

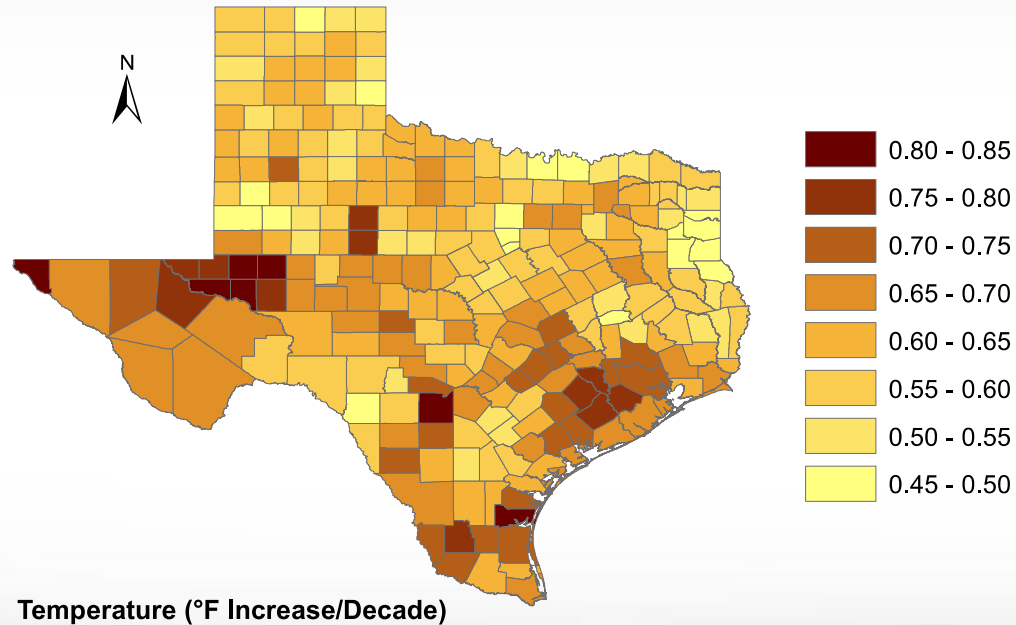
*Texas State Climatologist*

Audience: Sustainability Section, Texas Aggregates and Concrete Association

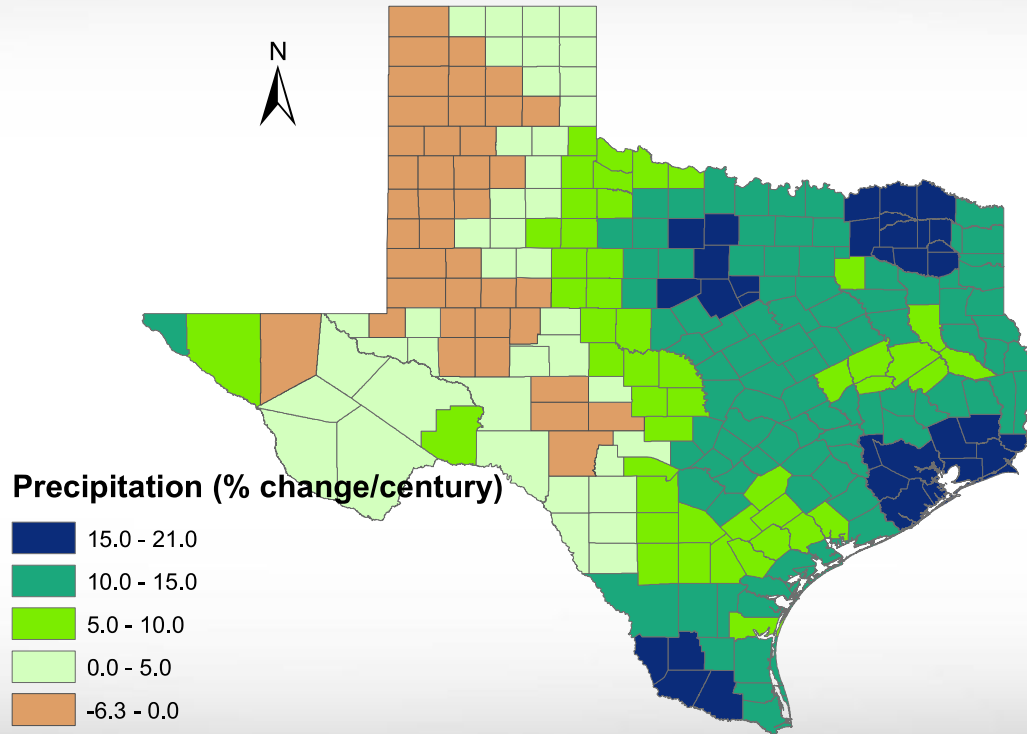




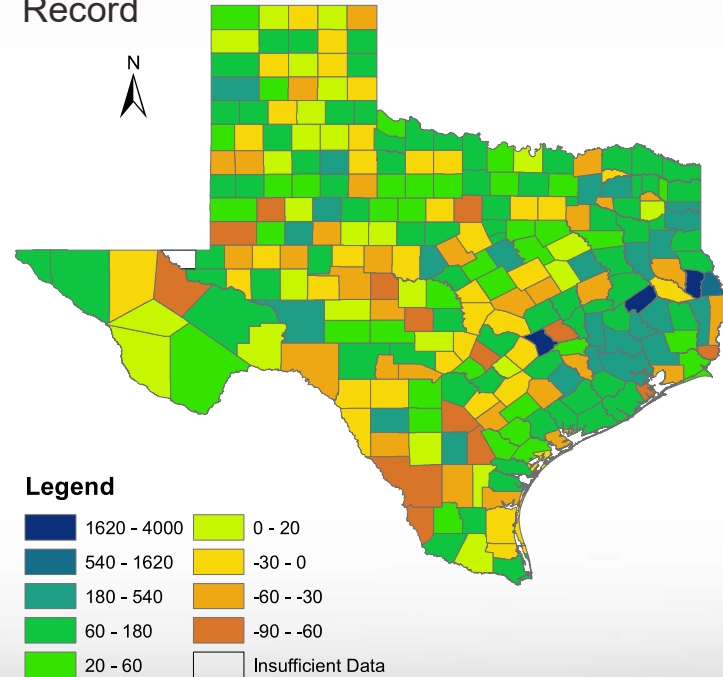
## Temperature Trends, 1975-2018



## Precipitation Trends, 1895-2018

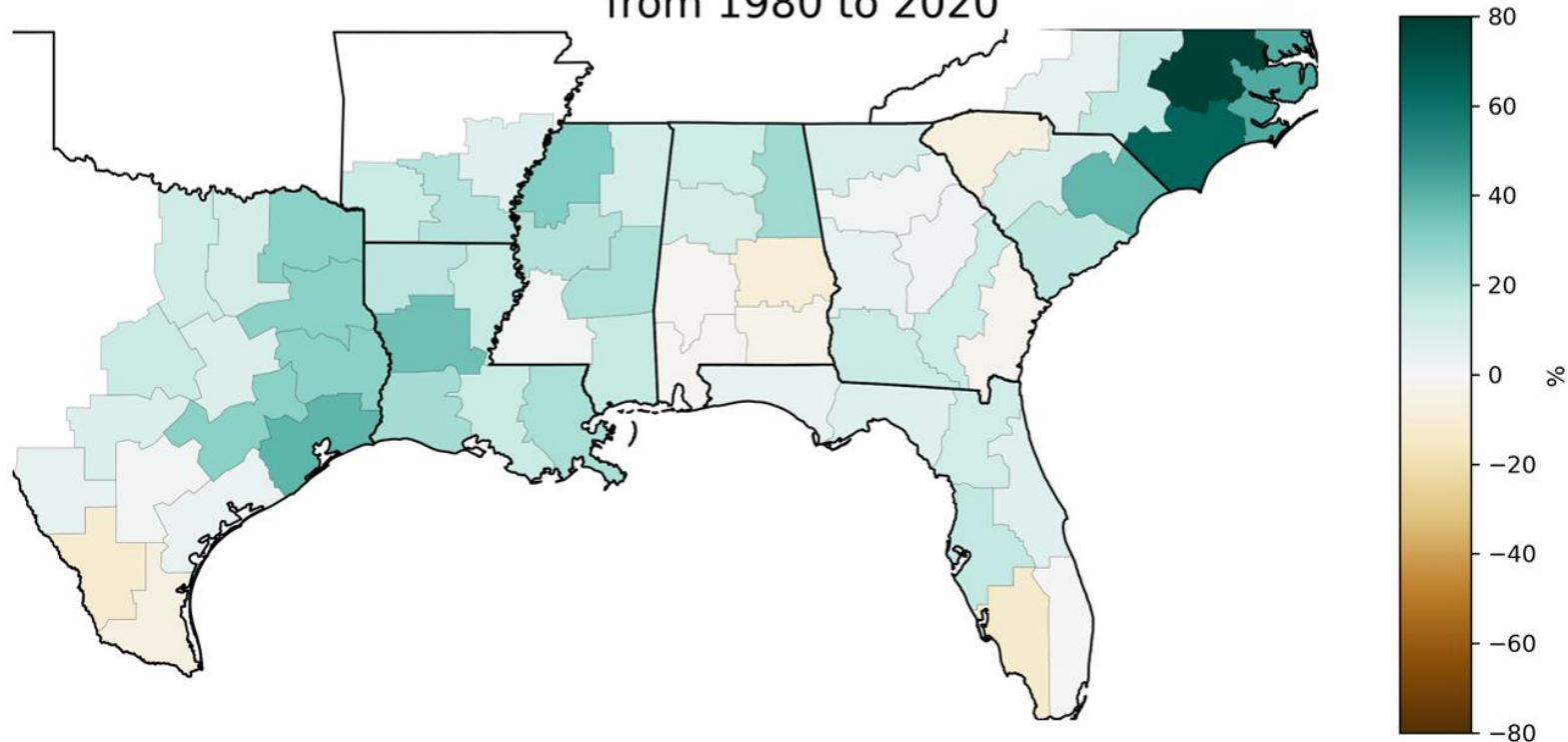


10 year Return Period, One-Day Rainfall  
Raw Percent Change in Frequency over Period of  
Record





(b) Percent Intensity Change of 100-yr Single-Day Rainfall  
from 1980 to 2020



# Rainfall and Climate Change

- Observed trend: heavier rainfall
- Warmer = wetter

# Rainfall and Climate Change

- Observed trend: heavier rainfall
- Warmer = wetter
- Warmer = more concentrated?
- Warmer = stormier?

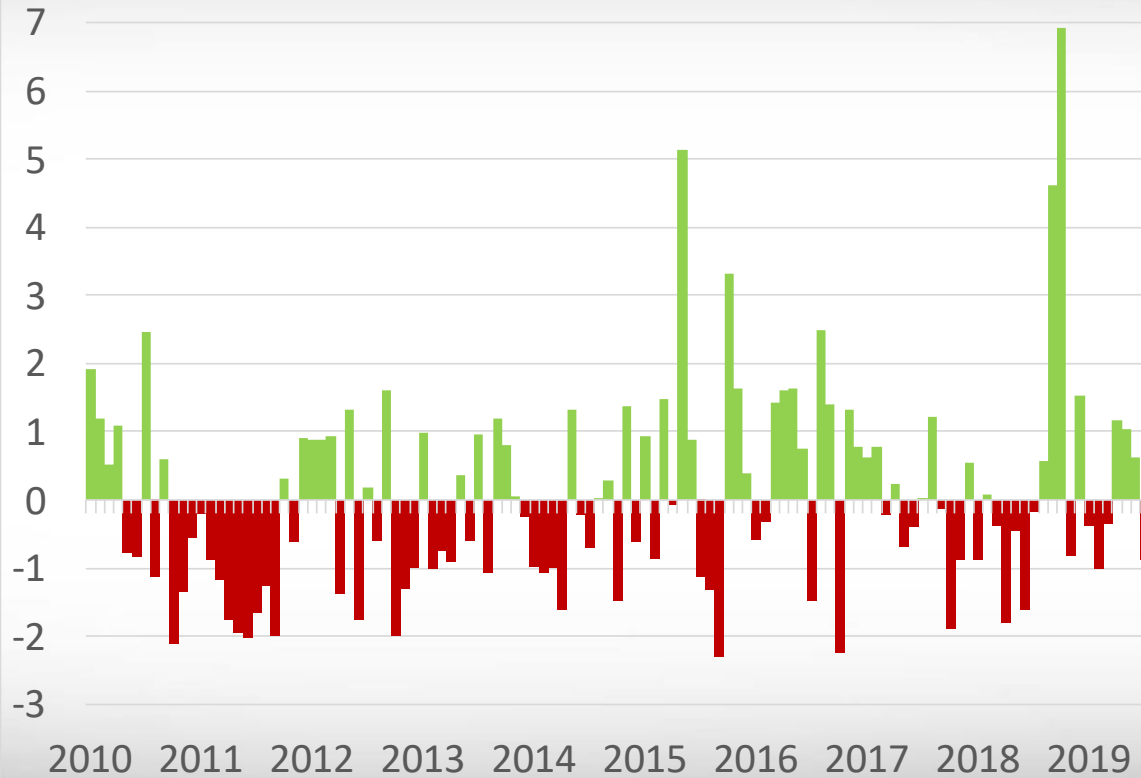
# Central Texas Weather Past and Future

John Nielsen-Gammon  
Texas A&M University

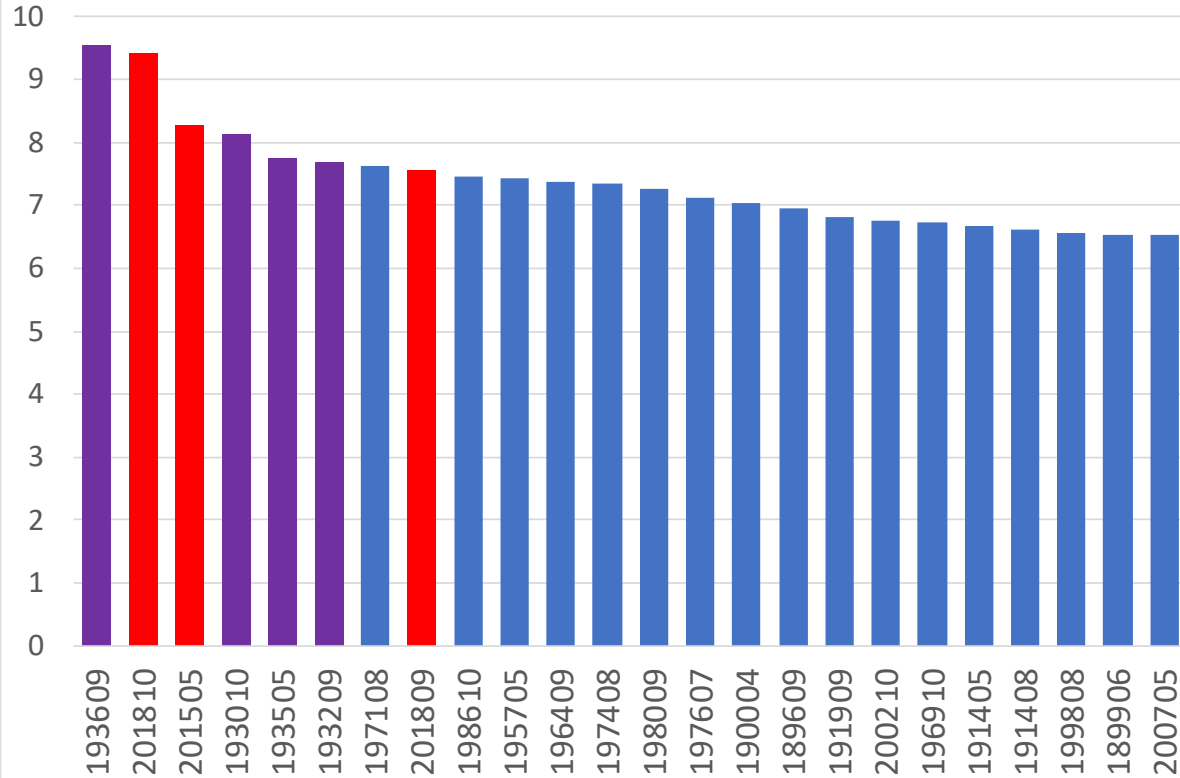
Audience: Central Texas Sheep and Goat Expo



### Edwards Plateau Precipitation Anomalies

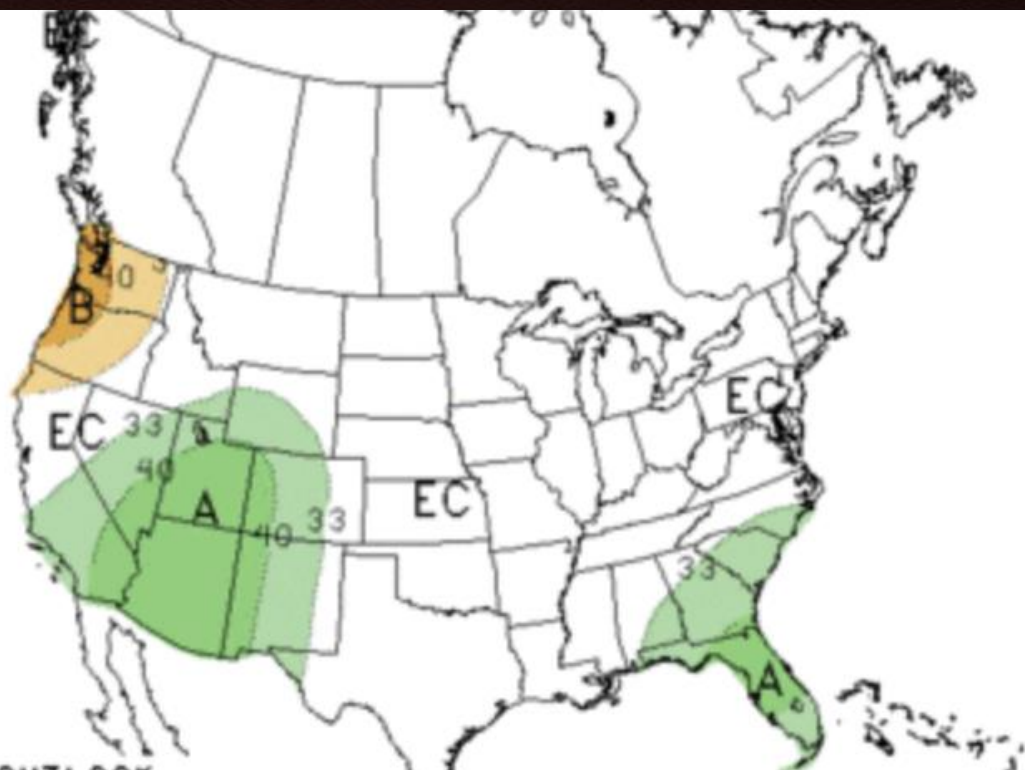
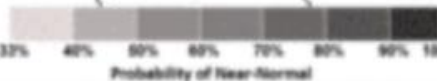


## Wettest Months



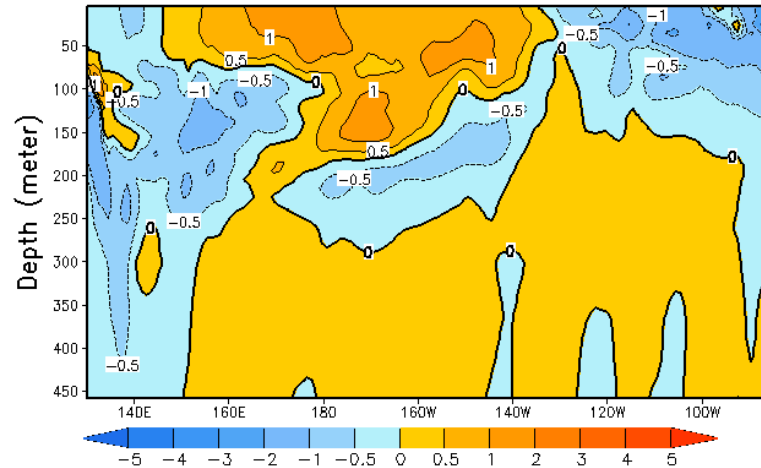


THREE-MONTH OUTLOOK  
PRECIPITATION PROBABILITY  
0.5 MONTH LEAD  
VALID SON 2018  
MADE 16 AUG 2018

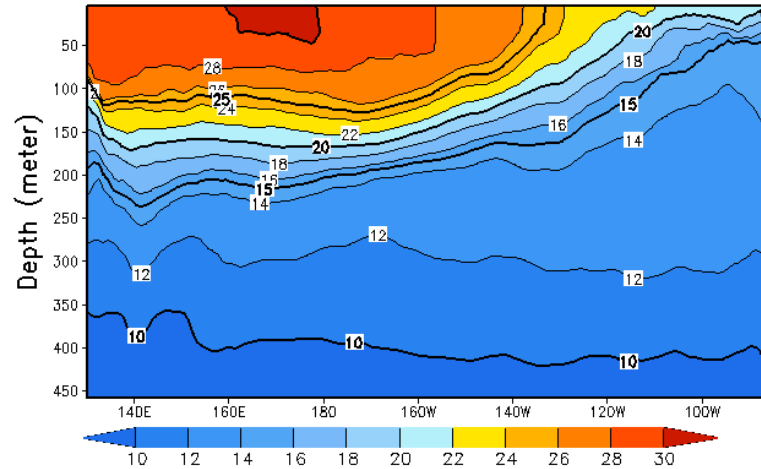


EC MEANS EQUAL  
CHANCES FOR A, N, B  
A MEANS ABOVE  
N MEANS NORMAL  
B MEANS BELOW

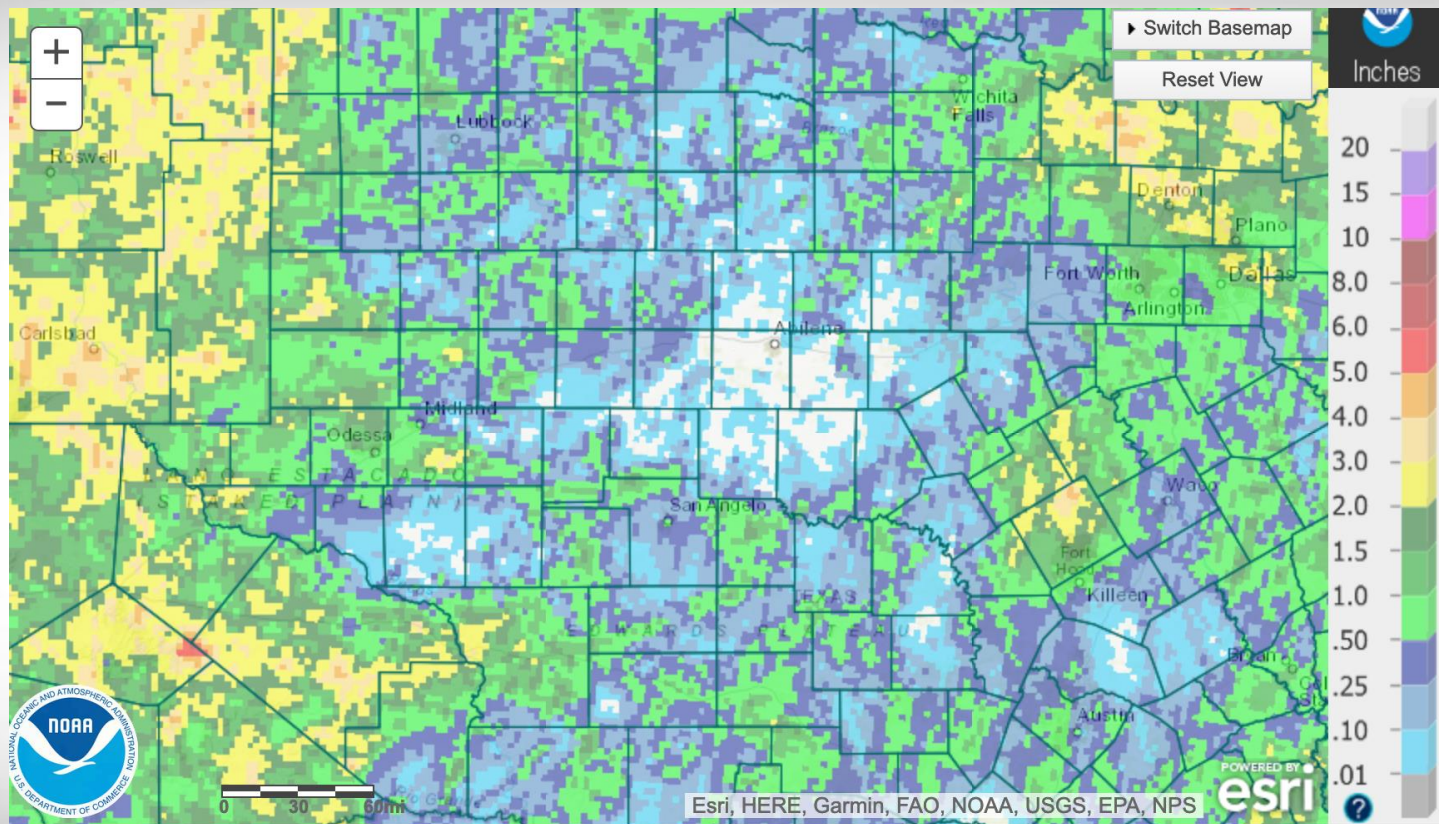
Equatorial T Penatd Anomaly ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ), Aug 11 2019



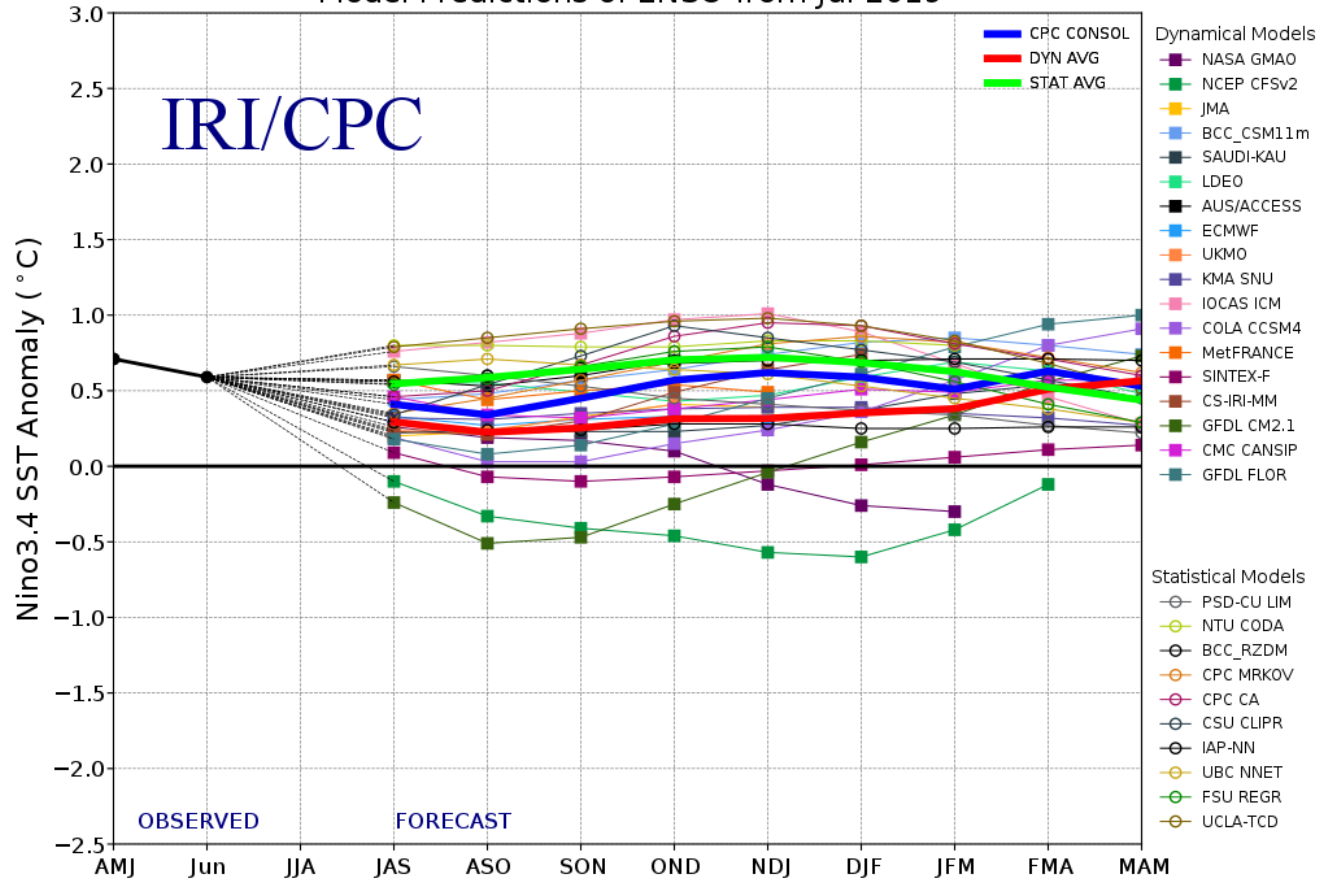
Equatorial T Penatd Mean ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ), Aug 11 2019





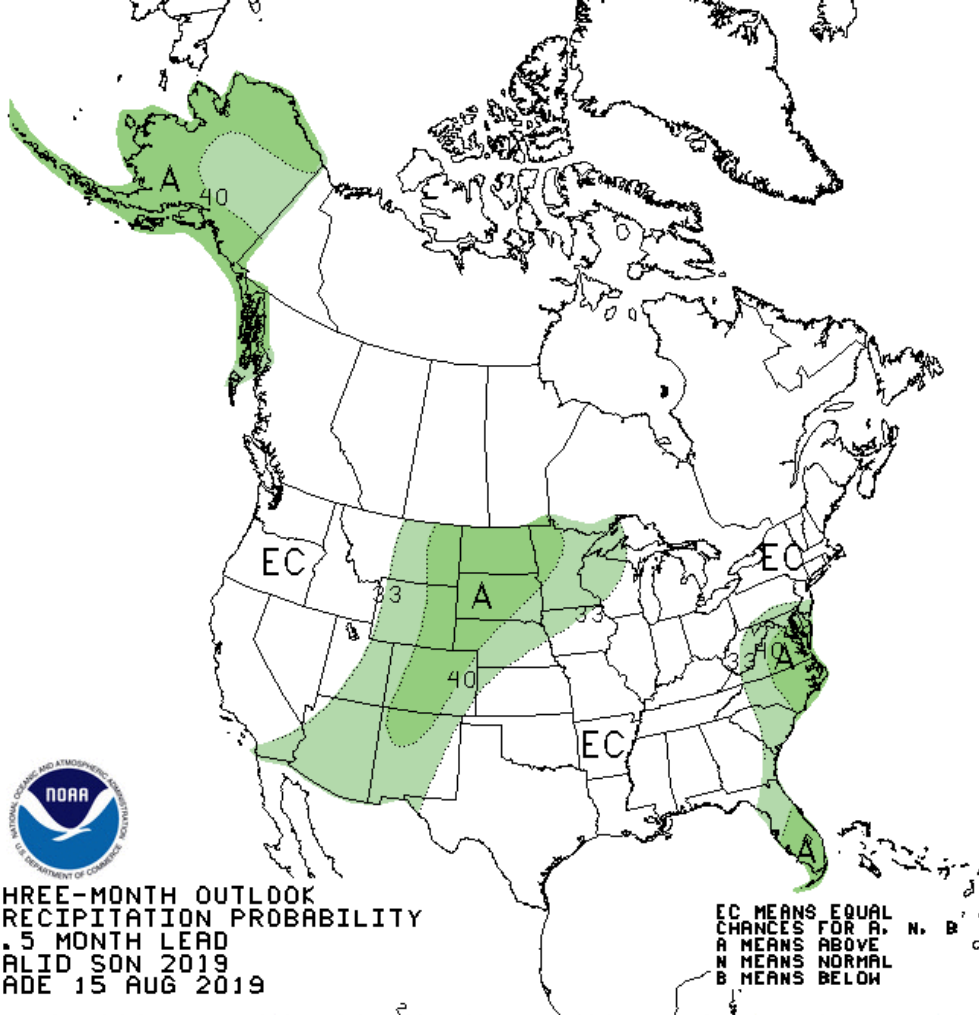
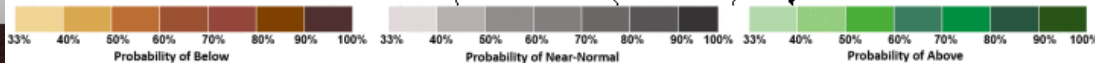


# Model Predictions of ENSO from Jul 2019

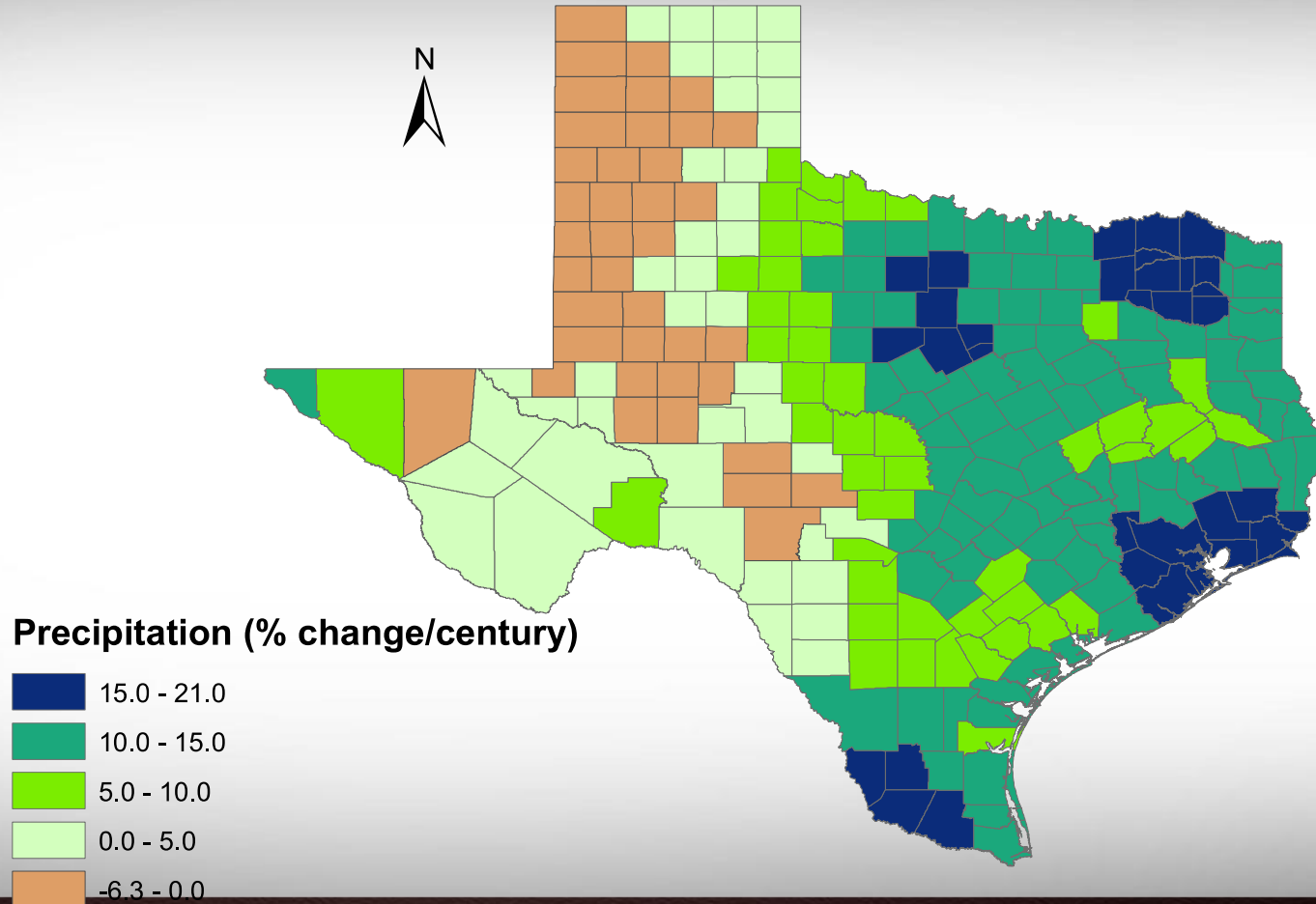




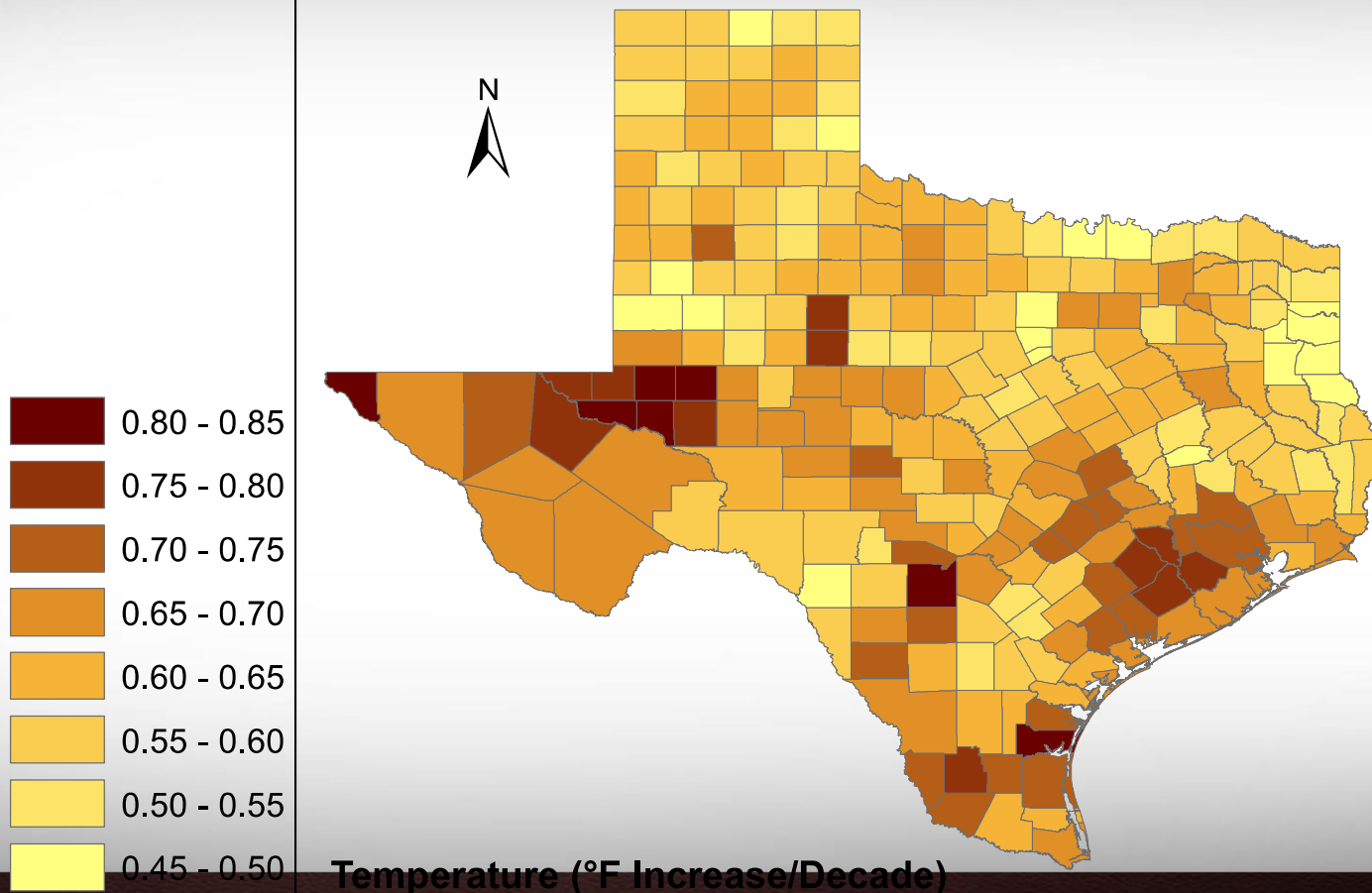
THREE-MONTH OUTLOOK  
PRECIPITATION PROBABILITY  
0.5 MONTH LEAD  
VALID SON 2019  
MADE 15 AUG 2019



# Precipitation Trends, 1895-2018



# Temperature Trends, 1975-2018





# Central Texas Climate Change: Hype, Scorn, and Reality

John W. Nielsen-Gammon  
Texas State Climatologist  
Texas A&M University

Audience: First Waco Sustainability Symposium



# Hype

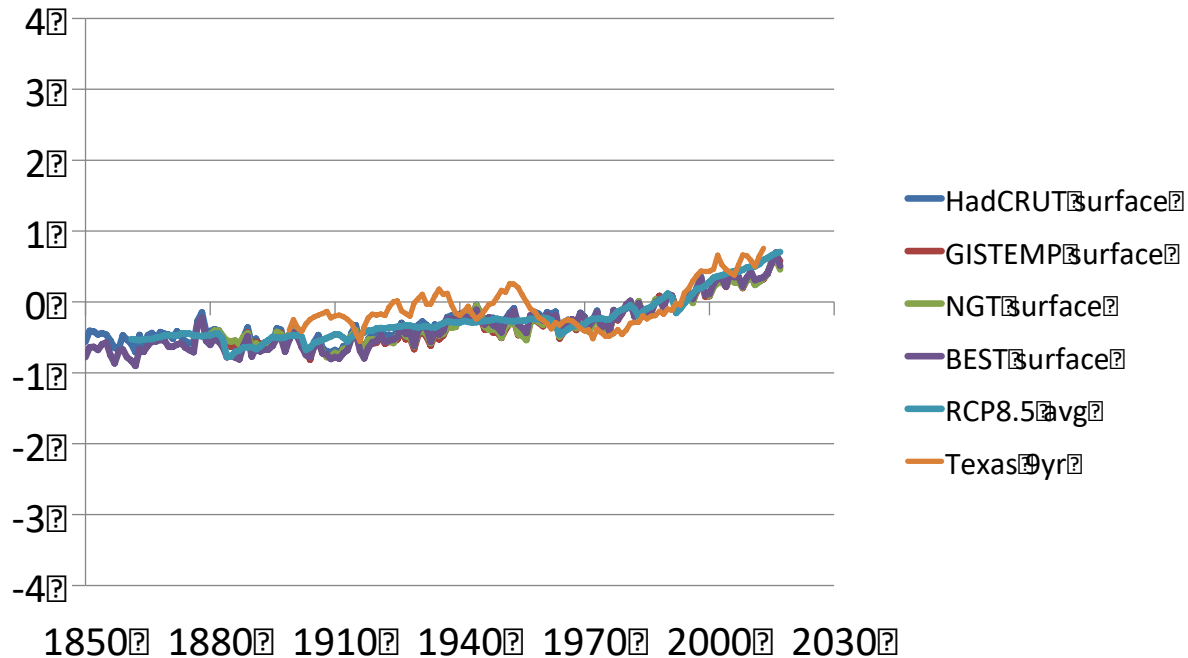
- Global warming and urbanization have made Houston flooding twenty times worse than before
- We have twelve years left to save the planet

# Scorn

- Reducing carbon dioxide emissions will destroy the United States
- The IPCC has based its alarmist, computer-generated predictions upon the false assumption that carbon dioxide is the prime determinant of global temperature, while ignoring the fact that water vapor (clouds) is the number one greenhouse gas.

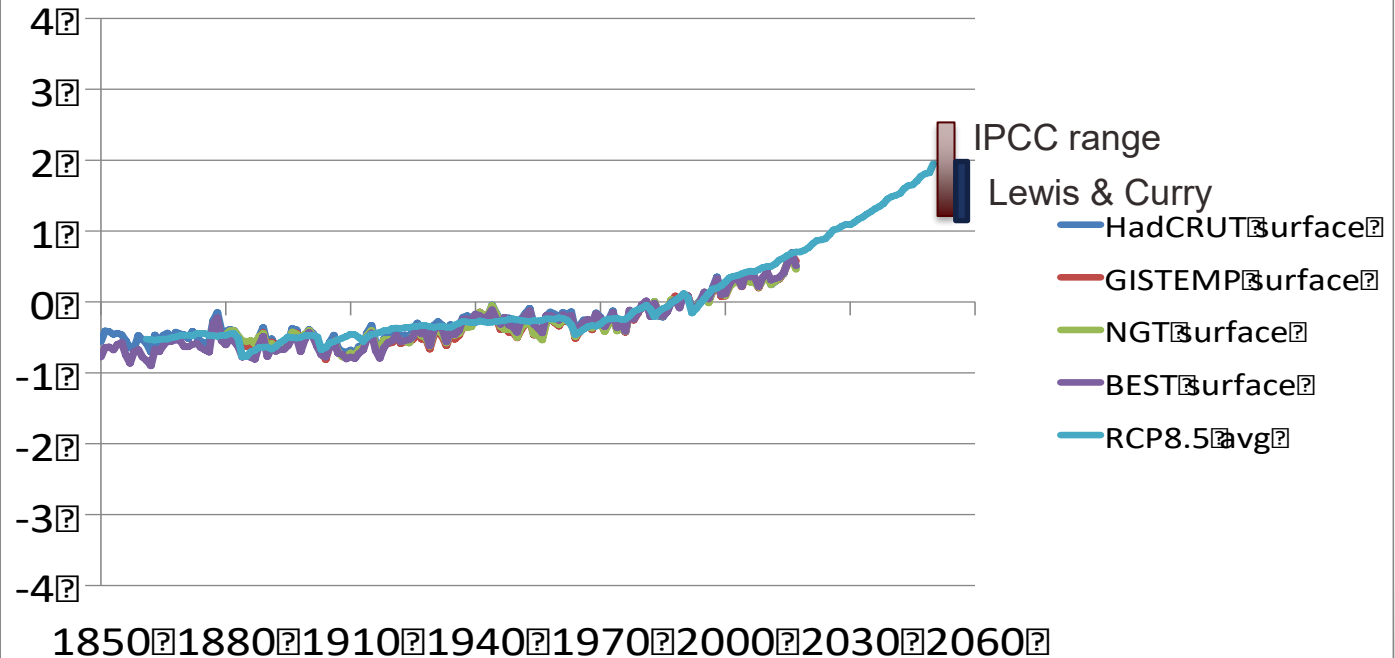


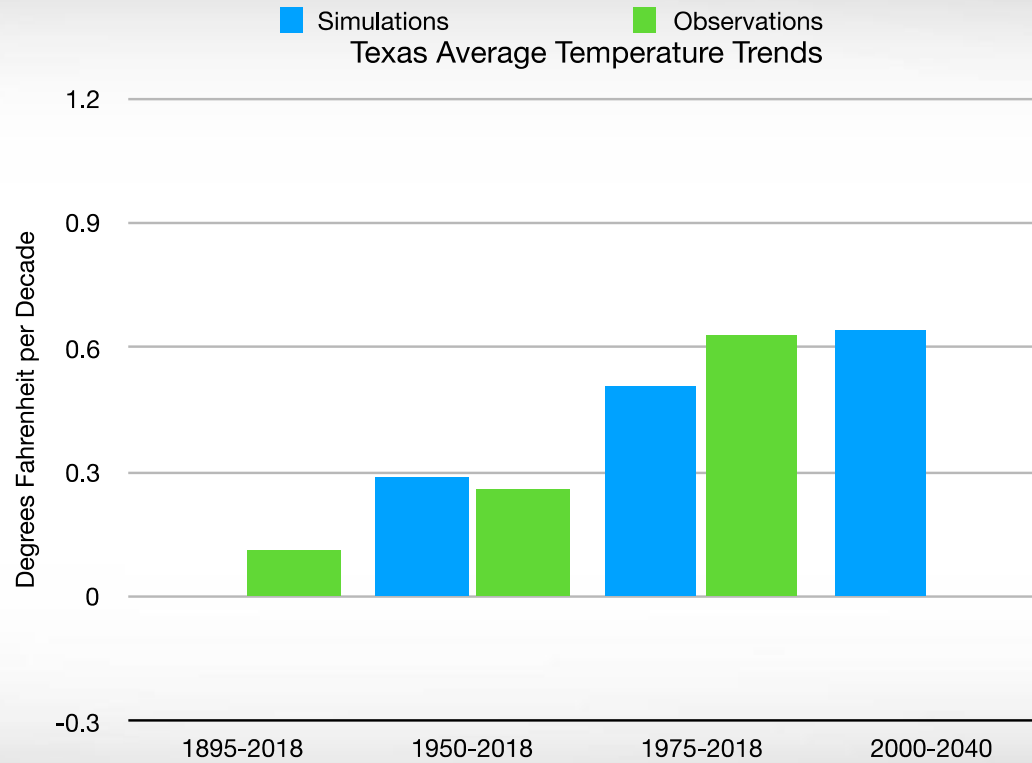
# Global Surface Temperature Anomalies (°C) Base Period: 1980-1999



# Global Surface Temperature Anomalies (°C)

Base Period: 1980-1999





# Summary

- Your audience knows many things already
- Build trust
- Show evidence
- Demonstrate lack of polemicism
- Focus on what matters locally
- Slide resources: IPCC; National Climate Assessment; me.

Thank you!

[n-g@tamu.edu](mailto:n-g@tamu.edu); climatexas





# Sarah Coles

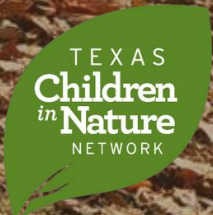
Executive Director of the Texas Children in Nature Network



# TEXAS CHILDREN IN NATURE NETWORK

*NATURE SMART LIBRARIES: A  
COMMUNITY HUB FOR NATURE*

North Texas Council of  
Governments  
July 29, 2025





# HISTORY

In 2009, SB 205 was introduced address the problem of Nature Deficit Disorder. Building on that initial support, however, we were able to get a bipartisan group of legislators to sign a September 28, 2009, letter to four agencies (TPWD, DSHS, TEA and Agriculture) requesting that they form a public/private partnership for children in nature to create a strategic plan for “healthy children in a healthy world.” Out of this group leaders from across the state in nature education gathered and formed TCiN in 2010.

On January 1, 2021, The Texas Children in Nature Network became an independent non-profit.



TEXAS  
Children  
in Nature  
NETWORK



# WHY TIME OUTDOORS

- Healthier physically and mentally
- Do better in school
- Have higher self-esteem
- Have good self-discipline
- Feel more capable and confident
- Are good problem solvers
- Are more cooperative with others
- Are more creative
- Feel connected to nature
- Are tomorrow's conservation leaders



TEXAS  
Children  
in Nature  
NETWORK





## TCiNN Works off of the Collective Impact Model

- Common Agenda
- Mutually Reinforcing Activities
  - Resource Sharing
- Continuous Communication
  - Newsletters, social media and more
- Strong backbone organization - that's US!



# SYSTEMS CHANGE

## Policies

What laws are in place that affect our work?

## Practices

How we have always done things

## Resource Flows

Funding  
Grants  
Time

## Relationships and Connections

Educators  
Nature Professionals  
Health Professionals

## Power Dynamics

Who are the decision makers?  
Who is in the room?

## Mental Model

Children need to spend more time in nature



# SYSTEMS CHANGE

## Policies

Lending Policy  
Story Walk Locations

## Practices

Summer  
Programming

## Resource Flows

Driscoll and  
DSHS

## Relationships and Connections

Librarians  
Informal Educators  
Master Naturalists

## Power Dynamics

Library Directors  
Library Cohorts

## Mental Model

Libraries as a place for  
Nature Connection



# NATURE SMART LIBRARIES

**STRATEGY:** Use public libraries as venues to connect children and families to nature

**WHO GETS ENGAGED:** library patrons and park visitors, including families, children, and youth

## KEY BENEFITS:

- Reach low-income families through a known neighborhood resource
- Maximize library facilities and resources through partnerships with parks departments and nature organizations
- Increase regular access to nature for children, young adults, and families
- Strengthen stewardship and expansion of library
- Green spaces and adjacent parks and gardens







## Nature Smart Library Initiative

Nature-based programs, library-park partnerships, and creation of natural spaces in libraries help activate them as community embedded spaces for nature connections and active kids.

### Leveraging Partnerships

Like other NSL's, LEAP is a partnership with state parks and other related health and nature organizations. It extends library services, helping families to connect with outdoor-based community resources.

### Promotes healthy activity

Using themed packs, patrons are encouraged to develop new skills that promote physical activity, healthy habits and behaviors, good mental health, and sustainable living.



# NATURE SMART LIBRARIES

## Types of Programs

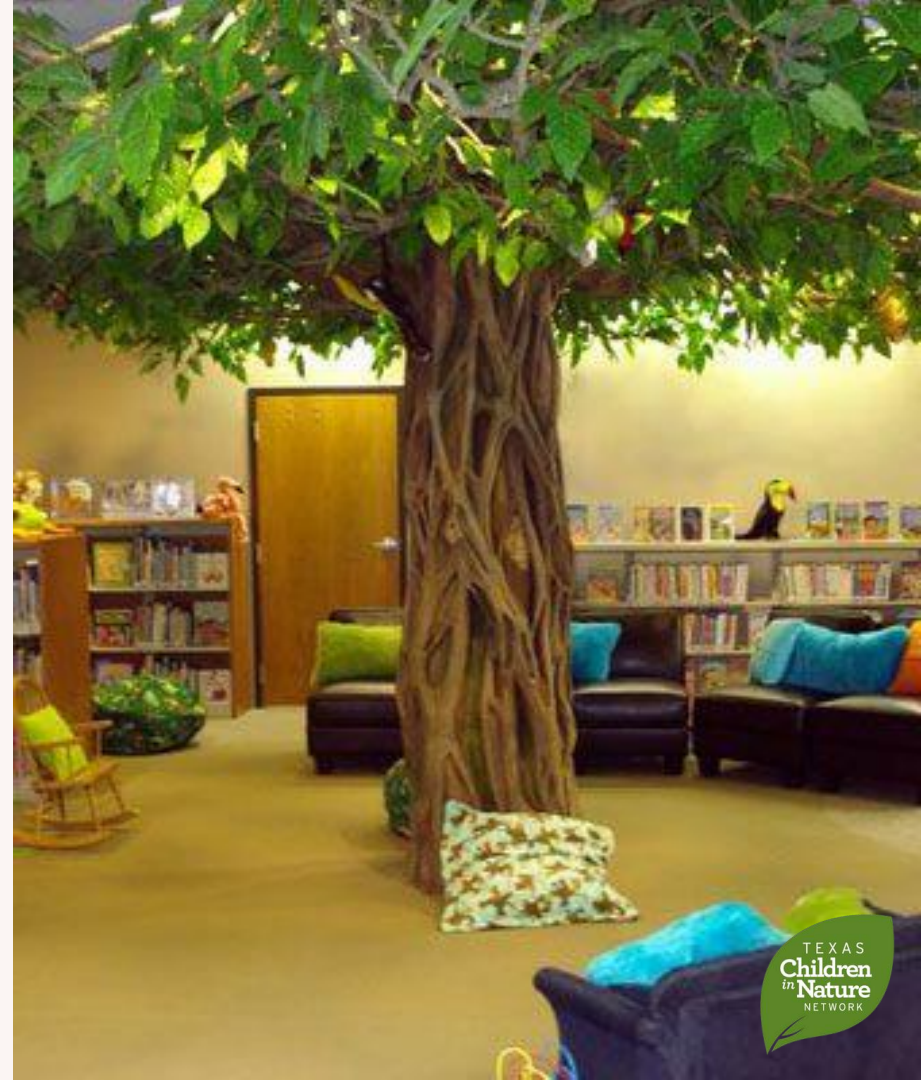
- Story Walks
- Nature Programming
- Green Space Improvements
- LEAP





# Nature Book Nook

- Nature-focused books
- Conservation books
- Nature-themed or natural elements for decor





# Seed Library

**Invite community members to contribute and harvest seeds for a seed exchange**

- Encourage communities to start /continue home gardens
- Educate people about seed starting and seed saving methods
- Save patrons money by offering a community seed bank
- Preserve the genetic diversity of plants
- Provide resources on starting a garden, planting charts, pest control tips, companion planting, hardiness zone maps, and more





# STORYWALK®

THE GOAL OF THE STORYWALK® IS TO HELP BUILD CHILDREN'S INTEREST IN READING WHILE ENCOURAGING HEALTHY OUTDOOR ACTIVITY FOR BOTH ADULTS AND CHILDREN.

STORYWALKS® HAVE BEEN INSTALLED IN 45 STATES AS WELL AS IN THE COUNTRIES OF GERMANY, CANADA, ENGLAND AND BERMUDA. STORYWALK® ALIGNS PERFECTLY WITH THE NO CHILD LEFT INSIDE PHILOSOPHY THAT STRESSES THE VITAL IMPORTANCE OF RECONNECTING CHILDREN AND THE NATURAL WORLD.







## LIBRARY EXPLORER ADVENTURE PACKS (LEAP)

Backpacks in libraries that children and families can check out. They come in various themes and can be checked out for free for up to two weeks. Several partners have also offered free admission to their parks with the backpack.

Equity, Community, Access

### 38 Participating Libraries

- 1 Participating ISD - Pharr San Juan Alamo ISD has the backpacks in their Elementary School Libraries to be checked out by students and teachers

221 Backpacks currently in circulation

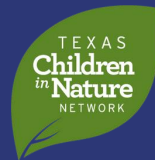


# WEBINARS

We offer webinars and teacher workshops each month to share resources with our partners.

Some upcoming webinars include:

- August 6: Taking Action to Expand Nature Access in Communities
- August 9: Nature Matters: The Importance of Outdoor Play in Child Development
- August 13: Bugs, Bees, Butterflies, and Blossoms – A Multi-Decade EE Program







TEXAS  
**Children**  
*in* **Nature**  
NETWORK

2025 Texas Children in  
Nature Network

*Summit*

December 3-5, 2025  
Brazos County Expo Hall  
Bryan, Texas



# HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Join the North Texas Regional Collaborative

Attend the Summit or a Webinar

Become a Member Today





# Follow Us on Social Media



[@Texaschildreninnature](#)



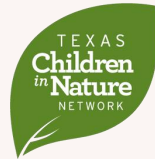
[@Texaschildreninnaturenetwork](#)



[@texaschildren\\_innature](#)



[Texas Children in Nature](#)





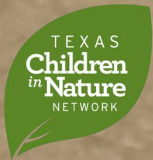
# THANK YOU

Sarah Coles

[scoles@texaschildreninnature.org](mailto:scoles@texaschildreninnature.org)

Website

[www.texaschildreninnature.org](http://www.texaschildreninnature.org)





# **Dr. Stephanie Clintonia Boddie**

Associate Professor of Church and  
Community Ministries at Baylor University



# Building Resilience from the Ground Up: Lesson from Waco's S.C.R.A.P. Collective

Presenter: Dr. Stephanie Clintonia Boddie, Associate Professor, Baylor University

July 29, 2025

# Acknowledgment of funders



# Acknowledgement of team members



- **Mission Waco's Urban REAP**, Emily Hills
- **City of Waco's Sustainability and Resiliency Office**, Eric Coffman
- **Baylor University**, Drs. King, Magill, Johnson, and Howell as well as Khristian Agu\* and Andrea Valdez\*
- **Global Revive**, Kay Bell
- **World Hunger Relief Institute**, Sky Toney\*, Wes Mullen\*, Beth Ferguson, and Grant Hall
- **Family of Faith Worship Center**, Pastor Ruben Andrade and Pastor Toni Garcia
- **Da'Shack Farmer's Market Health and Wellness, Inc.**, Dr. Nickerson
- **Texas A&M AgriLife**, April Strickland

Courtesy of Wacoan Magazine



— SCRAP Collective —  
**COMMUNITY GARDENS &  
COMPOSTING LOCATIONS**

1

**WORLD HUNGER RELIEF  
INSTITUTE**

356 Spring Lake Road  
worldhungerrelief.org  
(254) 799-5611

2

**GLOBAL REVIVE**

200 E Bridge Street  
bellkay9@gmail.com  
(254) 227-2488

3

**DA' SHACK FARMERS  
MARKET**

925 Houston Street  
dashackfarmersmarket@gmail.com  
(254) 300-5001

4

**MISSION WACO  
URBAN REAP**

1509 N 15th Street  
missionwaco.org/urban-reap  
(254) 300-8029

5

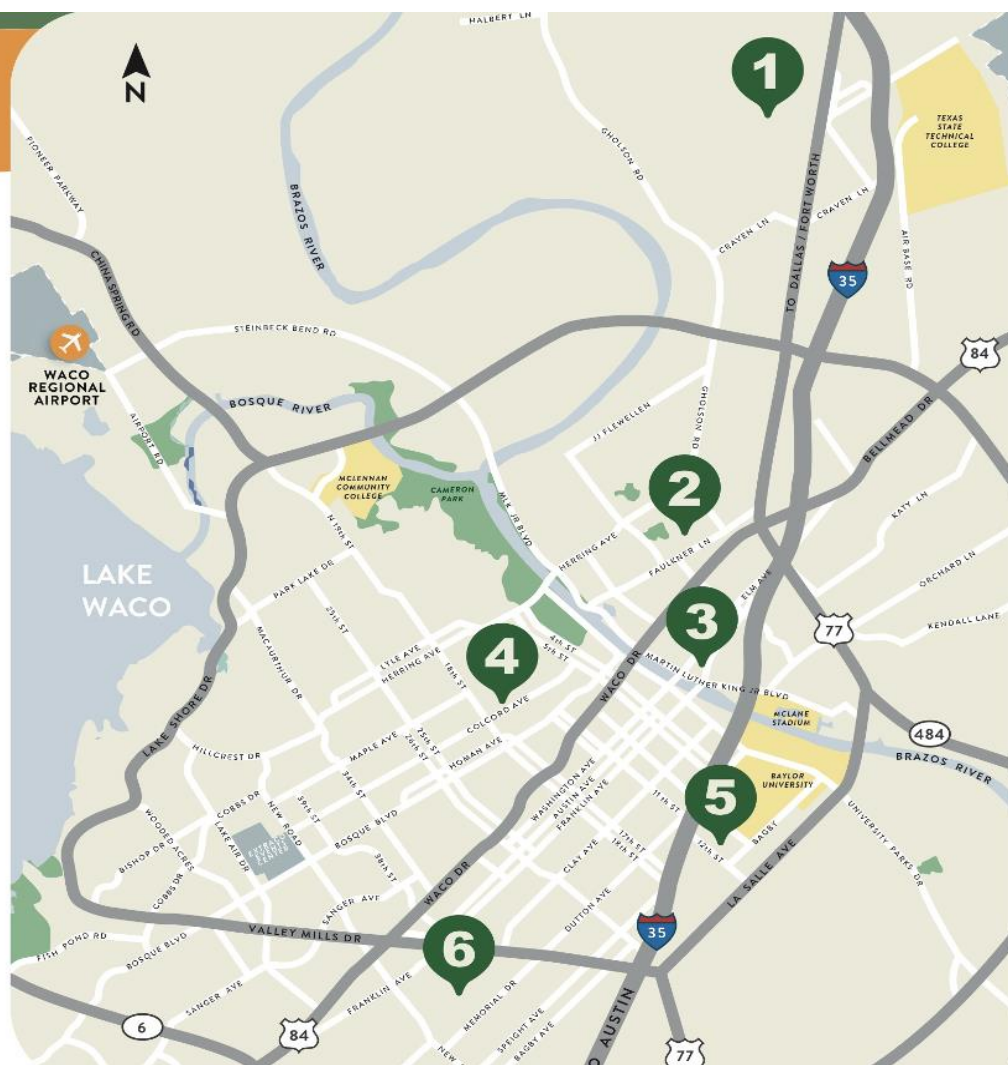
**BAYLOR COMMUNITY  
GARDEN**

1721 S Ninth Street  
andrea\_valdez1@baylor.edu  
(254) 710-6906

6

**FAMILY OF FAITH  
WORSHIP CENTER**

4112 Memorial Drive  
pastor@familyoffaithwc.org  
(254) 652-1491

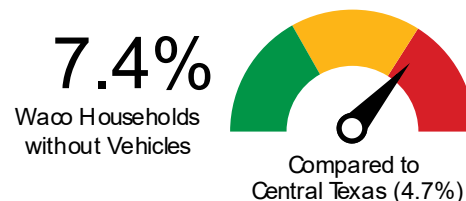
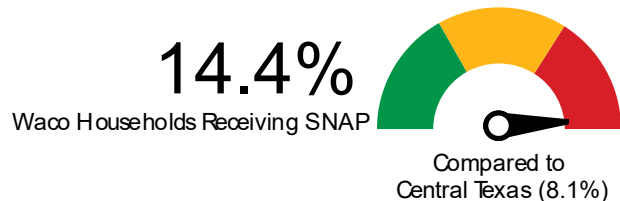
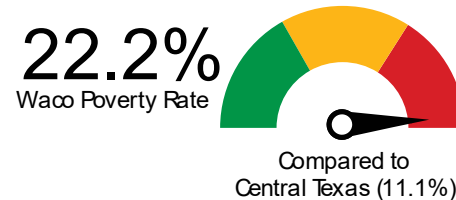
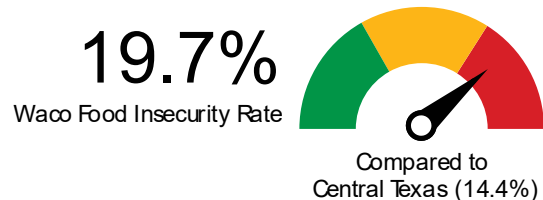




# City, Campus & Community Ecosystem



# Local Challenges



Source: Waco Food Access Community Needs Assessment Report, July 2024



# Other Local Challenges

Farmland used for produce

0.3%

Food Waste

25% of landfill

Disproportionate

Healthcare Burden

\$53,594,330/year

90%+ Elevated risk for food- driven health threats, weather-related events driven by climate change (**fire** and **flood**)





# **Our Public-Private Partnership Solutions Informed by ...**

- **Asset mapping**
- **Community outreach meetings**
- **Peer-2-Peer Assessments**
- **Data-driven decision-making**
- **Sustainability planning**
- **EPA's WARM Waste Reduction Model**

Why



?

- Shared leadership, vision, resources, and goals.
- Mutual responsibility for the work.
- Reflects a deep responsibility and accountability.
- Embodies solidarity, co-creation, and relationship building.
- **Shares power.**
- **Build community and trust.**

How



Developed?

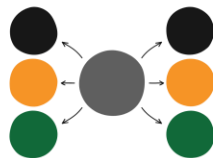


## STAGE 1

*Spring 2022 | Plan & Organize*

Submit first Funders Network P4P Grant, begin to prepare the planning process, and organize using an equity lens.

**Orgs:** *lead nonprofit, city, community funder, a university and two local nonprofits.*



## STAGE 2

*Summer 2022-Fall 2022 | Funded and Visualized*

Submit implementation Funders Network P4P grant; identify community assets, needs, and opportunities; set project goals; and outline projects using an equity and power sharing lens.

**Orgs:** *lead nonprofit, city, community funder, a university and two local nonprofits.*



## STAGE 3

*Winter 2023-Fall 2024 | Funded, Strategize and Implement*

Develop projects and programs, engage 2 new partners using an equity and power-sharing approach. Present at conferences including the World Urban Forum in Egypt, Baylor's Together at the Table: Hunger and Poverty Summit, and Waco's Green Conference.

**Orgs:** *lead nonprofit, city, community funder, a university, two local nonprofits, a Latine church and women-owned, minority-owned business.*



## STAGE 4

*Winter 2025-Spring 2025 | Funded for Expansion*

Submit an EPA grant, awarded grant, expand the work using a power sharing approach, and add the city public health district to the Collective. Launch a series of Earth Day events.

**Orgs:** *lead nonprofit, city, a university, two local nonprofits, a Latine church and women-owned, minority-owned business.*

## STAGE 5

*Summer 2025-Present | Reorganize*

After the termination of the EPA grant, SCRAP determines new strategy and considers new partners. The public health district is no longer part of the group.

**Orgs:** *lead nonprofit, city, a university, two local nonprofits, a Latine church, women-owned, minority-owned business, and local extension service program.*





PROGRAM OFFERINGS	URBAN REAP	BAYLOR	WHRI	GLOBAL REIVIVE	DA'SHACK	FAMILY OF FAITH	CITY OF WACO
GARDENING	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
GARDENING EDUCATION	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
COMPOSTING	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
COMPOSTING EDUCATION	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY EDUCATION	✓	✓	✓		✓		
COOKING CLASSES/NUTRITION EDUCATION		✓			✓	✓	
SCHOOL-BASED GARDENING CURRICULUM		✓					
AFTERSCHOOL-BASED GARDENING CURRICULUM	✓		✓	✓			
SUMMER CAMPS	✓		✓	✓			
INTEGRATION OF FAITH-BASED PRACTICES		✓				✓	
INTEGRATION OF HEALTH/WEELLNESS PRACTICES		✓			✓	✓	
INTEGRATION OF MENTAL HEALTH PRACTICES		✓			✓		
INTEGRATION OF INTEERDISCIPLINARY ENGAGED LEARNING		✓					
INTEGRATION OF CULTURAL CELEBRATIONS		✓	✓	✓		✓	
VOLUNTEER PROGRAM	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
INTERNSHIP PROGRAM	✓				✓		
FOOD PANTRY		✓				✓	
MOBILE FOOD PROGRAMS						✓	
NEWSLETTER	✓	✓	✓				✓
FUNDRAISING							✓
SOCIAL MEDIA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

# Collective Impact

City, Campus, and Community Ecosystem, *April 2023-May 2025*

## Social Impact:

Engaged **15,000+** community residents

Enlisted **17,499** volunteers

Certified **28** Community Composters

Hosted **340+** educational events

Fed **28,879+** community residents

## Environmental Impact:

**317,972** lbs. of food waste diverted

**79,164** lbs. compost produced

**90,559** lbs. produce harvested

## **NEW Programs:**

- BU garden revival, Summer Ethics Institute, new EHUM engaged-learning projects
- BU Growing Leaders and Learners Educator's Institute for educators
- FoF Project Farmacy and Resilience Hub
- Fee-for service composting program
- Seniors VIP Gardens
- Nutrition and Healthy Eating Classes
- Business partnerships expanding
- Green job pipeline in early stage
- Food system exhibit to be co-created with community



# Challenges and Lessons

## **Challenges addressed:**

- Infrastructure constraints
- Access barriers for some communities
- Time-intensive community building

## **Key lessons learned:**

1. **Pacing**—start slow to go far and emphasize the process.
2. **Local leadership matters.** Help neighbors see themselves in this work.
3. **Power sharing**—intentional practice of distributing decision making authority, leadership roles and access to resources.
4. **Complementary partners**—including members from various sectors and disciplines.
5. **Marketing campaign**— a campaign to raise awareness about the work as an early part of the work.



# Questions

# References

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2. Feeding America, Fighting Food Waste and Hunger Through Food Rescue, accessed July 24, 2025, <https://www.feedingamerica.org/our-work/reduce-food-waste>.
3. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Quantifying Methane Emissions from Landfilled Food Waste, EPA-600-R-23-064 (Washington, DC: U.S. EPA Office of Research and Development, October 2023), accessed July 24, 2025, <https://www.epa.gov/land-research/quantifying-methane-emissions-landfilled-food-waste>.
4. Caritas of Waco, Research and Data: McLennan County Healthcare Costs of Food Insecurity, accessed July 24, 2025, <https://www.caritas-waco.org/get-involved/resources-and-research/>.
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6. Central Texas Food Bank, Waco Community Needs Assessment Report (Austin, TX: Central Texas Food Bank, July 2024), accessed July 24, 2025, <https://www.centraltxfoodsystem.org/the-dashboard>.
7. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Simplified GHG Emissions Calculator, EPA Center for Corporate Climate Leadership (Washington, DC), accessed July 25, 2025, <https://www.epa.gov/climateleadership/simplified-ghg-emissions-calculator>.
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[https://deepblue.lib.umich.edu/bitstream/handle/2027.42/193989/2020\\_Envisioning-a-Decentralized-Compost-System-for-Detroit.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y](https://deepblue.lib.umich.edu/bitstream/handle/2027.42/193989/2020_Envisioning-a-Decentralized-Compost-System-for-Detroit.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y)
9. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. "Waste Reduction Model (WARM)." EPA. Last updated December 18, 2024. Accessed July 24, 2025. <https://www.epa.gov/waste-reduction-model> .






## Contact

**Dr. Stephanie Clintonia Boddie**


[Stephanie\\_boddie@baylor.edu](mailto:Stephanie_boddie@baylor.edu)




02

## Q&A

Please type your question in the chat box or raise your hand to speak.





**03**

# Upcoming Events



# Upcoming Events

## Regional Integration of Sustainability Efforts (RISE) Coalition

**Next meeting:** Wednesday, July 30, 2025, at 9:30 a.m.

**Location:** Microsoft Teams

[RSVP for Meeting](#)

Visit the [committee page](#) to stay updated on meetings.

Learn more about the RISE Coalition on their [program page](#).







# Upcoming Events

## Business Management Systems: Scalable Solutions to Help You Manager What Matters Webinar

**Date:** Tuesday, August 19, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.

[Register to attend](#)



# Stay Informed on Upcoming Events

## Upcoming NCTCOG Events

Environment and Development: <https://nctcog.org/envir/events>


DFW Clean Cities: [www.dfwcleancities.org/events](http://www.dfwcleancities.org/events)

## NCTCOG's Free E-Mail Lists and Committee Updates

General: <https://www.nctcog.org/stay-informed?ext=>

Environment & Development: <https://www.nctcog.org/envir/mail>

Transportation: <https://publicinput.com/hub/Subscriptions/2768>



**04**

# Funding and Resources





# NCTCOG Resources

**Conserve North Texas** ([www.conservenorthtexas.org](http://www.conservenorthtexas.org))

Recently Added Resource: [Interstate Renewable Energy Council – The Energy Optimist Podcast](#)

**Go Solar Texas** ([www.gosolartexas.org](http://www.gosolartexas.org))

**Energy Management, Efficiency, and Renewable**

([www.nctcog.org/envir/natural-resources/energy-efficiency](http://www.nctcog.org/envir/natural-resources/energy-efficiency))

- Sign up for the Energy Mailing List: <https://nctcog.activehosted.com/f/11>
- Winter Energy Funding Digest:  
<https://nctcog.activehosted.com/index.php?action=social&c=3965&m=4048>



# SECO Resources

No-cost resources offered by SECO to aid entities in achieving their energy management or efficiency goals



## Technical Assistance



- Preliminary Energy Assessment (PEAs)
- Analysis of current systems, O&M programs
- Energy Management Policy development
- Funding options
- Prioritized project planning



## WattWatchers of Texas

- Behavioral program for schools and families
- TEKS aligned STEM material



## Local Government Energy Reporting

- Technical assistance for State-mandated energy efficiency and reporting



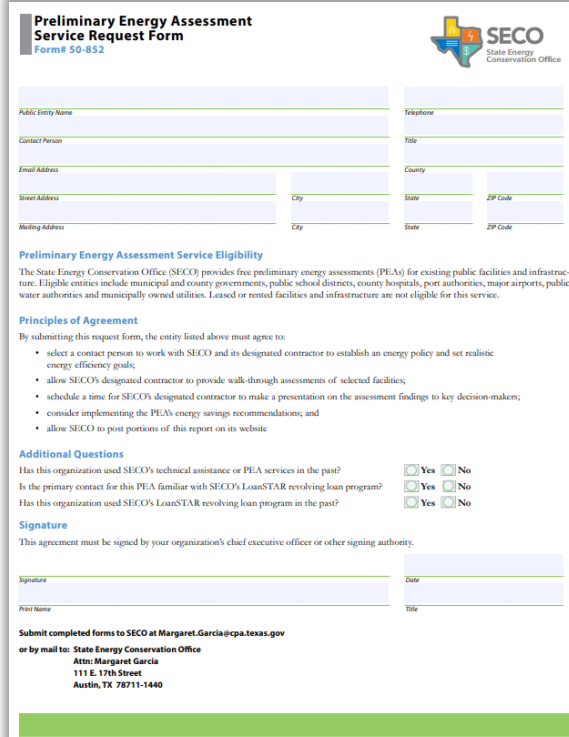
## LoanSTAR

- 2.5% (1.5% for ARRA funds)
- Simple payback of 15 years or less

# Preliminary Energy Assessments (PEAs)

Preliminary Energy Assessments (PEAs) are provided by the State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) 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](mailto:Margaret.Garcia@cpa.texas.gov)  
or by mail to: State Energy Conservation Office  
Attn: Margaret Garcia  
111 E. 17th Street  
Austin, TX 78711-1440

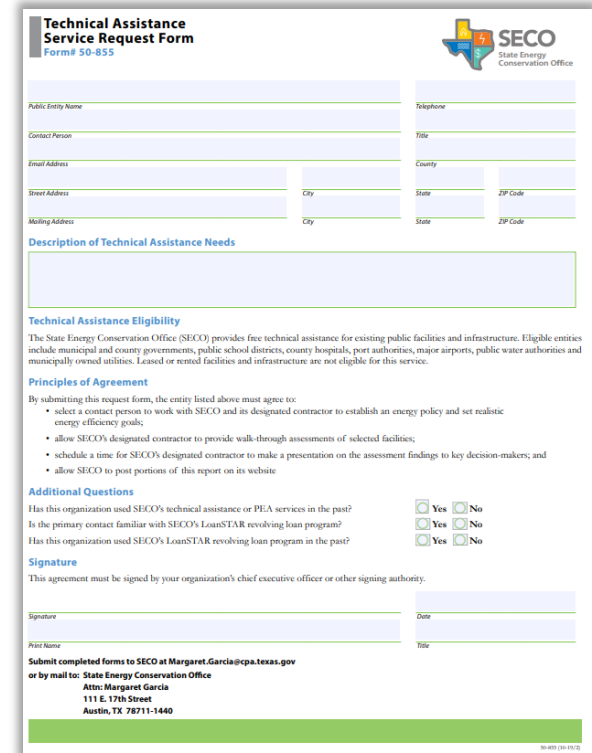
50-852 (10-11-12)

# SECO No-Cost Technical Assistance

Through this program SECO contracts with engineering firms to provide customized, on-site, energy-related services ranging from basic consultation to feasibility studies.

Eligible entities may request assistance with either **energy** or **water**-related technical matters.

Upon determination that the requested services are reasonable and within the contractors' scope of work, SECO will assign an engineer to contact the entity officials to determine the level of service necessary to provide assistance.



**Technical Assistance Service Request Form**  
Form# 50-855

**Public Entity Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Telephone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Person** \_\_\_\_\_ **Title** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address** \_\_\_\_\_ **County** \_\_\_\_\_

**Street Address** \_\_\_\_\_ **City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP Code** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address** \_\_\_\_\_ **City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP Code** \_\_\_\_\_

**Description of Technical Assistance Needs**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Technical Assistance Eligibility**

The State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) provides free technical assistance 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; 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 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](mailto:Margaret.Garcia@cpa.texas.gov)  
or by mail to: State Energy Conservation Office  
Attn: Margaret Garcia  
111 E. 17th Street  
Austin, TX 78711-1440

50-855 (20-11/12)

# Texas LoanSTAR Revolving Fund

Finances Projects that Reduce Energy/Water/Utility Costs

- Simple Payback Period of **15 Years or Less**
- 2.5% Loan Interest Rate; 1.5% if you choose ARRA Funds with more reporting requirements

Open Enrollment through August 31, 2025

- Maximum \$6 Million Loan Per Application
- Maximum 1 Loan per Applicant

For more information visit the  
[Notice of Loan Fund Availability](#)



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4IFuj\\_5ZeGI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4IFuj_5ZeGI)





# Quick Links

[www.conservenorthtexas.org](http://www.conservenorthtexas.org)

[www.nctcog.org/envir/natural-resources/energy-efficiency](http://www.nctcog.org/envir/natural-resources/energy-efficiency)



# Reminders

- Please complete the [Workshop Evaluation](#)
- Please complete the [In-Kind Attestation Form](#)

# SECO and SPEER Contacts

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