



# Regional Focus

## Your Houston-Galveston Area Council Monthly Newsletter July 2023 edition

### Honoring the Legacy of Pearland Mayor Emeritus Tom Reid

*His unwavering commitment to the community leaves an indelible mark on its history.*

The Houston-Galveston Area Council honors the life and devoted service of Tom Reid, Pearland mayor emeritus, the city's longest-serving mayor, and H-GAC board member.

Reid served as the mayor of Pearland for four decades, from 1978 to 1990 and again from 1993 to 2020. Having embarked on his political journey in 1973 as a city council member, Reid tirelessly served the Pearland community providing strong leadership through its transformation and exponential growth.

Reid's dedication extended beyond the boundaries of Pearland. He began his service with the H-GAC board of directors in 1973, representing Home Rule Cities in the region.



In recognition of his visionary leadership in Pearland, he secured a seat on the board in May 2001 and retained it until May 2021. Throughout his tenure, Reid actively participated in various committees, including Election, Legislative, Finance and Budget, Planning, and Health Care Policy committees.

Additionally, he served as the secretary of the Transportation Policy Council, where he advocated for enhanced transportation infrastructure, improved surface water and air quality, and overall economic growth. His efforts aimed to enhance the lives of Pearland residents and uplift the Gulf Coast region.

In 1983, Reid's remarkable leadership led to his nomination as the chair of the H-GAC board of directors. He also contributed his expertise to the Texas Association of Regional Councils, demonstrating his commitment to regional cooperation and public service. To honor his exceptional qualities, H-GAC introduced the Tom Reid Excellence in Regional Leadership Award, recognizing individuals exemplifying Reid's outstanding leadership.

We are deeply thankful to Tom Reid for his unwavering dedication to public service, vision for regional progress, and invaluable contributions to the city of Pearland and beyond. May his legacy continue to inspire us all.

*Learn more about the life and legacy of Mayor Emeritus Tom Reid:*

[Tom Reid looks back on time at the city as he retires/Community Impact](#)

[Pearland Mourns Loss of Mayor Emeritus Tom Reid/City of Pearland](#)

[Pearland to celebrate the life of former mayor Tom Reid/Houston Landing](#)

### "What's Happening at H-GAC"

*Introducing a new, monthly video feature giving you a quick snapshot of what to do and how to get involved in your community! Click below to watch!*





## Economic Development Administration's Recompete Pilot Program Funding



## Environmental Protection Agency's Solar for All Grant Competition

### EDA Launches Recompete Funding Opportunity

The Economic Development Administration (EDA) launched the Recompete Pilot Program on June 29, as part of President Joe Biden's Investing in America agenda.

Recompete aims to stimulate private sector investment, create high-paying jobs, revitalize American manufacturing, and address prime-age employment gaps. Eligibility can be determined using the Recompete Eligibility Mapping Tool.

Phase 1 expects to award \$6-12 million in Strategy Development Grants and approve at least 20 Recompete Plans. Phase 2 will offer larger implementation awards to four to eight regions, with funding averaging \$20-50 million.

Two informational webinars will be held on July 7 and July 11, 2023. To learn more and register, select and click one of the two webinar options below.

#### Recompete Resources:

Access the [Phase I Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) (NOFO)

Explore the [Eligibility Mapping Tool](#) to determine your eligibility

Learn about the [CHIPS and Science acts](#) as part of Investing in America.

For more information, visit: [eda.gov/Recompete](https://eda.gov/Recompete)

**Phase I NOFO Deadline  
October 5, 2023**

### Recompete Pilot Program Funding

#### INFORMATIONAL WEBINAR #1:

12:30 p.m. | July 7  
CST

[Click to Register for July 7!](#)

### Recompete Pilot Program Funding

#### INFORMATIONAL WEBINAR #2:

3:30 p.m. | July 11  
CST

[Click to Register for July 11!](#)

### EPA Launches \$7B Solar for All Grant Competition

The EPA announced the \$7 billion Solar for All grant competition, aiming to fund residential distributed solar programs for low-income and disadvantaged communities nationwide.

Eligible applicants include states, territories, Tribal governments, municipalities, nonprofits, and coalitions. Up to 60 grants will be awarded to create and expand low-income solar programs, providing financing and technical assistance.

The competition offers awards for state/territory programs, American Indian/Alaska Native programs, and multi-state programs targeting communities with shared barriers to solar deployment.

### Solar For All Grant Competition

#### INFORMATIONAL WEBINAR:

12 - 2 p.m. | July 12  
CST

[Click to Register!](#)

#### Solar for All Resources:

Access the [Grant Opportunity Notice](#)

Learn more about the EPA's [Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund](#)

**Notice of Intent  
Submission Deadline  
July 31, 2023**

# NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS WORKSHOP



More than 40 newly elected and experienced officials from cities and school districts across the region convened at the H-GAC offices on Wednesday, June 28, to participate in the Newly Elected Officials Workshop. By attending, they earned Texas Open Meetings Act Certification and expanded their knowledge in legal matters, leadership, teamwork, presiding over council meetings, effective communication, financial management, and budgeting.

## H-GAC Pops Up in Counties Across the Region

H-GAC, in collaboration with the region's county officials, began hosting county pop-up events in late 2022. These events aim to connect with local leaders, listen to the good things happening in their communities, and learn about the challenges each faces. To date, H-GAC has held pop-up events in 6 of the 13 counties in the region. Click the image below to learn more about these events and how we're using them to better serve our members.

For more information, email: [sandra.leiva@h-gac.com](mailto:sandra.leiva@h-gac.com)

# WHAT ARE H-GAC COUNTY POP-UPS?

**SUBSCRIBE**

H-GAC  
Houston-Galveston Area Council

### RSVP for July Pop-Up Events:

**CHAMBERS COUNTY**

Wednesday, July 12  
8:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Eagle Pointe Golf Club  
Magnolia Room  
12440 Eagle Pointe Dr.  
Mont Belvieu, TX 77535

**RSVP**

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY**

Thursday, July 27  
8:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Lone Star Convention & Expo Center  
9055 Airport, Rd.  
Conroe, TX 77303

**RSVP**

## Texas General Land Office Awards

# \$488 Million to H-GAC Region

At the H-GAC board meeting on Tuesday, June 20, General Land Office Commissioner Dawn Buckingham, M.D., presented Community Block Grant Mitigation funds totaling \$488,762,000 to H-GAC-member counties and communities.

More than half of the funds allocated through the Regional Mitigation Program were designated for GLO projects benefiting low-to-moderate-income communities. These communities are typically more economically vulnerable and less resilient to flooding and other natural disasters.

## Recipients of GLO funds included:

- Dayton
- Freeport
- Hitchcock
- Iowa Colony
- Katy
- La Marque
- Liberty County
- Palacios
- Pearland
- Richwood
- Rosenberg
- Texas City
- Waller County



## H-GAC Hosts Workshop Series

*Help create a new Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy*

This summer, the Houston-Galveston Area Council, in collaboration with the Gulf Coast Economic Development District, will host a series of workshops focused on developing a new Comprehensive Regional Economic Development Strategy.

The strategy aims to shape our region's economic growth and development through the next four years. It will ensure that our region's economic goals are aligned and establish a detailed action plan, allowing the region to apply for federal funding.

Federal funding in our region will:

- Enable local businesses to secure the necessary funding for their growth and sustainability.
- Provide funds to our communities for disaster relief and mitigation, allowing our region to thrive.
- Support the expansion of education and job training programs in our local colleges, universities, and vocational schools, developing and preparing our future workforce.

**This opportunity only comes along every five years, so get involved!**

Together, we can develop a plan that works for you and all who call our region home .

## H-GAC Challenges Riders to Keep Peddling

H-GAC's Commute Solutions Program, in collaboration with Love to Ride, hosted the Bike Month Challenge in May. The goal of the challenge was to promote recreational biking, health and wellness, and alternative commuting in the eight-county region.

Workplaces encouraged participation, leading to seven organizations emerging as leaders in the Bike Month Challenge across different staff sizes:

- NASA Johnson Space Center (2,000+ staff)
- University of Houston Downtown (500 - 1,999 staff)
- Houston-Galveston Area Council (200 - 499 staff)

- Consor Engineers, LLC (50 - 199 staff)
- Houston Parks Board (20 - 49 staff)
- EaDo Bike Co. (7 - 19 staff)
- Tour de Brewery (1 - 6 staff)

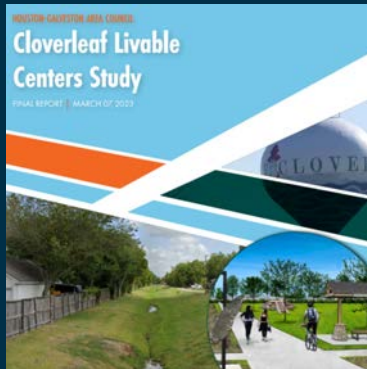
Love to Ride's social engagement feature allowed riders to support each other and display earned badges. In addition, riders earned donated prizes and incentives. Notable riders in the 8-County MPO include Scott Cryan, Christopher Gilbert, Michael Peltier, and others. To view a complete list of the top individual leaderboard, visit the [Individual Leaderboard](#).



The Bike Month Challenge initiated the year-long Bike the Gulf campaign, which will continue with the upcoming Biketober challenge in the fall.

Register today on the [Love to Ride, Bike the Gulf](#) homepage.

## Livable Centers Program Wins Planning Award



H-GAC and project partners Harris County Precinct 2 and Consor Engineers, LLC were recognized as part of the 2023 American Planning Association Houston Planning Awards Program.

[Cloverleaf Livable Centers' study](#) received a Silver Award in the Advancing Diversity and Social Change category. The study involved a comprehensive public engagement process that led to community-driven recommendations for creating vibrant spaces.

The Livable Centers program, established in 2008 by H-GAC, collaborates with local communities to transform auto-centric infrastructure, policies, and programs that accommodate multiple modes of transportation.

Learn more at: [h-gac.com/livable-centers/planning-studies](https://h-gac.com/livable-centers/planning-studies)

## Seeking Public Input on Hazard Mitigation Planning

H-GAC is working with the City of Angleton and Austin, Liberty, and Walker counties' Offices of Emergency Management to update Hazard Mitigation Plans for the entities and participating jurisdictions.

We're seeking public input to help develop the plans, including a risk assessment, capability assessment, and hazard mitigation action plan.



If you own property in **Angleton, Austin, Liberty, or Walker** counties, click above to take this important survey!

## Electronics Recycling Contract Renewed

According to a [2020 survey by AudienceProject](#), the average American has access to more than 10 connected devices in their household. Recycling these electronics allows for the reuse of valuable materials such as gold, silver, copper, and other precious metals, reducing the need for mining new materials.

H-GAC selected [CompuCycle](#) for this contract following its standard request for proposals (RFP) review and selection process. Governments and agencies in the H-GAC service area can now engage CompuCycle for their used electronics needs without conducting their own lengthy RFP process.



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**JULY 10**

**Conservation Conversations: Regional Peer Exchange**

**2 to 4 p.m. | Monday, July 10**  
H-GAC (2nd Floor Conference Rooms)

[Registration](#) requested

Conservation experts, parks and natural areas professionals, volunteers, and interested stakeholders will gather for small-group, facilitated conversations. Discussion topics may include community support and education, conservation easements, data needs and analysis, wayfinding and signage, tree planting, funding, partnerships, and more.

[H-GAC's Regional Conservation Initiative](#) supports conservation projects that maintain, restore, and enhance natural areas in the 13-county region. H-GAC's [Parks and Natural Areas program](#) serves as a forum for discussing issues related to parks and natural areas and promotes the Parks and Natural Areas Awards.

## JULY 12 & 13

### "Making Flexible Work, Work For Everyone" H-GAC hosts speaker series at the 2023 HR Houston Gulf Coast Symposium

Wednesday, July 12 - Thursday, July 13  
NRG Center | One Reliant Park – Hall B

*If you are in attendance, verify our session times, add us to your agenda, and join us!*

Each of the two identical sessions will:

- Describe regional and national trends in flexible work programs like remote work and compressed schedules.
- Identify potential departments and roles best suited for a flexible work program.
- List the complimentary resources available to businesses to explore and implement flexible work programs.

If you are in attendance, please verify our session times, add us to your agenda, and join us!

Learn more at: [2023 HR Houston Gulf Coast Symposium](#)

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## JULY 14

### Water Innovations Strategies of Excellence Awards H-GAC to Recognize Outstanding Projects & Programs of 2023

9:30 to 11:30 a.m. | Friday, July 14  
H-GAC (2nd Floor Conference Rooms)

[Registration requested](#)

The Natural Resource Advisory Committee of H-GAC oversees the WISE Awards program. The awards recognize and celebrate projects, programs, and individuals using innovative strategies to protect and improve water resources in the Houston-Galveston region.

For more information, email: [rachel.windham@h-gac.com](mailto:rachel.windham@h-gac.com)

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## JULY 20

### Webinar: Environmental, Historic Preservation Considerations in Debris Operations

10 a.m. to noon | Thursday, July 20

[Registration required!](#)

Join H-GAC to learn about the impact of debris removal on the environment and historic properties, including air and water quality concerns. Noncompliance has serious consequences. Register to attend and contact Amanda Ashcroft for more details.

For more information, email: [amanda.ashcroft@h-gac.com](mailto:amanda.ashcroft@h-gac.com)

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## JULY 25

### Bringing Back Main Street Roundtable

9:30 a.m. to noon | Tuesday, July 25  
Stone's Market - 1840 7th Street, Bay City

[Registration requested](#)

Join H-GAC to learn about the impact of debris removal on the environment and historic properties, including air and water quality concerns. Noncompliance has serious consequences. Register to attend and contact Amanda Ashcroft for more details.

For more information, email: [andrea.tantillo@h-gac.com](mailto:andrea.tantillo@h-gac.com)

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## AUG 16

### Hybrid Workshop: Clean Waters Initiative MS4

1 to 4 p.m. | Wednesday, August 16  
Zoom & Onsite at H-GAC (2nd Floor Conference Rooms)

Zoom [registration required](#)  
In-person [registration requested](#)

H-GAC is hosting a [Clean Waters Initiative](#) MS4 (municipal separate storm sewer systems) workshop. The workshop aims to educate and provide strategies for reducing pollution in local waterways.

For more information, email: [steven.johnston@h-gac.com](mailto:steven.johnston@h-gac.com)

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