

Hood County Clean Air News

Hood County Clean Air Coalition

August/September 2013
Issue 2

Rider 8 Projects

The Rider 8 projects are coming together for Hood County. Other near nonattainment areas (NNAs) use Rider 8 funds for the following categories: ambient monitoring projects, emission inventory improvement, photochemical modeling, outreach and planning, administrative activities, and conceptual modeling. Hood County differs from the other NNAs because we are near the DFW area where the North Central Texas Council of Governments includes Hood County in modeling and emission inventory projects. This situation means Hood County Rider 8 funds will likely be used mostly for outreach and administrative activities. Outreach will include planning, education, website maintenance, and other media outreach including public service

announcements on local TV and radio. Administrative activities include staff funding for management of the program. Projects under current consideration include staff funding, providing decals for city and county fleet vehicles to remind drivers of the voluntary county resolution to restrict unnecessary idling, installing street signs with a similar message in strategic locations, placing posters around town promoting clean air efforts, and having a presence at various events to aid outreach and education efforts.



In case you missed it ...Coalition Meetings Updates

We have had two meetings since the last newsletter! Both related to deciding on Rider 8 projects.

The July meeting was at the American Town Hall and had 16 in attendance. Discussion included

possible projects for the Rider 8 funding. Chris Klaus and Shannon Stevenson prepared a summary of projects from the Path Forward document that NCTCOG could assist with. Other topics included energy efficiency projects

recently completed at Granbury ISD which led to a discussion of increased usage of energy audits for businesses and individuals. (Continued p. 2)

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HCCAC Board Members

- Darrell Cockerham, Chairman
County Judge
- Mark Clark
Luminant Environmental Manager
- John Campbell
Owner, Diamond C
- Bob Cornett
Mayor, City of Cresson
- Mark Franco
Total Equipment and Service (TEAS)
- Nin Hulett
Mayor Pro Tem, City of Granbury
- Terry Johnson
Mayor, City of Tolar
- Dave Porcher
Dave Porcher Mowing Service

In case you missed it...cont'd.

John Campbel mentioned a new funding program for forklift replacement to reduce emissions. Information is included at the end of the newsletter in the new "funding opportunities" section. It was also mentioned that this newsletter could have expanded distribution through the use of Constant Contact.

The August meeting was also

held at the American Town Hall with 16 in attendance. There was a good discussion on a range of projects for the Rider 8 Program. One point of funding was voted on. A vote was taken and passed to convert the part time intern position to a full time position - funded by the Rider 8 grant. It was also agreed that the Coalition will begin meeting on the first Tuesday of each month. Efforts will be made to try to

keep the meeting at the same time. Mark Franco provided information about dual fuel engines for oilfield equipment that can result in a 30% reduction in emissions. Mindy Mize discussed ways NCTCOG can aid with outreach including participation in local events and providing items for distribution. Shannon Stevenson discussed other funding opportunities that NCTCOG can assist with.

Air North Texas/CenSara updates

Air North Texas and CenSara had conference calls in July. Air North Texas welcomed the Hood County Clean Air Coalition and UNT Health Science Center as new partners. The ozone season update indicated reduced levels this year, but there is no quantification to show it is a result of reduced emissions rather than a result of weather conditions. The Green Apple Schools Day of

Service is set for September 28. Air North Texas is encouraging partners to participate as a way to reach students with the air quality message. We have had one school in Granbury show interest in participation.

CenSARA, the Central States Air Resources Agencies group, discussed the status of Path Forward documents for the EPA Advance Program. The group

compiled projects included in Path Forward documents into a spread sheet as a resource for future Path Forwards. There was also a discussion about new small scale air quality monitoring devices such as the Air Quality Egg and the Air Casting Air Monitor. Currently the technology does not have a high reliability rate, but could be beneficial as an educational tool later.

Be "Air Aware" take action when Air Pollution Action Day Alerts are issued - www.airnorthtexas.org/beairaware.asp

Upcoming events

There will be an increased effort to participate in events around Hood County to increase outreach and education regarding air quality issues. Air North Texas will be sending representatives to help with this endeavor. The first

upcoming event is the Lake Granbury Area EDC Economic Outlook Conference on September 11. The second event is the Bentwater POA annual meeting September 21. The Green Apple Schools Day of Service event, supported by

Air North Texas, is September 28. Emma Roberson Elementary School in Granbury is excited to allow students to participate.

Energy Audit Benefits

Energy audits identify areas of inefficiency and how to resolve those issues resulting in energy and cost savings. These energy efficiency improvements aid air quality efforts by reducing energy consumption and thereby reducing emissions that form ozone. If you are interested in having an energy audit done, United Cooperative Services and Tri County Electric Cooperative offer this

service free to members. They also provide some rebate/ grant opportunities for eligible members to install and implement energy efficiency measures including some renewable, distributed generation applications. There are grants for residential and commercial customers. Information regarding energy audits and grant programs are found at the coop websites – www.united-cs.com and

www.tcectexas.com .

The State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) provides assistance in finding professional energy raters for residential and business sites. They also list a Preliminary Energy Assessment program for local governments and school districts. More information can be found at www.seco.cpa.state.tx.us.

Energy Efficiency Projects or Equipment Upgrades

We had a couple of members mention at the July meeting that they had recently completed projects to increase energy efficiency. This is an official call to please let us know if there are any energy efficiency projects or equipment replacements done. These projects can be included in our future Path Forward document as steps taken to reduce emissions that lead to

ozone formation. Attempts will be made to ask about projects completed, but feel free to use the contact information at the end of this newsletter to inform the group of any upcoming or completed projects. Also, sharing energy efficiency ideas will benefit others considering doing similar projects. Your help in this endeavor is greatly appreciated!



Funding Opportunities

Funding Program	For	Eligibility	Deadline/ Funding Limit
\$0.50/gallon alt fuel tax credit	Alt. fuel used in on road vehicles and forklifts	Public, Private fleets	Extended through 12/31/13
Forklift replacement(Alt. fuel equipment)	Forklifts and medium and heavy duty vehicles (over 8500 GVWR)	Public, Private Fleets	\$6,000,000 (waiting on this additional funding from TERP program)
Commercial Propane Mower Incentive Program	Lawn and garden equipment	Public, Private Sector	\$39,0000
Propane Education and Research Council	\$1000 / new mower and \$500/converted mower	Private Sector	

More information: Participating dealers for forklift replacement, Propane Education Council of Texas- Commercial Propane Mower Incentive Program, additional grant opportunities at www.nctcog.org/aqfunding



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Our Mission

The Hood County Clean Air Coalition is a proactive organization made of businesses, schools, local government, and citizens whose goal is to promote clean air in Hood County, Texas. We recognize the dangers that high ozone levels pose to our community, especially for our senior citizens, children, and those that suffer from asthma and other lung disorders. We will work with local, state, and national stakeholders to identify strategies and solutions to reduce air pollution emissions below the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) of the Clean Air Act.