



NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Amanda Thorin, (713) 993-4587 or Amanda.Thorin@h-gac.com

Andrea Tantillo: 832-681-2507 or andrea.tantillo@h-gac.com (Media Inquiries Only)

Houston Galveston Regional Plan for Sustainable Development Launches Online Forum, Facebook Page, Online Survey

Do you have an idea – large or small – that could help transform your community and the Houston-Galveston region into a better place?

The Houston-Galveston Area Council and a consortium of community partners received a Sustainable Communities Regional Planning grant to develop a Regional Plan for Sustainable Development for the 13-county area. The plan will be a high-level, long-range plan for enhancing the region's quality of life and economic opportunity for residents.

The first round of public meetings is scheduled across the region through March. Visit ouregion.org to find a meeting near you. In addition to public meetings, H-GAC and region partners have launched three online platforms for gathering feedback about the plan: MindMixer, Facebook and an online survey.

These new public engagement platforms encourage a more diverse audience of participants that might not be able to attend conventional public meetings. Anyone interested in providing constructive ideas and solutions to the region's issues can simply jump online from work, home, school, or wherever they have Internet access to join in the discussion.

Currently the conversation includes:

- What should the regional plan focus on?
- What are the major issues where you live?
- What are the major issues in this region?
- How would you define "sustainability?"
- What is your hope for your community 30 years from now?

MindMixer is an interactive, virtual "town hall" website dedicated to soliciting ideas and feedback from residents within the region about a broad variety of interesting and engaging

community issues. MindMixer at ideas.ourregion.org gives residents, business people, students, and other interested stakeholders a creative and convenient way to share ideas, provide feedback, and make recommendations on a broad variety of topic areas.

Find the Regional Plan for Sustainable Development on Facebook at facebook.com/ideasforOurRegion. Facebook users will receive updates on new or upcoming meetings and the progress of the plan and will be able to make a virtual connection with others in the region who are participating in the process.

To ensure the plan reflects residents' priorities about their communities and the region, an online survey is available at ourregion.org, click on the survey link.

The information, ideas, and comments gathered through the public meetings and online platforms will help shape the goals and priorities of the Regional Plan for Sustainable Development and chart a vision for our future.

For more information, email ourregion@h-gac.com or call 713-463-8200.

Houston Galveston Regional Plan for Sustainable Development

The Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) and a consortium of community partners received a Sustainable Communities Regional Planning grant to develop a regional plan for sustainable development for the 13-county area. The plan will explore opportunities to improve the region's most important resources, including clean air and water, good jobs, safe and attractive neighborhoods, affordable housing, transportation choices, and open spaces and parks.

Houston-Galveston Area Council

H-GAC (www.h-gac.com) is a voluntary association of local governments in the 13-county Gulf Coast Planning Region—an area of 12,500 square miles and more than 6 million people. H-GAC works to promote efficient and accountable use of local, state, and federal tax dollars and serves as a problem-solving and information forum for local governments.