

Texas Resilience 2020

Call for Session and Presentation Proposals



ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

This conference will provide a platform for Texas communities and organizations to come together and share experiences, opportunities, tools, resources, and knowledge to build a more resilient Texas.

Communities across Texas often confront the stresses of economic and social inequality, aging infrastructure, and a changing natural landscape. Challenges related to climate variability and change, including but not limited to sea level rise, extreme heat, wildfire, drought, and floods, exacerbate the existing stressors that communities face. Building resilience empowers Texans to invest in their communities in ways that allows them to emerge in a stronger position after tough times and live better in good times.

Join us to share your experiences and learn from other communities and organizations who are working to tackle and reduce underlying vulnerability and strengthen our abilities to prepare for, withstand, and bounce forward from whatever shocks and stressors the future holds. *Texas Resilience 2020 will take place May 20-21, 2020 in Austin, TX.*

FOCUS AREAS

The program committee invites proposals for *individual presentations* (15 minutes), *panel presentations and discussions* (1.5 hours), and *workshops/trainings* (2 hours) that address one or more of the topics listed below. The topics are designed to inspire, not constrain, and proposals can address any aspect of resilience. Please note that individual presentations will be grouped together by the program committee into panels and pre-organized panels are encouraged to be submitted to ensure consistency of presentations.

1. **The Latest in Texas Climate Science and Trends:** Historical and/or projected trends for one or more climate-related hazards (e.g. precipitation extremes, saltwater intrusion, sea level rise, severe storms, wildfires, etc.), extreme event attribution, climate data tools, etc.
2. **Resilience and Adaptation Actions and Solutions** that focus on a particular sector, approach and/or special topic such as:
 - a. **Sectors:** Air Quality, Ecology and Habitat, Energy, Emergency Management, Grey and Green Infrastructure, Human Health, Insurance, Planning, Sustainable Food Production, Transportation, and Water Quality and Availability.
 - b. **Cross-Sector Tools and Approaches:** Coalition Building, Community Engagement, Effective Communication, Funding and Finance, Inclusive Planning and

Development, Interactive Tools, Practitioner-Scientist Partnerships, Public Policies and/or Advocacy that Support Action.

- c. **Special Topics:** Climate Displacement, Migration and/or Gentrification; Climate Justice and Equity; Communities of Color; Costliest Hazard(s); Drought Recovery and Resilience; Extreme Heat; Gulf Coast Economic Engine; Hurricane Recovery and Resilience; Small and Rural Communities.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMISSION

The submission form is ***open now and will close at 11:59pm Central Standard Time on February 7, 2020***. Proposals should: Identify speaker(s), describe the topic area of your presentation or session (500 words or less), and detail how the session will be interactive or encourage audience participation. See the [proposal submission form](https://forms.gle/D5SmhVurfeGU9kxs6) for more details: <https://forms.gle/D5SmhVurfeGU9kxs6>.

TIMELINE

- February 8th – Program Committee begins reviewing submissions.
- End of February – Initial acceptance notifications.
- Mid-March – Second round of acceptance notifications; preliminary conference agenda posted.
- End of March – Near-final agenda posted.

REVIEW CRITERIA

The program committee is looking to highlight a diverse set of perspectives and topic areas for the 2020 conference. The committee will review submissions with the criteria below in mind:

- **Clarity and Topical Relevance** – The proposal clearly articulates the topic area(s) and relevance to enhancing climate resilience in the State of Texas.
- **Active Learning**– Preference will be given to sessions that include a significant amount of audience participation, engagement, and collaborative exploration of session topics.
- **Practice and Practical Value** – Sessions that highlight real world examples, existing projects, or learning from experience are preferred.
- **Equity and Diversity** – To be effective, resilience building efforts must include all people. Proposals that include a diversity of speakers, variety of perspectives and organizational affiliations, as well as those highlighting the experiences of frontline communities often dealing with the first and worst impacts of extreme weather and climate change are preferred.

MORE INFO ABOUT TEXAS RESILIENCE 2020

Texas Resilience 2020 will be patterned after other regional climate adaptation forums that have taken place over the last few years. The regional adaptation forums grew out of the National Adaptation Forum (www.nationaladaptationforum.org) which began in 2013. The May 2020 event will be the inaugural event for Texas. Visit www.txresilience.org for more information.

Questions about your submission? Contact Rachel Riley, rriley@ou.edu.