

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**NWARPC ASKS FOR PUBLIC'S INPUT ON  
NORTHWEST ARKANSAS ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT INNOVATION (EEI)  
COMPREHENSIVE ACTION PLAN (PHASE 2)**

**SPRINGDALE, AR** September 17, 2024 – The Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC) is asking for the public's input on the Northwest Arkansas Energy & Environment Innovation (EEI) Comprehensive Action Plan (Phase 2) to sequester and reduce pollutant emissions in the region. This phase of the planning work follows the NWARPC Board adoption of the [Northwest Arkansas Energy & Environment Innovation Priority Action Plan](#) (Phase 1) in May 2024.

Two public open houses are scheduled to share information about the planning process and gather the public's input on regional goals and actions to create a more resilient future for Northwest Arkansas. The open houses will be held **Tuesday, September 17, 2024 from 4:00pm-7:00pm** at the Carroll Electric Community Room, 5056 Hwy 412B, Huntsville, AR and **Thursday, September 19, 2024 from 6:00pm-8:00pm** at the Jones Center (Room 226), 922 E. Emma Ave., Springdale, AR. Both open houses are drop-in events. Spanish and Marshallese interpreters will be available at the September 19 Open House at the Jones Center.

In addition to the public open houses, NWARPC is asking for the public's input via an online survey and online idea box. Both the survey and idea box are available at [www.nwarpc.org/energy-environment-innovation-plan/](http://www.nwarpc.org/energy-environment-innovation-plan/).

The Northwest Arkansas regional plans are components of the statewide Arkansas Energy & Environment Innovation (EEI) Plan, which is aimed at reducing pollutant emissions, creating high-quality jobs, and spurring economic growth in the state. NWARPC is collaborating with the Arkansas Department of Energy & Environment (ADEE), Metroplan, and the City of Fort Smith to develop the metropolitan area's components of the Arkansas EEI Plan, which is funded through a \$3 million grant to ADEE from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The EEI Priority Action Plan (Phase 1) enabled the Arkansas Tri-Region Coalition to be eligible to receive the [\\$99,999,999 million Climate Pollution Reduction Grant \(CPRG\)](#) to implement each region's Energy & Environment Innovation (EEI) Priority Action Plan (PAP). In Northwest Arkansas, \$36.25 million of the award will fund 18 "Green Network" projects across ten (10) cities, and two (2) supporting regional-serving programs (a Workforce Training Program and an E-bike Incentive Program) to protect and restore natural cores and corridors and increase access to connected active transportation networks.

This second phase of the planning work will continue to develop recommendations for the Northwest Arkansas Energy & Environment Innovation (EEI) Comprehensive Action Plan (CAP), anticipated to be finalized in early 2025. Together, the NWA Priority Action Plan (Phase 1) and NWA Comprehensive Action Plan (Phase 2) will make up the NWA EEI Plan. Opportunities for future public input will be available throughout the entire planning process.

Those unable to attend the open houses can access project materials at [www.nwarpc.org/energy-environment-innovation-plan](http://www.nwarpc.org/energy-environment-innovation-plan).

For more information, contact Tim Conklin at [tconklin@nwarpc.org](mailto:tconklin@nwarpc.org), 479-751-7125 or visit [www.adeg.state.ar.us/air/planning/eei/](http://www.adeg.state.ar.us/air/planning/eei/).