



Upper Texas Gulf Coast Regional Resilience Initiative (UTRI)

Over the past two decades, the Upper Texas Gulf Coast region has experienced an increase in flooding, or conversely, extreme heat and drought. Weather patterns are increasing in severity and blazing heat waves and 500-year storms like 2017's Hurricane Harvey, which claimed the lives of 107 people and cost the region \$125 billion, are becoming much more common.

To counteract this increasing threat, the growing region must build community resilience that will ensure that planning, preparation, and recovery benefit all. Community resilience approaches must go beyond building infrastructure – by fostering equitable, inclusive collaborative actions across the Upper Texas Gulf Coast, we can together achieve greater impact. This project looks to discover opportunities for building community resilience beyond the traditional boundaries of jurisdictions and sectors.

Objective

An equitable and comprehensive resilience action plan to guide regional implementation as we work to increase social, economic, and environmental resilience that:

- Spans city and county boundaries to engage the public, private, academic, and civic sectors.
- Spotlights a broad range of relevant resilience strategies.
- Recommends just and equitable solutions at different scales that advance the region as a whole.



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Funding Partner



About ISC

Since 1991, the Institute for Sustainable Communities (ISC) has led more than 115 transformative community-driven sustainability projects in 30 countries including the United States, China, India, and Bangladesh. ISC helps unleash the existing power of local people and institutions to address immediate social, economic, and environmental challenges and opportunities – all while building those on-the-ground solutions into national and international best practices and policy. At the heart of the organization's approach is results-focused, authentic, and pragmatic engagement with all stakeholders, which unearths locally-driven and equitable solutions to the biggest challenge we face – global climate change.

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For more information:

Bennetta Robinson
Program Officer
brobinson@sustain.org

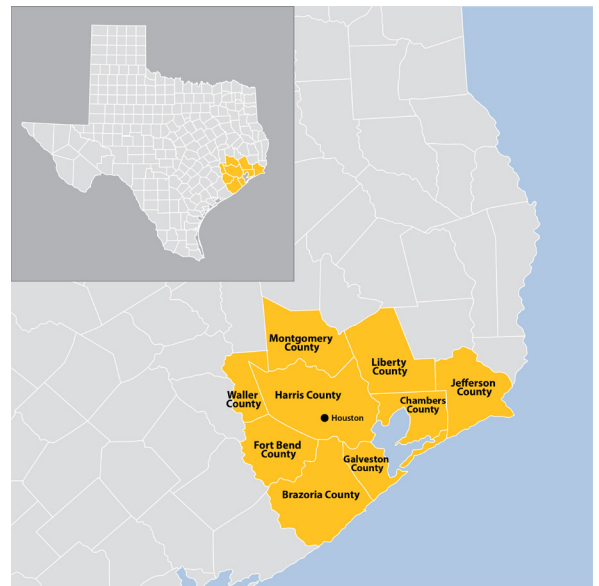


Project Geography

Nine-county Upper Texas coastal region: Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Jefferson, Liberty, Montgomery, and Waller.

Plan

Engage communities through interviews, town halls, and develop a baseline assessment of regional resilience, and determine actionable strategies to increase community resilience; Build partnerships and design strategies for greater local and regional collaboration.



Participants

Community-based organizations, faith leaders, advocates, government, private sector/business leaders, and institutions.

Project Leadership Team

Institute for Sustainable Communities (ISC), Coalition for Environment, Equity, and Resilience (CEER), and Texas Southern University (TSU).

