



Geographic Data Workgroup Guidelines

Overview

The Geographic Data Workgroup is an H-GAC workgroup comprised of public, private, non-profit, and educational members. H-GAC creates workgroups on an as needed basis to provide a professional setting where stakeholders can network, share resources and best practices, and participate in H-GAC sponsored projects. Geographic Data Workgroup members are primarily involved in geospatial related technology and spatial data projects.

Mission

- To support the use of high quality, affordable, geospatial data and technologies by local governments, non-profit organizations, educational institutions, and the private sector within the 13-county Houston-Galveston region.

Goals

- To reduce the overall costs of public data development and management, through shared purchase and licensing agreements for the acquisition of software, hardware, data, services and training.
- To facilitate data usage by providing a forum for solving data development and exchange problems among participating organizations.
- To cultivate and coordinate the development of standards that address local, state and federal requirements.
- To foster data exchange among local governments, non-profit organizations, educational institutions, and the private sector.

Workgroup Benefits

- Work closely with local public agencies in finding and sharing data with one another.
- Stay up to date on local events and activities affecting GIS and data in the Houston metropolitan area.
- Opportunity to network and meet geographic data professionals who are responsible for developing and implementing GIS within their local public agencies and private organizations.
- Participate in a forum for open communication between public agencies and private organizations on GIS data availability and use.
- Earn credits toward Geographic Information Systems Professional (GISP) certification.



Geographic Data Workgroup Guidelines

Operations

- H-GAC may expand, change, or sunset the Geographic Data Workgroup based upon agency needs.
- Membership is voluntary, subject to approval by H-GAC, and may be by invitation from H-GAC or can be requested via the H-GAC workgroup website.
- Workgroups do not have officers and do not charge fees.
- Workgroups are led and staffed by H-GAC.
- Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at H-GAC. Members shall receive notification of meetings via e-mail and meeting materials will be posted on the H-GAC website.
- Technical Advisory Groups (TAG) and sponsored project teams will be created as needed by H-GAC towards fulfilling the mission of the workgroup. Technical Advisory Groups shall be charged with identifying and resolving specific technical issues, such as physical resource specifications, translation/conversion of data, database design and maintenance issues, and recommendations regarding data purchases and projects.
- Annual GIS Events: Work group members are encouraged to participate in the planning and hosting of the Houston Regional GIS Expo every spring and the Houston Area GIS Day every fall. The GIS Expo serves as annual event for GIS professionals while the GIS Day serves the same purpose for students. Sponsorship funds collected for both of the GIS Events are held by H-GAC as non-profit and are tax deductible.
- H-GAC may elect to sponsor projects that are regionally significant to a) provide consistent specifications and technology thresholds, and b) reduce costs by providing economies of scale via cost-share opportunities.
- The H-GAC Geographic Data Workgroup may participate in the development of specifications and the procurement of certain cost-share projects. Examples of geographic-data related cost-share projects include H-GAC region aerial imagery, and the residential & business database.
- Participation in cost-share projects is voluntary and not limited to workgroup members.