

AEG Impact Challenge: Climate, Health & Equity @ VERGE 22



David H. Robbins

Director, Program Management &
Delivery

Houston Airports System



Lack of equitable access to the benefits of major multi \$billion infrastructure programming is an impediment to delivering life-saving impact at the environmental health, education and equity nexus.

The key obstacle/challenge to overcome in solving this problem in the next 12 months are three fold:

1. Begin implementation of 10MW solar in support of both EFD Spaceport and 50+ MW IAH solar/resilient microgrid
2. Cultivate alignment with Texas Southern University to develop the Ellington Field Aerospace Institute
3. Initiate and grow educational/technical candidate pipeline to cultivate future leaders in aerospace and green collar economy.

The focus is Houston – Local with key stakeholders from City of Houston to TSU to Community Colleges and Houston ISD/High Schools, along with industry and government partners.

HAS will lead the effort by providing the necessary alignments with industry, university and public schools. HAS will avail the opportunity to develop on City property and mandate resilience and enforcement of Federal and Local inclusion requirements as to Contract, employment and education/pipeline participation.

Key Dates:

- 2023 Aerospace Institute deal completion
- 02/2023 – IAH EFD Solar RFP issuance



BENEFITS:

The benefits of addressing these obstacles are manifold:

- Improved alignment of HAS with broader community by becoming a champion for higher education and technical/credentialed employee pipeline development
- Implementation of solar/microgrid and resilient power infrastructure makes the HAS an integral resource for the greater grid. Allowing load shed opportunities and business continuity for THE primary logistics portal and resource for mutual aid.
- Resilient infrastructure reduces emissions, impacting environment in aggregate, but especially the environment in poor communities adjacent to Point Source.

Regarding Climate, Health and Equity a critical obstacle to collectively overcome in 12 months are:

- 1. Lack of alignment with HAS for Education and Energy purveyors making for resilient communities.***
 - a) Strike contractual and political/policy alignment between the University and the City of Houston, making foundation for formalizing scope, budget and schedule.***
 - b) Complete procurement of consultancy/contracting for implementation of resilient power infrastructure at EFD/Spaceport and IAH/airport***
 - c) Utilizing wherewithal of purveyor to navigate Texas power policy landscape.***