

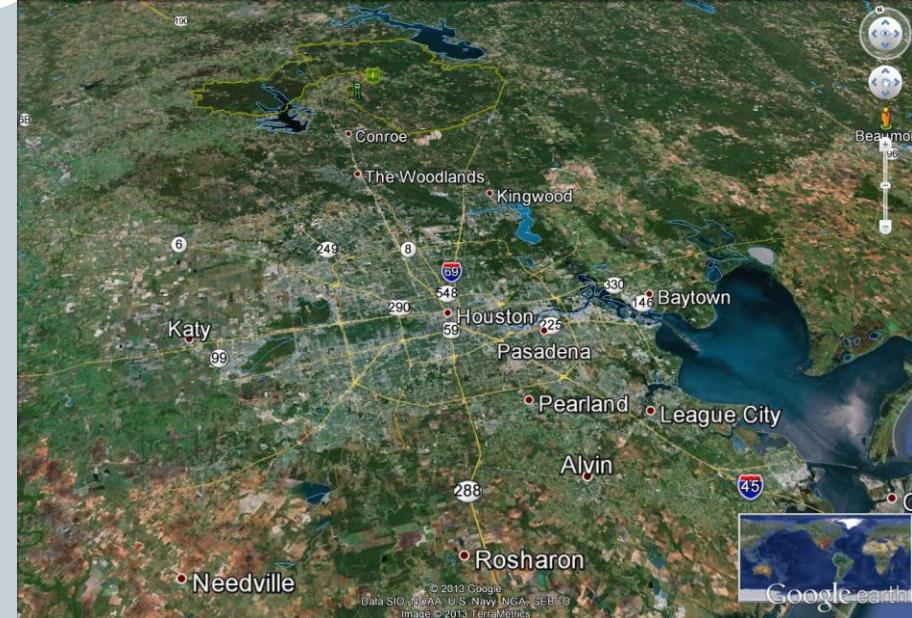
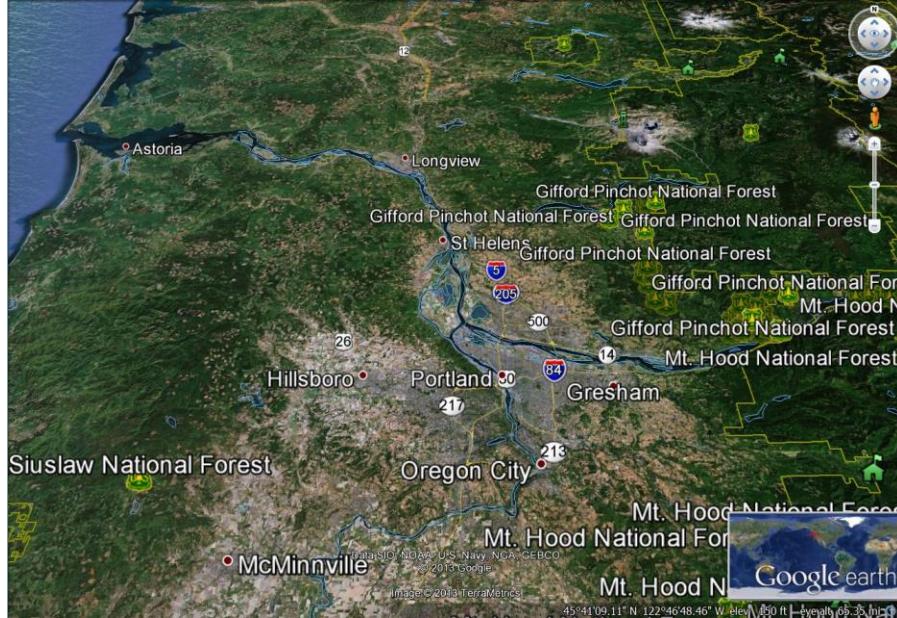
# Urban Sustainability: Houston to Portland



JIM LESTER



# Portland and Houston



Commercial -  
Medium Population -  
Riverine –  
Temperate -  
Mountains –

Industrial & Commercial  
Large Population  
Coastal  
Subtropical  
Flat



# West Coast to South Coast Relationship



- Extreme ideological division Texas to Portland
  - Texas: very conservative, but populist traditions; driven by oil & gas and agriculture (anti-Agenda 21)
  - Houston: socially liberal, fiscally conservative, business driven
  - Successful strategies:
    - Competitive PR- green attracts professionals
    - Non regulatory- ask voters, market choices
    - Value/risk argument- energy efficiency, green bayous, green buildings

# Houston Urban Sprawl

- Large low density population
- High density roads and impervious surfaces



Image from NASA JSC

# Houston Sustainability Leadership

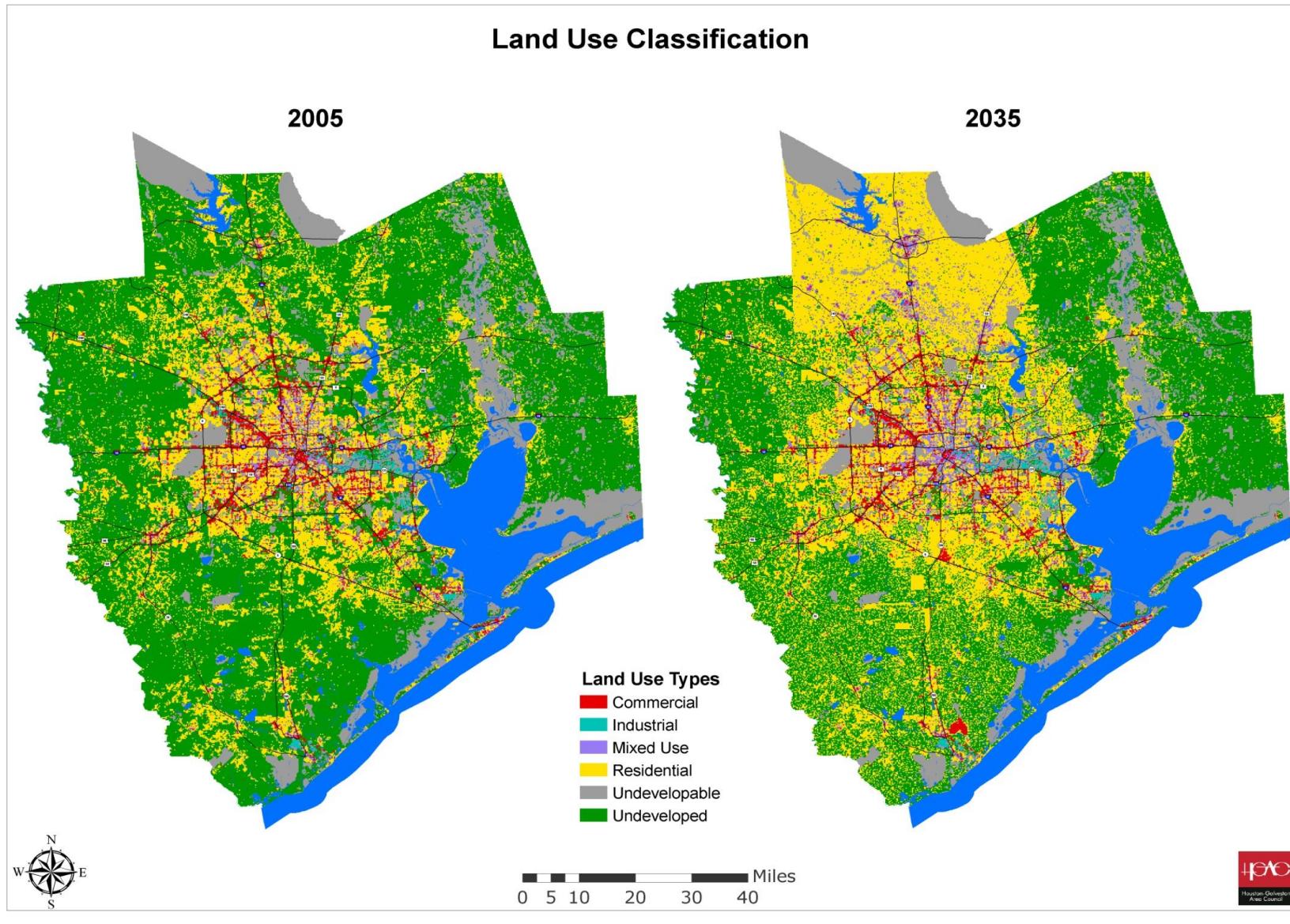


- #1 municipal purchaser renewable energy (50MW wind)
- #5 LEED certified buildings; #3 LEED certified building area
- 2004 city resolution: new municipal buildings >10,000 sq ft target is LEED Silver
- \$100 million bonds for green bayous



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# Houston's Challenge



# HARC's Role with Houston



- Non partisan science and engineering work in the background
- Skills in project management and grant acquisition & management
- Early adopter applications: solar power, low energy-low income housing, combined heat and power, urban wind, electric car charging stations, bikeshare, energy efficient buildings



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# Federal Role in Urban Sustainability



- Investment in urban infrastructure innovation (e.g. transportation, water, housing)
- Investment and tax policy favoring sustainable technology (e.g. wind, solar, smart grid)
- Funding research on and demonstration of best practices
- Environmental regulation



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# NAS Role



- Educating Congress (and Executive Branch) on green infrastructure and best practices to increase funding and improve policy
- Coordinating national urban sustainability dialog to disseminate ideas and solutions

# The Role of Federal Agencies in Promoting Urban Policy & Research Innovation

- Ann Bartuska, Deputy Under Secretary, Research, Education and Economics, U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Danielle Arigoni, Deputy Director, Sustainable Communities, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Jay Williams, Director, Office of Recovery for Auto Communities and Workers, Department of Labor
- Andre N. Pettigrew, Executive Director, Climate Prosperity Project, Clean Economy Solutions