

Clean, Reliable, Affordable Energy

Texans are overpaying for unreliable energy. Advances in renewable energy, energy storage, geothermal energy, electric vehicles, and energy efficiency need better policy support at the state level for Texas to make them real solutions. We must prioritize legislation that supports good jobs & includes a just transition from fossil fuel industries.

Our legislators must put people over profit and ensure every Texan has access to clean, reliable, and affordable energy.

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Texas Lives Are On the Line

Extreme weather events - like snowstorms, hurricanes, and record-breaking heat - are becoming more frequent, putting unprecedented stress on our energy systems, and the lives of Texans at risk.

- While we may never know the total number of lives lost to Winter Storm Uri, estimates say that roughly 250 Texans died due to grid failure in 2021.
 - Winter freezes are not the only extreme weather danger. The National Safety Council reported over 300 Texans suffered heat-related deaths in 2023. With temperatures rising, it is more important than ever to ensure Texans have access to clean, reliable, affordable energy.

Big Corporations Get Big Breaks

As electricity needs rise, Texans are forced to deal with power outages, high bills, and outdated policies that favor fossil fuel companies.

- Last legislative session, Legislators earmarked \$5 billion dollars for loans and grants for new gas plants as part of the Texas Energy Fund, but failed to provide funding for backup power packages and resiliency projects which would actually help people not gas companies.
- According to the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, Texans are now paying nearly double on electric bills than they were pre-pandemic.
- When the growth of renewables like solar and wind began to threaten the Texas fossil fuel industry, lawmakers turned against renewables and created barriers to establishing new renewable energy sources.
- Existing fossil fuel subsidies cost taxpayers billions, worsen climate change and increase harmful air pollution.

Proposed Solutions

Put Texans First

- Protect agricultural and construction workers from extreme weather with rest breaks and other policies that save lives.
- Increase resiliency measures at private and public utilities to help Texans survive weather extremes, including finally funding Backup Power Packages approved by voters in 2023.
- Create a Clean Energy Economic Development and Worker Training Taskforce to ensure a just transition for workers into new industries including offshore wind.
- Support efforts to increase insurance protections for Texas homeowners and small businesses from climate extremes like floods and hurricanes, and create pooled insurance policies for resiliency from extreme weather to lower insurance rates.

End Fossil Fuel Favoritism

- We must oppose efforts to further subsidize fossil fuel plants through state-backed incentives or capacity market schemes, including efforts to create a separate fund for nuclear power handouts.
- Oppose efforts to make it harder to grow renewable energy in Texas through market changes, “firming” requirements or burdensome permitting requirements.

Improve Transparency

- Create an Integrated Resource Planning Process at the four non-ERCOT utilities so that all future supply and demand-side resources can be considered equitably in a public process.
- Create a more transparent process for interconnection of large loads like data centers, bitcoin and AI, consider fairer cost allocation so these loads pay their fair share, require energy efficiency, water conservation, noise mitigation and self-generation standards, and require that “flexible” loads like Bitcoin must register as controllable load resources that can be controlled by ERCOT.

Related Bills

89th Texas Legislative Session

- **HB 553** - Patterson, Jared: Relating to the permitting of renewable energy generation facilities by the Public Utility Commission of Texas (this is a burdensome bill).
- **SB 388** - King, Phil: Relating to the legislature's goals for electric generation capacity in this state (this bill would limit the growth of renewable energy).

- **HB 1343** - Troxclair, Ellen: Relating to the issuance by the Public Utility Commission of Texas of a permit for the installation of certain electric energy storage equipment or facilities (this bill would add burdensome permitting requirements on storage facilities).
- **SB 383** - Middleton: Relating to prohibiting interconnection of an offshore wind power facility (this bill would effectively ban the connection of future offshore wind in Texas to the larger grid).
- **HB 1378** - Virdell, Wes: Relating to municipal and county regulation of certain electric energy storage (this bill prescriptively directs counties to adopt ordinances that would create required distances of 500 yards for any storage facilities from certain types of property and is overly restrictive).