



SIERRA CLUB
LONE STAR CHAPTER

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2027 Legislative Policy Platform

Written by:
Sierra Club Lone Star Chapter



Clean, Reliable & Affordable Energy for All Texans

Texas needs an electric grid that can support continued growth without driving up costs, worsening pollution, or sacrificing reliability. As electricity demand rises - driven in part by energy-intensive facilities like data centers - the Legislature faces an important choice about how Texas will meet its future energy needs.

Renewable energy, battery storage, energy efficiency, and distributed energy resources are already helping stabilize the grid, lower electricity costs, and improve resilience. At the same time, proposals for billions in subsidies for new fossil gas and nuclear development threaten to increase costs for Texans while locking the state into more pollution and financial risk.

The Sierra Club Lone Star Chapter believes Texas should prioritize affordable, proven, and community-centered energy solutions that strengthen reliability, protect consumers, and preserve the places Texans care about.



Legislative Focus Areas

- Assuring Data centers (and other energy hogs) pay their fair share of costs, and add, not subtract from reliability, including through direct support of community-centered programs
- Energy savings programs, distributed energy resources like onsite solar and batteries, building codes, and cutting energy waste to directly benefit consumers
- Tapping the brakes on new nuclear subsidies
- Energy affordability, weatherization, disconnection policy and low income assistance programs
- Smart renewable energy development and battery storage that drives costs lower, while keeping special places safe
- Transmission reform to better protect ratepayers from rising bills, prioritize “non-wires” alternatives, assure public input, and protect special places

Clean Air, Water & Healthy Communities

Every Texan deserves clean air, safe water, and protection from harmful pollution. Yet communities across Texas continue to face serious threats from ozone pollution, ethylene oxide pollution, methane emissions, industrial waste, other toxic chemicals, and inadequate environmental oversight.

Weak monitoring systems, outdated standards, and limited public access to information make it harder for Texans to understand and respond to pollution risks in their own communities. At the same time, federal rollbacks and gaps in state oversight threaten both public health and Texas' long-term economic resilience.

Texas has the tools, resources, and expertise to better protect communities from pollution while ensuring transparency and accountability from powerful industries. The Sierra Club Lone Star Chapter believes the Legislature should strengthen monitoring, enforcement, public transparency, and pollution prevention efforts across the state.



Legislative Focus Areas

- Hydrogen sulfide standards
- Ethylene Oxide standards
- Methane, flaring, and greenhouse gas pollution
- Ground level ozone and particulate matter
- Air quality monitoring deficiencies
- Assuring TCEQ decision documents are available and part of public record
- Water quality, including standards for salinity, PFAS regulations, and protection from preproduction plastics
- Abandoned and orphaned wells (including “zombie wells”)
- Modernizing fines, enforcement, and financial assurance
- Wastewater management, injection wells, and reuse risks and opportunities
- Treatment and reuse of produced water

Protecting Texas Lands, Wildlife & Coasts

Texas' lands, wildlife, parks, rivers, beaches, and coastal ecosystems are central to the state's identity, economy, and culture. As development pressures continue to grow, Texas faces increasing challenges to protecting natural lands, conserving wildlife habitat, preserving public access, and safeguarding sensitive ecosystems for future generations.

From the strategic use of the Centennial Fund to the protection of public beaches and coastal ecosystems, the Legislature has an opportunity to strengthen conservation efforts that support both environmental health and community resilience.

The Sierra Club Lone Star Chapter believes Texas should invest in long-term conservation, protect our land and wildlife, and ensure that development does not come at the expense of irreplaceable natural resources and public access.



Legislative Focus Areas

- TPWD Centennial Fund
- Private land conservation efforts
- State-funded land and water conservation fund
- Protecting special places from border security infrastructure
- Improvements in protection of mountain lions
- Boca Chica beach and SpaceX
- Conservation easements and land protection program
- Protecting local control over tree mitigation protections
- Assuring protections for mountain lions
- State-funded land and water conservation fund, including for wetlands and flood-prone areas
- Encouraging protections of lands near federally protected areas

Sustainable Water & Climate Resilience

Texas is entering a future shaped by growing water demand, worsening drought, aging infrastructure, and increasingly severe flooding. Communities across the state are already experiencing the impacts of water scarcity, flood damage, and mounting pressure on natural systems.

The 89th Texas Legislature made historic investments in water infrastructure and flood planning, but substantial work remains. As Texas continues to grow, the Legislature must ensure that water planning, conservation, flood mitigation, and infrastructure decisions prioritize long-term sustainability, community safety, and environmental protection.

The Sierra Club Lone Star Chapter believes Texas should pursue a more resilient future through stronger water conservation strategies, improved groundwater management, nature-based flood solutions, smarter land-use planning, and responsible infrastructure investment.



Legislative Focus Areas

- Minimizing data center water use, including required reporting
- Water supply, including enhanced groundwater management and science-based seawater desalination
- Water rights and environmental flows
- Water conservation
- Sufficient funding for flood planning, mitigation, and coordination
- Grant funding for underserved communities, including new bonding authority for Economically Distressed Areas Program
- Flood resilience, including nature-based solutions, building codes, fortified roof incentives, and county authority over building codes, drainage and impervious cover
- Planning for extreme weather and climate resilience



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Cyrus Reed

Legislative & Conservation Director

cyrus.reed@sierraclub.org

(512) 740-4086

Evgenia Spears

Water Program Coordinator

evgenia.spears@sierraclub.org

(979) 739-1097

Sierra Club Lone Star Chapter

sierraclub.org/texas

facebook.com/texassierraclub

instagram.com/texassierraclub