SIERRA CLUB
LONE STAR CHAPTER

Texas Electricity Landscape

Texans deserve electricity they can afford and a grid they can count on. Solar, wind, and battery storage help meet growing demand while reducing pollution and protecting water resources. Texas is already a clean energy powerhouse. Our state leads the nation in wind and utility-scale solar generation, and rapidly expanding solar and storage production is helping meet growing electricity demand. State leaders should support these solutions and ensure that families benefit from a cleaner, more reliable energy system.

Clean Energy

Solar

- Texas produces and consumes more electricity than any other state: approximately 590 million Megawatt-hours in 2025.
- Solar production is growing rapidly: In 2025, within ERCOT, Texas' main grid, utility-scale solar generated 13.9% of all power, more than the amount generated by coal plants, and through the first nine-months of 2026, utility-scale solar generated 16.8% of all electricity, about six times more electricity than in 2021 for the same time period. .
- Solar helps keep the lights on when Texans need electricity most.
- Solar power keeps the grid reliable and costs down during periods of high summer and winter demand.
- Expanding access to rooftop and community solar, paired with battery storage, can help households lower bills and improve resilience - renters and families with limited incomes should have opportunities to participate.

Wind

- Texas leads the nation in wind electricity generation, producing 28% of all U.S. wind power in 2025.
- Wind supports affordable electricity and local economies, and through the first nine months of the year, provided 23% of ERCOT's total electricity use.
- Renewable energy development creates jobs, generates income for communities, and provides property tax revenue for schools and local governments.
- Wind produces electricity without burning fuel or requiring water for cooling.
- Protecting renewable energy development supports cleaner air and preserves Texas water resources.
- Wind is required to meet decommissioning standards and financial assurance, including requirements to assure that those parts of a project that can be recycled are recycled.

Wind and solar together met 40% of ERCOT's electricity demand during January - September 2026 On March 14th, 2026, wind and solar set a record by providing more than 79% of all electricity used at 1:10 PM in the afternoon in ERCOT.

Battery Storage & Grid Resilience

- Batteries are dispatchable energy resources - they can deliver stored electricity when needed, including when solar and wind production falls. They can either be utility-scale or Distributed Energy Resources (DERs), which is usually onsite at a customer premise.
- In 2025, the Legislature took important action to assure that all batteries meet strict electric and fire code standards, and meet decommissioning requirements. These common-sense regulations help address concerns raised by some communities about these facilities.
- Batteries don't produce new electricity since they charge when electricity supply is high and discharge when supply is tight, but they have been extremely important this summer in the early evenings to keep the lights on - in fact, more than 21,500MWs of total utility-scale battery capacity was operating by October 2026 in ERCOT, and at times storage has provided up to 17% of total demand at a single 5-minute time on the grid in the late summer.
- Battery storage should be recognized in policies intended to strengthen reliability.
- Texans can help power the grid from their own communities by expanding participation in aggregated distributed energy programs so households can contribute through batteries, solar, and demand response.

With the rapid growth of emerging energy technologies, such as Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), Texas lawmakers have advanced proactive policies to ensure their safe and responsible deployment.

Affordable Energy Attacks

- Blocking affordable renewable energy puts upward pressure on electricity costs.
- Policies that delay solar and wind, impose discriminatory fees, or require developers to subsidize other generation can increase costs ultimately borne by consumers.
- Affordability also means helping Texans manage their energy use - we need stronger energy efficiency programs, residential demand response, and clearer tools for comparing electricity plans.
- While the legislature provided billions of taxpayer dollars for nuclear energy and fossil fuels, the Senate failed to take action on legislation passed by the TX House to create a utility bill payment assistance program for Texans struggling to keep the lights on.
- Large energy users should pay their fair share - data centers and other major electricity users should bear the costs they create rather than shifting those costs onto Texas families.

The last legislative session saw well-funded campaigns to penalize clean energy, provide taxpayer dollars for new fossil fueled gas power plants, and raise utility bills.

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

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