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**energy institute**

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

## UT Austin Energy Bulletin **February 2016**

### NEWS



#### **Experts engage in spirited debate of topical energy issues during second annual UT Energy Week**

More than 850 people participated in the second annual [UT Energy Week](#), a gathering of experts from academia, industry, regulatory agencies, and non-profit organizations on the UT Austin campus. The conference, held February 16 – 18, 2016, featured expert panels on a wide range of energy issues, prominent keynote speakers, workshops, and student research competitions. The event co-hosted by the [Energy Institute](#), student-run [Longhorn Energy Club](#), and the [KBH Center for Energy, Law & Business](#), examined a variety of energy topics and trends. [Read more.](#)



Pictured: Cecilia Green and Rusty Osborne with their children, Lauren and Robin

Photo Credit: UT Austin  
Cockrell School of Engineering

#### **Furthering sustainability, clean energy innovations goal of Osborne-Green Endowment**

As botany students in UT Austin's College of Natural Sciences in the 1970s, Rusty Osborne and Cecilia Green had a passion for preserving the environment. Now, the couple has decided to give something back to their alma mater by creating the Osborne Green Energy Endowed Excellence Fund, which will benefit students in the [Cockrell School of Engineering's Webber Energy Group](#). Osborne and Green hope their investment will help build momentum for the sustainability movement and further clean energy innovations at the University. [Read more.](#)



#### **Mexico's electricity market poised for change**

Experts from both sides of the border discussed the many challenges and opportunities awaiting Mexico as it embarks on its entry into the world of competitive electricity markets during the opening day of UT Energy Week 2016 on UT Austin campus. Energy Institute Postdoctoral Fellow [Robert Fares](#) provides a review of the sessions, which focused on Mexico's ambitious goals for boosting energy production from renewable sources and the expanded role of natural gas in meeting the country's growing demand for power. [Read more.](#)

## RESEARCH



### Examining the 'Hype Cycle' of battery chemistry

Energy Institute Postdoctoral Fellow [Robert Fares](#) gives his take on the "trough of disillusionment," "slope of enlightenment," and "plateau of innovation" and other points along the "Hype Cycle" surrounding advances in materials science technology that may (or may not) supplant lithium-ion batteries. For more, read Fares' latest [blog](#) in *Scientific American*.



### Op-Ed: Texas officials claim victory over Clean Power Plan – 'at the expense of every Texan'

In an Op-Ed published in several Texas newspapers, UT Austin Profs. [David Spence](#) and [David Adelman](#) argue that the recent Supreme Court ruling to halt implementation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan, lauded by Texas officials as a big victory for the state, will come at the expense of the health and welfare of every Texan. [Read more.](#)

## PEOPLE



Photo Credit: Joel Salcido

### What the energy bust is telling us about the future of energy

Inaugural UT Energy Fellow [Russell Gold](#) provided his unique perspective on the ongoing oil collapse and what he sees as "an epochal moment" for the world of energy in his keynote address during UT Energy Week. Gold, a senior energy reporter with the Wall Street Journal, argued that society has "fallen out of love with fossil fuels." [Read more.](#)



Photo Credit: UT-Austin

### UT Austin hydrologist elected to National Academy of Engineering

Dr. [Bridget Scanlon](#), a hydrologist and senior research scientist in UT Austin's Bureau of Economic Geology, has been elected a member of the National Academy of Engineering, one of the highest professional honors accorded to engineers and scientists. Scanlon leads the Bureau's [Sustainable Water Resources Program](#), a research group that provides insight on water in the environment. Her work has improved the understanding of groundwater depletion worldwide and has played an important part in informing US water policy, particularly water management in California's Central Valley. [Read more.](#)

## EVENTS

The University of Texas at Austin



**Women in Energy Panel: Perspectives on Business, Law, Policy, and Science**  
**April 1, 2016 | UT Austin campus | [Avaya Auditorium](#)**

The panel discussion is sponsored by the [KBH Center for Energy, Law & Business](#), and will be moderated by Marathon Oil's Sylvia Kerrigan. Panelists include Jill Lampert, CPA (NGP), Stephanie Hildebrand (Norton Rose Fulbright), and Dr. Peggy Wilson, PhD (formerly Mobil Oil Corporation). This event is free and open to the public, but RSVP is required. [Register here](#).



Photo Credit: Sasha  
Haagenesen

## RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

**Dr. Varun Rai**

**Assistant Professor,**

**Public Affairs / Mechanical Engineering**



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