

Energy@UT News



Austin Electricity Conference

Last month, the 11th Annual [Austin Electricity Conference](#) was held virtually. The discussion focused on exploring the technological, economic, institutional, and political differences between getting to net zero carbon emissions in the electricity sector by 2035 vs 2050. Recordings of the event are available [here](#).



UT Austin Studies Mysterious Substance that Could Transform the Future of Energy

Researchers in the Jackson School of Geosciences are leading expeditions to the Gulf of Mexico to conduct research on methane hydrates. Methane hydrates, or methane gas trapped in ice, hold significantly more energy per unit volume. This research has the potential to shed light on the role that methane hydrate plays in the Earth's carbon cycle. Access the complete article [here](#).



Spring 2021 Energy@UT Events On-Demand

From the Texas Hydrogen Roundtable, the Austin Electricity Conference, and UT Energy Week 2021 to another great semester of UT Energy Symposium talks, Spring 2021 brought a wealth of compelling discussions of critical energy issues. Find these and more on the Energy Institute's [YouTube channel](#).

News from Around Campus

- **Bureau of Economic Geology | Jackson School of Geosciences:** Researcher [Bo Ren](#) was awarded the 2021 Society of Petroleum Engineers Southwestern Region Young Member Outstanding Service Award.
- **LBJ School of Public Affairs | Energy Institute:** Energy Institute Director Varun Rai and LBJ School Professor Sherri Greenberg analyze the Texas energy market and how it may change following the end of the Texas State Legislative session during an episode of the LBJ School's "Eye on the Lege" podcast. Listen to episode [here](#).
- **Dept. of Mechanical Engineering:** Researcher Joshua Rhodes shared his perspective in an [Austin-American Statesman article](#) fact-checking the validity of the claim that renewable energy was to blame for the Texas energy shortage in April.
- **Energy Institute:** Varun Rai contributed to a PBS feature on ["Why Oil Country is Turning to Wind Power"](#).
- **Dept. of Civil, Architectural, & Environmental Engineering:** Zoltan Nagy shared insights for the International Building Performance Simulation Association on ["How Can Energy Modeling be Made More Scalable and More Manageable for Retrofit Projects?"](#).
- **Dept. of Mechanical Engineering:** The Yu Research Group contributed to a Wall Street Journal piece on ["How Lithium Became a Hot Commodity"](#).

- **Dept. of Mechanical Engineering | Energy Institute:** Michael Webber and Carey King contributed to an [article in Texas Monthly](#) about the use of subsidies to support the fossil fuel industry versus the renewable energy industry.
- **LBJ School of Public Affairs:** The [2021 Research Celebration](#) highlights research on EPA water regulations, oil and gas environmental impacts, and much more.
- **Energy Institute:** David Tuttle is cited in an [article in the Houston Chronicle](#) that discusses the potential for renewable energy to grow as society recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Oden Institute:** Karen Willcox testified for the Subcommittee on Energy of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology about the interdisciplinary nature of scientific computing in [“Accelerating Discovery: the Future of Scientific Computing at the Department of Energy”](#).
- **Bureau of Economic Geology | Jackson School of Geosciences:** Director Scott Tinker received [Hart Energy’s Energy Leadership Award](#) “for his influential writing, speaking, and documentary production and appearances, which advance understanding of resource development and the world's energy needs.”
- **Marine Science Institute | College of Natural Sciences:** An international team of researchers, including researchers from UT’s Marine Science Institute, have discovered [climate-friendly microbes that recycle carbon](#) without producing methane.

Upcoming Events



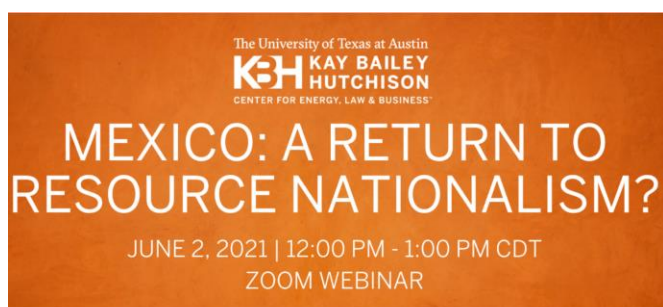
Congratulations to the Class of 2021

The UT Energy Institute would like to extend our congratulations to the graduating class of 2021, which has demonstrated exceptional resilience in a challenging time. We are very proud of all they have achieved and will continue to accomplish in the future.



GeoGulf Conference Abstract Submissions

Abstract submissions are open for the annual GeoGulf Conference until June 15th. This year's theme is ["Sustaining Geoscience through the Energy Transition"](#).



Mexico: A Return to Resource Nationalism?

Join the KBH Energy Center for a [special panel discussion](#) with Ambassador Chris Landau, Ambassador James R. Jones, and Brandon Seale as they discuss the current state of Mexico's energy sector. Moderated by UT's own Jorge R. Piñon.

