

## Energy@UT News



### The Future of Geothermal Energy in Texas Report Released

A new report from researchers at five Texas universities, the University Lands Office, and the International Energy Agency charts a path to deploying geothermal energy at scale, both in Texas and globally. The collaborative, multi-disciplinary effort provides a scientific basis for informed decision-making and a compelling roadmap to global decarbonization by 2050. [Read the timely report](#) or [watch an overview video](#).



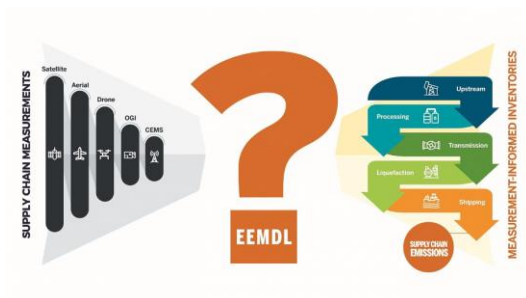
### Chemistry Short Film Features UT Professor

Produced by Chemistry Shorts, the new “Driving Reactions” short film features [Hal Alper](#), UT Austin Professor of Chemical Engineering. [Watch the video](#) and learn more about how directed evolution and the chemical sciences are creating new tools to fix some of the world’s pressing challenges.



## New Partnership Between the UT Energy Institute and Four Energy Companies Announced

The [UT Energy Institute](#) launched a new membership program that will create opportunities for UT students and other researchers working in areas such as clean hydrogen; carbon capture, utilization and storage; environmental monitoring; circular economy; and e-mobility. Supporting partners include Chevron, Shell, ExxonMobil, and ConocoPhillips. [Read the announcement](#) or [an article in the Daily Texan](#).



## Tackling Oil and Gas Greenhouse Emissions with a New Data Lab

The [Cockrell School of Engineering](#) at UT Austin recently announced the [Energy Emissions Modeling and Data Lab](#), which is a new multidisciplinary research and education initiative that will address the growing need for greenhouse gas emissions data in the global oil and natural gas supply chains. [Read the announcement](#).



## UT Austin Team will Participate in the Grid Optimization Competition

The Department of Energy [recently announced](#) that a team from UT Austin will participate in the Grid Optimization Competition Challenge 3. The challenge focuses on the security-constrained optimal power flow problem and teams will aim to identify power grid solutions. [Find more information about the challenge here.](#)

---

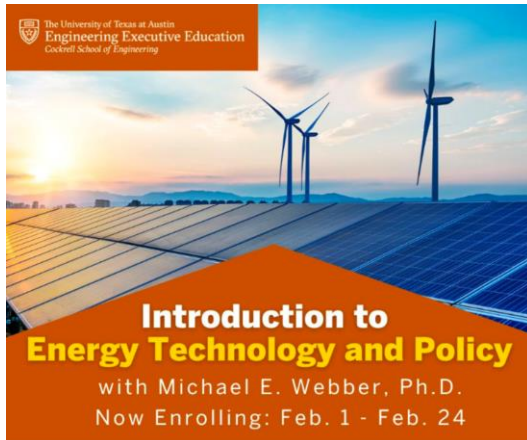
## News from Around Campus

- **Bureau of Economic Geology:** [Ken Wisian](#) spoke with [Houston Public Media](#) about how new drilling technology could enable geothermal energy to be deployed almost anywhere, massively increasing its potential to contribute to rapid decarbonization.
- **Cockrell School of Engineering:** [Michael Webber](#) was quoted by The New York Times about how important copper is for batteries in electric vehicles, wind turbines, solar panels, transmission lines, and even nuclear power plants. [Read more](#) about how a dramatic increase in demand for copper and other critical minerals has led to new conflicts over land use, as when a copper mine project in Arizona was proposed for land that tribal groups consider sacred.
- **Jackson School of Geosciences:** [Don Blankenship](#) was quoted by the Washington Post about scientists' interest in predicting the impact of ocean warming on a vast oceanfront glacier in Antarctica. [Read more](#) about how data collected years earlier by tracking a curious seal's movements led scientists working today to signs that changes to the Denman glacier could threaten coastlines significantly more than was previously expected.

- **Energy Institute:** [David Tuttle](#) spoke with [KXAN](#) and explained how distributed energy resources, when combined, could produce a meaningful amount of electricity, acting as a virtual power plant. Read more about the new pilot project in Texas.
- **LBJ School of Public Affairs:** [Martin J. Luby](#) was quoted by the [Wall Street Journal](#) about how Americans will likely be paying for storm recovery costs for decades to come, as utilities pass those costs on to consumers in the form of increased utility bills.
- **Department of Physics | Institute for Fusion Studies:** [Francois Waelbroeck](#) spoke with the [Houston Chronicle](#) about the cost of fusion technology in an article about the fusion breakthrough and the long path to technology development. Waelbroeck also spoke with the [Texas Standard](#) about what this discovery means for the future of energy.
- **Webber Energy Group | Energy Institute:** [Joshua Rhodes](#) and [David Tuttle](#) provided context for a recent study that quantified the percentage of current electricity generation that would be needed to electrify US road vehicle fleets. Read their comments in the [S&P Global Commodity Insights report, “Megawatt Daily.”](#)
- **Cockrell School of Engineering:** [Michael Webber](#) spoke with the [Texas Tribune](#) about the Texas electric grid and how the system was primarily designed for reliability during the hot summers, which presents issues for cold winters.
- **Energy Institute:** [Brian Korgel](#) wrote [a letter to the editors](#) of The New York Times in response to [an opinion piece](#) about a recent report from a U.S. House of Representatives investigation into the climate policies of major oil companies.
- **Webber Energy Group | Energy Institute:** [Joshua Rhodes](#) and [Carey King](#) discussed the factors expected to lead to an increase in the cost of heating American homes with natural gas this winter. [Read the KVUE news story.](#)
- **Energy Institute:** [David Tuttle](#) spoke with the [Houston Chronicle](#) about several reasons for increased electricity rates for Texas consumers. Read more about how Texas’ power grid stayed on despite ERCOT underestimating electricity demand in December 2022.

- **Energy Institute:** [Jorge Piñon](#) was quoted by [Univision](#) about Cuba's energy emergency and the country's broken electricity power system.
- **Cockrell School of Engineering | Webber Energy Group:** [Joshua Rhodes](#) spoke with [KXAN](#) about what fusion energy is and what it could mean for clean energy and our future.
- **Energy Institute:** [Carey King](#) was a guest on a podcast about the connections between energy consumption, economic output, and political polarization in the context of American history. [Listen to the Fulcrum podcast here.](#)
- **Cockrell School of Engineering:** [Michael Webber](#) was quoted by the [Houston Chronicle](#) about battery storage in Texas and the price swings of the technology that impact investor interest.
- **McCombs School of Business | Department of Finance:** [Ehud Ronn](#) spoke with [MarketScale](#) about his projections for oil and natural gas compared to renewables in 2050.
- **Cockrell School of Engineering | Hildebrand Department of Petroleum and Geosystems Engineering:** [Eric Van Oort](#) and [Jon Olson](#) spoke to the [Austin Chronicle](#) about offering sustainability and data science coursework and the introduction of the sustainable energy minor to UT's petroleum engineering program in light of a nationwide decline in petroleum engineering graduates.
- **Cockrell School of Engineering:** [Michael Webber](#) was quoted by the [Houston Chronicle](#) comparing the market share of coal and renewables considering the wind and solar energy boom.
- **Cockrell School of Engineering | Webber Energy Group:** [Joshua Rhodes](#) discussed potential effects of changes to the electricity market design in Texas with [E&E News.](#)

## Upcoming Events



## Register Today: Introduction to Energy Technology & Policy Course

February 1 – 24, 2023

10am – 12pm

Online via Zoom

This professional development course will teach you about renewables, the energy transition, changes in energy technology and policy, and impacts of the Inflation Reduction Act. Led by Dr. Michael Webber, this course is open to professionals interested in results-based learning and continuing education units (CEUs). [See this webpage](#) for the course description and more information.

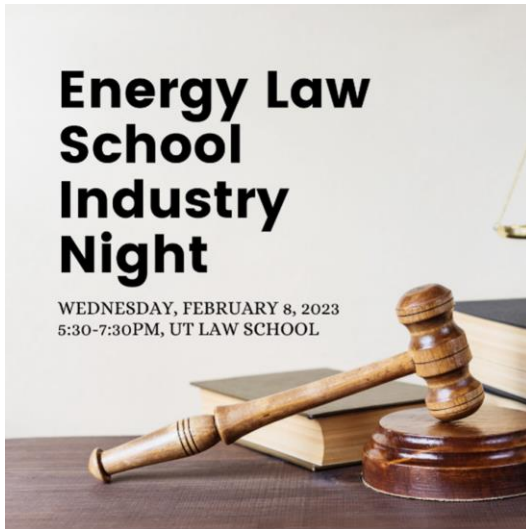


## Energy for All and Environmental Protection on the Journey to a Global Net Zero

Thursday, February 2nd at 4pm

RRH 3.310 or via Zoom

Join the [Salem Center for Policy](#) on February 2nd for an interesting discussion of the challenges the global community will face on the way to net zero emissions. [Find event details here.](#)



## Guest Speakers and Networking: Energy Law School Industry Night

Wednesday, February 8, 2023  
5:30-7:30pm  
UT Law School

Join the [KBH Energy Center](#) and [The Texas Journal of Oil, Gas, and Energy Law](#) for Industry Night. This event includes a panel with guest speakers followed by a networking reception. Industry Night is open to all UT students from any major or academic program. [Register here.](#)



SAVE THE DATE

## NYC: Fireside Chat with Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison & Dean Lillian Mills

March 6, 2023  
New York City, NY

Save the date to join the [KBH Energy Center](#) and the [New York for McCombs Council](#) for a fireside chat with former U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison and McCombs School of Business Dean Lillian Mills in New York City on March 6, 2023.

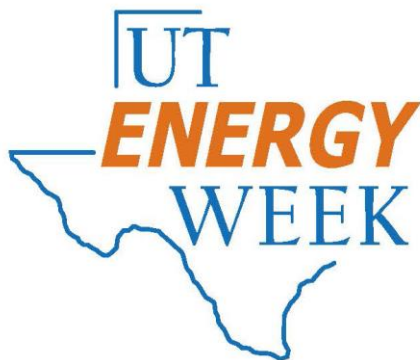




## Now Enrolling: Carbon Offset Deals & Economics

March 9, 2023  
9:00am – 1:00pm

The Carbon Offset Deals & Economics course will equip energy, carbon capture, and financial professionals with tools to calculate the value of carbon credits and will provide continuing education units (CEUs). [See this webpage](#) for the course description and more information.



## UT Energy Week 2023

[UT Energy Week](#) is an annual event that showcases the depth and breadth of energy research that makes The University of Texas at Austin the world's premier energy university.

Save the Date:  
March 28 – 31, 2023