



UT Energy Bulletin | October 2025

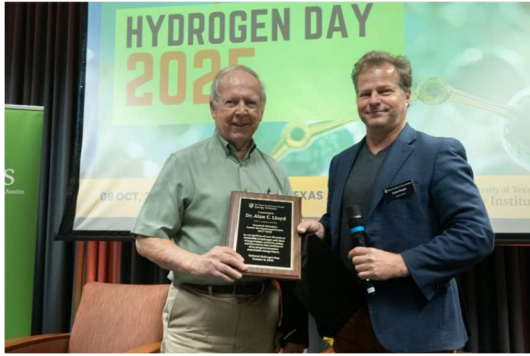
Energy@UT News



Harrington Faculty Fellows – Energy Studies

The University of Texas at Austin invites pioneering early- or mid-career scholars of energy studies from around the world to apply for the Harrington Faculty Fellows Program for the 2026-27 academic year. This highly selective program provides a full year of salary support to enable ambitious scholars to focus entirely on the advancement of their research and scholarship while in residence at the Energy Institute at UT Austin.

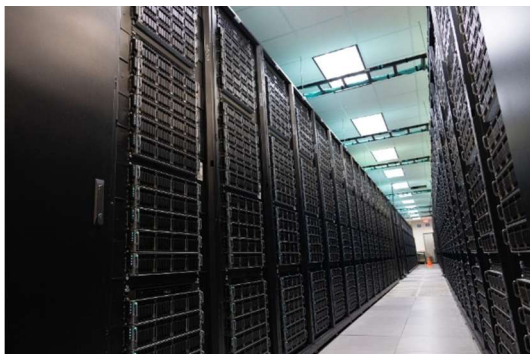
[Learn more](#) and [apply](#)



Alan Lloyd Recognized for Leadership in Hydrogen and Clean Transportation

[Alan Lloyd](#)'s more than 30 years of leadership in hydrogen and clean transportation research and policy was recognized by the UT Austin research community at [Hydrogen Day 2025](#), held October 7-8 on the UT Austin campus. Congratulations and thank you, Dr. Lloyd!

[Read more about Hydrogen Day 2025](#)



UT Launches COMPASS Industrial Affiliates Program to Research Sustainable Data Center Growth

The University of Texas at Austin has launched a new research consortium, Collaborative Optimization & Management of Power Allocation, Surface & Subsurface Strategies (COMPASS), to guide industry partners on sustainable approaches to the rapid expansion of data centers driven by AI. The consortium was announced during a data center workshop for industry leaders and policymakers, hosted by UT's Bureau of Economic Geology in the Jackson School of Geosciences.

[Read more](#)



UT's Discovery to Impact Invests \$250,000 in Next-Gen Battery Components

Discovery to Impact at The University of Texas at Austin has invested \$250,000 from its UT Seed Fund in Nascent Materials Inc., which is using UT-patented technology from the Cockrell School of Engineering to commercialize a safer, more resilient way to process materials for next-generation batteries while reducing the U.S. battery materials supply chain's dependence on imports.

[Read more](#)



KBH Energy Center Symposium Draws Record Crowd, Features Industry Leaders

More than 600 students, industry professionals and others heard from leading voices in the energy sector on Sept. 12 during the Kay Bailey Hutchison Energy Center's 2025 Energy Symposium. The event featured conversations with leaders from across the energy industry, including CEOs, investors, lawyers and journalists.

[Read more](#)



Tillerson Investments in Civics, Engineering and Longhorn Band Prepare Future Leaders

Rex Tillerson, former U.S. secretary of state, past chairman and CEO of ExxonMobil, and Distinguished Alumnus of The University of Texas at Austin, has made transformational investments in UT's School of Civic Leadership, the Cockrell School of Engineering and Longhorn Band. His latest gifts to the university will create new opportunities for students in the programs and disciplines that had the greatest impact on Tillerson's personal and professional success.

[Read more](#)



GTI Energy Collaborates with SunHydrogen and UT Austin on First-of-Its-Kind Solar-to-Hydrogen Pilot at Hydrogen ProtoHub

GTI Energy, SunHydrogen, and UT Austin are launching a first-of-its-kind solar-to-hydrogen pilot at UT's Hydrogen ProtoHub, where sixteen modular reactors will use sunlight and water to produce renewable hydrogen. UT will host the demonstration to validate performance, durability, and scalability in real-world conditions while leveraging the ProtoHub as a hands-on testbed and training facility.

[Read more](#)



UT Graduate Researchers Named Finalists in Collegiate Inventors Competition

Graduate researchers Weixin Guan and Yaxuan Zhao from UT's Cockrell School of Engineering were selected as finalists in the prestigious Collegiate Inventors Competition for their device AirGel. Their innovation is a solar-powered system designed to combat global water scarcity by extracting clean drinking water from air using sustainable hydrogels.

[Read more](#)



A 365-Mile Hydrogen Round Trip

Researchers and students from UT Austin's Center for Electromechanics completed a 365-mile round trip from Austin to Houston in hydrogen fuel cell vehicles to showcase the progress of hydrogen mobility and infrastructure in Texas. The journey, powered by UT's Hydrogen ProtoHub, the state's only public hydrogen fueling station, marks two decades of hydrogen innovation and highlights UT's leadership in advancing zero emission transportation.

[Read more](#)

Featured Research

Formate-Alternating-Gas (FAG) Injection Method Using Aqueous Formate Solution and CO2 for Optimizing Oil Recovery, Carbon Sequestration, and Storage Security

Researchers from UT Austin have developed a new method called Formate Alternating Gas injection that improves both oil recovery and carbon storage efficiency. Using a simulation model of a West Texas reservoir, the study found that this approach increased oil recovery by nearly 20 percent and enhanced the security of stored carbon compared to conventional injection methods.

[Read more](#)

News From Around Campus

Energy Institute

[S&P Global Commodity Insights](#) reported on the [Findings from the 2025 Large Loads Symposium at The University of Texas at Austin](#), which included discussion of the challenges—such as system adequacy, response and control, and voltage ride-through capability—that will be faced as large industrial loads seek to connect to the ERCOT grid faster than it can accommodate.

[Hydrogen Day 2025](#) speakers were quoted in another [S&P Global Commodity Insights](#) piece that highlighted discussions of the current state of the hydrogen economy and its path forward that took place at the event.

[Jorge Piñon](#) was quoted in the [LatAm Journalism Review](#) explaining that Cuba's energy crisis stems from the technical collapse of its poorly maintained, Soviet-era thermoelectric system, a problem he estimates would cost \$5-8 billion and three to five years to fix.

Cockrell School of Engineering | Maseeh Department of Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering

[Kara Kockelman](#) spoke with [Newsweek](#) about how electrification could improve urban land use by allowing conversion of parking spaces into ridesharing and robotaxi lots, supercharging stations, and bike lanes.

Cockrell School of Engineering | Hildebrand Department of Petroleum and Geosystems Engineering

[Arvind Ravikumar](#) spoke with [Marketplace](#) about the impact of climate disaster on consumer utility bills.

Bureau of Economic Geology

[Ning Lin](#) spoke with [The Daily Texan](#) about the launch of the COMPASS program, which studies data center sustainability across Texas and aims to guide policymakers and industry leaders toward sustainable data center development by optimizing energy and water use.

Cockrell School of Engineering | Walker Department of Mechanical Engineering

[Ofodike Ezekoye](#), was featured on [ABC News](#) discussing the safety of large-scale battery storage systems. He noted that while failures are uncommon, no system is completely foolproof and emphasized that ongoing research and collaboration are key to improving safety and reliability.

[Dale Klein](#), professor and former federal nuclear regulator, spoke with [Government Technologies](#) about the growing role of nuclear energy in powering artificial intelligence infrastructure, noting that since the nuclear industry has often “overpromised and underdelivered,” Fermi America’s goal of deploying its first reactor by 2032 will be a major challenge.

Webber Energy Group

[Joshua Rhodes](#) spoke to [The Times](#) about the future of wind power in Texas, noting that the state leads the nation with more than 40 gigawatts of installed capacity, which acts as

a “drought proof crop” that supports rural economies and is projected to contribute \$50 billion in local taxes and landowner payments in Texas

[Michael Webber](#) spoke with the [Associated Press](#) about the growing demand for computing power driven by artificial intelligence and its impact on energy infrastructure.

Upcoming Events

FALL 2025
**UT Environmental & Energy
Economics & Policy Seminar**

Environmental and Energy Economics and Policy Seminar – Fall, 2025

October 17, 2025
LBJ School – SRH 3.122
The University of Texas at Austin

[RSVP to attend](#)

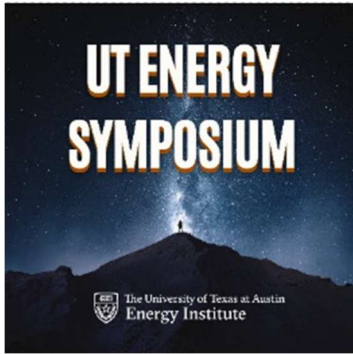


Energy Emissions Modeling and Data Lab 2025 Annual Event

**Initiatives in Global Greenhouse Gas Emissions
Management**

October 21-23, 2025
AT&T Hotel and Conference Center
The University of Texas at Austin

[Register to attend](#)



UT Energy Symposium

Water-Responsive Materials for Evaporation Energy Harvesting

October 28, 2025

In Person EER 3.646 / Stream Online (via Zoom or YouTube)

[Event details](#)



Global Solar Power Forum 2025

Connecting the Future of U.S. Business to Smarter Policy

October 28, 2025

San Jacinto Hall (SJH), UT Austin

[Register to attend](#)



Texas Energy Summit

November 4-6, 2025

Texas Capitol

[Learn more and register](#)



New Mexico Energy Initiatives

2025 Symposium and Stakeholders Forum

November 18-19, 2025

Fidel Center, New Mexico Tech, Socorro, NM

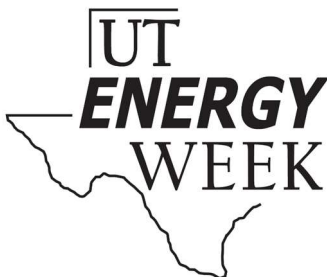
[Learn more](#)



Save the Date for UTCCS-8

January 27-29, 2026

JJ Pickle Research Center



Save the Date for Energy Week 2026

April 6–10, 2026

The University of Texas at Austin

[Add to calendar](#)

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