



UT Energy Bulletin | November 2025

Energy@UT News



Google Backs UT Energy Institute to Power Texas Energy Innovation and Workforce

The funding will accelerate research and training in energy, water and AI to meet the state's growing demand and is part of Google's [\\$40 billion investment in Texas](#), announced last week by Alphabet and Google CEO Sundar Pichai and Governor Greg Abbott.

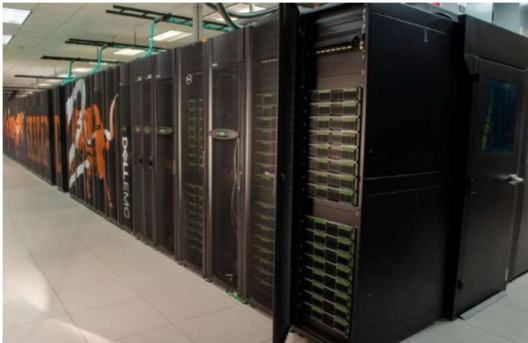
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The Energy Institute Hosts French Delegation Visit

The Energy Institute recently welcomed a high-level French delegation for an insightful discussion on strengthening collaboration between academia and industry. The exchange, which included key UT faculty and French regional leaders, focused on driving impactful partnerships, advancing innovation, and fostering international knowledge sharing across the energy sector.

Read more in the French press, in [Lyon Capitale](#), [Lyon Mag](#), and *Le Dauphiné Libéré* [here](#) and [here](#).



UT Research Strengths Reflect National Priorities

A recent White House memo outlining federal R&D priorities closely aligns with The University of Texas at Austin's established research priorities across areas such as artificial intelligence, semiconductors, energy innovation, national security, biotechnology, and space exploration, underscoring UT's continued leadership in advancing technologies that strengthen America's innovation ecosystem and global competitiveness.

[Read more](#)



UT Austin Professor David Spence Wins Hamilton Book Award for Energy Transition Analysis

David B. Spence, professor at the School of Law, has won the prestigious 2025 Hamilton Book Award Grand Prize for his first book, *Climate of Contempt*. The book provides a comprehensive scholarly analysis of the political polarization driving challenges in the U.S. energy transition and offers a path forward for achieving effective climate policies.

[Read more](#)



Canada Nickel and The University of Texas at Austin Launch Carbon Sequestration Pilot at Crawford Nickel Project

Supported by funding from the U.S. Department of Energy's ARPA-E program, The University of Texas at Austin has launched a collaborative, month-long in-situ carbon sequestration pilot study with Canada Nickel at the Crawford Nickel Project in Ontario. The project will inject CO₂-enriched water 400 meters deep into ultramafic rock to evaluate large-scale carbon capture by mineralizing CO₂ into solid rock, accelerating the path toward permanent storage solutions.

[Read more](#)



RRC Partners with UT Austin to Engage Students at Geological Society of America Field Trip

The Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) recently collaborated with the Hildebrand Department of Petroleum and Geosystems Engineering to host a student field trip during the Geological Society of America meeting. The event provided students and teachers with a hands-on look at technologies and environmental practices, including a well-plugging operation, and exemplified the RRC and UT Austin's commitment to inspiring the next generation of energy leaders.

[Read more](#)



Researchers Establish Hydrogen-Powered Ride Share Program

UT researchers have launched a hydrogen-powered ride share program through the Center for Electromechanics' Hydrogen ProtoHub, allowing students and faculty to borrow zero-emission fuel cell vehicles. The initiative aims to raise awareness of hydrogen's potential as a clean fuel and demonstrate real-world applications of hydrogen technology in Texas.

[Read more](#)



Towering Tribute: New Engineering Building Named for Oil Pioneer Autry C. Stephens

The University of Texas at Austin has named its new Engineering Discovery Building (EDB) in honor of alumnus and oil and gas pioneer Autry C. Stephens. Set to open in 2026, the facility will house the Hildebrand Department of Petroleum and Geosystems Engineering and the McKetta Department of Chemical Engineering, providing world-class resources for future engineers and exemplifying the university's commitment to energy innovation and education.

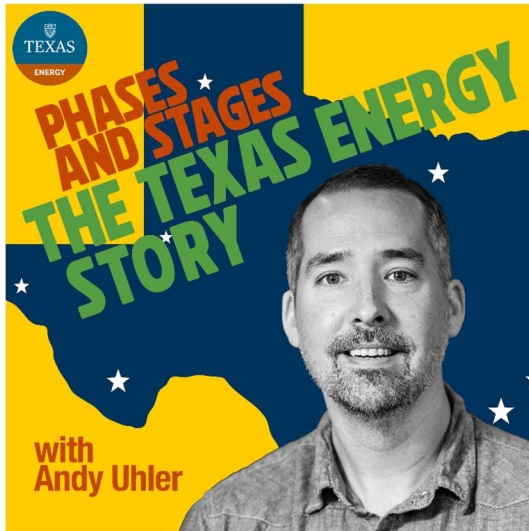
[Read more](#)

Featured Research

Grain boundary zirconia-modified garnet solid-state electrolyte

A recent paper authored by UT Austin researchers reports a method for promoting electrochemical stability in garnet solid-state electrolytes by using a composite two-phase oxide-oxide microstructure. The controlled distribution of zirconium oxide microparticles suppresses the near-universally observed intergranular Li-metal dendrite propagation, offering a key breakthrough toward safer, more resilient all-solid-state lithium batteries.

[Read more](#)



Phases and Stages: The Texas Energy Story

Stories of our changing energy system, from the Texans living it right now

Now available on [Apple Podcasts](#), [Spotify](#), [Amazon Music](#), and more!

News From Around Campus

LBJ School of Public Affairs

[Joshua Busby](#) co-authored an article in [The National Interest](#) on the urgency of countering China's mineral dominance, stating that the window to act on this national security imperative is rapidly closing.

[Steven Pedigo](#) was quoted in [The Daily Texan](#) explaining how Austin's Downtown Density Bonus Program incentivizes developers to stack more apartments, noting that these programs are important for increasing building value and creating affordable housing opportunities.

Cockrell School of Engineering | Walker Department of Mechanical Engineering

[Dale Klein](#)'s comments at the recent Texas Nuclear Summit in Austin were quoted in an [EnergyNow.com](#) article on the growing momentum for nuclear technology in Texas: "We have too many paper reactors...We need somebody to build real ones."

[David Mitlin](#) was featured in [Futurity](#) discussing new research on solid-state batteries that uses a ceramic material approach to overcome dendrite short-circuiting, stating that making batteries "all solid-state" is "the biggest game in town" for improved safety and higher energy.

Jackson School of Geosciences

[Marek Locmelis](#) was cited in a [Discovery Alert](#) piece about Texas's emerging role in the lithium energy revolution, explaining that extracting the critical mineral directly from brines significantly reduces production costs and environmental impact compared to conventional hard rock operations.

[Brent Elliott](#) was quoted in [The Texas Tribune](#) on the potential for the Texas energy revolution to shift to lithium, noting that West Texas holds "many Round Top-like igneous rocks" that present hot targets for future exploration.

Webber Energy Group

[Joshua Rhodes](#) spoke with [Straight Arrow News](#) about an energy industry survey that found nine in ten executives fear a major grid incident, noting that increased energy demand from AI and electrification is "adding more stress to an already antiquated system."

[Michael Webber](#) spoke with Renewable Energy World's ["Factor This" podcast](#) about current energy interconnection challenges, emphasizing that meeting rapid load growth from AI and electrification requires an integrated "systems thinking" approach that considers all trade-offs in rebuilding a resilient grid.

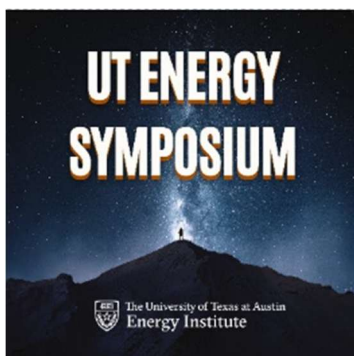


Apply for the TEX-E Fellowship!

Join a community that inspires, equips, and accelerates the next generation of energy innovators—celebrating collaboration and leadership in the transition to a sustainable future.

[Click To Apply for Early Decision by Dec 8 | Final Deadline Feb 10](#)

Upcoming Events



UT Energy Symposium

Moisture Matters: Leveraging Water Vapor-Selective Membranes in the Built Environment

December 2, 2025

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

[Event details](#)

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

Environmental and Energy Economics and Policy Seminar - Fall, 2025

December 3, 2025

LBJ School – SRH 3.122

The University of Texas at Austin

[More information](#)



Save the Date for UTCCS-8

January 27-29, 2026

JJ Pickle Research Center

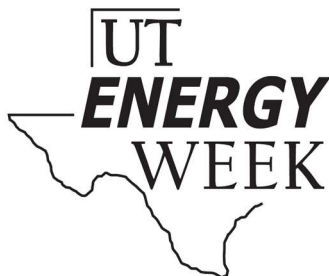


Save the Date for LBJ Business Policy Forum

February 17, 2026

The University of Texas at Austin

[More information](#)



Save the Date for Energy Week 2026

April 6–10, 2026

The University of Texas at Austin

[Add to calendar](#)

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