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# A Hidden Energy Source Was Found Underneath Texas

The untapped reservoir has the potential to provide reliable renewable power.

BY [DARREN ORF](#) PUBLISHED: DEC 23, 2025 9:36 AM EST



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Mark Newman // Getty Images

Here's what you'll learn when you read this story:

- While Texas is known for its reserves of oil and gas, researchers from the University of Texas at Austin say that the state's western border region is ripe for geothermal energy.
- This energy isn't derived from access to hot water—instead, the project intends to take a strategy from the fracking industry's playbook and inject

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s geothermal sources to generate **66 percent of its**  
**primary energy**. It certainly seems like the U.S. has **room for growth** when it  
comes to geothermal power.

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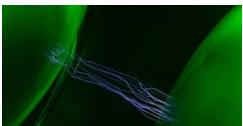
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
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One of those areas, according to an extensive report from the Bureau of Economic Geology (BEG) at the University of Texas at Austin, is near the town of Presidio in southwestern Texas. After receiving \$15,000 for a feasibility study from the Presidio Municipal Development District in mid-2023, the researchers studied the area for nine months before concluding that it's ripe for geothermal **development**. And it's not just Presidio—it's the entire county, including towns like Marfa to the north.

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study.


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That's largely due to new developments in geothermal energy. Usually, geothermal energy is best where hot water is available via permeable rock—the Geysers in California are a good example of this. However, techniques from the oil and gas industry (primarily hydraulic fracturing, or **fracking**) could potentially allow geothermal power to be generated by instead *injecting* water into areas with hot subsurface rock and letting the rocks heat the water before pumping through turbines.

According to the report by UT Austin, this area along the Rio Grande—in the Permian basin north of the county, which doesn't have **oil** and gas wells—does have some of the “hottest subsurface rock east of the Rocky Mountains,”

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ould

**WATCH:** [Will's Favorite Pocket Knife](#)  ant, because water injection can cause **tremors** [similar to fracking](#). While local leaders are still excited by the idea, according to Marfa Public Radio, next steps for a possible geothermal project along the U.S.-Mexico border won't be discussed until later this year.

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Darren lives in Portland, has a cat, and writes/edits about sci-fi and how our world works. You can find his previous stuff at Gizmodo and Paste if you look hard enough.

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