



# BETWEEN TWO CACTI

THE HYVELOCITY HYDROGEN HUB AND  
ENERGY VENTURES & INNOVATION

JUNE 2024

**BRIAN A. KORGEL**

Energy Institute Director, The University of Texas at Austin



The University of Texas at Austin  
**Energy Institute**

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Developing innovative, new approaches to solve the world's greatest energy and climate challenges.

 The University of Texas at Austin  
Energy Institute

 The University of Texas at Austin  
Kay Bailey Hutchison Energy Center

# BETWEEN TWO CACTI

INSIGHTS ABOUT THE INFLATION REDUCTION ACT CLEAN ENERGY TAX INCENTIVES



**LUKE BASSETT**

**Senior Advisor and Director of  
Policy & Program Impact**

Inflation Reduction Act Program Office  
U.S. Department of the Treasury



**BRIAN KORGEL**

**Director**

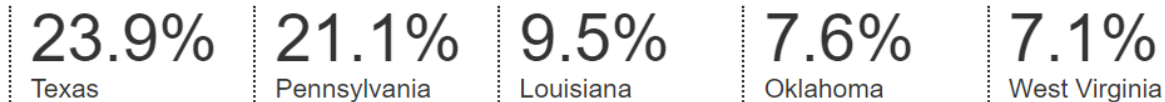
Energy Institute  
The University of Texas at Austin



- Policy to revitalize regional economies that have lost jobs during the energy transition.
- Example, West Virginia and the loss of the coal industry
- Models of Regional Innovation

- Under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, (IIJA), **\$8 billion is being provided to support the development of at least four Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs across the United States.**
- Under the feedstock diversity requirement, there must be at least one hub that can produce hydrogen from fossil fuels, at least one hub for hydrogen produced from renewable energy, and at least one hub for hydrogen produced from nuclear energy. The geographic diversity requirement will result in the location of at least two hubs in regions of the US with the greatest natural gas resources.
- From DOE FOA: Clean H<sub>2</sub> standard (at point of production): 2 kg CO<sub>2</sub>/kg H<sub>2</sub> (vs. 10-13 kg CO<sub>2</sub>/kg H<sub>2</sub>)  
(Note: the definition of “clean hydrogen” continues to evolve with 45V, etc. and current terminology is evolving...”Low Carbon Intensity (LCI) hydrogen”)

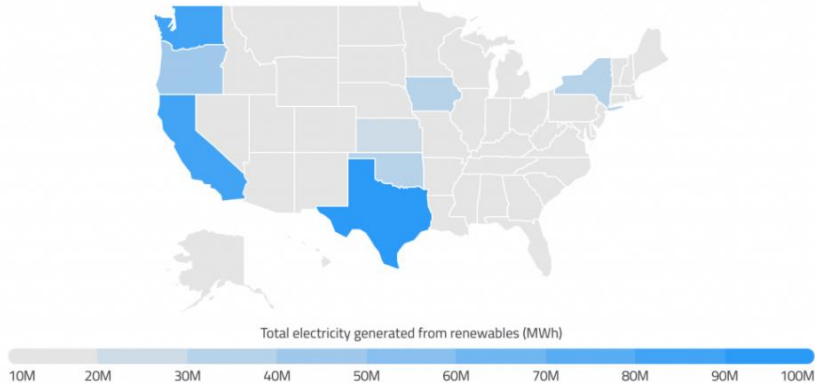
The top five natural gas-producing states and their share of total U.S. natural gas production in 2020 were:



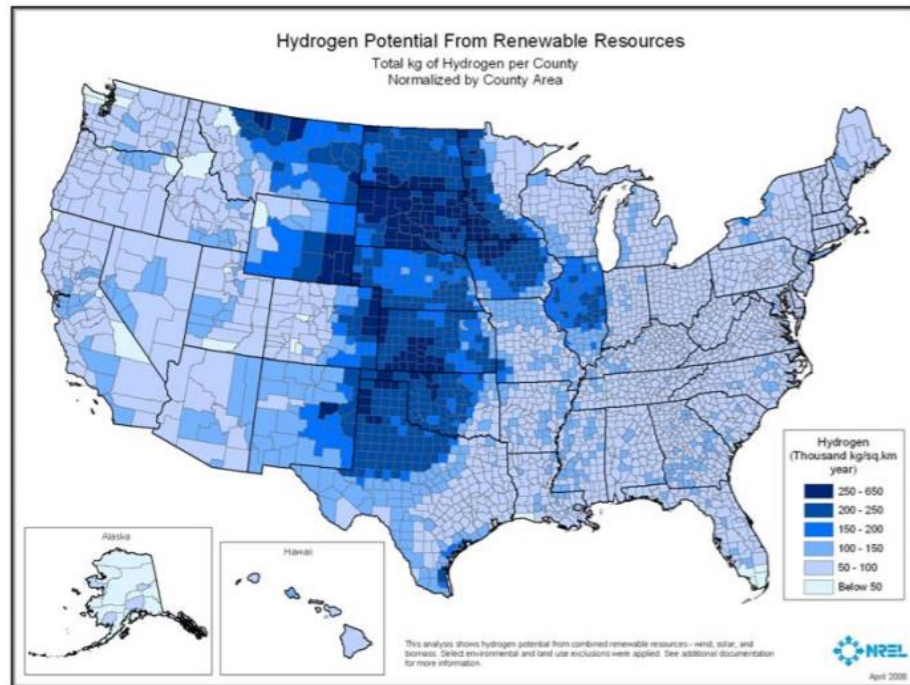
Texas positioned well for a regional clean hydrogen hub

TX WA CA and OR are the leading producers of renewable energy

Texas, Washington, California, & Oregon are the leading producers of renewable energy



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration



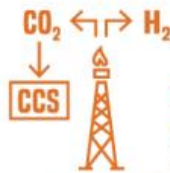
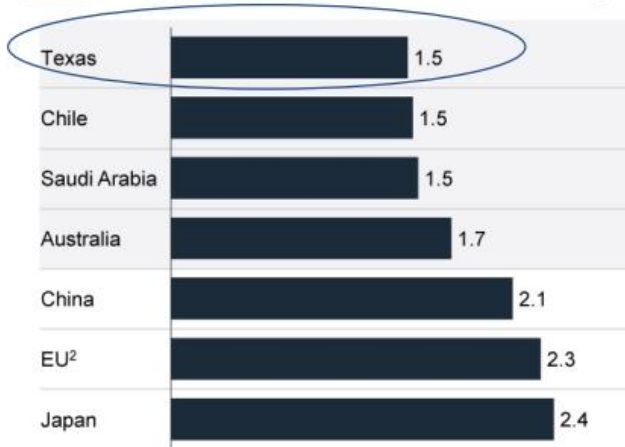


# Texas natural gas producers are currently at a major advantage.

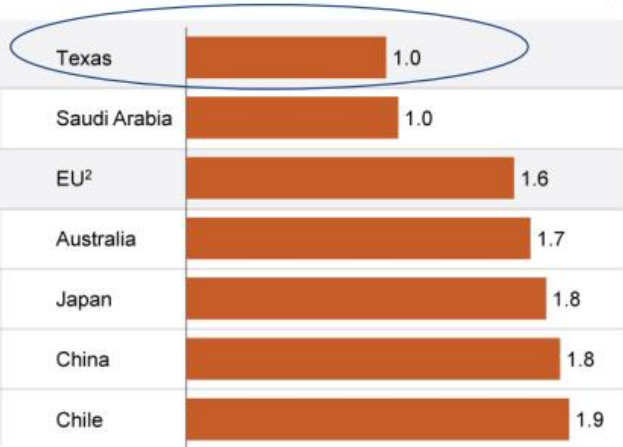
Hydrogen produced from natural gas and electrolysis in Texas could be the world's most cost-competitive hydrogen fuel sources.



**Cost of hydrogen production (electrolysis-based) in 2030<sup>2</sup>**  
 Further acceleration scenario, USD/kg



**Cost of hydrogen production (natural-gas-based) in 2030**  
 Further acceleration scenario, USD/kg



1. Further Acceleration Scenario refers to a scenario where global hydrogen demand reaches 540 MTPA in 2050. This scenario is described in more detail in Section 3.1

2. Electricity costs based on solar in Australia, Chile, KSA, wind in Texas, China, Japan, and EU; 2. Germany example

Source: McKinsey Hydrogen Insights

# UT Austin as a key convener of a regional clean hydrogen hub



The University of Texas at Austin  
**Energy Institute**



**BLAZING THE TRAIL FOR  
TEXAS' LEADERSHIP IN  
THE HYDROGEN ECONOMY**

The University of Texas at Austin (UT) Energy Institute connects the resources of the university's top-ranked programs to lead high-impact research aimed at transforming the nation's energy future.

## HYDROGEN PRODUCTION SOURCES

Hydrogen can be derived from a variety of sources and production processes abundant in Texas, including:



### NATURAL GAS

Most hydrogen is obtained through the steam reformation of natural gas. Greenhouse gases created by this process can be captured and stored while simultaneously enhancing oil and gas production.



### RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY

Hydrogen can be produced via electrolysis using surplus renewable electricity generated by Texas' vast wind and solar resources. Storing "extra" renewable electricity that is wasted today could help the state avoid energy shortages.



**Texas is uniquely positioned to lead the development of the nation's clean hydrogen economy and become a hydrogen export superhub.**

According to the Houston Energy Transition Initiative, by 2050 Texas could realize:

**\$100 BILLION**  
hydrogen economy

**180,000**  
new jobs created

Under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, (IIJA), **\$8 billion is being provided to support the development of at least four Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs across the United States.**

## Demonstration and Framework for H2@Scale in Texas

### Two Research Tracks:

1. Demonstrate multiple renewable H<sub>2</sub> generation options, co-located with vehicle fueling and a large base load consumer to enable cost-effective H<sub>2</sub> energy solutions
2. Quantify the potential pathways for the growth of the Texas Gulf Coast hydrogen economy and develop a framework for actionable H2@Scale pilot plans in Texas, Port of Houston and Gulf Coast region, including energy storage

### \$5.4M in DOE funding plus matching cost share

- 36 months for demonstration track
- 24 months for actionable framework plan track



### Partners:

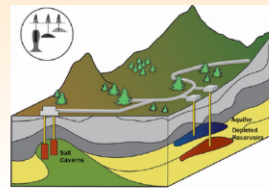
- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Frontier Energy</li> <li>UT Austin</li> <li>GTI</li> <li>Air Liquide</li> <li>Centerpoint</li> <li>Chart</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chevron</li> <li>ConocoPhillips</li> <li>LCRI</li> <li>McDermott</li> <li>Mitsubishi Heavy Industries</li> <li>ONEgas</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OneH2</li> <li>ONEOK</li> <li>Shell</li> <li>SoCal Gas</li> <li>Toyota</li> <li>Waste Management</li> </ul> |
|--|---|--|

## GeoH<sub>2</sub> IAP

Conduct geoscience, reservoir engineering, & economic research to facilitate and advance the development of a hydrogen economy *at scale*

- Geological Storage:
- Techno-economics and Value Chain Analysis
- In Situ Generation and Novel Concepts

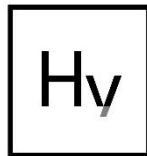
### Participating Companies and Organizations



Mark Shuster  
Deputy Director  
PI, GeoH<sub>2</sub>  
mark.shuster@beg.utexas.edu

Peter Eichhubl  
Senior Research Scientist  
Co-PI, GeoH<sub>2</sub>  
peter.eichhubl@beg.utexas.edu

UT Austin as a key convener of a regional clean hydrogen hub: major H<sub>2</sub> research efforts & strong industry connections

**HyVelocity Hub**

## Group vies for Gulf Coast hydrogen hub

10 Nov 2022 15:51 (-06:00 GMT)

Washington, 10 November (Argus) — A group of research groups, energy companies and universities today proposed a Texas Gulf Coast hydrogen hub, which it will submit to the US Department of Energy (DOE) to be considered for a portion of its \$7bn hydrogen hub funding program.

The "HyVelocity Hub" group is led by the University of Texas at Austin and non-profits GTI Energy and Center for Houston's Future, the latter of which released a report this year detailing [how the state's hydrogen industry would be likely to rely on its natural gas resources, coupled with carbon capture technology](#).

The hub's sponsors include Shell, Chevron, ExxonMobil, Semptra, industrial gas supplier Air Liquide and Danish developer Orsted. The project also has a number of supporting partners including electrolyzer makers Cummins and Bloom Energy and zero-emissions aviation firm ZeroAvia, among others.

The DOE's deadline for initial applications [closed on Monday this week](#), with today's announcement out of Texas following recent proposals from Hawaii and Alaska.

*By Emmeline Willey*



HyVelocityHub.us

**“The University of Texas is a national leader in energy research where hundreds of faculties and students are working with private sector partners and other academic institutions to develop, test, and deploy the next generation of clean hydrogen technology. UT Austin is proud and excited to lend its energy expertise and hydrogen experience to the HyVelocity Hub and work with its members to ensure that Texas flourishes in the coming hydrogen energy economy.”**

Jay Hartzell, President, The University of Texas at Austin



HyVelocity Hub



## Clean Hydrogen from Texas, Southwest Louisiana, and the Gulf Coast

H2Hubs Community Briefing

October 30, 2023

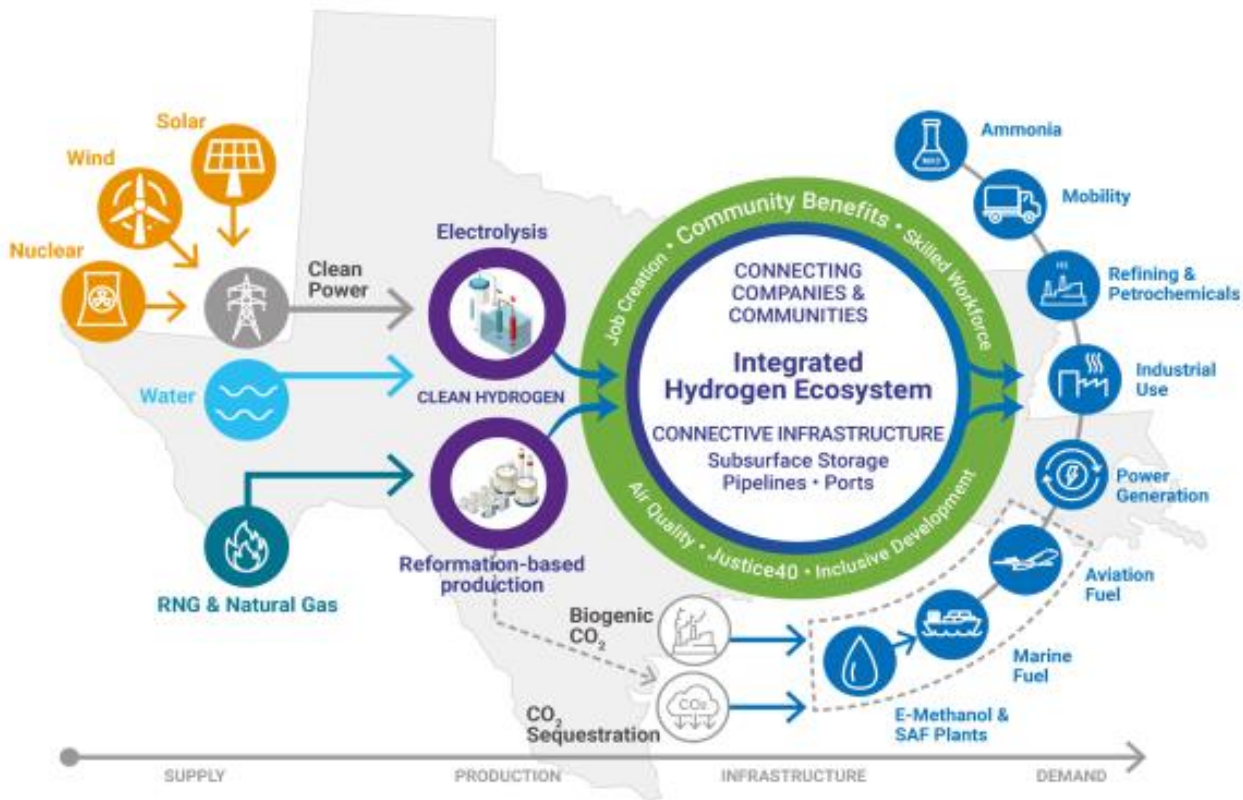
Negotiations with DOE  
underway (\$1.2b in  
funding)...anticipated  
October 2024 start date



<https://news.utexas.edu/2023/10/13/regional-energy-hub-will-expand-clean-hydrogen-production-and-provide-new-jobs/>

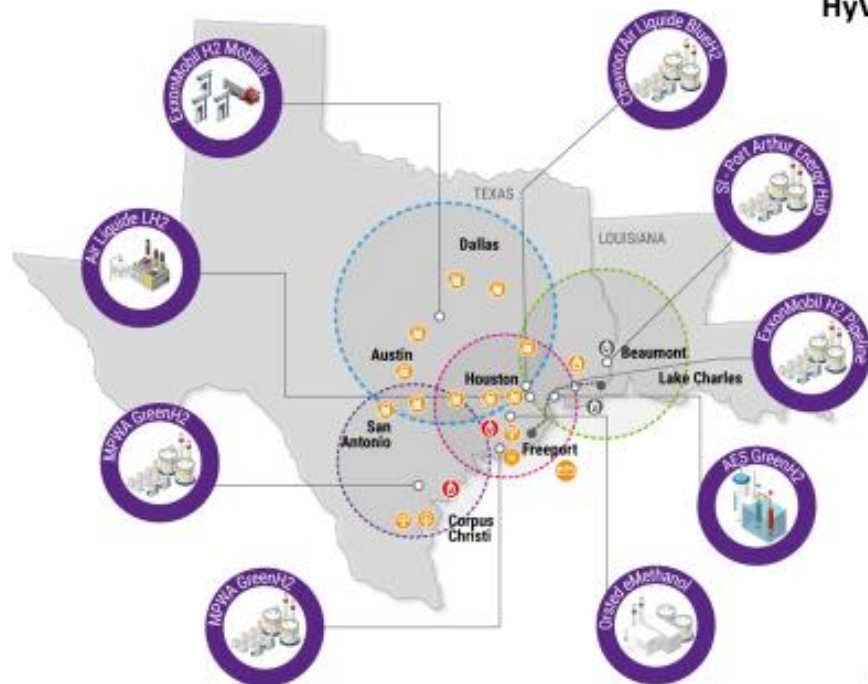


# HyVelocity: Envisioned Clean Hydrogen Ecosystem





# HyVelocity Envisioned Projects



**HyVelocity Clean H2 Production Capacity: >5,000 mtpd**



HYVELOCITY HUB = INTEGRATED INFRASTRUCTURE



Note: Map shows general preliminary project locations and are subject to change during future negotiations and site planning





## HyV Engagement and Support Network



... and many more



# HyV Community Engagement

## HyVelocity Management Committee / Board of Directors

### Community Advisory Board (CAB)

The CAB presents and makes decisions for hub-wide CBP funding opportunities and strategic initiatives with final approval from the HyV Board.

### CBH Advisory Council (CBHAC)

CBHAC will bring community priorities to the CAB to inform decisions that reflect community interests including how local CBH funding should be allocated.

### Workforce Advisory Council (WAC)

WAC will bring workforce priorities to the CAB to inform decisions related to developing quality jobs, workforce development strategies, and workforce agreements.

### Community Benefits Hubs (CBH)

Navigation, Communication, and Information Exchanges – Comprised of community members and CBOs

DEIA Framework

Justice40 Tracker

# The 11-member Texas Hydrogen Production Council

<https://www.rrc.texas.gov/news/121423-rrc-begins-planning-and-oversight-with-newly-established-texas-hydrogen-production-policy-council/>



**House Bill 2847 by Darby**

*Preserving Texas' Energy Leadership in Hydrogen Policy Development*

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## **Key Takeaways:**

- Hydrogen is a critical component of Texas' energy expansion, where the state's energy sector is expanding to include new, cleaner sources of energy production. As part of this expansion, many energy companies in Texas are investing in new infrastructure and workforce development to address commercial opportunities for hydrogen production, distribution, and use.
- In order for Texas to retain the mantle as the nation's energy leader, the state needs to develop a policy framework regarding the production, transportation, and storage of hydrogen.
- House Bill 2847 proposes a critical, first step towards developing a Texas hydrogen policy framework through the creation of the Texas Hydrogen Production Policy Council at the Railroad Commission.

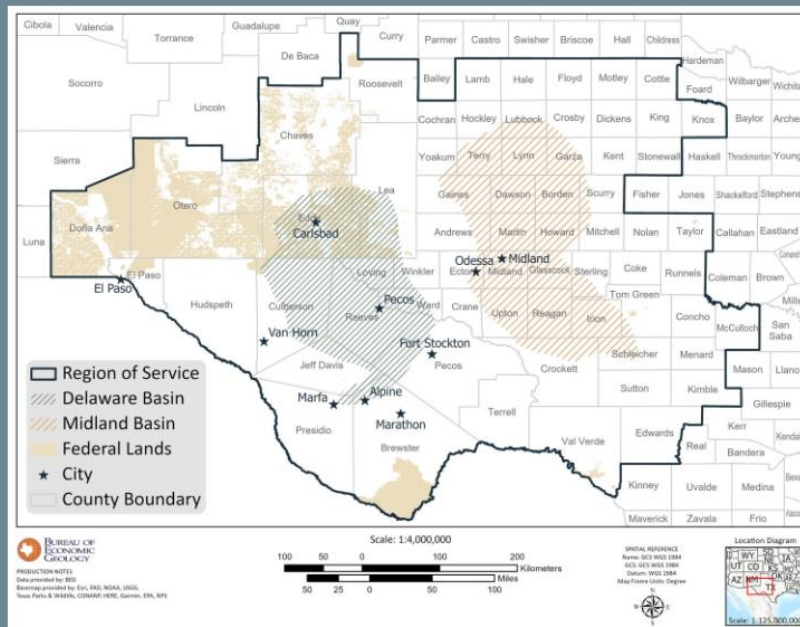


[Projects](#) [Newsroom](#)

[CONTACT US](#)

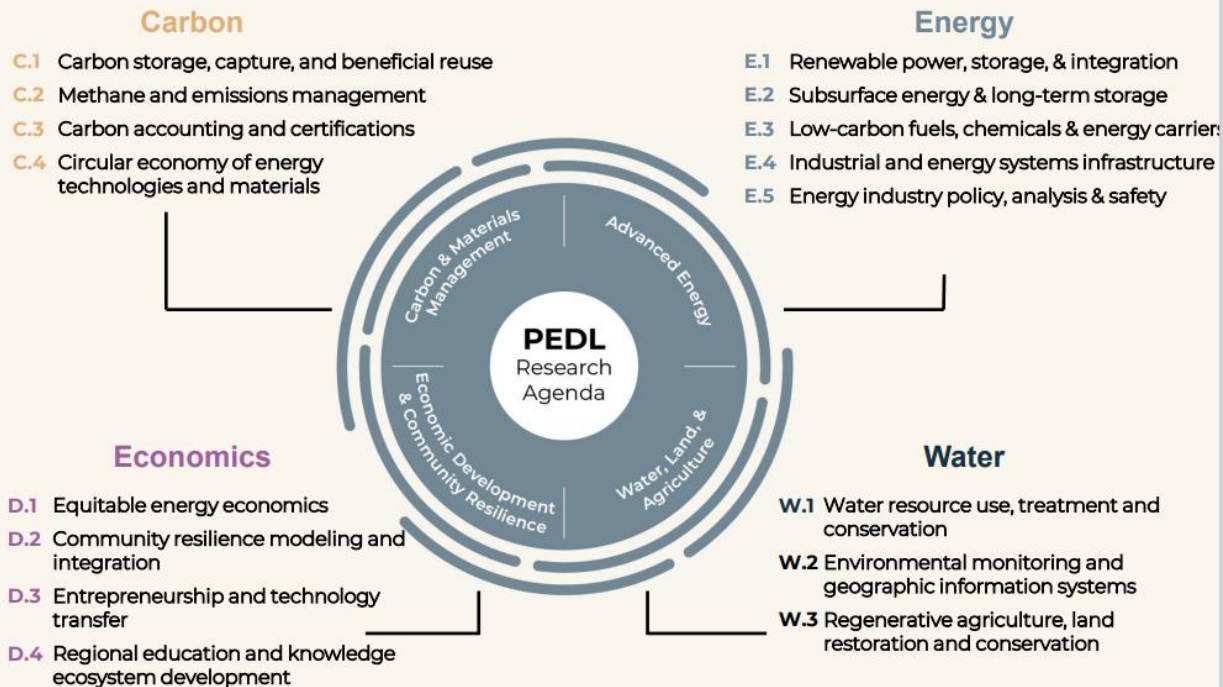
## The Permian Basin

This project focuses on a 66-county region encompassing eastern New Mexico and West Texas. The Permian Basin includes urban centers (e.g., Midland-Odessa, the region's “oil capital”) and vast stretches of rural territory. Its economy is uniquely and deeply tied to the fossil fuel industry, yet its communities — while sharing many economic and environmental challenges and opportunities — are quite diverse, each with distinct cultural values and distinct specialties in energy production.





## RESEARCH AGENDA





## NSF ENGINES DEVELOPMENT AWARD



**PERMIAN**  
Energy Development Lab

UTA# MOU0000143

## Coalition of Energy Experts Wins NSF Engines Development Award to Lay the Foundation for an Innovation Hub in the Permian Basin

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has awarded \$1M in seed funding to lay the groundwork for a new regional innovation engine in the Permian Basin of Texas and New Mexico. This two-year award, known as the **“NSF Engines Development Award: Advancing energy and resilience technologies in the Permian Basin (TX, NM),”** is the first step toward a possible ten-year, \$160M NSF investment to implement the engine.

The Permian Basin based-program will leverage the region's considerable energy infrastructure and expertise — developed through decades of producing energy on a globally significant scale — to support research, development and commercialization of advanced energy solutions and technologies. Community engagement plays a critical role in this effort, fostering trust and inclusive growth.

### MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN  
110 INNER CAMPUS DRIVE  
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78705



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS PERMIAN BASIN 4901  
E. UNIVERSITY BLVD.  
ODESSA, TEXAS 79762



NATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY LABORATORY  
15013 DENVER W PKWY  
GOLDEN, CO 80401



NEW MEXICO TECH  
801 LEROY PLACE  
SOCORRO, NM 87801



MIDLAND COLLEGE  
3800 N GARFIELD ST  
MIDLAND, TX 79705



ODESSA COLLEGE  
201 W UNIVERSITY BLVD  
ODESSA, TX 79764



NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY & ENGINEERING  
SOLUTIONS OF SANDIA, LLC (NTES), Operator of  
SANDIA NATIONAL LABORATORIES  
P.O. BOX 5800  
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87185



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO  
500 WEST UNIVERSITY AVENUE  
EL PASO, TX 79968

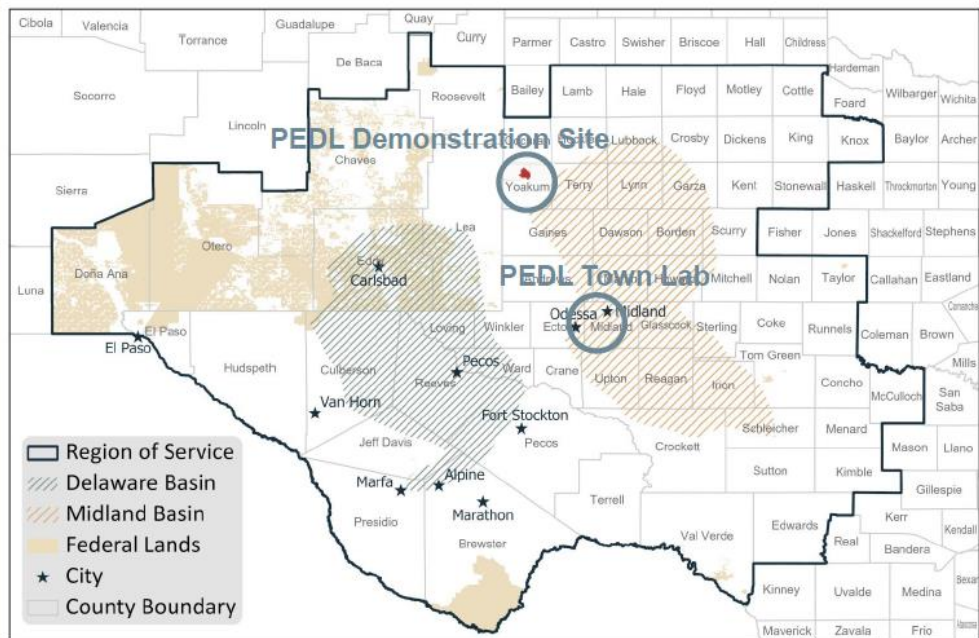


NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY  
1050 Stewart St.  
LAS CRUCES, NM 88003

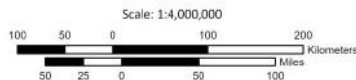
**\$1mm,  
2 years**

# LOCATIONS AND VALUE OF PEDL FOR RESEARCH

- **Large land area** for full scale demonstrations of advanced energy technologies
- **Onsite regional infrastructure** including CO<sub>2</sub> and gas pipelines, power grid, and energy storage capacity
- **High-bay and flexible lab space** near regional industrial hub
- **Open access** user facilities with diverse energy resources
- **Community** economic and equity opportunities which align with national objectives



PRODUCTION NOTES  
Data provided by: BGS  
Basis: provided by: ERI, FGL, NOAA, USGS,  
Texas Parks & Wildlife, CONRAD, HERE, Garmin, EPA, RPS

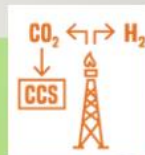


SPIRITUAL REFERENCE  
NAD83: GCS NAD83 1984  
GCS: GCS NAD83 1984  
Datum: NAD83 1984  
Map Frame Units: Degree



# THE PERMIAN HYDROGEN RESEARCH CONSORTIUM (PH2RC)

What is the market/potential need for H<sub>2</sub> within the Permian Basin?



What would incentivize the construction of an H<sub>2</sub> pipeline to the major demand centers in TX and the Gulf Coast?



Can H<sub>2</sub> be used as long-duration/seasonal energy storage in West TX?

**PERMIAN BASIN**

TX  
Triangle  
Demand  
Cluster

Beaumont  
Port Arthur

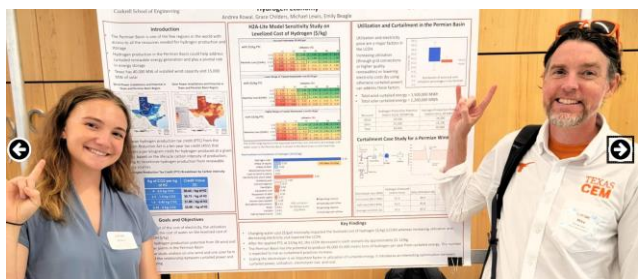
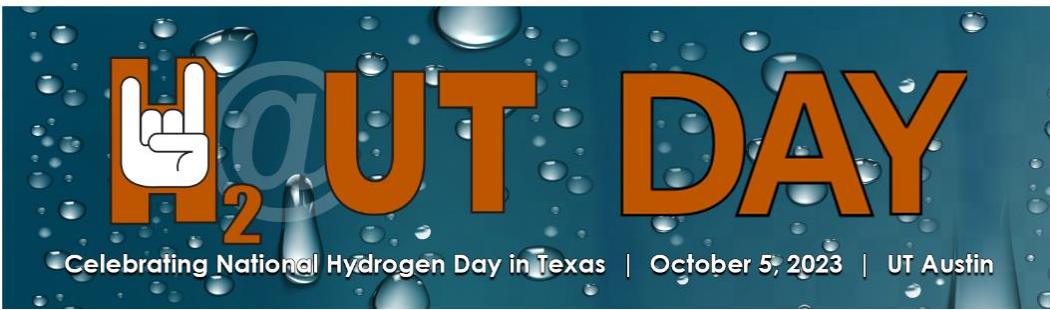
Houston  
Industrial  
Corridor

Corpus  
Cristi  
Demand  
Cluster



## Energy Institute Pillars of Innovation:

- Convening
- Strategic Seed Research
- Industry Engagement
- Student Entrepreneurship



**THE STATE OF TEXAS**  
GOVERNOR

*To all to whom these presents shall come,  
Greetings: Know ye that this official recognition is presented to all observing*

**Hydrogen Day**  
October 5, 2023

*Texans have long been defined by a spirit of innovation and an irrepressible drive to build a better world. This ethos paved the way for the triumphs of the past, and it will likewise enable us to address the great challenges of our time, such as the transition to sustainable energy. Accordingly, public and private stakeholders have begun to focus their attention on a particularly promising clean energy project: hydrogen.*

*As a fuel source and a means of energy storage, clean hydrogen has the potential to transform our industry, our infrastructure, and our environment. Hydrogen may one day power emission-free vehicles and carbon-neutral manufacturing plants. But this vision of a stronger, more sustainable tomorrow requires a great deal of effort. To that end, prestigious research institutions throughout the Lone Star State continue to make groundbreaking discoveries about clean hydrogen, thus expanding Texas' leadership at this important intersection of science, business, and government.*

*In the coming years, Texas will be at the very forefront of a burgeoning hydrogen economy, and it is my hope that Hydrogen Day offers students, researchers, and faculty a glimpse of the better, brighter tomorrow that awaits us. I encourage you to continue your efforts in the laboratory and the classroom—in due course, your successes will echo across the state and beyond.*

*First Lady Cecilia Abbott joins me in encouraging all Texans to observe Hydrogen Day with befitting programs and activities.*

*In testimony whereof, I have signed my name and caused the Seal of the State of Texas to be affixed at the City of Austin this the 28th day of September, 2023.*



*Greg Abbott*  
Greg Abbott  
Governor of Texas

WHAT STARTS HERE  
**ENERGIZES** THE WORLD

March 25–29  
UT Austin Campus

**UT ENERGY  
WEEK 2024**



[sites.utexas.edu/energy-week](https://sites.utexas.edu/energy-week)

## UT Energy Week

PANEL TOPICS



Hydrogen



Low-Carbon  
Aviation



Geothermal  
Energy



Agrivoltaics



Nuclear  
Energy



Grid Resilience



Art & Energy



Energy  
Journalism

MARCH 25–29

What Starts Here Energizes the World

<https://sites.utexas.edu/energy-week/>



## Getting a Head Start on Innovation: Insights from Student Energy Startup Founders



**Jeremy Pitts**  
Managing Director  
Activate Houston



**Joshua Johnson**  
Co-Founder  
Horizon



**Jack Phillips**  
CEO, SVP of Engineering  
MACH Transit



**Sahana Raj**  
Founder, CEO  
Energy Umbrella



UT ENERGY WEEK | MARCH 25-29  
What Starts Here Energizes the World

## Planet Texas 2050 presents Beautiful Energy: Public Art for Sustainable Cities

THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 4PM | ROWLING HALL | CRUM AUDITORIUM

PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION

Moderated by **Jim Walker**  
Director of the UT Office of Sustainability



Elizabeth Monahan & Robert Ferry  
Founding Directors, Land Art Generator

FEATURING  
**Robert Ferry & Elizabeth Monahan**  
Land Art Generator Initiative  
**Constance Y. White**  
Art + Music Manager  
Austin-Bergstrom International Airport



Open to everyone  
who registers for  
UT Energy Week

UT Energy Week  
March 25-29, 2024

## Career Engagement Mix-&-Mingle

Wednesday, March 27 | 11:45am-1:15pm | UT Campus

AES  
ExxonMobil  
ChampionX  
Phillips 66  
RWE  
Shell  
Siemens  
Solar Austin  
Sunnova

Join us for lunch, and connect with undergraduate and graduate students pursuing careers in energy. Every company receives a resume book after the event.



UT ENERGY WEEK | MARCH 25-29  
What Starts Here Energizes the World



## Rethinking Materials: Embodied Carbon & Beyond



**Gail Vittori**  
Co-Director,  
Center for Maximum  
Potential Building Systems



**Dirk Kestner**  
Director of  
Sustainable Design,  
Walter P. Moore



**Juliana Felkner**  
Assistant Professor,  
UT School of Architecture



**Jennifer Wong**  
Director,  
Materials Lab, UT School  
of Architecture



UT ENERGY WEEK | MARCH 25-29  
What Starts Here Energizes the World

Tuesday, March 26, 4:30-7:30pm  
UT Campus | Rowling Hall

## ENERGY STARTUP NIGHT

Startup Spotlight Talks

4:30-5:30pm

Startup Showcase & Mixer

5:30-7:30pm



PART OF  
UT ENERGY WEEK  
MARCH 25-29, 2024

Activate Houston,  
Austin Technology  
Incubator, Austin Urban  
Technology Movement,  
Bedrock Energy, Capital  
Factory, Energy Umbrella,  
Frakkal, Genesis UT,  
Horizon, IC2 Institute,  
LaunchPad at UT, MACH  
Transit, Tech Ranch, Texas  
Venture Labs, TEX-E,  
UT Office of Inclusive  
Entrepreneurship &  
Innovation,  
Verified Carbon



## UT STUDENT CLUB SHOWCASE & MIXER

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 5:30-7:30PM

Connect with UT student clubs in  
**energy, environment, & entrepreneurship**



Reserve a spot  
for your club!

Part of UT Energy Week  
March 25-29, 2024 | RRH, AT&T, EER



**Marilu Hastings**  
(Moderator)  
Executive VP,  
The Cynthia & George  
Mitchell Foundation



**Nagruk Harcharek**  
President,  
The Voice of the  
Arctic Inupiat



**Juliet Stipeche**  
Executive Director,  
Workforce Solutions  
Gulf Coast Workforce Board



**Dorian Cockrell**  
Vice President,  
Global Philanthropy  
JPMorgan Chase & Co.

UT ENERGY WEEK | MARCH 25-29  
What Starts Here Energizes the World



**JOIN US  
FOR OUR INAUGURAL ...**

## **ENERGY & CLIMATE COMMUNICATIONS FAIR**

PART OF  
**UT ENERGY WEEK**  
MARCH 25-29, 2024  
UT CAMPUS | ROWLING HALL

**LUNCH MIXER:** ALPHEUS MEDIA,  
CLIMATE FRESK, DISCO LEARNING  
MEDIA, JACKSON SCHOOL COMMS,  
JONES-DILWORTH, POWER TRIP, SUN  
PR, TEXAS ALMANAC, TEXAS  
MONTHLY, TEXAS STANDARD, UT  
PRESS, & MORE

**ENERGY'S GOT AN IMAGE PROBLEM: CAN IT BE FIXED?**  
PANEL DISCUSSION MODERATED BY RUSSELL GOLD



KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY  
**JUSTIN  
WORLAND**

TIME MAGAZINE  
SENIOR  
CORRESPONDENT

**THURSDAY  
MARCH 28  
11AM-2PM**

PLUS:  
**LE MONDE SANS FIN**

A TRAVELING  
COMIC BOOK  
EXPO



The University of Texas at Austin  
Energy Institute



The University of Texas at Austin  
Kay Bailey Hutchison Energy Center

# Research Showcase

**TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 8AM-7:30PM**

## **31 ENERGY RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS**

Carbon management/CCUS, clean hydrogen, environmental  
monitoring, circular economy, industrial decarbonization, low-  
carbon fuels, distributed energy resources, & more

**BETWEEN TWO CACTI** hosted by Brian Korgel

The Case for Collaboration: Bridging the Gap Between Industry  
& Academia to Advance Energy Research

## **INSIGHTS FROM STUDENT STARTUP FOUNDERS**

Panel discussion moderated by Jeremy Pitts,  
Activate Houston managing director

## **ENERGY STARTUP NIGHT**

- ★ Startup founder spotlight talks, startup
- ★★ showcase & mixer, research poster
- ★ sessions, elevator pitches, & more ...



The University of Texas at Austin  
Energy Institute



The University of Texas at Austin  
Kay Bailey Hutchison Energy Center

Part of  
UT Energy Week  
March 25-29  
Register today!



# BETWEEN TWO CACTI

THE CASE FOR COLLABORATION:  
BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN INDUSTRY AND ACADEMIA TO ADVANCE ENERGY RESEARCH



**DOMINIC CLAUSI**

Vice President of Research,  
ExxonMobil



**HAIBIN XU**

General Manager,  
Shell Research Alliance



**BRIAN KORGEL**

Director,  
UT Energy Institute



**Haibin Xu** • 1st

General Manager, Shell Research Alliance | passionate about...

2mo •

I had a thought provoking and enjoyable conversation in Brian Korgel 's "between two cacti" series this week on UT Austin campus - some of my thoughts here.  
Brian Korgel Dominic Clausi



Dreams and Common Sense



Between two cacti - the case for industry-academia collaborations

Haibin Xu on LinkedIn • 5 min read

# 43

**SEED PROJECTS**

**UT FACULTY & RESEARCHERS**

# 71

## RESEARCH AREAS

Clean hydrogen fuel & engine applications  
 Magnetized chip technology Carbon Management Carbon capture utilization and storage (CCUS) Power grid Infrastructure, Resilience and e-mobility Environmental monitoring, supply chain, circular economy and policy Industrial Decarbonization Water Resource Use, Treatment, and Conservation Low and Zero-Carbon Fuels and Distributed Energy Resources (DERs) Greenhouse gas mitigation Solar-powered water purification Recovery of Rare Earth Elements Communicating the Energy transition

## FUELING A SUSTAINABLE ENERGY TRANSITION

2020 - 2022



**\$2,500,000 (UT) funding 12 projects**  
 fostering multidisciplinary teams to seed new approaches to all aspects of energy transition

**\$1,020,000 (UT) funding 17 projects**  
 sparking impactful and collaborative energy research for decarbonization and climate security



**ENERGY SEED GRANT**  
 2022 - 2023

**ENERGIZE**  
 2022 - 2024



**\$720,000 (UT+SwRI) funding 5 projects**  
 enhancing collaboration between the Southwest Research Institute (SwRI) and The University of Texas at Austin

**\$900,000 (industry) funding 9 projects**  
 accelerating scientific, engineering, technological, techno-economic and policy innovations to meet climate goals



**STRATEGIC ENERGY SEED GRANT**  
 2023 - 2024



# 2024 Strategic Energy Seed Grant Program

Received 61 proposals.

12 projects funded by industry partners

<https://energy.utexas.edu/2024-strategic-energy-seed-grant-program-project-announcement>

## Program Description

The 2024 Strategic Energy Seed Grant Program is a funding opportunity sponsored by The Energy Institute at The University of Texas at Austin to spark new, impactful and collaborative research in any field of energy, including business, law and policy, with an aim towards decarbonization and climate security.

**Discipline/Subject Area:** Energy Sciences, Engineering, Business, Law and/or Policy

**Estimated Number of Awards:** 12

**Maximum Total Funding Per Project:** \$100,000



The following research projects were selected for funding in the 2024 Strategic Energy Seed Grant program:

### Battery Production & Critical Minerals

- Discovery of modified phosphate solid electrolytes for all-solid-state sodium batteries, **David Mitlin**, Walker Department of Mechanical Engineering, Cockrell School of Engineering; **Donald Siegel**, Walker Department of Mechanical Engineering, Cockrell School of Engineering
- Scalable tissue-inspired lithium extraction electrochemical membranes, **Manish Kumar**, Maseeh Department of Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering, Cockrell School of Engineering; **Venkat Ganesan**, McKetta Department of Chemical Engineering, Cockrell School of Engineering; **Harekrushna Behera**, Maseeh Department of Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering, Cockrell School of Engineering

### Carbon Capture & Storage

- De-risking carbon capture with amine solvents using high resolution mass spectrometer methods, **Fred Closmann**, McKetta Department of Chemical Engineering, Cockrell School of Engineering; **Pawel Misztal**, Maseeh Department of Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering, Cockrell School of Engineering; **Ian Riddington**, Department of Chemistry, College of Natural Sciences
- Increase carbon sequestration and storage by accumulation of plant root biomass and microbiomes, **Z. Jeffrey Chen**, Department of Molecular Biosciences, College of Natural Sciences; **Thomas E. Juenger**, Department of Integrative Biology, College of Natural Sciences
- Lab-to-field scale time-lapse seismic monitoring for carbon storage, **Shuvajit Bhattacharya**, Bureau of Economic Geology, Jackson School of Geosciences; **Hailun Ni**, Bureau of Economic Geology, Jackson School of Geosciences; **Nicola Tisato**, Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, Jackson School of Geosciences

### Clean Hydrogen

- Distributed and electrified green ammonia production using plasma-catalysis, **Charles B. Mullins**, McKetta Department of Chemical Engineering, Cockrell School of Engineering, Department of Chemistry, College of Natural Sciences; **Thomas Underwood**, Aerospace Engineering and Engineering Mechanics, Cockrell School of Engineering; **Michael Webber**, Walker Department of Mechanical Engineering, Cockrell School of Engineering
- Enhancing the durability of electrocatalysts for the oxygen evolution reaction through strong metal-support interactions, **Delia Milliron**, McKetta Department of Chemical Engineering, Cockrell School of Engineering; **Joaquin Resasco**, McKetta Department of Chemical Engineering, Cockrell School of Engineering
- Innovating green hydrogen production: synthesizing high entropy alloys via bubble printing for enhanced electrocatalytic performance, **Yuebing Zheng**, Texas Materials Institute and Walker Department of Mechanical Engineering, Cockrell School of Engineering; **Simon M. Humphrey**, Department of Chemistry, College of Natural Sciences

### Industrial Decarbonization

- From solar panels to sustainable concrete: development of solar waste glass pozzolan (SWAGPozz), **Raissa Ferron**, Maseeh Department of Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering, Cockrell School of Engineering; **Christopher Rausch**, Maseeh Department of Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering, Cockrell School of Engineering
- Mitigating voltage sag disturbances for electrified industrial process loads, **Surya Santoso**, Chandra Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Cockrell School of Engineering; **Brian Johnson**, Chandra Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Cockrell School of Engineering

### Produced Water Treatment & Reuse

- Evaluation of a novel integrated ceramic membrane/hollow fiber membrane contactor process for produced water reuse, **Lynn Katz**, Maseeh Department of Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering, Cockrell School of Engineering; **Frank Seibert**, Center for Energy and Environmental Resources, Cockrell School of Engineering
- Technical and techno-economic analysis of produced water treatment for green and blue hydrogen production in Texas, from **Vaibhav Bahadur**, McKetta Department of Chemical Engineering, Cockrell School of Engineering; **Michael Lewis**, Center for Electromechanics, Cockrell School of Engineering; **Michael Webber**, Walker Department of Mechanical Engineering, Cockrell School of Engineering





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Energy Institute



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Kay Bailey Hutchison Energy Center

## BETWEEN TWO CACTI

CLEANER, CHEAPER, BETTER: HOW INNOVATION, CAPITAL,  
& TALENT ARE CATALYZING THE ENERGY TRANSITION  
OPPORTUNITY—WITH NO COMPROMISE



**IRA EHRENPREIS**  
Founder & Managing Partner  
DBL Partners



**BRIAN KORGEL**  
Director  
UT Energy Institute



UT  
**ENERGY WEEK**  
2024

On CleanTech 2.0...Ira and I also had lunch with President Hartzell about UT's strategy on energy innovation



## Call For Innovation

Experience the excitement of driving your career and building technology that can revolutionize the world. The Call for Innovation brings industry experts, thousands of dollars in investment funding, and hands-on education to students across UT Austin. Come and see how you can be part of a team that is about to change the world forever.

### For Longhorn Students Interested In:

- Hands on real world experience in science, engineering, and business
- Mentorship and guidance from industry professionals and leaders
- Thousands of dollars in startup funding



Taking place at UT Austin **February 24th @ 5 PM (CST)**

Click here to learn more: <https://genesitut.com/c4i>



\$50,000  
Student  
energy  
innovation  
prize

[first iteration]



2024 c4i launched...

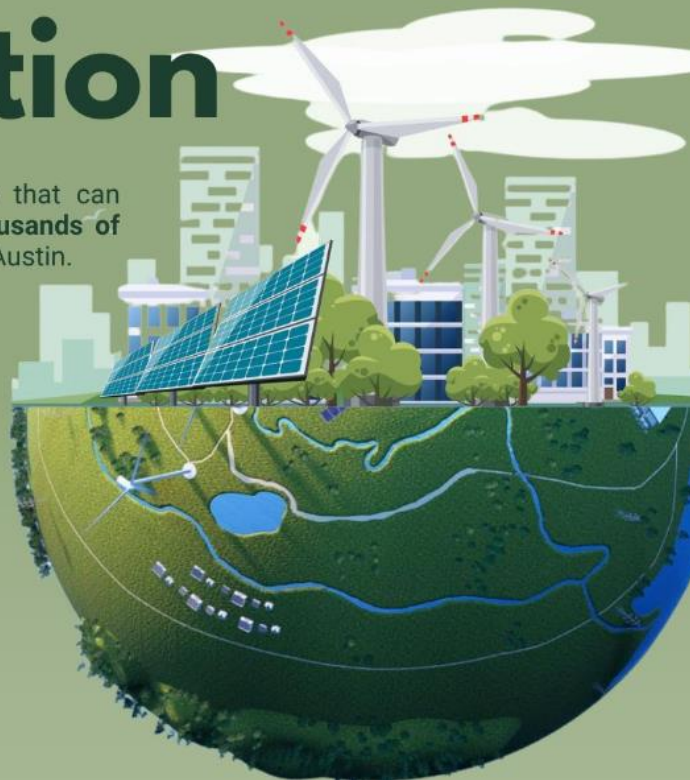


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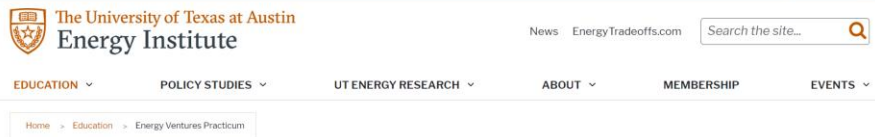
## Texas Entrepreneurship Exchange for Energy (TEX-E)

TEX-E is a first-of-a-kind collaboration among **The University of Texas at Austin**, **Texas A&M University**, **University of Houston**, **Rice University**, and **Prairie View A&M University**—powered by Greentown Labs and MIT's **Martin Trust Center for Entrepreneurship**—to create a powerful student-driven entrepreneurship ecosystem in Texas.

### TEX-E PRIZE FINALISTS

**Gazelle Ecosolutions** works with ranchers to restore ecologically vulnerable grasslands while accelerating nature-based carbon capture. Its co-founders are Amod Caherkar, Mihir Bendre, Siddarth Takur, and Thoralf Meyer from the University of Texas at Austin.

<https://greentownlabs.com/tex-e/>



<https://energy.utexas.edu/education/energy-ventures-practicum>



## Energy Ventures Practicum: Spring 2024

*Commercialize innovations in the energy sector*

Taught by UT's Jon Brumley Texas Venture Labs, the Energy Ventures Practicum brings together teams of business, law, policy, and technology students to develop essential skills, capabilities, and connections for creating ventures in the dynamic energy sector. The primary objectives of the class are to provide a robust framework for commercializing innovations in energy and to equip entrepreneurs with the necessary tools to frame and build businesses.

This graduate-level course goes beyond general entrepreneurial concepts to address special challenges faced in the energy industry and related sectors. The course is designed to educate students through hands-on, practical experience. In the first two weeks of the Spring semester, ideas for new technologies or services (from labs, companies, and fellow students) are pitched to the class. Student teams then choose the ideas they like and, over the course of the semester, they each develop a viable plan for commercializing the idea they've chosen.

### Questions?

Christy Grady,  
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Brian Korgel, [korgel@che.utexas.edu](mailto:korgel@che.utexas.edu)

### New McCombs Course Aims to Spur Energy Entrepreneurship

Collaboration between UT and MIT will catalyze Texas energy startups.

What's next?...hydrogen, innovation...international partnership



TEXAS

The University of Texas at Austin  
Energy Institute

<https://energy.utexas.edu/>



# The Japan-Texas Connection



Kawasaki Heavy Industry  
Suiso Frontera  
Kobe, Japan

# The Japan-Texas Connection



Mitsubishi Heavy Industry  
Takasago Hydrogen Park, Japan



# The Japan-Texas Connection



Iwatani Central Research Institute  
Amagasaki, Japan

- Japan could be a key import partner with Texas hydrogen producers
- How will it be shipped? (liq H<sub>2</sub>, NH<sub>3</sub>, MCH?)
- Can Japan learn from Texas lessons as the region scales electrolytic hydrogen production?
- Can Texas learn lessons from Japan as it scales hydrogen (and ammonia) use for power production?
- How can Japan and Texas (& US) innovate together in hydrogen technologies to speed global decarbonization goals? (combustion, electrolysis, fuel cells, mobility, industrial decarbonization, power generation)
- Can Japan and the US learn from each other in the policy arena for incentivizing the use of hydrogen as a decarbonization pathway?
- Shared learnings in new energy venture creation...?