



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ERCOT PRESS RELEASE

Grid operator requests energy conservation for system reliability

AUSTIN, TX, Feb. 14, 2021 – The Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) is asking consumers and businesses to reduce their electricity use as much as possible Sunday, Feb. 14 through Tuesday, Feb. 16.

“We are experiencing record-breaking electric demand due to the extreme cold temperatures that have gripped Texas,” said ERCOT President and CEO Bill Magness. “At the same time, we are dealing with higher-than-normal generation outages due to frozen wind turbines and limited natural gas supplies available to generating units. We are asking Texans to take some simple, safe steps to lower their energy use during this time.”

Here are some tips to reduce electricity use:

- Turn down thermostats to 68-degrees.
- Close shades and blinds to reduce the amount of heat lost through windows.
- Turn off and unplug non-essential lights and appliances.
- Avoid using large appliances (i.e., ovens, washing machines, etc.).
- Businesses should minimize the use of electric lighting and electricity-consuming equipment as much as possible.
- Large consumers of electricity should consider shutting down or reducing non-essential production processes.

Given the prolonged, below-freezing temperatures, conservation measures should be implemented safely and within reason.

ERCOT has the tools and procedures in place to maintain a reliable electric system during tight grid conditions. If power reserves drop too low, ERCOT may need to declare an Energy Emergency Alert, or EEA. Declaring an EEA allows the grid operator to take advantage of additional resources that are only available during scarcity conditions. There are three levels of EEA, and rotating outages are only implemented as a last resort to maintain reliability of the electric system.

How to track electricity demand

- View daily peak demand forecast, current load and available generation on ERCOT.com
- Follow ERCOT on Twitter (@ERCOT_ISO)
- Sign up for the ERCOT mobile app (available for download at the Apple App Store and Google Play).

Consumer assistance

Public Utility Commission of Texas Hotline – 1-888-782-8477

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ERCOT, the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, manages the flow of electric power to more than 26 million Texas customers, representing about 90 percent of the state's electric load. As the Independent System Operator for the region, ERCOT schedules power on an electric grid that connects more than 46,500 miles of transmission lines and 680+ generation units. ERCOT also performs financial settlement for the competitive wholesale bulk-power market and administers retail switching for more than 8 million premises in competitive choice areas. ERCOT is a membership-based 501(c)(4) nonprofit corporation, governed by a board of directors and subject to oversight by the Public Utility Commission of Texas and the Texas Legislature.

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GEUS became the first municipally-owned electric utility in Texas in 1891. 110 years later it became the first municipally-owned cable television and high speed Internet operation in Texas. GEUS offers these services to the 26,000 plus consumer\owners living in the Greenville, Texas area located approximately 50 miles East of Dallas, Texas. GEUS is uniquely governed by an autonomous board of trustees that is appointed by the Greenville City Council. Steps were taken by the Texas Legislature in 1989 to allow this type of governing structure. For more information about our 130+ years of public power history or the services we offer, please visit our web site at www.geus.org