

## THE REGIONAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY NETWORK FOR TEXAS AND OKLAHOMA

### SPEER's Policy Program

SPEER and its members understand the close relationship between energy efficiency investment and public policy. In Texas, we have helped stimulate new commercial building efficiency policy with Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing, the adoption of the latest statewide energy efficient building codes, and enabling changes to the deregulated market to encourage open competition and support reliability. SPEER collaborates with various stakeholders, agencies, utilities, and businesses to explore alternative policy solutions; publish or promote important information, ideas and positions; and to build support for accelerating the adoption of efficiency products and practices.

### SPEER's current areas of policy focus

**Increasing Texas' Energy Efficiency Resource Standard:** SPEER has continued its mission to educate stakeholders on the needs to create and update programs that will generate advancement to a more energy efficient future. Nearly 20 years after the EERS goal was first established by the legislature, SPEER has recommended to the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) Energy Efficiency Implementation Project (EEIP) that the state's energy efficiency goal be increased to .5% of retail energy sales by 2022, and increasing the goal to 1% by 2030. SPEER made additional recommendations, gathered from stakeholders, that will require broader input through the rulemaking process. Recommendations included evaluating the impact and contribution of utility load management programs, considering changes to the avoided cost values, and reevaluating the bonus calculation to ensure the utilities are encouraged to exceed both demand and energy goals. The achieved savings of this increased goal will contribute to grid reliability during extreme seasonal peaks, support clean energy investments, while keeping costs down for all customers. SPEER supports the initiation of a rulemaking on these recommendations.



**Enhancing the Wholesale Electric Market Design:** SPEER is engaged in the educational support of PUCT projects that will expand opportunities for energy efficiency, demand response and other distributed energy resources to participate directly in the ERCOT market (Project #52373). The PUCT is in the process of reviewing the wholesale electric market design and included in Phase I of the proposal are increased targeting of demand response programs and setting higher performance standards for energy efficiency. SPEER submitted comments recommending further impact studies on energy efficiency programs, demand response, and emergency response services. Additional comments recommended establishing of a demand reduction energy credit, cost analysis of all Phase II proposals, and increased efficiency programs.

**Energy Consumption Data Access:** After years of policy work, we are pleased that the Public Utility Commission of Texas is moving ahead with plans to make access to energy data simple and secure through the Smart Meter Texas portal (Project #47472). With this improvement, a third-party energy management company will be able to help consumers make actionable changes to improve the efficiency of their homes and businesses, putting money in their pockets and strengthening their businesses' bottom line. The change will allow consumers to easily and securely authorize access to their energy data by using their mobile device to enroll directly with a third-party energy manager. This access should also allow for aggregate data to be made available to research organizations, and whole building data to be accessed by building owners with leased buildings—key to validating and financing efficiency upgrades. We will continue to be engaged in the development process, and to accelerate participation in these third-party offerings.



**Resilience:** SPEER's building codes work is evolving to include resilience as well as our traditional energy code work. The current confusing state of code adoption and enforcement creates major inequities between the health, safety, durability, efficiency and resilience of homes and buildings built in cities, and those built in the unincorporated areas of counties.

We are implementing an effort to improve and expand code compliance in cities and counties to make all buildings more resilient to disasters like hurricanes, flooding, tornados and fire. Included in this effort is a collaboration with advocates to promote additional authority for counties to adopt and enforce up to date building and fire codes and encourage the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association (TWIA) to update the Windstorm Insurance Certification standards to the current codes. This will bring TWIA certification in line with code requirements already in effect in most of the cities in the state.



For more information:  
<https://eepartnership.org/program-areas/policy/>