

SPEER Annual Report 2022



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INTRODUCTION

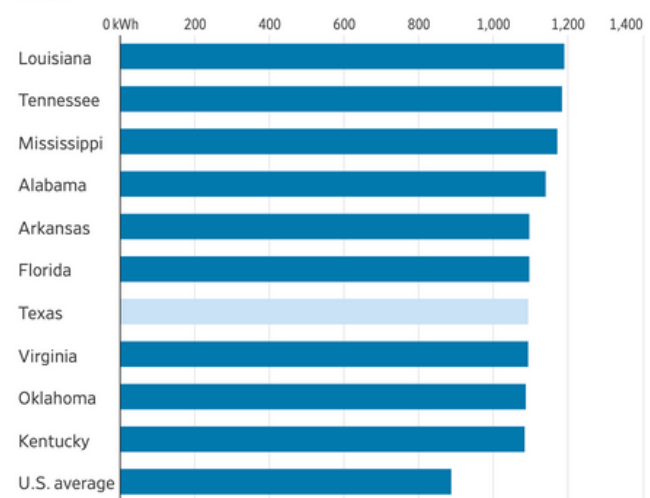


SPEER's region includes nearly 30 million people and many of the fastest-growing cities in America. Texas' population alone has grown by roughly 16% between 2010 and 2020. There is a tremendous opportunity to increase energy efficiency in SPEER's region through building codes, retrofits for existing buildings, better training, innovative policies, and cooperative marketing to make it easier for the public to understand efficiency opportunities. This is now more important than ever due to the expected federal funding in the IIJA and IRA, as well as the near grid collapse of Winter Storm Uri in early 2021.

Texas produces and consumes more energy and electricity than any other state, with winter and summer peak electric demand driven disproportionately by residential heating and cooling. Lack of energy efficiency means Texans, and all consumers, are unable to reap the benefits of cheap electricity rates. While Texas' rates are low, both Texas and Oklahoma are ranked at the top states with the highest average monthly electricity consumption per household in 2021 overriding all benefits of low costs.

SPEER will continue to promote and advance efficiency because energy efficiency can help solve several of the largest problems currently facing our region right now which are resource adequacy, high energy burdens, poor air quality, and resilience.

States with the highest average monthly electricity consumption per household in 2021



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Thank You to EVERYONE who made 2022 a banner year for SPEER. With your help and continued efforts, SPEER was able to increase our voice and presence across our Texas and Oklahoma regions. It is because of you and our members that SPEER is set up for even more success and stronger engagement in 2023.

As many of you know, SPEER is a membership-based organization, and our membership has grown by roughly 25% each year over the past three years. These efforts allow for increased partnerships and collaboration on numerous projects and ventures, even furthering the SPEER mission “to accelerate the adoption of energy efficiency products and services in Texas and Oklahoma.”

Our policy work continues to make huge inroads across multiple spaces. SPEER was part of several working groups and committees that include work around the Public Utility Commission of Texas, interim Texas Senate and House hearings, and our very well-received “[SPEER Review of the Texas IOU Energy Efficiency Programs 2005-2022](#)” report that outlines the ongoing transition of the energy efficiency environment in Texas. 2023 will be just as exciting as we welcome in the 88th Texas Legislative Session which is sure to offer the requisite challenges and twists and turns.

SPEER was built on strong building and energy codes work, and in 2022 this was no different. With almost 2000 attendees in trainings across Texas and Oklahoma, codes will maintain an important presence within the SPEER vision “to position SPEER as the regional leader in the education and promotion of energy-efficient building systems and distributed energy resources that strengthen local economies, improve health and quality of life, and protect the environment.”

Many thanks to our FANTASTIC SPEER team...we have one of the best groups of leaders around and they set a high standard for excellence in their commitment to SPEER values. A big Thank You to all they do for your organization. Lastly, the SPEER [Board of Directors](#) is a dedicated group of exceptional advisors who have helped to chart a course that is leading to an even bigger and brighter future; a big thanks to them as well.

We hope to see you soon at one of our upcoming events or trainings and again, THANK YOU for all you do for SPEER. Your help is immense and very much welcomed.

All the best,
Todd McAlister
Executive Director

POLICY



Texas and Oklahoma Legislatures:

The Oklahoma Legislature reconvened to complete the second half of its 58th Legislative Session in the spring of 2022. SPEER tracked roughly 20 bills throughout the session associated with energy efficiency, climate change, and building codes. Looking forward to the 59th Oklahoma Legislature and the 88th Texas Legislature in 2023, SPEER plans to be an active resource to state elected officials. SPEER has updated its [Policy Program page](#) to include information on both legislature's activities and will be posting our legislative tracking efforts throughout the sessions. Review our [Texas](#) and [Oklahoma](#) legislative priorities.

PUCT/OCC Actions:

Throughout 2022, the SPEER Policy Program made a concerted effort to actively participate in public comment requests, public meetings, and stakeholder engagement with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT). We participated in several calls for public input by meeting with PUCT staff and external stakeholders. We also submitted comments on a wide range of topics including the ongoing wholesale electric market redesign docket and associated market analysis docket, Emergency Response Service docket, Distributed Energy Resources docket and dockets associated with energy efficiency (dockets 53971 and 38578). We were active participants in the biannual Energy Efficiency Implementation Project meetings held by the PUCT. In preparation for a potential energy efficiency rulemaking, the SPEER team facilitated stakeholder coordination calls to identify consensus policy recommendations for the PUCT to consider as they move forward with improving the energy efficiency goals and rules.

SPEER submitted recommendations to the Oklahoma Corporation Commission (OCC) regarding future rulemakings focused on their energy efficiency programs after meeting with external stakeholders to identify potential opportunities for enhancement. We monitored relevant OCC meetings to our organizational mission.



Photo credit: Texas Land & Liberty Coalition

SPEER hosted a learning breakfast session at the Texas Capitol to discuss energy efficiency and its many benefits over tacos. The networking event provided policymakers and staff the opportunity to meet with energy experts versed in energy efficiency to review current policies and opportunities for future action relating to energy efficiency.

Improving current energy efficiency goals is imperative for the Lone Star state. Goals have been exceeded with little change in program funding over the last 10 years, all while our population and economy grow at a rapid pace. You can review key points and what was presented [here](#).

POLICY cont.

SPEER Review of the Texas IOU Energy Efficiency Programs 2005-2022

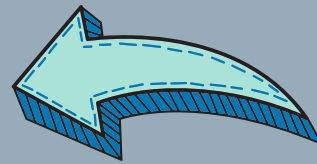
August 2022

Prepared by:

Noah Oaks,
State and Local Policy
Manager



SPEER's [Review of the Texas IOU Energy Efficiency Programs 2005-2022](#) report examines the recent history and policy actions stemming from Winter Storm Uri in 2021, determines the potential of energy efficiency programs broadly, and looks at the current goals, achievements, and programs of Investor Owned Utilities (IOU) that operate in Texas.



Read the report!

Texas was the first state to establish an Energy Efficiency Resource Standard (EERS) in 1999, which was designed to encourage states to achieve energy savings based on the amount of electricity and natural gas sold. Since then, 30 states have adopted an EERS goal for reducing energy consumption and those states that enacted energy efficiency programs are seeing the benefits.

The intent of this report is to offer policymakers, academics, and other energy efficiency stakeholders with a clear and objective look at significant aspects of IOU energy efficiency programs and provide considerations for future policy decisions. In it we have detailed energy efficiency potential from job growth and economic benefits to grid reliability and addressing energy burdens. We point to solutions on how to expand energy efficiency programs in the state and ways to increase customer participation. Lastly, we provide recommendations for the Public Utility Commission of Texas.

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Local government programs still play a major part in the SPEER portfolio, and 2022 brought fantastic new energy and interest to our partnerships with SECO and the Houston Advanced Research Center (HARC). Ongoing efforts include state-mandated energy reporting, a very robust webinar and training platform, and case studies that highlight many of the struggles that everyday Texans face regarding energy burdens.

Our [City Efficiency Toolkit](#) provides resources and necessary steps to reduce both energy and water consumption, and save money while also helping local governments, school districts, and other public entities establish and build energy efficiency programs and initiatives. Lighting Retrofitting and Energy Services Contracting are consistently the most browsed sections within the toolkit.

BY THE NUMBERS!

- Served 21,873,490 residents in non-attainment regions through our Energy Reporting Program
- Over 106 agencies + local governments participated and engaged in our roundtables
- The City Efficiency Leadership Council newsletter mailing list increased by 14% to 1,049 subscribers
- Provided education through 16 webinars with over 400 attendees
- Through a partnership with SPEER, the City of Smithville, Texas applied for a USDA grant to address energy equity issues within their community
- More than five local governments approached SPEER for partnership in grants, demonstrating the relationship and credibility built with governmental agencies
- SPEER was requested to serve as a subcontractor in the Department of Energy application for a 1.9-million-dollar weatherization project. This project, "Preparing the Frontlines for a Climate Future through Holistic Weatherization," was awarded in 2022 with a kick-off of March 2023

ENERGY CODES

Building codes are “one of the most critical tools we have to improve energy efficiency and resilience in homes and businesses,”
Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm



Adoption and enforcement of new energy codes can be difficult for everyone involved in the industry. Through education, training, and our implementation efforts, we aim to make this transition as easy as possible by making sure necessary parties understand what the code says, what it means, and what compliance looks like.

More than 4,800 attended trainings and seminars that included material on building and energy code, HVAC system sizing and performance, and building science processes across the Texas and Oklahoma region.

2022 Training & Education by the Numbers:

14 In-Person trainings with **1,038** attendees

25 Webinar offerings with **3,860** attendees

- 40% (1,959) work directly with cities
- 45% (2,205) are 3rd party verification, implementation & enforcement
- 15% (734) are contractors



Topics Included:

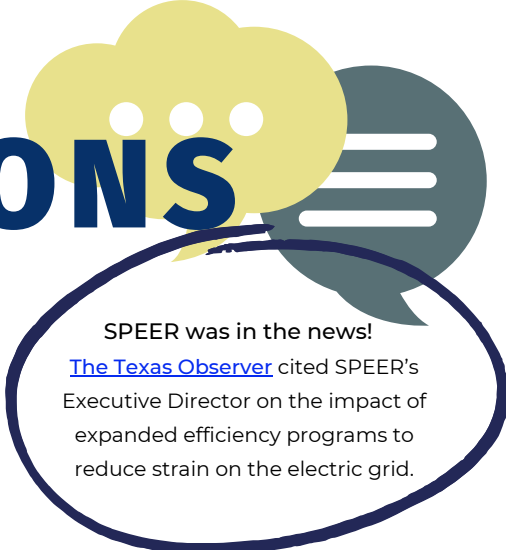
- ↪ 2021 IECC Code, Residential and Commercial
- ↪ 2021 IECC vs Older code cycles and the differences
- ↪ HVAC Basics, Field Verification Items, Manual J, S, and D reviews, and Duct Design
- ↪ Heat Pumps and the benefits of Electrification
- ↪ Energy Star for Homes program training

Our voice for positive change within the code and building industry will allow for increased grid resiliency and increased energy savings. SPEER partnered with numerous organizations such as the Air Conditioning Contractors Association (ACCA), Texas State Energy Conservation Office (SECO), Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL), and the North American Insulation Manufacturers Association (NAIMA). These partnerships strengthen our ability to campaign and educate for code enhancements that continue the constructive impact that the South-central Region deserves.

SPEER was able to share these best practice efforts and support code implementation with our partners and participate in National Compliance Collaborative efforts. Fostering a collaborative environment will remain a top priority for the SPEER building and energy code work.

COMMUNICATIONS

New Newsletters



SPEER was in the news!
[The Texas Observer](#) cited SPEER's Executive Director on the impact of expanded efficiency programs to reduce strain on the electric grid.

We brought more news to the Texas & Oklahoma region, and nationwide, than ever before. SPEER established our first policy program newsletter: a monthly update on federal, state, and local policy actions that have occurred or are upcoming. Creating this one-stop shop for policy needs in our region allows us to provide necessary educational materials as they are published, inform the public of engagement opportunities at the Capitol or with the Public Utility Commission, and bring awareness to important policy events impacting our energy market and the grid.

Website Updates

2022 allowed us to launch a new [resource section](#) which includes a library of local government resolutions, energy plans & policy work, climate action plans, and resiliency initiatives. We curated messaging guides, Public Utility Commission of Texas comment templates, and heat pump resources.

On our new [State and Local Policy webpage](#) you can find state-specific policy information including links to key state agencies, SPEER's previous public comments, and additional information about our work in both Texas and Oklahoma. You will also find recently released reports, templates, and materials for engaging with policy leaders, and additional materials on how our policy program interacts with the ongoing Heat Pump Working Group, SPEER Codes Program, and SPEER Local Governments Program.



Stay informed - subscribe to our newsletter(s)!

SOCIAL MEDIA

Youtube

SPEER's YouTube channel + video views increased 19%, surpassing 20k views! The most watched recording of [Residential HVAC Load Calculations](#) reached over 9.8k views. Webinar recordings received 20,786 views in 2022, a 19% growth from 2021.



We added over 320 subscribers in 2022, a 83% increase compared to the previous year



Over 3.8k hours of SPEER content was watched, increasing 38% from 2021

LinkedIn

Stay informed on important topics from changes at the Capitol during session to SPEER hosted events, networking opportunities, and energy industry news. The stats below prove our LinkedIn network is rapidly growing and we want you to join us!



Our LinkedIn subscribers grew by 39% in 2022



Page views + visitors climbed by 1,400%

Are you following us?

We want to connect with you!



MEMBERSHIP

By the numbers: →

95% Member Retention Rate
22% Increase in Membership

SPEER gained 10 new members during the 2022 year and we are proud to be entering 2023 with a strong membership base of 56 members. We want to thank ALL of our members, both new and those that have supported our organization and mission since SPEER's inception in 2011. Welcome to our newest members!



[Consider Joining SPEER!](#)

By becoming a member of SPEER you enable your organization with the ability to connect with industry leaders and experts both in Texas & Oklahoma as well as across the country. SPEER membership opens the door for speaking and logo positioning opportunities on our highly attended webinars, YouTube channel, marketing materials, and collaboration for studies and reports. Join today and you will receive free attendance to our member industry workshop in the fall, networking opportunities to meet with colleagues, regional branded member happy hours + learning sessions, and stay informed on new innovations, program designs, and technologies within our industry. Check out [all our incredible members](#) and become part of the energy efficiency movement.

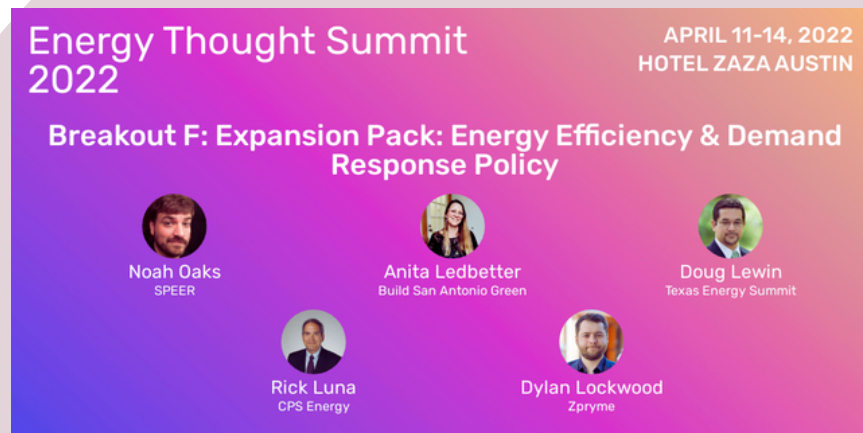
COLLABORATION + EVENTS



SPEER spoke at the Texas Energy Summit:

One of the biggest drivers of pollution and shortages on the electric grid is wasted energy in homes & buildings, especially in Texas where over two-thirds of homes were built prior to building codes being in place. However, energy codes have helped mitigate these problems, improve resilience, and lowered energy bills for consumers. SPEER spoke on the *Energy Codes in Texas* panel and provided education on the need to reduce demand with better construction and energy codes.

An increase in the frequency and severity of storms has increased the need for resiliency planning in the face of significant events and disturbances. According to NOAA, climate disasters in the United States cost the nation \$165 billion in 2022. In the *Local Government's Resilience Solutions* session, SPEER's Local Government Manager, Shaun, presented examples of local resilience solutions and explored the potential for more.



As the energy industry moves to decarbonize, an often overlooked resource is energy efficiency. At Zpryme's 2022 Energy Thought Summit, SPEER's State + Local Policy Manager, Noah Oaks, sat on the *Energy Efficiency & Demand Response Policy (DR)* panel and provided insight on how DR programs can help reduce energy consumption to increase the resiliency of the grid while allowing customers to play a role in energy conservation. Removing barriers to enable and improve energy efficiency programs is an ongoing effort and an important initiative of SPEER.

SPEER'S POLICY + INDUSTRY WORKSHOP

SPEER's Policy + Industry Workshop spanned two days of in-person networking and collaboration. Our audience of energy experts exchanged insights on solutions to improve our grid and resilience, focusing on demand response, increasing the adoption of heat pumps and battery storage, and discussing how we can address inequitable energy burdens that far too many Texans and Americans are experiencing. We also covered:

- Energy efficiency programs + Investor Owned Utilities (IOUs)
- Building codes and grid resilience
- Water efficiency
- Low-income energy efficiency barriers and solutions
- IRA funding

Get a recap of the
topics +
presentations!

Attendance far exceeded our expectations - Thank you to all that joined in making this important workshop so successful!



SPEER WORKING GROUPS

Heat Pump Working Group

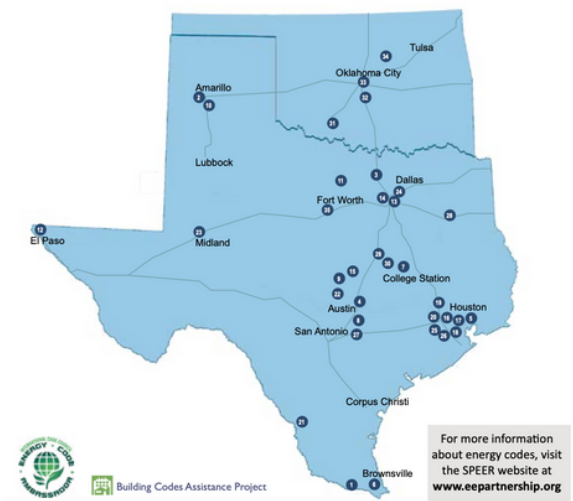
Beginning in February 2022 and meeting throughout the year, SPEER facilitated a working group of heat pump manufacturers and implementers to identify policy recommendations and future efforts to increase the deployment of highly efficient heat pumps throughout the region. This group has assisted with the creation of [SPEER's heat pump resource page](#) which acts as a one-stop informational service to prospective heat pump consumers.

The working group also aided in the development of SPEER public comments in the Texas Technical Reference Manual (TRM) update process. While our recommendations were not included in this iteration of the TRM, at the 2022 fall Energy Efficiency Implementation meeting, these recommendations were noted and discussed as possible future items for consideration as more data becomes available. The group also presented their work and expertise at the SPEER Policy and Industry Workshop held in September. Moving into the New Year, our goal for this group is to continue its activities to increase heat pump usage in the region.

Ambassador Program

SPEER operates the largest Energy Code Ambassador Program in the country! Ambassadors are a select group of experienced code officials, raters, and builders who understand the challenges and benefits of energy code compliance. Ambassadors are located throughout Texas & Oklahoma and, after receiving advanced training each year to maintain their status, provide guidance and peer-to-peer support to building officials, builders, and contractors on energy code issues.

The program is recognized by the International Code Council (ICC) and implemented in collaboration with the State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) and the Building Codes Assistance Project (BCAP).



Interested in becoming a
SPEER Ambassador? [Learn more](#) and [contact us!](#)