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SPEER and Lights Out, Texas! Partner to Promote Energy Efficiency and Bird-Friendly Lighting Practices

Partnership connects energy efficiency, sustainability, and bird conservation

AUSTIN, Texas (September 29, 2026) — The South-central Partnership for Energy Efficiency as a Resource (SPEER) and Lights Out, Texas!, a statewide campaign led by Audubon Texas and associated partners, are partnering to encourage municipalities, buildings, universities, and other organizations across Texas to reduce unnecessary nighttime lighting as part of their energy efficiency, sustainability, and conservation efforts.

By bringing together expertise in energy efficiency and bird conservation, the partnership will highlight how simple changes to building operations and lighting practices can help organizations reduce unnecessary energy consumption while also creating safer conditions for migrating birds.

Light pollution is a growing threat to birds, particularly during migration. Artificial light at night can disorient migrating birds, drawing them into urban areas and increasing their risk of colliding with buildings and other structures. An estimated nearly one billion birds die each year after colliding with buildings in the United States, and Texas is home to three of the 20 cities identified as the most dangerous for birds migrating at night, [according to a recent study](#). Reducing nonessential lighting during migration is one practical action communities and building operators can take to help reduce this threat.

At the same time, reducing lighting can help organizations use energy more efficiently, reduce operating costs, and support broader sustainability and building performance goals. Simple operational changes,

such as turning off nonessential lights, reducing lighting during unoccupied hours, and using controls to better align lighting with building needs, can reduce energy waste while maintaining safe, functional spaces

“Effective energy management programs, demand-side management, building retrofits, industrial efficiency standards, and smart grids are essentially wildlife conservation tools. This makes energy conservation programs legitimate conservation investments, not just climate or economic measures,” stated **SPEER’s CEO Todd McAllister**.

Texas plays an especially important role in bird migration. Nearly two billion birds migrate through the state each spring and fall, and Texas has recorded more than 600 bird species. As part of the partnership, participating communities are also encouraged to [issue an Energy Awareness & Texas Lights Out proclamation](#), recognizing the importance of bird migration and the role that reducing unnecessary nighttime lighting and improving energy efficiency can play in protecting wildlife, reducing energy waste, and supporting healthier communities.

“One conservation action can have a multitude of benefits,” said **Chloe Crumley, Engagement Manager for Audubon Texas**. “By reducing nonessential lighting to protect birds, we also decrease energy consumption and increase our sustainability efforts across Texas. One simple action can have a ripple effect of benefits for people, wildlife, and the environment.”

The new partnership will focus on sharing information and practical resources with organizations interested in incorporating responsible lighting into their energy efficiency, sustainability, and building management practices. The partners will work to connect energy efficiency professionals, municipalities, universities, building operators, and conservation partners around solutions that can benefit both people and birds.

Learn More & Take Action

SPEER and Lights Out, Texas! will host a joint webinar on **Thursday, October 22, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. CT** to introduce the partnership and share more about the connection between energy efficiency, responsible lighting, and bird conservation.

REGISTER: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_48--EvTQvqb0naC_RXsRg

About SPEER

The South-central Partnership for Energy Efficiency as a Resource (SPEER) serves as a leading trusted regional advisory organization for Texas and Oklahoma. Our organization enhances energy efficiency through reliable, fact- and science-based expertise, providing insights into the Texas and Oklahoma energy landscape through strategic guidance, regional connections, policy insights, and training. By uniting a diverse network of industry leaders, SPEER helps organizations improve building performance and resiliency through accelerating the adoption of advanced building science and navigating policy to improve demand-side solutions. Learn more at www.eepartnership.org.

About Audubon

The National Audubon Society protects birds and the places they need, today and tomorrow. Audubon works throughout the Americas using science, advocacy, education, and on-the-ground conservation. State programs, nature centers, chapters, and partners give Audubon an unparalleled wingspan that reaches millions of people each year to inform, inspire, and unite diverse communities in conservation action. A nonprofit conservation organization since 1905, Audubon believes in a world in which people and wildlife thrive. Learn more at www.audubon.org and on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram @audubonsociety.