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# NCTCOG Energy Management & Renewable Energy Newsletter

January 2019

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#### NCTCOG Energy Management and Renewable Energy Resources

- Go Solar Texas - [www.gosolartexas.org](http://www.gosolartexas.org)
- Conserve North Texas - [www.conservenorthtexas.org](http://www.conservenorthtexas.org)
- NCTCOG Energy Management and Renewable Energy - <https://www.nctcog.org/envir/natural-resources/energy-efficiency>
- Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Coalition - [www.dfwcleancities.org](http://www.dfwcleancities.org)

#### News & Updates

##### SECO Offers **FREE** Preliminary Energy Assessments for Local Governments

At no cost, SECO offers preliminary energy assessments (PEAs), which details recommendations for cost-effective resource efficiency measures that could be implemented to reduce utility consumption or utility cost at your premise.



Visit [SECO website](#) for information on eligibility, PEAs request form, and process.



##### Free Signage for Alternative Fuel Vehicles Preferential Parking

If your business or location is interested in having Alternative Fuel Vehicle (AFV) Parking, DFWCC can provide you with free AFV Parking signage! Obtaining AFV Parking signage counts toward LEED certification, helps reduce pollution, and supports employees driving AFVs. To request free signs, contact DFWCC staff at [cleancities@nctcog.org](mailto:cleancities@nctcog.org) and visit the [DFWCC 'Green Parking' webpage](#) for more details.

## **Switching to Electric Vehicles Could Save the US Billions, but Timing Is Everything**

The world is currently facing many energy challenges due to a rapid demographic, economic, social, climatic, and technological changes. As part of a major energy infrastructure study, the Energy Institute at the University of Texas at Austin has sought to understand how an increase in electric vehicles might change how energy is supplied and consumed. So far, their study has shown that the impact of electric vehicles will depend on where you live and when the vehicles are charged.

See original article [here](#).

## **Energy Code Ambassador Program is Available to Help Local Governments with Energy**

[SPEER](#) has implemented the Energy Code Ambassadors Program (ECAP) in collaboration with the State Energy Conservation Office (SECO), and the Building Codes Assistance Project (BCAP). The program seeks to promote compliance with state energy codes through education, training, outreach, and peer support to code officials, builders, and contractors. Should your city need assistance with the adoption of the most current statewide energy code (2015) or the 2018 energy code, consider SPEER's Energy Code Ambassadors Program as a resource. Ambassadors in North Texas are available to help!

For more information on the Energy Code Ambassador Program, visit [SPEER website](#)

## **Renewable Energy at Local Level: Georgetown Won \$1 Million to Capture and Store Solar Energy**

The city of Georgetown is going one step farther to become energy-independent after winning a \$1 million grant from Bloomberg Philanthropies U.S. Mayors Challenge. City officials said they plan to lease rooftop space on homes to install solar panels as well as additional space to install storage batteries that will allow the city to collect and store solar-generated energy.

Read the full article [here](#).

## **Community Solar Design Models Research Report - Available Now from SEPA**

The Smart Electric Power Alliance (SEPA) published their top reports, blogs, and webinars of 2018. Among the top reports, we would like to highlight the [Community Solar Program Design Models](#) which provides essential facts and figures regarding generating capacity, subscription rates, and other performance metrics for the community solar market.

Find out more about SEPA publications [here](#).

## **Texas Bets \$1 Million for the Construction of a Large Battery Storage Project**

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has awarded a \$1 million grant to Luminant in order to build the state's largest electricity storage facility

located in Uptown County, West Texas. The grant is part of the Texas Emission Reduction Plan and will help make solar energy a more lucrative source of electricity in the state. The Upton 2 facility started generating energy in June, but the battery is expected to be installed before 2018 ends.

Read more about this project [here](#).

### **Request for Information: High- Priority Research Areas in Solar**

The Solar Energy Technologies Office (SETO) has issued a request for information (RFI) to gather insights about priority research and development needs across the solar industry. The goal of this RFI is to achieve a better understanding of the problems facing solar stakeholders including researchers, analysts, and manufacturers supporting the technological advancement and wide-scale adoption of solar technology.

The RFI covers four topic areas: Photovoltaics, system integration, concentrating solar-thermal power, and balance of systems soft cost reduction.

Read more [here](#).

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## **Upcoming Events**

### **Best Practices for Benchmarking your Building Webinar**

*January 30, 2019 at 1:00 PM Eastern Standard Time (New York, GMT -05:00)*

Whether you're new to benchmarking your energy use in Portfolio Manager or a seasoned user, join us to learn basic best practices and some lesser known methods to benchmark and obtain an accurate score. During this session, attendees will learn helpful tips to help avoid common benchmarking pitfalls that may delay the process of earning ENERGY STAR Certification.

Attend this webinar if you're interested in:

- Portfolio Manager
- Getting started with benchmarking
- Tips to increase your score

Webinar level: Beginner, intermediate, or advanced

[Register here](#)

### **2019 North Texas Climate Change Symposium**

*February 4, 2019 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM*

Please join us for the 2nd Annual North Texas Climate Change Symposium, hosted by the City of Dallas and the Dallas Bar Association Environmental Law Section. Learn how climate change is affecting Texans and how Climate Action Planning can address this concern. The symposium will feature a keynote address by Dr. Katharine Hayhoe, an international authority on climate change.

Location: Belo Mansion, 2101 Ross Avenue Dallas, TX 75201

[Register here](#)

## **ERCOT Market Summit**

*February 25-17, 2019*

The ERCOT Market Summit 2019 will provide Renewable Energy, Utility and IPP executives with the best information on how policy developments and changing market dynamics will drive opportunities and strategic decision-making going forward.

At the Summit, you will:

- Hear key policymakers' and market participants' perspectives on emerging issues in ERCOT, as well as potential changes in market rules and operations
- Get the latest from Co-Ops, Munis, and C&I customers on what is driving their energy procurement decisions
- Explore the impacts of the coming tremendous upsurge in solar capacity

[Register here](#)

## **SPEER's 2019 Clean Energy Exchange**

*April 8-9, 2019*

SPEER's annual conference is now known as the Clean Energy Exchange. This year's event is to be held from April 8-9, 2019. The Keynote Speakers for this year's Clean Energy Exchange are Katharine Hayhoe, Texas Tech University, and Jeff Buttler, Speaker and Author. Attendees have the opportunity to delve deeper into topics such as, utility programs, building energy codes, financing, efficiency in electric markets, demand response, and local government initiatives.

[Register here](#)

## **Save The Date: 2019 Renewable Energy Policy Forum - Solar & Storage Finance Investment: Texas**

*April 9-10, 2019 from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM*

[Register here](#)

## **Save The Date: Texas Energy Managers Association (TEMA) 2019 Conference**

*April 30 – May 2, 2019*

Location: Waco Convention Center

Conference Website: <https://www.texasema.org/conference.aspx>

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For questions or additional information on any of these items, please contact:

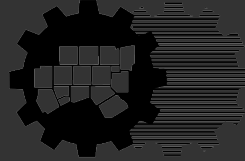
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View additional events and training  
opportunities at [www.nctcog.org/envir/events](http://www.nctcog.org/envir/events)



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