**C:\Users\User\Mahoney Legal Dropbox\campaign\_general (1)\.0001 The Economy Movement\.0001 The Economy Movement\000000,NeighborhoodStuff\More new comments.docx**

[**Greg Baker**](https://nextdoor.com/profile/121984/)Ridgetop • [1 day ago](https://nextdoor.com/p/kbFn8tS678fx?view=detail)

[**Texas government knew they weren't ready 10 years ago... and did nothing.**](https://nextdoor.com/p/kbFn8tS678fx?view=detail) 10 years ago, Texas had blackouts during a winter storm in February. "Texas experienced an arctic cold front that brought unusually cold temperatures and gusty winds to the entire state for two days. Due to an unfortunate combination of weather-related factors... ERCOT lost roughly one-third of its generation fleet... natural gas production dropped due to freeze-offs..." (p. 29) <https://www.puc.texas.gov/industry/electric/reports/energy_assurance/Energy_Assurance_Plan-Texas.pdf> Sound familiar? The outcome of that event created Senate Bill 1133, and amended Subchapter A, Chapter 186, Section 186.007 of the Utilities Code to give the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) the authority to: 1. analyze emergency operations plans, 2. review the emergency operations plans, 3. consider the anticipated weather patterns, 4. make recommendations, and (...wait for it...) 5. submit a report. <https://capitol.texas.gov/BillLookup/Text.aspx?LegSess=82R&Bill=SB1133> The PUC mission is to “protect customers, foster competition, and promote high quality infrastructure.” The PUC also held tabletop exercises and workshops in the aftermath! 25 pages of recommendations (not specific to Texas) from 2011 (starting p. 195) are an interesting read. <https://www.ferc.gov/sites/default/files/2020-04/08-16-11-report.pdf> I've learned more than I've ever wanted to know about power generation and cold weather preparations from the FERC report. Good reading on a cold, cold day. TLDR; This happened before. It could have been avoided. Elect officials that serve you, not industry. Hold them accountable.

[puc.texas.gov](https://flask.us.nextdoor.com/ct/nM41f3EyVw97KkyAB7KpI_31E9VsP1TFQjDpDp-oDrihwwFBvw6ubFc4aYMzqW6wZjeSOLAZZS89Kqis1ue_KQR0a7_HUCRofDDN1OYqR6Yb8BbJ0ljjQ7cmbEBewc5GiOxe-yUDEe6n40R40ohCnK-jYn2j86YeATzETp1MVow%3D%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

Posted in [**General**](https://nextdoor.com/general/) to **Anyone**







77 Neighbors

51 Comments

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[**Jennifer Barnett**](https://nextdoor.com/profile/57290415/)

 •

Hancock

Wow. This is a lot. Why can't they learn from their mistakes? I can't believe Austin doesn't even have the equivalent of small town snow services. Where are the snowplows and salt and sand trucks? It's really pathetic how they allow things be this crippled.

1 day ago

**Like**

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4



[**Cassandra Taylor**](https://nextdoor.com/profile/26745721/)

 •

Hyde Park North

Yes the national guard could have been plowing roads etc.

9 hr ago

**Like**

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1

See 7 more replies



[**Kathleen Ensey**](https://nextdoor.com/profile/32112886/)

 •

Cherrywood

Appreciate the historical perspective Greg. Having lived in D.C. and covered FERC for a while, I never thought I’d ever read a reference to FERC in Texas 😏

19 hr ago

**Like**

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4



[**Kathleen Ensey**](https://nextdoor.com/profile/32112886/)

 •

Cherrywood

Houston resident and editorial cartoonist Nick Anderson





  8 hr ago

**Like**

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9

See 1 more reply



[**Lindsey Jones**](https://nextdoor.com/profile/34543134/)

 •

Ridgetop

Don’t disagree with you at all, but let’s focus on that part once we’re through this. For now, let’s focus on taking care of ourselves and our neighbors. Plenty of time to rain hell later. Ya know?

18 hr ago

**Like**

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4



[**Tim Mahoney**](https://nextdoor.com/profile/4096497/)

 •

Ridgetop

In my neighborhood block, we're done on-going outreach to make sure that people who have had to go to other places (like motels) to protect their children and pets have their homes as best protected as is possible. In addition, we have also been monitoring individuals, including the elderly, who do not have the option of going to other places. This is beyond the Pale, and if we don't create alliances now for common cause, what is the point. Thanks Mr. Baker for your coherent research. The only real solution to this present situation is to build Trust between most of us, from one block to another. Make no mistake about this: our leaders have been willing to let many of us die in order to enhance the insanity that has hobbled Texas for at least the last 20 years, since Governor Perry started lying about many issues, including education. Hey, stay safe out there!

14 hr ago

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9



[**Thomas Miner**](https://nextdoor.com/profile/14320433/)

 •

Highland

Governor should have built a better power grid than a wall! What was Governor appointed PUC doing? Obviously no future planning for state and lining their pockets with our money. Energy Secretary Perry is missing.

8 hr ago

**Like**

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2



[**Wesley Barnett**](https://nextdoor.com/profile/19011074/)

 •

Hancock

Come on man, when I lived in Dallas, all major roadways were salted and sanded...it's a matter of lack of preparation.

6 hr ago

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2



[**Deanne Quarrie**](https://nextdoor.com/profile/6304614/)

 •

Coronado Hills

This is freak weather - never before seen here. How do you plan for that?

5 hr ago

**Like**

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See 2 previous replies



[**Laura Brown**](https://nextdoor.com/profile/1356762/)

 •

Windsor Park Southeast

Deanne, If you read the above post, it did happen before. In 2011. (And in 1989.) That’s what 1 entire report covers. <https://www.ferc.gov/sites/default/files/2020-04/08-16-11-report.pdf>(edited)

3h

**Like**

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3



[**Bobby Sledge**](https://nextdoor.com/profile/8975190/)

 •

North Loop

The lack of information is tricky and our public safety professionals should do a better job of prepping us with carefully-crafted advice such as bulletins (in addition to press conferences). For example, I don't think most people realize that if the Texas grid ever "trips off", a VERY real possibility, then we'll be without electricity and likely also see gas and water problems for many many days, some say weeks. I wonder how many days of fuel are ready for the backup generators of hospitals, law enforcement, etc.. Avoiding this blackout scenario is a primary goal of ERCOT. Who, by the way, is controlled by the PUC under the Governor & Legislature. <https://www.kxan.com/news/texas/ercot-controlled-outages-over-power-can-be-restored-across-texas/>

2 hr ago

**Like**

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[**MAVERICK SHAW**](https://nextdoor.com/profile/59613287/)

 •

Central East Austin

[**Tucker Bradley**](https://nextdoor.com/profile/6071437) Climate Variation/Pattern I accept; but I don’t buy Climate Change, the theory is unreliable. Moreover, climate change is an event that can NOT be predicted—because a new hypothesis must be tested each time a new observation/change is made. Climate variances can be observed frozen in the history of ice. This is a more dependable science.

1 hr ago

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3



[**MAVERICK SHAW**](https://nextdoor.com/profile/59613287/)

 •

Central East Austin

#carolinepadon has an odd sense of humor... but I guess any brand of humor is better than none.

1 hr ago

**Like**

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2



[**MAVERICK SHAW**](https://nextdoor.com/profile/59613287/)

 •

Central East Austin

Here—a colorful Petri dish of happy confetti. No cry.



48 min ago

**Like**

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[**Tucker Bradley**](https://nextdoor.com/profile/6071437/)

 •

North Loop

[**MAVERICK SHAW**](https://nextdoor.com/profile/59613287) There's no benefit in arguing over semantics when it's agreed science that global climate change is induced by humanity.

43 min ago

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3



[**Suzanne Barth**](https://nextdoor.com/profile/13291853/)

 •

Highland

[**Tucker Bradley**](https://nextdoor.com/profile/6071437) right you are! 😐

29 min ago

**Like**

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[**MAVERICK SHAW**](https://nextdoor.com/profile/59613287/)

 •

Central East Austin

[**Tucker Bradley**](https://nextdoor.com/profile/6071437) this isn’t a debate on linguistics. Climate Variation/Pattern is not to be confused for Climate Change—these are 2 different explanations. Pattern is predictable, as the name suggests. Change has less continuity; ergo is less predictable.

28 min ago

**Like**

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[**Suzanne Barth**](https://nextdoor.com/profile/13291853/)

 •

Highland

[**Bobby Sledge**](https://nextdoor.com/profile/8975190) I certainly didn’t know all these things about TX “Lone Grid”😮

25 min ago

**Like**

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[**MAVERICK SHAW**](https://nextdoor.com/profile/59613287/)

 •

Central East Austin

[**Tucker Bradley**](https://nextdoor.com/profile/6071437) I’ll put it another way. Climate Variation is a tested hypothesis, accepted as theory by a majority of expert climatologist. Climate Change is a tested hypothesis but not elevated to theory status. There isn’t enough static data to support the argument—independent variables keep changing.

16 min ago

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[**Tim Mahoney**](https://nextdoor.com/profile/4096497/)

 •

Ridgetop

Texas really hardly plans for anything that involves regular folks; it's a systematic political failure. El Paso left the State PUC monitored power grid 10 years ago (the last benchmark winter freeze was in 2011) because of the disarray of the Texas "go it alone" hierarchy, by which a relatively small group of investors control the plants that make up the power grid. El Paso had no problem with outages this past week.

4 hr ago

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10



[**Suzanne Barth**](https://nextdoor.com/profile/13291853/)

 •

Highland

I didn’t know about El Paso leaving the TX Grid. Wonder how prepared were El Paso folks? 😐

27 min ago

**Like**

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[**Greg Baker**](https://nextdoor.com/profile/121984/)

 •

Ridgetop

I respectfully disagree with "never before seen here". I started my reading at p. 169 of <https://www.ferc.gov/sites/default/files/2020-04/08-16-11-report.pdf> Summary: 1. The PUC staff investigated the cold weather event of 1989 and issued a report the following year that evaluated the causes of the generator outages and made recommendations. 2. The PUC staff investigated the cold weather event of 2011 and issued a report the following year that evaluated the causes of the generator outages and made recommendations. 3. The events are so similar the PUC chose to reproduce those recommendations verbatim (in conclusion, p. 176) Maybe things changed after the 2012 report, I don't know. But history tells us "Generators were not required to institute cold weather preparedness, and efforts in that regard lapsed with the passage of time." Fun Fact: While introducing the bill (SB 1133) State Senator Glenn Hegar stated: “What I don’t want, is another storm and another report someone puts on the shelf for 21 years and nobody looks at.”

4 hr ago

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6



[**Kathleen Ensey**](https://nextdoor.com/profile/32112886/)

 •

Cherrywood

Greg: KXAN reporter Jody Barr even provides a link to the FERC report in his story on the ERCOT Board members: <https://www.kxan.com/investigations/5-ercot-board-members-dont-live-in-texas-one-from-canada/>

3 hr ago

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[**Tim Mahoney**](https://nextdoor.com/profile/4096497/)

 •

Ridgetop

Texas Tribune breaks news that "Texas officials didn't heed warnings before winter storm power outages, experts say". See the story: <https://www.texastribune.org/2021/02/17/texas-power-grid-failures/>

4 hr ago

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5



[**David Chang**](https://nextdoor.com/profile/2071076/)

 •

Hyde Park North

Total dereliction of duty.

3 hr ago

**Like**

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[**Kathleen Ensey**](https://nextdoor.com/profile/32112886/)

 •

Cherrywood

One more from Houston resident & editorial cartoonist Nick Anderson: <https://nickanderson.substack.com/p/ercot>



3 hr ago

**Like**

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[**Bobby Sledge**](https://nextdoor.com/profile/8975190/)

 •

North Loop

Greg thanks for the good factual references. To others trying to fihure this out, I wouldn't be too quick to jump on the blame ERCOT bandwagon. In time I think we'll see ERCOT able to fully defend all of its decisions during this disaster and leading up to it, for years. The blame should go upward, to PUC, the Governor, and the State Legislature. Abbott has been trying to deflect blame to ERCOT but, in my opinion, he has already started to back off on the veracity of this blame trajectory as he sees that ERCOT is answering all questions honestly.

2 hr ago

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3



[**Efrain Luna**](https://nextdoor.com/profile/2504007/)

 •

Colony Park/Lakeside

Where are the Karens at? We need y’all to start calling

2 hr ago

**Like**

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5



[**Laura Brown**](https://nextdoor.com/profile/1356762/)

 •

Windsor Park Southeast

Haha Karens for a good cause!

49 min ago

**Like**

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1



[**Alexandria Anderson**](https://nextdoor.com/profile/6008823/)

 •

Givens Park

Yes HOLD ALL Of THEM ACCOUNTABLE from the Governor down to our City Council

2 hr ago

**Like**

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1



[**Jan Cronk**](https://nextdoor.com/profile/44683243/)

 •

Ridgetop

Since you like to read

2 hr ago

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[**Ruth Fischer**](https://nextdoor.com/profile/32846974/)

 •

Windsor Park Northeast

ERCOT answers to no one but their corporation, and we know how those act. Change, Resist.

2 hr ago

**Like**

Reply

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[**Bobby Sledge**](https://nextdoor.com/profile/8975190/)

 •

North Loop

I agree corporation is a dirty word. "A corporation is an organization authorized by the state to act as a single entity" or as I've heard say "is by definition in-business with the government", and in this case has even more governmental control than most. I'll be directing my resistance energy where it matters, at the source instead of the scapegoat.



1 hr ago

**Like**

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[**Suzanne Barth**](https://nextdoor.com/profile/13291853/)

 •

Highland

Yes this is so telling & so bad!!! 😡

1 hr ago

**Like**

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[**Suzanne Barth**](https://nextdoor.com/profile/13291853/)

 •

Highland

I had no idea that the rest of the contiguous US States share energy thru their “mutual” grids. Only TX goes it ALONE!! 😡😡

1 hr ago

**Like**

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1



[**Bobby Sledge**](https://nextdoor.com/profile/8975190/)

 •

North Loop

And to be clear, I'm pro-government; just not pro-THIS-Texas-government.

1 hr ago

**Like**

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2



[**Pam Knight**](https://nextdoor.com/profile/523399/)

 •

Rosedale

Abbot's first response was to blame the wind farms, i.e. green energy. Then ERCOT. He is the one to blame. He is in charge of the state and that includes emergency preparedness.

53 min ago

**Like**

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4



[**Paul Foucher**](https://nextdoor.com/profile/10043757/)

 •

Hyde Park Central

If someone consistently earns more than $500,000 a year, like Ercot CEO, why would they care about doing their job well and/or helping other Texans?

46 min ago

**Like**

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[**Tiffany Mags**](https://nextdoor.com/profile/2971116/)

 •

Mueller

I’m not sure I buy into the “they get paid too much, therefore wont do a good job” bit. Getting paid well usually corresponds to wanting to continue to do your job well. Obviously the individual leadership needs to change. Outsiders should not be on the board, period.

14 min ago

**Like**

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[**Greg Monroe**](https://nextdoor.com/profile/19524305/)

 •

Crestview

There was a time when I thought the prepers were a little nutty. Maybe not so much anymore!.

44 min ago

**Like**

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1



[**Suzanne Barth**](https://nextdoor.com/profile/13291853/)

 •

Highland

You prepare same as we do now for frequent MAJOR hurricanes. Climate is changing & mainly not for the good of humans; but it’s mainly human behavior that is changing climate 😮😐

22 min ago

**Like**

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