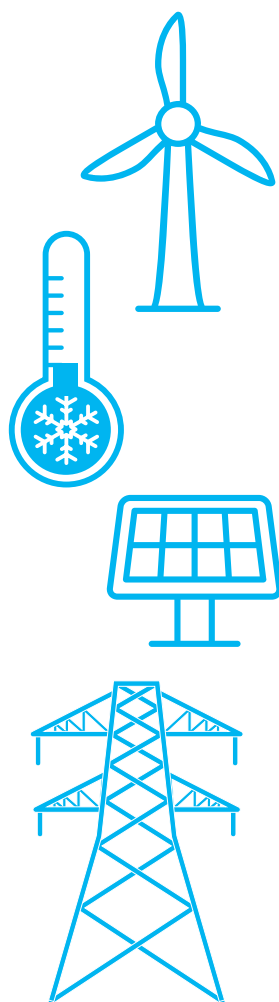


# Just the Texas Facts: The Truth about the February 2021 Texas Power Outages



**FACT: Frozen wind turbines did not cause the Texas power outages.**

Renewable failures were not the primary cause of the blackouts. Most of the power that went offline was powered by gas or coal.

**FACT: Texas was not prepared for a winter storm of this magnitude.**

ERCOT counts on thermal power plants for winter peaking capacity, not wind; in extreme weather events, ERCOT only counts on about 1.8 GW of wind. At one point, ERCOT noted that as much as 34,000 megawatts (MW) of capacity was unavailable, mostly thermal plants.

**FACT: Renewable energy failures were not the primary cause of the blackouts.**

Despite minor disruptions, wind and solar performed mainly within projections. Texas wind and solar performed within grid operator ERCOT's expectations. Thermal power plants failures (including coal and natural gas) were responsible for the overwhelming amount of power generation shortfalls

**FACT: Texas has an extreme weather problem, not a clean power problem.**

Texas energy infrastructure — including coal and gas — was never designed for such cold weather. Legacy infrastructure of the state has struggled much more with greater disruption than the new, clean energy additions of recent years.

**FACT: Grid upgrades and transmission expansion could have mitigated power losses in Texas.**

Making those investments should be priority #1 to keep the lights on in Texas and other states. There's nothing ideological about it; it's simply smart economics and common-sense energy security.

**FACT: Extreme weather is a challenge to every form of energy production.**

Every energy source—natural gas, coal, nuclear, wind—experienced challenges during the February 2021 extreme weather events in Texas. All energy industries and sectors must invest more resources into addressing what could become a “new normal” in the coming decade due to climate change.