



Power Outage Awareness

Safety and Energy Conservation Tips



Outline

- Power Outage and Safety
 - Preparedness Tips for Power Outages
 - Types and Causes
 - Recovering After an Outage
 - Downed Power Lines and Vehicles
 - PUCT's Grid Conditions
- Energy and Water Conservation Tips



Power Outage Safety

Preparedness Tips for Power Outages

Preparedness Tips

- Battery-operated flashlight(s)
- Battery-operated radio
- LED candles
- Extra batteries
- Ice for food
- One or more coolers
- Battery-operated Digital Quick-Response Thermometer
- Cell Phone(s)
- Charged Power Banks
- A Non-Cordless Telephone in Home
- If someone in your home is dependent on electric-powered, life-sustaining equipment, remember to include backup power in your evacuation plan

Other Tips

- Water – one gallon per person, per day
- Non-perishable food (e.g. can goods)
- Hand operated can opener
- First Aid Kit
- Medications
- Multi-purpose tool (e.g. Leatherman)
- Clothing and Blankets
- Sanitation and personal hygiene items
- Important documents (e.g. medical information, deed/lease to home, birth certificates, insurance policies)
- Emergency contact information
- Extra cash
- Baby supplies
- Pet supplies
- Keep your vehicle's gas tank full

Power Outage Safety

Types and Causes

- Types of Power Outages
 - Permanent Fault (line down)
 - Brownout (drop in voltage)
 - Blackout (total loss of power)
- Causes of Power Outages
 - Weather-Related
 - Lightning, Ice, Wind Storms, Snow Storms, Tornadoes, Hurricanes, Rain and Flooding
- Other Power Outage Causes
 - Planned Outages (Repair and Upgrade)
 - Power Sag or Surge
 - Vehicle and Construction Accidents
 - Human Error (Vandalism and Excavations of underground lines)
 - Animals (e.g. squirrels)

Power Outage Safety

Recovering After an Outage

- Avoid flooded areas and downed trees. Both may have downed power lines.
 - Call 9-1-1 immediately to report the location of a downed power line
- Unplug or turn off all appliances during an outage. This will help prevent power surge from damaging appliances.
- If using a generator, adhere to safety precautions (e.g. never use a portable generator indoors).
- Leave a single lamp on to alert you when power is restored.
- Check your circuit breakers and fuse boxes. This will help identify whether the problem is limited to your premise.
- Before entering a storm-damaged building, make sure electricity and gas are turned off.
- Report outages to your local power company
 - Austin Energy: www.austinenergy.com or call 512-322-9100
 - Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative: www.bluebonnetelectric.coop or call 800-949-4414
 - Pedernales Electric Cooperative: www.pec.coop or call 888-883-3379
 - Oncor: www.oncor.com or call 888-313-4747
- Once power is restored, avoid overloading by turning appliances back on in 15-minute intervals.

Power Outage Safety

Downed Power Lines and Vehicles

- If a power line falls on a vehicle, you should stay calm inside the vehicle. This is the safest place to stay. Warn people not to touch the vehicle or the line and to stay clear at least 30 feet. If you step out of the vehicle onto the ground, you become a conduit for electricity and could be injured or killed. Call or ask someone to call the local utility company and emergency services.
- The only circumstances in which you should consider leaving a vehicle that is in contact with a downed power line is if the vehicle catches on fire. Open the door. Don't step out of the vehicle. You may receive a shock. Instead, jump free of the vehicle so that your body clears the vehicle before touching the ground. Once you clear the vehicle, shuffle at least 50 feet away, which both feet on the ground.
- As in all power line related emergencies, call for help immediately by dialing 9-1-1 or call your electric utility company's Service Center/Dispatch Office.
- Don't try to help someone else from the vehicle while you are standing on the ground.



Sources: [osha.gov](https://www.osha.gov), [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)

Power Outage Safety

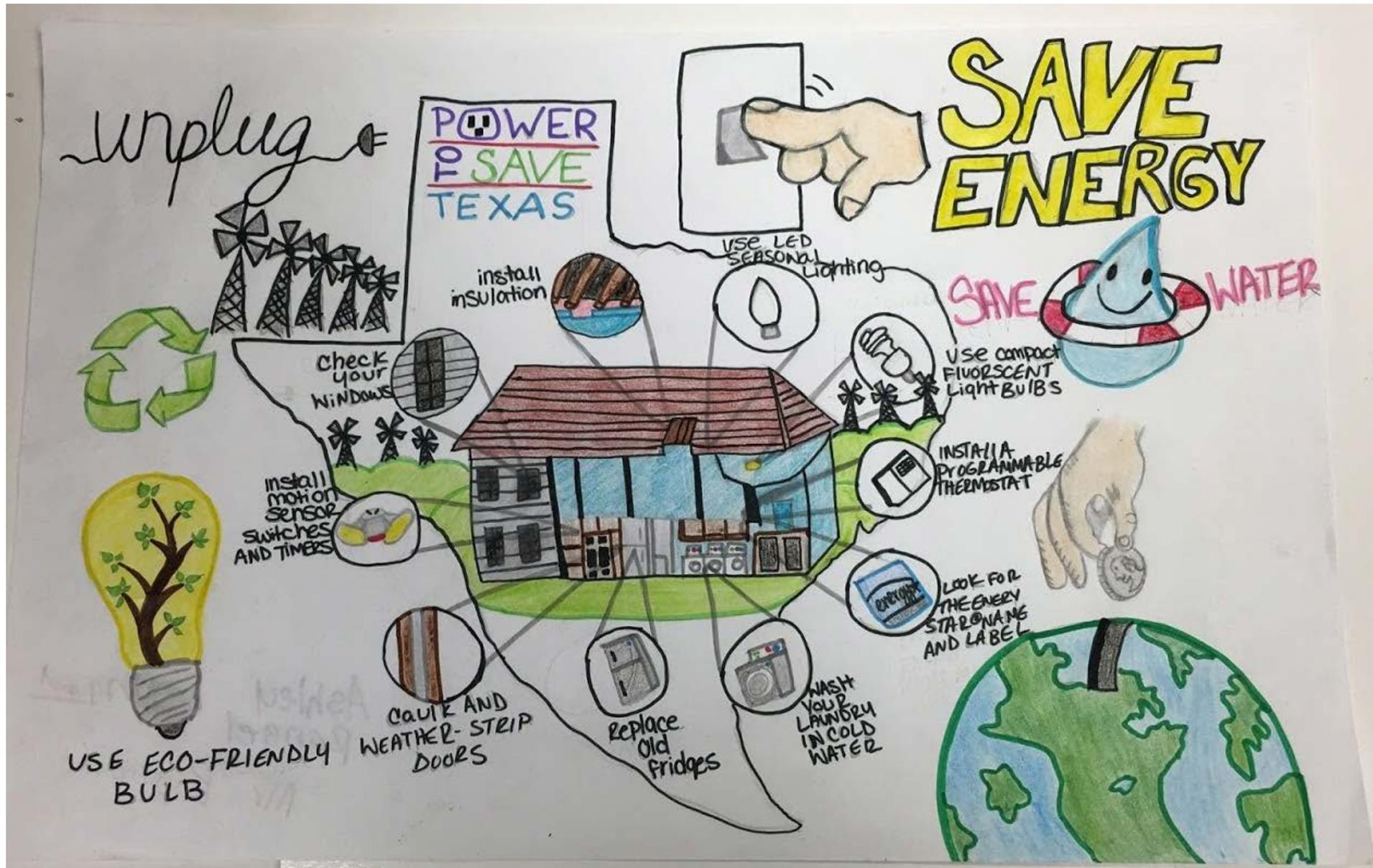
PUCT's Grid Conditions

- **NORMAL CONDITIONS**
 - Look for ways to use less energy, and save on your electricity bill.
- **CONSERVATION ALERT**
 - Reduce energy use between 3 and 7 p.m.
- **POWER WATCH**
 - Reduce energy use between 6 and 9 a.m. and 4 and 8 p.m.
- **POWER WARNING**
 - Conservation Critical. Use less energy right now.
- **POWER EMERGENCY**
 - Critical Conditions. Expect rotating, short-term outages to ensure the reliability of the grid.

Power Grid Status

Normal Conditions

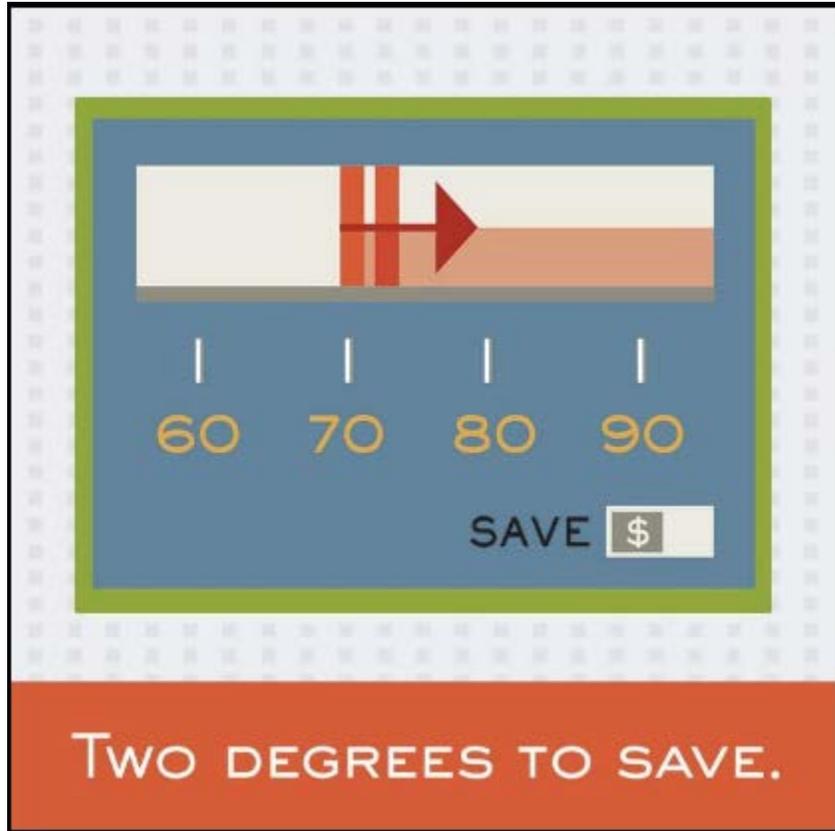
POWER2SAVE|TEXAS



1st Place Winner - Ashley R., White Middle School, Mission, TX

Energy Conservation Tips

3-7pm Peak Tips for Homes



- Set your AC 5° higher when you're gone more than 4 hours.
- Between 3 and 7 p.m., aim for 1-2° warmer than your final evening temperature. Try to keep it at 78° or higher.
- Use fans to stay 4-6 degrees cooler.
- Set the AC to cool down after 7 p.m.

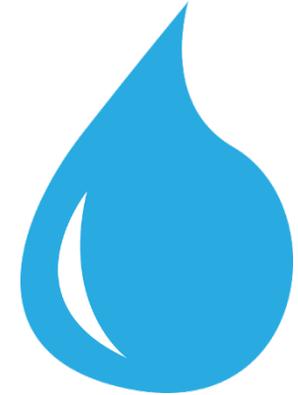
Energy Conservation Tips

3-7pm Peak Tips for Homes



- Run your washer, dryer, or dishwasher in the morning before you leave for work or wait until after 7 p.m.
- All electrical devices use some power when they're turned off but still plugged in.
- Turn off and unplug appliances and cable boxes when not in use.
- Unplug your phone charger and similar devices when charging is complete.
- Use a microwave, outdoor grill, or slow cooker. In the summer, your stove and oven heat up the house. This makes your AC work harder.
- Set your pool pump to run early in the morning or overnight.
- Replace incandescent light bulbs with energy efficient CFLs or LEDs.

Water Conservation Tips



- **BATHROOM**

- Take short showers instead of baths.
- When brushing your teeth, pour water in a cup to use for rinsing instead of letting the water run.
- Repair leaky toilets.
- Install a toilet dam, faucet aerators and low-flow showerheads.
- Throw used tissue into the wastepaper basket rather than the toilet.

- **KITCHEN AND LAUNDRY**

- Run the dishwasher only when you have a full load. The same is true for washing clothes in the washing machine.
- If you wash dishes by hand, don't leave the water running.
- When trying to get the faucet water warm or cold, catch the running water for plants or animals in or around the house.
- Keep a bottle of drinking water in the fridge; it will always be cold.
- Only use the garbage disposal when necessary (composting is a great alternative).

- **EVERYWHERE ELSE**

- Repair leaky faucets, indoors and out.
- Use a broom for sweeping the driveway or sidewalk, not water from the hose.
- Water shrubs and lawns early in the day when the air is still cool, and the wind is usually calm.
- When washing your vehicle, wet it quickly, then use a bucket of water to wash the car. Turn on the hose to final rinse.
- Collect rainfall for irrigation in a screened container.

Source: epa.gov, eartheasy.com

More Energy Conservation Tips

PowerToSaveTexas.org
Facebook: PowerToSaveTexas
Twitter: @PowertoSaveTX

