

BUILDING POWER TO WIN



Organizing
For
Climate Justice
&
Energy
Democracy



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Community Organizer

Director, Sierra Club Lone Star Chapter

Anti-racism, movement building, organizing for power

El Paso (Chuco) born, raised & trained

Father, partner, Chicano, cyclist, runner, hiker

@AustinByChuco

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Today we speak with you from Somi Se'k, the homeland of the Carrizo-Comecrudo tribal nation, as well as the occupied territory of Tonkawa and Comanche around Austin. No matter where in Texas you're joining from today, the land we meet is the traditional territory of a number of Indigenous peoples. Texas is and has been home to the Caddo, Comanche, Kiowa, Wichita, Chickasaw, Waco, Tonkawa, Lipan Apache, Texas Band of Yaqui, Coahuiltecan, Borrado and Carrizo Comecrudo. Throughout colonization, different native peoples were relocated to Texas, including the Alabama Coushatta, Kickapoo, and Tiguas of the Ysleta del sur Pueblo.

We acknowledge the violent and continuing legacy of colonization in Texas and call on all participants today to reach out to the Sierra Club Lone Star Chapter for more information on how to learn more about the history of native peoples in Texas, of systemic racism, and how your activism can help undo the impacts of white supremacy on the environmental movement.

TEXAS IS A SACRIFICE ZONE



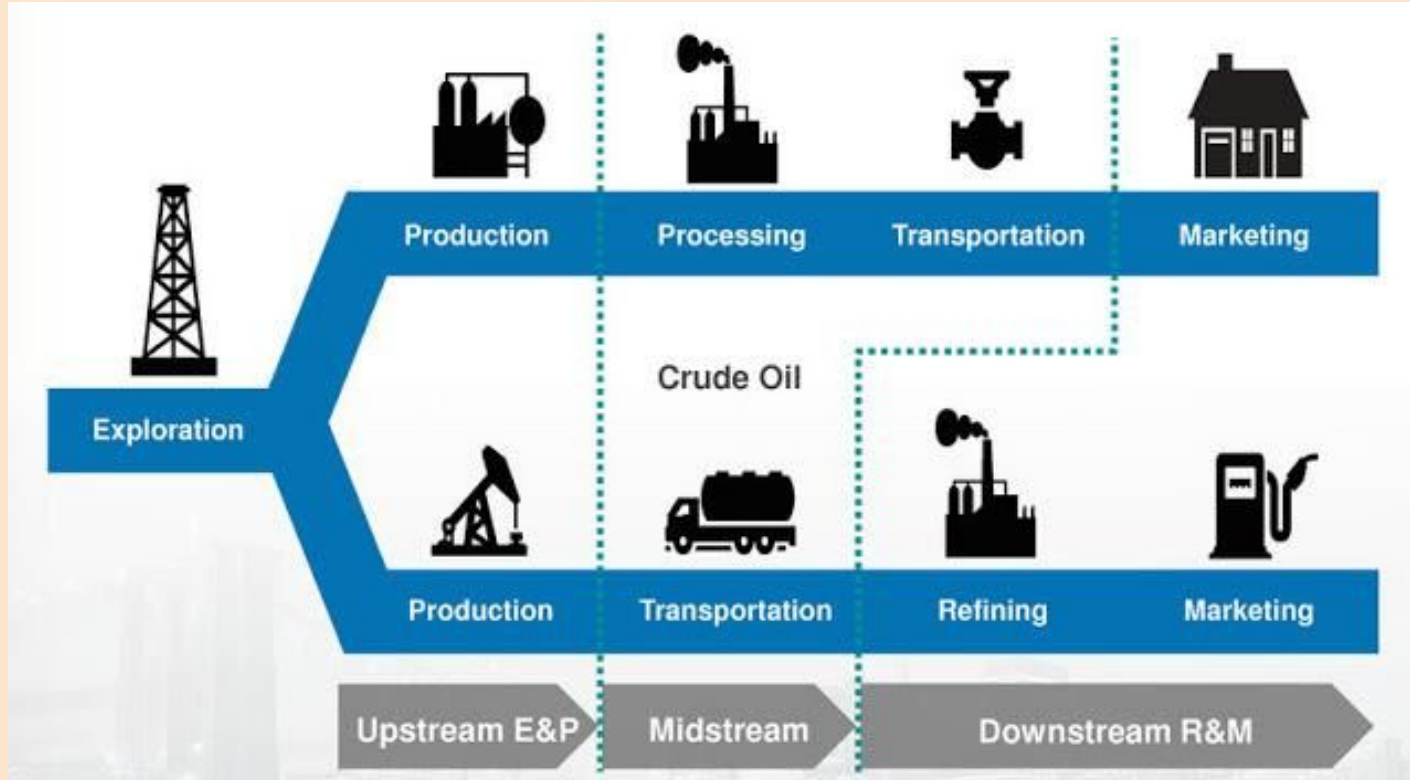
WHAT IS THE FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY?

The fossil fuel industry is dedicated to the extraction, transportation, refining and burning of fossil fuels - namely **oil**, **gas** and **coal**.



Derek Seidman, Oil & Gas Research Analyst
Public Accountability Initiative / LittleSis

OIL & GAS PRODUCTION CHAIN: UPSTREAM, MIDSTREAM, DOWNSTREAM



CANCER-CAUSING OIL REFINERIES IN TEXAS

Report: Six Texas oil refineries spewing cancer-causing pollutant above federal threshold

An environmental nonprofit has released an analysis of first-of-its-kind air monitoring data that shows benzene levels at 10 U.S. petroleum refineries exceeded limits established in an Obama-era environmental regulation. Six are in Texas.

BY KIAH COLLIER FEB. 6, 2020 12 AM



COPY LINK

REPUBLISH



“Emissions of the cancer-causing chemical **benzene** exceeded federal limits at 10 oil refineries across the U.S. last year...”

Six of these 10 were in Texas, clustered around **Houston** and **Corpus Christi**.

“Multiple studies have shown that long-term exposure to elevated levels of benzene can cause leukemia, which is a cancer affecting blood-forming tissues... Benzene can also cause poor red blood cell production and anemia, and can change blood levels of antibodies, which boosts risk of infection...”

EXTREME WEATHER + PETROCHEMICAL PLANTS = DANGER

'Your eyes start itching': pollution soars in Houston after chemical industry leaks

Communities face surging toxic fumes and possible water contamination, as refineries and plants report more than 2,700 tons of extra pollution



▲ Houston's petrochemical industry has leaked more than 2,700 tons of extra air pollution in connection with Hurricane Harvey. Photograph: David J. Phillip/AP

“Some 500 chemical plants, 10 refineries and more than 6,670 miles of intertwined oil, gas and chemical pipelines line the nation’s largest energy corridor.

Nearly half a billion gallons of industrial wastewater mixed with storm water surged out of just one chemical plant in Baytown, east of Houston on the upper shores of Galveston Bay.

CLIMATE CHANGE HAS A DISPROPORTIONATE IMPACT ON:

- Children
- The poor and working class
- Communities of color



BLACKOUTS AND WATER CRISIS



The Intercept_



DONATE

FOSSIL FUEL EXECUTIVES GLOAT ABOUT PROFITS, PR FROM TEXAS WINTER STORM CRISIS

Comstock Resources, a shale drilling company, apologized for describing gas prices from the Texas storm as a "jackpot."

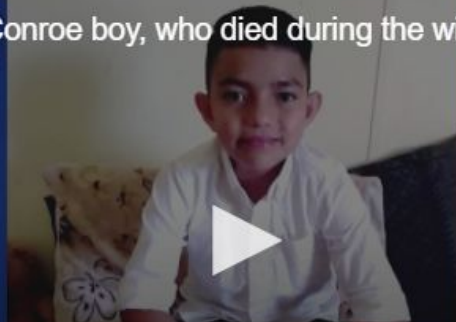
As much of Texas struggles with historic cold weather, power outages, and a shortage of potable water, volunteers direct traffic at a water distribution event in Houston on Feb. 28, 2021. Photo: Justin Sullivan/Getty Images

LOCAL NEWS

11-year-old Conroe boy, who died during the winter storm, remembered at memorial

Family, friends, and teachers gathered at The Woodlands Church to honor the life of Christian Pineda.

11-year-old Conroe boy, who died during the winter storm, r...



Fort Worth Star-Telegram

TEXAS

As Texans lost power in winter storm, oil and gas pollution increased across state

BY HALEY SAMSEL

MARCH 01, 2021 05:45 AM



WINTER STORM 2021

Winter storm could cost Texas more money than any disaster in state history

Lawmakers and analysts say it is too soon for an exact estimate, but the financial damage from the storm has left state lawmakers scrambling to account for the storm in the middle of the 2021 legislative session.

BY MITCHELL FERMAN FEB. 25, 2021 4 AM



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REPUBLISH

IN TEXAS, CLIMATE CHANGE COMPOUNDS LAYERS OF SYSTEMIC OPPRESSION



SACRIFICING INDIGENOUS RIGHTS & DESTROYING UN-INDUSTRIALIZED COASTLINE

Projects are largely for export

Massive buildouts in Rio Grande Valley
and Corpus Christi areas

Sacred sites & burial grounds threatened
by mining & pipelines

SpaceX, colonization, displacement



"The Esto'k Gna stay connected by knowing where our ancestors are buried.

We, the Esto'k Gna, stand against the LNG export terminals that would desecrate our burial sites and sacred lands. Stop the ethnic cleansing of the Esto'k Gna."

- *Juan Mancias, Carrizo Comecrudo Tribe of Texas*

**#BreakTheFrackingCycle
#StopRioGrandeLNG**

A photograph of the SpaceX Starliner spacecraft on a launch pad. The spacecraft is silver and cylindrical, with a conical nose and four legs. It is positioned on a concrete pad. In the background, there are some structures and a clear blue sky. The image is used as a background for a public comment campaign.

**SCAN TO SUBMIT A
PREWRITTEN PUBLIC
COMMENT**

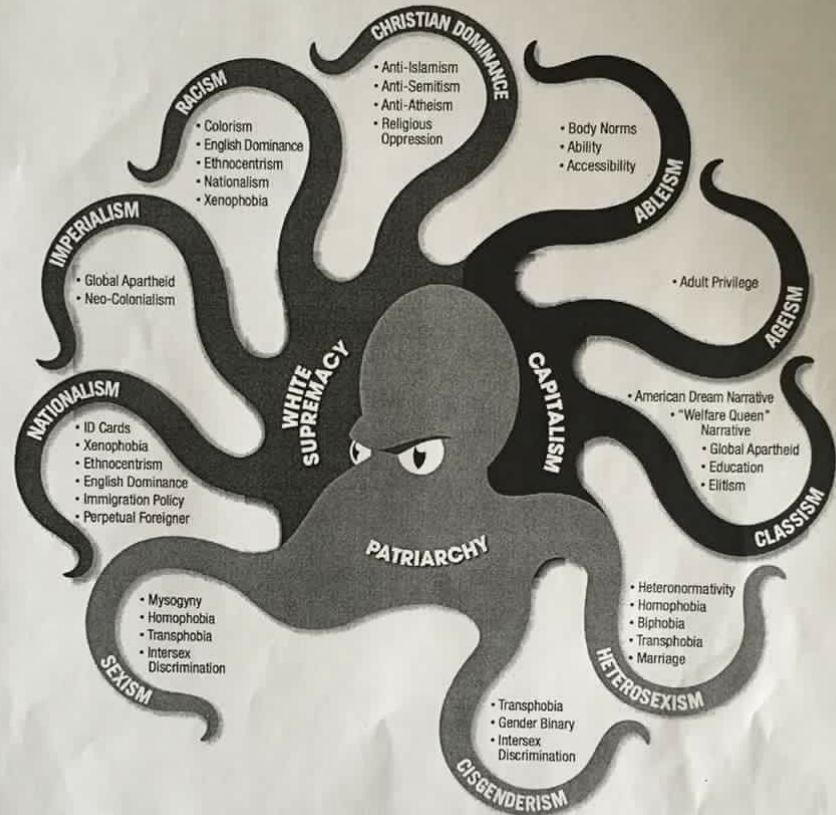


**Submit a written public comment to the FAA
saying you OPPOSE the approval of the
SpaceX Super Heavy Expansion Project!**

CONNECTING TO OPPRESSION TODAY

- Genocide
- For profit detention, impeding asylum seekers
- Housing Crisis
- Lives lost to COVID and other health issues
- Climate death
- White Supremacy
- Poverty
- Type into chat, What else???

Via dismantlingracism.org



Systems of
**Power &
Oppression**

ORGANIZE FOR POWER

"IN ORDER FOR US AS POOR AND OPPRESSED PEOPLE TO BECOME PART OF A SOCIETY THAT IS MEANINGFUL, THE SYSTEM UNDER WHICH WE NOW EXIST HAS TO BE RADICALLY CHANGED... IT MEANS FACING A SYSTEM THAT DOES NOT LEND ITSELF TO YOUR NEEDS AND DEVISING MEANS BY WHICH YOU CHANGE THAT SYSTEM."

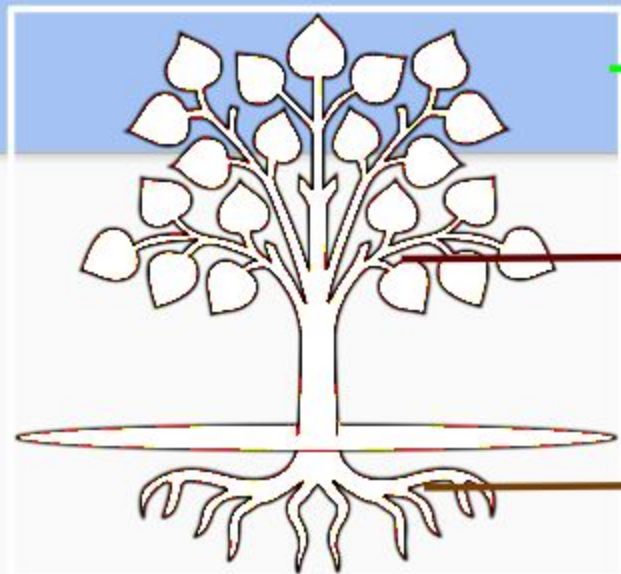
~ ELLA BAKER, CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT
COMMUNITY ORGANIZER



COMMUNITY ORGANIZING = 3 STRATEGIC ARCS:

- BUILDING POWER (4 STRATEGIES)
- POWER ANALYSIS (SEVERAL STRATEGIES)
- USING POWER (SEVERAL STRATEGIES)

Four Levels of Power - Getting to the Root Cause



Everyday Politics:
Advocating for individual redress

Winning Policies:
Protecting whole classes of beneficiaries

Structural Power:
Changing the playing field

Ethical and Epistemic Power:
Changing values, beliefs & narratives

BUILD THE BIGGER WE: BRIDGING MOVEMENT
ACROSS ECONOMIC SECTORS, ISSUES, AND GEOGRAPHY

In what ways have you broadened your organizing/advocacy to reach people outside of those who may be the easiest to persuade? For example: how do you speak with your neighbors, people in working class neighborhoods or multifamily housing, about buildings, urbanism, planning, etc?

There is no such thing as a single-issue struggle because we do not live single-issue lives.

Audre Lorde



JEMEZ PRINCIPLES

Be inclusive

Emphasis on bottom-up organizing

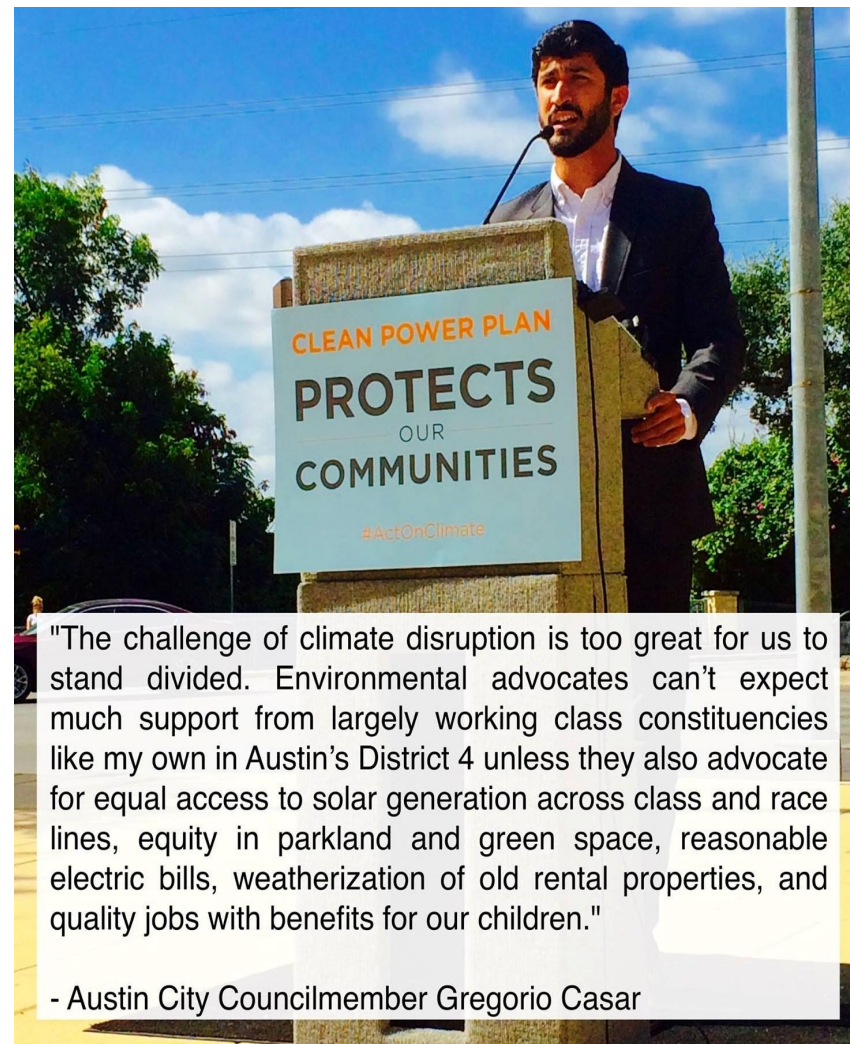
Let people speak for themselves

Work together in solidarity and mutuality

Build just relationships among ourselves

Commitment to self-transformation

CENTERING SOLUTIONS FOR THE WORKING CLASS & EQUITABLE, LOCAL CLEAN ENERGY



TOOLS FOR CULTIVATING WORKING CLASS SUPPORT



Community Power: Lowering electric bills and revitalizing our neighborhood

Austin Energy (512) 494-9400

Free home-energy improvements are offered by Austin Energy to low and moderate income customers. Available improvements for income-qualified customers include: attic insulation; ductwork sealing and/or repair; door weather stripping; solar screen installation; window replacements; carbon monoxide and smoke detectors; and minor plumbing improvements. Please call (512) 482-5346 for application questions.

The Budget Billing, or average program is open to all people in the service territory, regardless of how high or low their income is. It will level set the amount of someone's monthly utility bill, as it averages the bill out over a period of time. It will ensure customers do not have large fluctuations in their monthly energy expenses.

CAP Discounts

Customers on low fixed incomes who participate in certain state, federal, or local assistance programs may be eligible for electric, water and wastewater waivers and discounts. You may be eligible if you or someone in your household participates in one of these programs:

- Medicaid Program
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)
- Telephone Lifeline Program
- Travis County Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program (CEAP)
- Medical Access Program (MAP)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)



TEXAS CAMPAIGN
FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

105 W. Riverside
Suite 120
Austin, TX 78704
tel (512) 326-5655
fax (512) 326-5922

3303 Lee Parkway
Suite 402
Dallas, TX 75219
tel: (214) 599-7840
fax: (214) 599-7899

3100 Richmond
Suite 290
Houston, TX 77098
tel: (713) 337-4192
fax: (713) 337-4213

RECYCLE MORE, SAVE MORE!

Your trash and recycling bill can be higher or lower depending on how much you throw into the trash and how much you recycle. If you and your family recycle more you can get a smaller trash can, and the smaller your trashcan the lower your bill.

The Bigger the Cart, the Bigger the Bill

96 Gallon	\$41.85
64 Gallon	\$23.30
32 Gallon	\$18.15
24 Gallon	\$16.90



Recycle more and reduce your trash cart from 96 gallons to 64 gallons: save over \$222 a year.

Make sure to always recycle...

- **Metals**—aluminum and steel cans and lids, clean aluminum foil rolled into a ball. NO wire hangers please.
- **Plastics**—all plastic items and containers regardless of the number on it, clean, but NO bags or plastic film.*** 20
- **Paper and cardboard**—needs to be clean and dry please (that means no pizza boxes). Boxes too big for your can? You can set them next to the recycling cart and they'll still be recycled!
- **Glass**—no lightbulbs please.

***Good news: you can take your plastic bags and plastic film (like shrink wrap) to the recycling containers outside of HER.

If you aren't filling up your trashcan call 311 and ask for a smaller container—they will replace it right away for free! Your bill should shrink the next month. If you have too much recycling, make sure you aren't accidentally putting any trash in there and ask for an extra recycling container, also for free. Remember also that large boxes and other bulky recyclables can be set next to the can and they will still be recycled.

DEMAND EQUITABLE & LOCAL CLIMATE JUSTICE POLICY

Austin Energy's New Low-Income Solar Deal

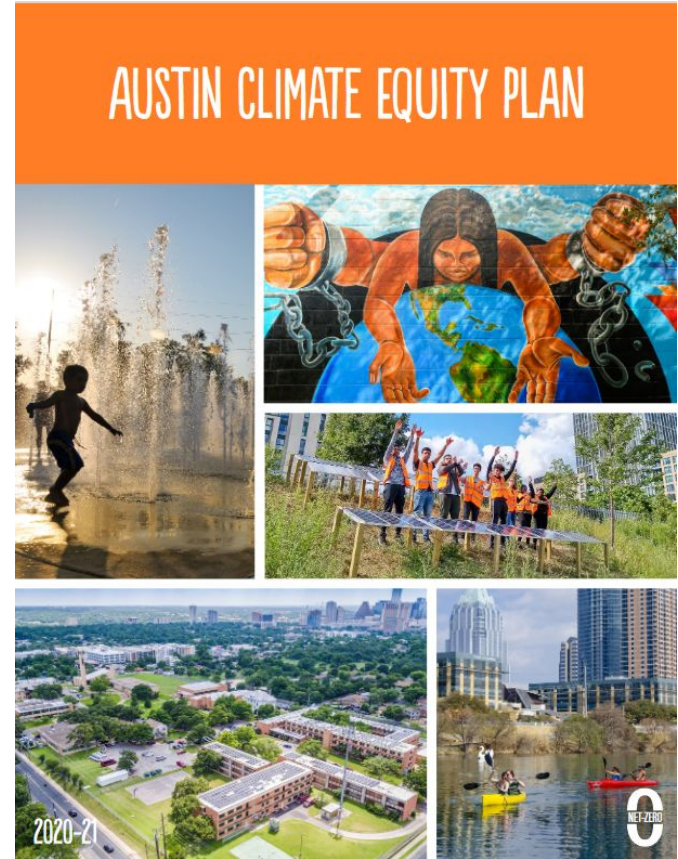
Utility wants to enact a heavily reduced rate for those enrolled in its customer assistance program

BY JOSEPH CATERINE, FRI., DEC. 1, 2017

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Springdale-Airport Neighborhood Association President Peter Rivera at La Loma Community Solar Farm (Photo by John Anderson)



PLUG INTO CLIMATE JUSTICE FIGHTS IN TEXAS

El Paso - Frontera Water Protectors and Sunrise El Paso. Environmental racism, gentrification, Green New Deal.

North Texas - Peoples Climate Movement, Southern Sector Rising, Downwinders At Risk, Sunrise. Energy democracy work and fighting racist zoning that places polluting industry in communities of color.

Central Texas - Austin Sierra Club, ATX4Climate Coalition, CENT

San Antonio - Climate Action San Antonio, Society of Native Nations, Southwest Workers Union.

Houston - HOME Coalition, West Street Recovery, t.e.j.a.s (Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Service), CEER.

West Texas - Odessa NAACP, Sierra Club.

Rio Grande Valley - Another Gulf is Possible, Carrizo Comecrudo Tribal Nation, Voces Unidas