

Renewable Energy & Winter Performance



Following the winter freeze of 2021, the Texas Legislature adopted mandatory weatherization standards for generation and transmission facilities to better withstand cold temperatures and enhance grid reliability. Generators, including renewable facilities, prepare and demonstrate readiness for sub-freezing conditions each year and cooperate with ERCOT's Weatherization and Inspection program, participating annually in all summer and winter readiness and preparedness initiatives. APA members take these obligations seriously and share the goal of lawmakers and regulators to improve performance during extreme weather events.

During recent events, such as **Winter Storm Fern**, the Texas grid remained strong through freezing temperatures, thanks in part to improved winter readiness, contributions from renewable energy generation and added energy storage capacity.



Winter Storm Fern

January's winter storm brought extreme cold to over two-thirds of the country, and a recent analysis reveals **regions with a robust mix of energy resources—including wind, solar, and storage—benefitted from more reliable, cheaper power.** Meanwhile, regions with a lower share of clean energy generation *paid over twice as much* for electricity as fuel costs surged.

ERCOT was among the top two regions nationally that performed best and kept electricity costs low—well under half those seen in other regions, thanks to a diverse energy portfolio. In fact, **Texans saved over \$200 million as ERCOT relied on wind, solar, and storage for 25% of its electricity.**

While Texas experienced intense demand, brought on by snow and ice accumulating across the state, **ERCOT reserves remained well above 10,000 MW throughout the entire event.**

Peak Storm Activity & Renewable Energy Performance

January 23 - 26, 2026

Saturday & Sunday

Wind generation significantly outperforms forecasts over the weekend and exceeds forecasts in all but four hours of the 72-hour storm period

Sunday evening

Thanks in part to low-cost renewables and storage, the **maximum real-time price is less than half of what had been anticipated**, with an even more pronounced reduction when averaged over the full storm period

Monday morning

At the most critical hour of the storm, when reserves were lowest, **energy storage meets nearly 10% of total system demand**

Monday afternoon

Solar provides nearly 40% of ERCOT's demand at one point, supplying needed reliability



Winter Storm Fern is proof that **weatherization investments and a diverse energy portfolio don't just work in theory; they kept the lights on and saved Texas consumers hundreds of millions of dollars** when it mattered most.