IOGCC Chair's Stewardship Awards Submission

Energy Education Category

Energy Education for Every Texan: A Transparent, Engaged Approach to Public Understanding

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Energy Education for Every Texan: A Transparent, Engaged Approach to Public Understanding

The Railroad Commission of Texas is committed to making complex energy topics understandable for all Texans. As the state's oil and natural gas regulator, the RRC delivers clear, plain-language education that highlights how energy is produced, transported, regulated safely and how it impacts the economy and everyday life. This initiative expands public access to reliable information through modern communication tools, community engagement and direct dialogue with agency experts.

Energy Education

This award is presented to a group or an organization that has created a program to educate the public about oil and natural gas and the hundreds of way it affects the lives of Americans each day.

Project Narrative

Education is one of the Railroad Commission of Texas' most important responsibilities. As the state's oil and natural gas regulator, the Commission helps Texans understand how energy is produced, transported and regulated safely. In recent years, the RRC has expanded that mission through a comprehensive, multi-platform public education strategy that makes complex energy topics accessible, transparent and relevant to everyday Texans. By replacing one-way government communication with ongoing conversations, the RRC ensures every Texan can understand how energy affects daily life.

A significant step in that effort was the creation of the Office of Public Engagement (OPE) in 2023. Established to strengthen communication between the agency and the public, the OPE serves as Texans' central point of contact for questions about the Commission's jurisdiction, safety regulations and regulatory processes. By connecting the public with subject-matter experts and delivering clear, plain-language information, the office empowers Texans to understand oil and natural gas operations, environmental protections and the Commission's role in safeguarding communities. The OPE has become the foundation of the RRC's modern people-centered approach to educating the public.

Building on that foundation, the Commission introduced remote Listening Sessions in 2025 to make educational opportunities available regardless of geographic location. These virtual conversations connect community members, industry stakeholders and agency experts to discuss issues affecting Texans while providing an open forum for questions and discussion. More than 150 Texans participated in the first four sessions, underscoring the strong interest in accessible, interactive learning. By eliminating travel barriers and

fostering direct dialogue with experts, the sessions have expanded opportunities for public participation while increasing understanding of the Commission's work and the industry as a whole.

The Commission has embraced digital platforms to meet audiences where they already consume information. In June 2025, the RRC launched *Texas Energy on Track*, the agency's official podcast, transforming complex energy issues into clear, engaging conversations about how oil and natural gas affect everyday life. In just 23 episodes, the podcast generated more than 6,800 downloads from listeners in 43 states and 49 countries. Available on YouTube, Apple Podcasts and Spotify, the program features agency experts discussing topics such as well plugging, produced water, pipeline safety and critical infrastructure in a conversational, easy-to-understand format. By translating complex regulatory issues into accessible dialogue, the podcast has expanded the Commission's educational reach far beyond traditional outreach and positioned the RRC as a leader in energy literacy.

The RRC has strengthened public understanding by creating educational resources that simplify technical information into concise, accessible materials. A growing library of one-page briefs explains how energy is produced, transported and regulated in Texas while also addressing emerging topics such as hydrogen development and public safety initiatives like the STOPTheft campaign. These materials are distributed at outreach events, shared with policymakers and international delegations and made available online for educators, industry partners and the public. To further expand its reach, the Commission publishes *RRC Energy News*, a monthly online publication that delivers industry updates in a clear, plain-language format, making complex issues accessible to a broad audience.

Recognizing that journalists serve as a vital bridge between government agencies and the public, the Commission has also invested in educational partnerships with the media. In 2025, the RRC hosted hands-on media days in Luling and Midland, giving reporters the opportunity to observe orphan well-plugging operations and engage directly with field experts. The agency also conducted deskside briefings with news organizations across Texas to explain agency responsibilities, online resources and regulatory processes. These educational initiatives equipped reporters with deeper knowledge of the Commission's work, improving both the accuracy and clarity of information shared with Texans.

While digital communication has expanded the Commission's reach, face-to-face engagement remains a cornerstone of its educational strategy. During fiscal year 2025, the Office of Public Engagement visited 36 cities and participated in 50 outreach events, connecting with more than 21,000 Texans. These engagements included presentations to local officials, landowner meetings, schools and universities, industry conferences and

community events. By meeting people where they are and creating opportunities for direct conversation with agency experts, the Commission helps Texans better understand energy development, environmental protections and public safety while building lasting trust through open communication.

The Commission's commitment to education, and to educating all people about the impact of oil and natural gas on the economy and everyday life, extends beyond Texas. International delegations regularly visit the RRC to learn about the state's regulatory framework, well-plugging programs, pipeline safety initiatives and responsible energy development practices. These exchanges allow the Commission to share practical knowledge and demonstrate how transparent regulation supports both environmental stewardship and economic growth. By opening its doors to global partners, the RRC positions Texas as a model for effective, community-centered energy education and transparent regulation worldwide.

Together, these initiatives form a unified education strategy centered on accessibility, transparency and public engagement. Whether through virtual conversations, podcasts, educational publications, media partnerships or community outreach, the Railroad Commission of Texas is making complex energy topics easier to understand for audiences of all backgrounds. By delivering reliable, factual information through multiple channels, the Commission is strengthening energy literacy, encouraging informed public dialogue, and building trust with the communities it serves, reflecting its commitment to helping all people understand how oil and natural gas shape the economy and everyday life.

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ENERGY EDUCATION FOR EVERY TEXAN:

A TRANSPARENT, ENGAGED APPROACH TO PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING

The Railroad Commission of Texas provides clear, accessible education to help Texans understand how oil and natural gas are produced, transported and safely regulated. Through statewide outreach, digital communication and direct engagement with subject matter experts, the Commission delivers reliable, plain language information that strengthens energy literacy and builds public trust. This people centered approach ensures every Texan can confidently understand how energy shapes their daily life.



Office Of Public Engagement and Statewide Outreach

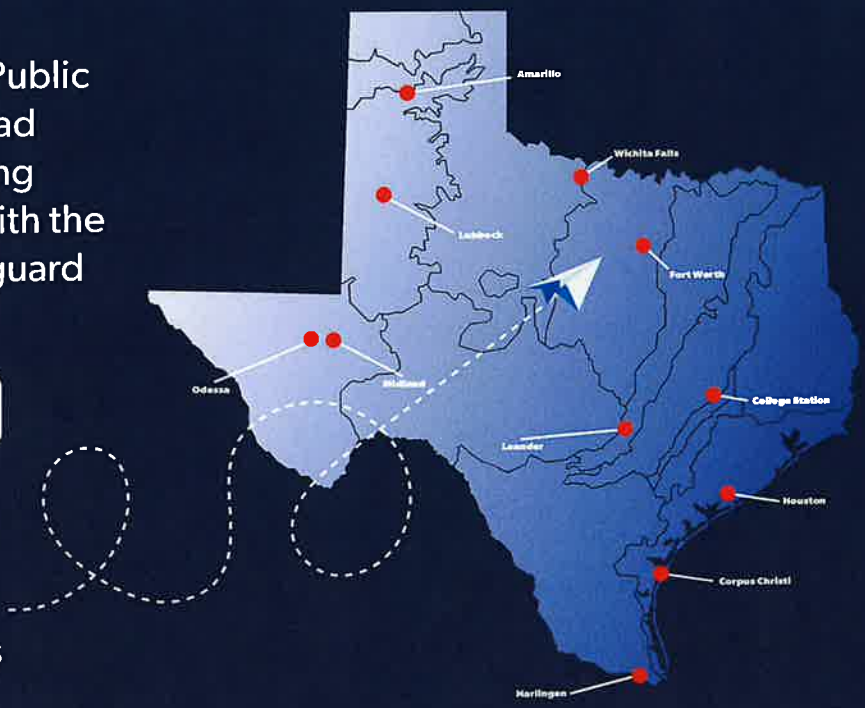
ABOUT:

Created in 2023, the Office of Public Engagement (OPE) is the Railroad Commission's hub for connecting communities across the state with the experts who regulate and safeguard energy in Texas.

KEY STATISTICS:

In Fiscal Year 2025:

- 36 cities visited
- 50 outreach events
- Engaged with 21,000 Texans



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Listening Sessions

Launched in 2024, the Railroad Commission's remote Listening Sessions make energy education accessible statewide. These virtual conversations remove geographic barriers and connect Texans directly with subject matter experts, turning complex regulatory issues into clear, plain language learning. Each session expands opportunities for dialogue and strengthens public understanding of how energy is safely regulated in Texas.



KEY STATISTICS:

- Hosted 4 in fiscal year 2026
- Over 150 participants
- Up to 10 subject-matter experts at each session

TEXAS

ENERGY ON TRACK

AN RRC PODCAST

Listen on Apple Music

Listen on Spotify



Launched in 2025, the Railroad Commission's *Texas Energy on Track* podcast transforms complex energy issues into straightforward, engaging conversations. Featuring agency experts, the program makes regulatory topics approachable and relevant to everyday life, extending energy education far beyond traditional outreach and reaching audiences across Texas and around the world.



KEY STATISTICS:

- Launched in 2025
- Over 23 Episodes
- Over 6,800 downloads
- Reaching 43 states
- Reaching 49 foreign countries (not including the U.S.)



Educational Publications & Resources

The Railroad Commission of Texas creates publications that turn complex energy topics into clear, accessible learning tools. From one page briefs to monthly newsletters, these resources provide reliable information to help Texans deepen their understanding of the state's energy landscape.

KEY STATISTICS:

- Briefs
  - Covering how energy is produced, transported and regulated
  - Covering emerging topics
- Monthly newsletters delivering RRC updates













Educational Media Initiatives

The Railroad Commission of Texas works with media outlets to expand public understanding of energy regulation. Through briefings, interviews and educational campaigns, the Commission equips journalists with clear, reliable information that helps translate complex energy issues for the public. These initiatives ensure accurate reporting and strengthen the media's role as a trusted channel for energy education across the state.







International Delegations

The Railroad Commission of Texas welcomes international delegations to share best practices and strengthen global energy understanding. These visits provide opportunities for dialogue with agency experts, highlight Texas' leadership in safe energy regulation and expand educational exchange across borders. By engaging directly with international partners, the Commission builds trust and fosters collaboration that extends the reach of energy education worldwide.

KEY STATISTICS:

- Hosted at the RRC
  - European Parliament's Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE)
  - AmCham Argentina
  - Canadian dignitaries including, Canadian Conservative Leader, Pierre Poilievre
- Attended speaking engagements at
  - Global Energy Show Canada
  - Third Bilateral Energy Summit hosted by AmCham Argentina
  - US Trade and Development Agency, with other foreign delegations
- Met with
  - Australian oil and gas regulatory officials
  - Mexican government officials

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From public engagement and listening sessions to podcasts, publications, media outreach, and international delegations, the Railroad Commission of Texas has built a comprehensive education strategy that reaches communities statewide and audiences worldwide.

Together, these initiatives create a unified impact: Texans gain the knowledge to engage confidently in energy regulation, communities are empowered through learning, and global partners recognize Texas' leadership in advancing energy education.

By delivering reliable, factual information through multiple channels, the Commission is strengthening energy literacy and building trust with the communities it serves — ensuring education remains at the core of its mission and impact.