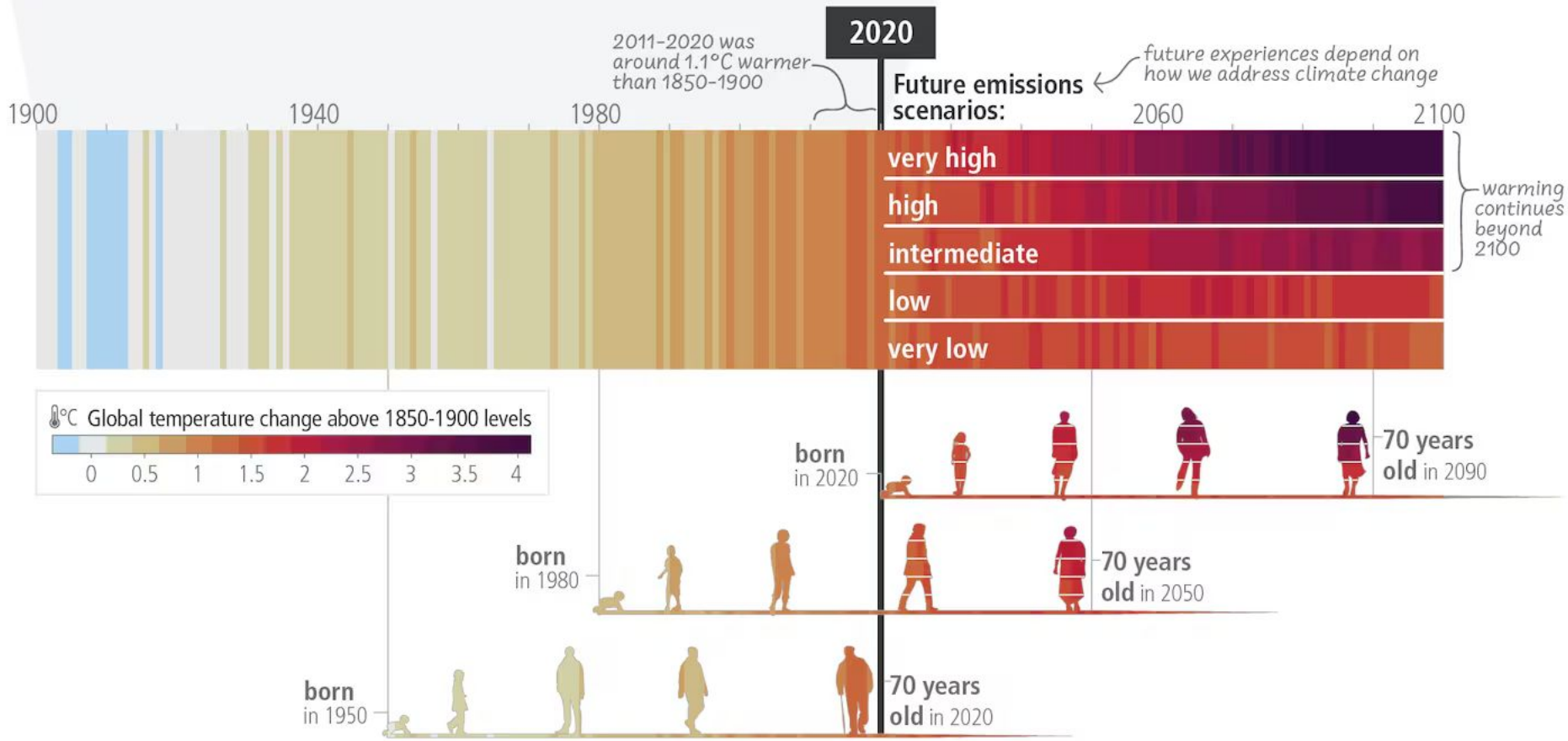


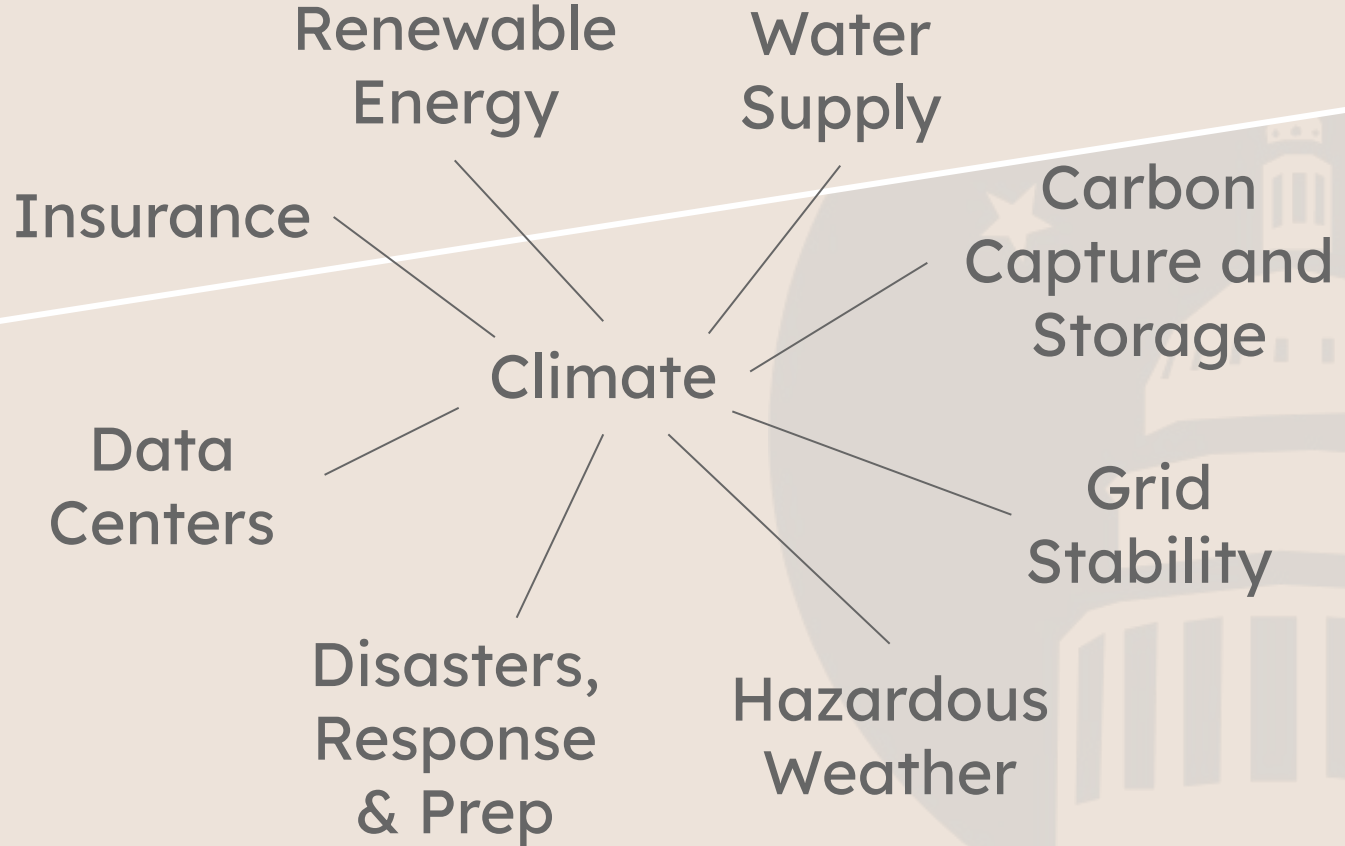
Electrons and the Environment

Rev. Dr. Becca Edwards
Climate Policy Manager



★ **TEXAS IMPACT**
PEOPLE OF FAITH WORKING FOR JUSTICE





Inside Climate News

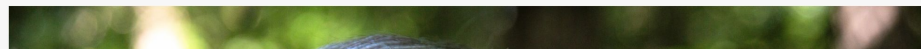
Pulitzer Prize-winning, nonpartisan report
biggest crisis facing our planet.

Justice & Health

Texas' Refusal to Plan for Climate Change Created a Crisis in Corpus Christi

Stubbornly unrealistic assessments of the region's reservoir system turned this year's drought conditions into an emergency.


 By Dylan Baddour ✕
 June 25, 2026



TEXAS NEWS

Texas ranks 5th highest for home insurance rates, surging 56% since 2020

Think your Texas home insurance bill is out of control? You aren't alone. Premiums in the Lone Star State are nearly 66% above the national average.



Extreme heat, drought conditions add strain on East Texas livestock



Agricultural experts say prolonged heat is stressing livestock and pastures, forcing ranchers to monitor water and feed supplies.

Author: chrisby
 Published: 9:48 AM CDT July 30, 2026
 Updated: 9:48 AM CDT July 30, 2026

Inside Climate News

An Old Well Gushed Waste, Not Oil, in a Small West Texas Town

The Railroad Commission of Texas shut down injection wells to control a leak in a church parking lot. But 1.5 million gallons of toxic wastewater still spilled to the surface.


 By Martha Pakowski ✕
 June 11, 2026

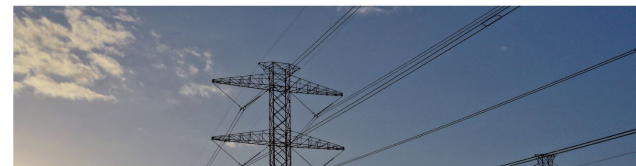


POLITICO

Mo' power (for Texas data centers), mo' problems

By SHELBY WEBB | 07/31/2026 04:59 PM EDT

Presented by  American Petroleum Institute



Where do we begin?

- Data Centers
- Disasters and Hazardous Weather
- Climate Mitigation
(Renewables, Methane, Carbon Capture and Storage, and More)



Data Centers



Data Centers

So what is the problem?

There are likely already data centers in your community.

People have concerns about the scale and the number of new data centers in Texas:

- Very large size
- Land use questions
- Energy and water use
- Noise
- Sales tax exemptions
- Lack of corporate transparency

Data Centers

What policy questions exist on the topic of data centers?

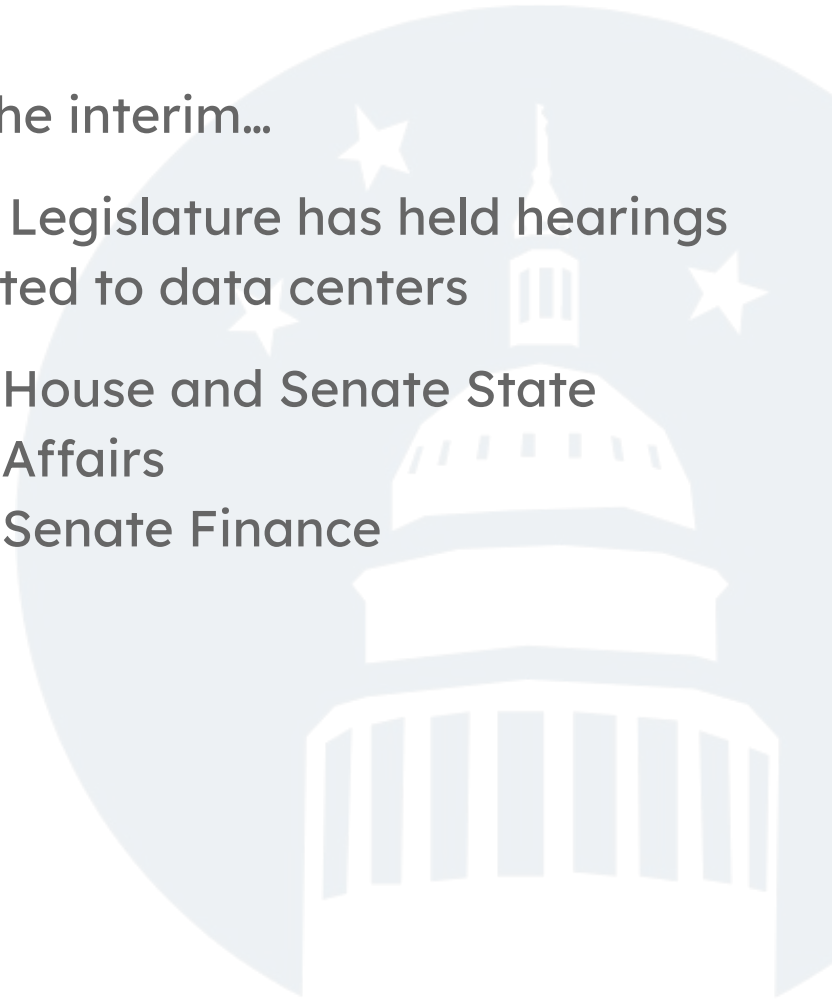
- Who should pay for additional infrastructure?
- How can we limit water use?
- How can we ensure stability of the electrical grid?
- Can communities limit where or how data centers can be built?
- Should data centers be given a sales tax exemption?

Data Centers

In the interim...

The Legislature has held hearings related to data centers

- House and Senate State Affairs
- Senate Finance



Data Centers

In the interim...

The Legislature has heard testimony about...

- Water and energy use
- Transmission (including a proposed 765 kV transmission line)
- PUC and ERCOT batch process
- Sales tax exemption

Data Center Policy Recommendations

1. Eliminate the sales tax exemption
 2. Mandatory reporting requirements
 3. Requiring use of non-potable water
 4. Establishing fees on data centers that are assessed proportional to the industry's impact on local and state water, energy, air, land, and other resources
 5. Requiring Energy Star certified servers
 6. Establishing noise limits
 7. Strong air quality standards
 8. Stronger county land use authority
 9. Minimum setbacks
- 

Disasters and Hazardous Weather



Climate Change Impacts

Hotter Temperatures

More Severe Storms

Increased Drought

Extreme Precipitation

Warming/Rising Oceans

Melting of land-based glaciers/ice sheets

Enhanced warming in the Arctic



Climate Change Impacts

Hotter Temperatures

More Severe Storms

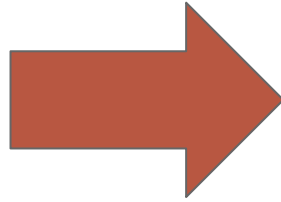
Increased Drought

Extreme Precipitation

Warming/Rising Oceans

Melting of land-based glaciers/ice sheets

Enhanced warming in the Arctic



More intense/frequent wildfires

Crop failure

Coastal erosion/land loss

Flooding

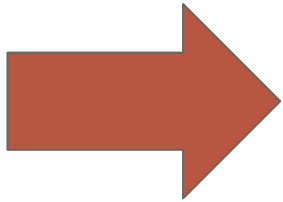
Increase in impactful weather

Changes in ocean currents

Changes in atmospheric circulation

Warmer nighttime temperatures

Climate Change Impacts



Food Insecurity

Water Insecurity

Economic Insecurity

Infrastructure Damage

Strain on Electrical Grid

Increased Immigration

Expansion of vector-borne
diseases

Insurance Collapse

Public Health Impacts

Ecosystem Changes

Deforestation

Political Instability

Loss of low-lying islands

Coastal retreat

Harm to agriculture and fisheries

Disasters and Hazardous Weather Policy Recommendations

1. Coordinated statewide approach to improving hazard resilience at multiple scales (homeowner to community)
 - a. Infrastructure
 - b. Building improvements
 - c. Land use
 - d. Education
 2. Coordination between state and local disaster response and relief agencies and faith-based disaster organizations
 3. Standardized training for emergency management staff
 4. Inclusion of climate projections in statewide flood planning
- 

Resources: Changing by Choice

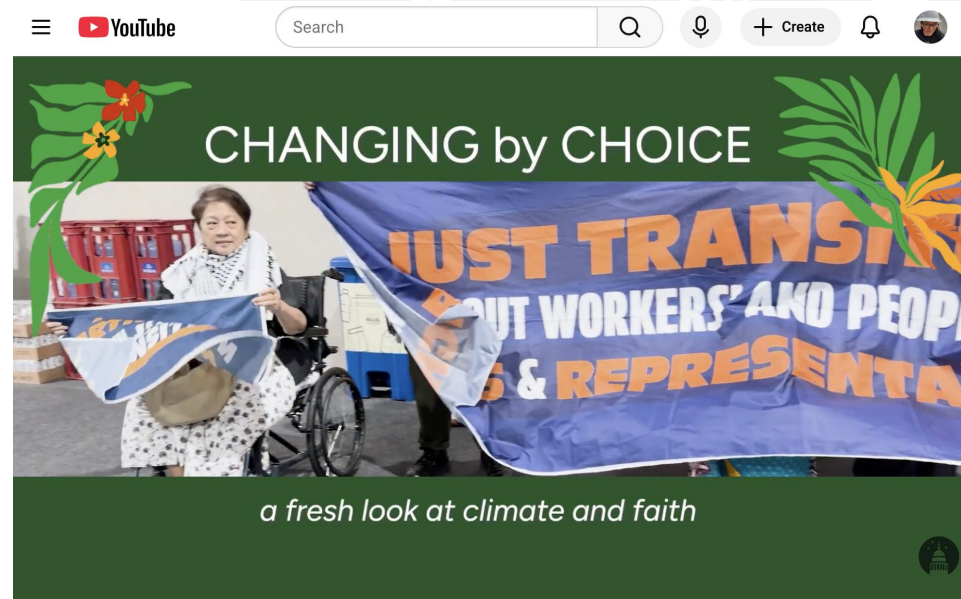
Five week study for small groups

Based on the “Global Ethical Stocktake”

Features climate and faith leaders working at COP30 in Brazil

Videos and study guide

Available for free on Texas Impact Website



Climate Mitigation (Renewables, Methane, Carbon Capture and Storage, and More)



Methane

Methane is a potent greenhouse gas that traps much more heat per molecule than CO₂

Good news: methane has a shorter residence time in the atmosphere!

That means if we cut emissions of methane, we can have a big impact on global warming

Stopping flaring and leaks during oil and gas operations is one way to stop methane emissions

Carbon Capture and Storage

Carbon capture and storage refers to the practice of trapping carbon dioxide from the atmosphere (or smokestacks), then storing it, often in underground geologic formations.

It sounds like a climate solution, but it has many limitations:

- Energy
- Scale
- Potential for accidents

Climate Mitigation Policy Recommendations

1. Oppose burdensome limits on renewable energy and battery storage
2. Support incentives for energy efficiency improvements (in homes and other buildings)
3. Support rules which allow use of plug-in solar
4. Support enactment of strong state methane standards
5. Support efforts to plug inactive and orphan wells
6. Clarify relationship between Texas Railroad Commission and TCEQ, especially regarding oversight of air emissions

Climate Justice



Thank You!

Changing by Choice



Rev. Dr. Becca Edwards
becca@texasimpact.org

Join the Climate
Action Team!

