



## **Public Utility Commission of Texas**

*1701 N. Congress, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, TX 78711-3326 Fax 512-936-7003*

**News Release**  
August 13, 2019

Contact: Andrew Barlow [512-936-7048]

### **Public Utility Commission Urges Electricity Conservation**

**Austin, TX** – The Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) urges Texans to conserve electricity this afternoon as record electricity demand meets higher than normal temperatures.

“When the energy demands of our state’s steadily growing population and booming economy intersect with hot summer temperatures, the supply of power can get a little tight, so we’re calling on Texans to help moderate demand for electricity with a few simple choices during the late afternoon hours this week,” said DeAnn Walker, Chairman of the Public Utility Commission of Texas.

The PUC advises residential and business customers alike to reduce their electricity usage with simple adjustments like bumping air conditioning thermostats up at least two degrees and turning off unnecessary lighting. Customers are also asked to wait until after sunset to run dishwashing and laundry appliances.

As temperatures peak in the late afternoon, air conditioning use typically follows suit, causing demand to surge between 3p.m. and 7 p.m. With National Weather Service heat advisories predicting temperatures above 100 degrees for most areas of the state, Texans are advised to purposefully reduce consumption.

For customers in the state’s competitive areas interested in keeping tabs on the ERCOT grid, an app is available on the Apple Store or Google Play). They can also check the color-coded “Electric Grid Status” section on the right hand side of the PUC’s homepage.

The PUC also maintains a friendly source of low-cost conservation tips and other energy efficiency-related home improvements at [www.PowerToSaveTexas.org](http://www.PowerToSaveTexas.org). Customers interested in comparing plans to other marketplace options can visit [www.powertochoose.org](http://www.powertochoose.org). Changing providers will not affect electric service reliability, the frequency or duration of outages, or the time it will take to have your electric service restored if an outage occurs.

###

#### **About the Public Utility Commission**

Our mission is to serve Texans by regulating the state’s electric, telecommunication, and water and sewer utilities, implementing respective legislation, and offering customer assistance in resolving consumer complaints. Since its founding in 1975, the Commission has a long and proud history of service to Texas, protecting customers, fostering competition, and promoting high quality infrastructure. To learn more, please visit <http://www.puc.texas.gov>.