

October 7, 2023, Climate Solutions Symposium: Texas, the Energy Capital of the Planet, Can and Should Lead



University of Houston Student Center Theater

We are pleased to announce the 2nd ECH Climate Solutions Symposium. The first was held virtually on [August 22, 2020](#).

This half-day hybrid symposium (in-person and live-streamed) will be held at the University of Houston Student Center Theater at 1-4pm on Saturday, October 7, 2023, followed by a Meet-and-Greet in the Student Center Ballroom from 4:00-5:30pm.

Registration: \$10 to attend, in-person or via livestreaming. Students register free.

The symposium will feature three important climate solution initiatives, the [Sustainable Energy Corps](#), Let's Make Texas More Reliable and Cleaner (3 speakers), and [Global Solutions and Outreach Programs](#).



Sustainable Energy Corps (SEC)

[Montgomery \(Monty\) Alger](#), PhD Chemical Engineering

Monty was the 2020 President of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers. He is a professor at Penn State University.

The U.S. Gulf Coast must lead in the U.S. transition to carbon-neutral energy, as industry along the Gulf Coast is such a dominant factor in ensuring a reliable energy supply for the United States. SEC will work to maximize engagement to accomplish this transition.



Improved Texas Grid Reliability through Natural Gas Microgrids

[Joel Yu](#), MBA, BS Chemical Engineering

Vice President, Policy, [Enchanted Rock LLC](#)

Joel is a seasoned energy policy leader, engaged in advocacy at the state and federal levels promoting policies that improve air emissions, enhance grid resilience, and level the playing field for distributed energy resources and microgrids.



Solutions for moving ERCOT off fossil fuel dependency while improving reliability and keeping energy costs low

[Eugene \(Gene\) Preston](#), PhD Electrical Engineering

Gene is an expert in transmission, distribution, and reliability of electric grids. He spoke at the first ECH Climate Solutions Symposium in 2020 on [Electrification of Transportation](#), [Max Renewables while Maintaining Reliability](#), [Max Renewables using Nuclear and Storage](#).

Gene will present a proposal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from ERCOT electricity generation while maintaining grid reliability.



Nuclear in Support of Industrial Applications and Grid Reliability

[Caleb Tomlin](#), MS Systems Engineering

Senior Technical Leader, [Electric Power Research Institute](#)

Mr. Tomlin's research focuses on the integration of nuclear with hydrogen production, chemical processing, manufacturing, and the support of a flexible electric grid. In addition to his work with EPRI, he supports programs within the International Atomic Energy Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy, looking to utilize nuclear in new and novel cases.



Global Solutions and Outreach Programs (GSOP)

[Richard \(Dick\) Hutchinson](#), PhD Chemical Engineering

In the 1990s, Dick led a U.S. Army project to figure out how the United States could best protect itself against biological and chemical terrorism. That three-year project required almost 300 full-time professionals and employed a technique now known as the Wicked Problem Approach (WPA).

In 2019, Dick's book [People's Assessment of Global Warming](#) described the use of the Wicked Problem Approach to figure out the best action plans nationally, regionally, and globally to resolve global warming.



Symposium Chair

[Thomas E. \(Tom\) Rehm](#), PhD Chemical Engineering

Tom admits to being unconcerned about the effects of global warming until 2017. "Having come to his senses," he has dedicated his life to figuring out what to do about it. Tom is involved in several climate solution initiatives, three with the AIChE ([The Climate Solutions Community](#), [Sustainable Energy Corps](#), and Climate Solutions Policy Initiative); [Global Solutions and Outreach Programs](#); Let's Make Texas More Reliable and Cleaner; and [The Foundation for Climate Restoration](#). Tom is the ECH Climate Solutions Liaison.

ECH symposiums are priced at \$10 for in-person or live-streaming attendance. Student registration is free.



2023 Symposium