



# Texas tough we won't back down on facing the worst polluters

## Exposing the false promise of fracking and energy independence

The U.S. has largely achieved this goal – our country now exports more fossil fuels than it imports. As wind, solar and other clean energy sources are rapidly expanding – and are actually now cheaper than fossil fuel power plants – oil and gas companies are facing the prospect of a long-term decline in domestic demand. But instead of accepting this transition and investing in a renewable energy future, the industry wants to keep its profits flowing by building bigger, more polluting export and petrochemical facilities all along the Gulf Coast. They ultimately want to increase overall oil and gas exports by 600% while doubling wasteful plastics production! In reality, it never was about energy independence, it was about exploiting Texas' natural resources to make money for executives and shareholders.

## Exposing fossil fuel profiteers and urging accountability for the winter storm

Unfortunately, our state officials are often too cozy with the fossil fuel companies perpetrating this attack on Texas communities. Last year's Winter Storm Uri exposed these corrupting connections: while we were left freezing in the dark because fossil fuel power failed, the gas industry was price gouging – with the blessing of state regulators. In one week, a handful of corporations made more than \$11 billion during the grid failure. One company, Energy Transfer, made a windfall profit of \$2.4 billion. A few months later, Governor Abbott accepted a \$1 million campaign donation from Kelcy Warren, Energy Transfer's CEO.

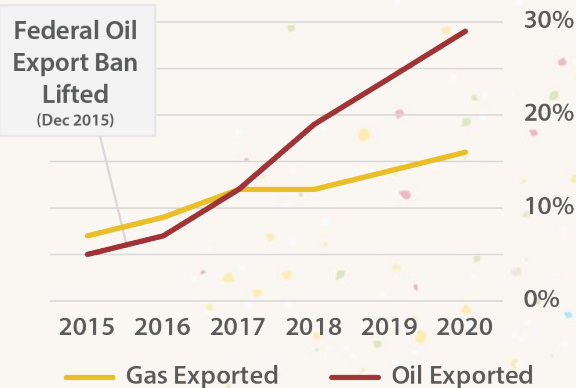
While he was bilking Texans out of billions and making political contributions, Warren was simultaneously planning to build a new pipeline through Sabine Lake as part of a risky project called Blue Marlin, a massive offshore crude oil export facility out in the Gulf. Just down the coast in Brazoria County, Enterprise Products, which pocketed \$250 million during Uri, is partnering with Enbridge, the company responsible for the worst onshore oil spill in U.S. history, on a similar crude oil export project. Starting to see a pattern here?

## Standing up for Texans

TCE is working with frontline leaders and allies from around the country to build resistance and resilience, fending off the dirty export projects proposed in many cases by the very same companies that profiteered – or totally failed us – during the winter storm. We are building public pressure on state officials to move toward a truly sustainable energy future and to refuse big fossil fuel campaign contributions. Protecting Texas resources today means securing prosperity for tomorrow. With your support, we're fighting to bring Power to the People across Texas.

*Outside the Capitol, TCE and allies devised a prop powerline strung with paper icicles printed with thousands of petition signatures from Texans demanding that the Public Utilities Commission fix our power grid and prevent another blackout disaster like last February's storm.*

## U.S. Oil & Gas Exports



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration & Rystad Energy



# from our executive director

My late mother-in-law Valda lost both of her parents in the influenza pandemic in 1918 and she grew up in the Waco Methodist orphanage. What seemed like an unimaginable loss in a distant time became all too real again with the Covid-19 pandemic having profound impacts on Texans today. Last year's winter storm and climate pollution have made our shared struggles that much more challenging.

Despite all the obstacles, we have continued to build power across the state over the past year. For instance, in the Coastal Bend, there are four proposed desalination plants that would pollute the Corpus Christi Bay system with millions of gallons of super-salty wastewater on a daily basis. These plants are intended to provide fresh water for new petrochemical and fossil fuel facilities that would add even more pollution if built.

We are working with many partners fighting these desalination and petrochemical plants. Dozens of people speak against them at public meetings. The local scientific community has new research detailing the dangers posed to the bay's delicate ecosystem.

So far all of the permits for the plants are moving slowly, and none have been granted. Because of the public outcry, the EPA is stepping in and will require much stricter scrutiny of these desal plants—and serious consideration of safer alternatives. That's a potential game changer!

Meanwhile, we learn lessons and rebuild from these tough times. Valda went on to raise her family in Corpus Christi. My spouse grew up in a house across the street from the bay where they spent weekends fishing. Across generations, Texans feel a strong connection to our coast. Its natural wonders renew and inspire us when the fight feels long and tiring. It's a treasure we want to protect for residents and visitors alike.

We rarely know going into a big fight, how our wins will come about. We've learned that strategic organizing and persistence is how we have a shot at prevailing in these David vs. Goliath campaigns. Your continued involvement makes our victories possible! Thank you!



Robin Schneider  
TCE Executive Director

## meet the staff



Learn more about our work  
and how you can help by  
joining us virtually for our

**Annual Meeting**  
Wed. April 6, 7-8PM

Register online:

[texasenvironment.org/annual-meeting](https://texasenvironment.org/annual-meeting)  
or call 512-326-5655

**Look at our cute mugs! As always, our dedicated staff have been honing their craft, connecting with folks across the state on urgent environmental issues in their communities. Helping us do the work, canvass directors and staff have been sharing resources on grassroots organizing and effective communication. We especially love adrienne maree brown's "cooperative species" analogy – that to build strong community we should take as our examples the plants and creatures that thrive in difficult environments because of their interdependence. This has been a standout year for deepening our relationships and learning together.**

# fighting alongside communities to Save Texas

We know that burning fossil fuels is accelerating natural catastrophes all around the world, from devastating floods and wildfires to historic droughts. And cruelly, the victims of these disasters in Texas are very often the same coastal communities also under siege by the fossil fuel industry's polluting pipelines and processing facilities.

That's why from Port Arthur to Brazoria County to Corpus Christi to Brownsville, hundreds of local activists are pushing back, fighting to protect the health, safety and future of their communities. But with the fossil fuel industry's vast resources and cadre of well-compensated cronies in high places, these courageous Texans can't do it alone.

To help, in 2022 TCE will be launching a new statewide public education campaign to put proposed Gulf Coast fossil fuel export projects – and the companies and executives behind them – in the spotlight. The Save Texas campaign will share the facts about fossil fuel exports, including how they are driving up Texans' energy bills, encourage support for frontline activists, and deliver a message to fossil fuel profiteers – we see what you're doing, and we're not going to let you get away with it.

Nothing less than the future of our coast, our state, and our planet is at stake. Together we'll Save Texas and say hell no to fossil fuel exports.



Learn more at  
**SaveTexas.com**

## getting fossil fuel money out of Texas politics

It's long been said in Texas politics that "you dance with the one who brung you." For far too long, Texas politicians have depended on contributions from fossil fuel companies to mount campaigns for public office. Is it any wonder that the state has extremely lax measures to curb pollution, and fossil fuel companies faced virtually no accountability when the energy grid failed?

TCE and allies have been urging all candidates for public office – from the local level to statewide and Congressional offices – to sign the No Fossil Fuel Money Pledge. By signing this pledge, candidates are committing to taking no major political donations (over \$200) from any fossil fuel executive, lobbyist, or political action committee (PAC).



Over 3,000 politicians all over the country — and at all levels of government — have signed the pledge. You can see which Texas candidates have signed on at [NoFossilFuelMoney.org](https://NoFossilFuelMoney.org).

Contact candidates running in your area and urge them to sign the No Fossil Fuel Money Pledge at [bit.ly/NoFossilFuelMoneyTX](https://bit.ly/NoFossilFuelMoneyTX). We want to see Texans vote as if our future depends on it... because it does.



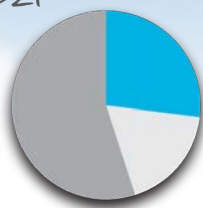
# financials

As you might imagine, 2021 was another difficult year for our brand of face-to-face canvassing and fundraising. Each time it appeared safe enough to resume full-time canvassing, another pandemic wave would dash our hopes. This presented huge challenges for effective grassroots organizing—and also for our budget. But just as always, our steadfast members and supporters (Texans like you) came through in a big way to keep us going strong! We also received project-specific contributions last year that will boost our campaigns this year. Of course, your voice is still critical to our success. We hope you'll consider using the enclosed envelope to renew your contribution today. We appreciate your continued support!

where we got our funding in 2021

revenue total: **\$684,917**

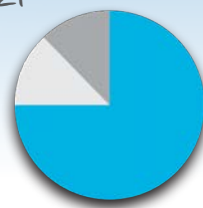
- 27% grassroots contributions from individual Texans
- 18% major gifts & events
- 55% projects funding



how we used our funding in 2021

expense total: **\$211,120**

- 75% environmental advocacy, community organizing & public education
- 13% managing TCE
- 12% fundraising to sustain TCE



source: TCE financial statement, 2021



**TEXAS CAMPAIGN  
FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**

3903 S. Congress Ave. • P.O. Box 42278  
Austin, TX 78704

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
US POSTAGE PAID  
AUSTIN, TX  
PERMIT NO. 2703



This year TMC took a walk on the wild side! Special highlights included our Rock 'N Roll Hall of Famer and Austinite host, Kathy Valentine, and Grammy-Nominated Musician with a Message, SaulPaul - who thrilled us with a live, improvised song. Most of all, we are so grateful that our fabulous supporters were able to join us to celebrate TCE's "Dirty Thirty" - thirty years of fighting (dirty) pollution!

Designer Megan Pinto won First Place and People's Choice for the second year in a row! Her design is inspired by the Red Lechwe, an antelope found in South Central Africa.