

A WORKSHOP FOR TEXAS COMMUNITY DECISION-MAKERS

Large-Load Development in Texas: Basics and Beyond

December 10–11, 2026 · Bureau of Economic Geology, The University of Texas at Austin

WHAT	A two-day workshop on large-load and data center development in Texas: the power, water, economic, and land-use systems behind it, and how to use public data to answer questions locally.
WHEN	Thursday, December 10 and Friday, December 11, 2026
WHERE	Bureau of Economic Geology, J.J. Pickle Research Campus, Austin, TX
WHO	Texas elected officials, city and county staff, economic development and chamber professionals, water and utility staff, and community leaders.
COST	\$150 per person
YOU LEAVE WITH	Day 1: A working grasp of how these projects arrive and how power, water, land use, and local economics interact. Day 2: Launch of COMPASS GIS Portal and Community Dashboard, a sourced one-page memo on a real decision facing your community, and an optional tour of the Texas Advanced Computing Center (TACC).

INTEREST FORM

Invitation only. Space is limited to 65 attendees.

Please [fill out the interest form](#) and we will send the registration link.

Or scan the QR code.



TENTATIVE SPEAKERS

Rep. Drew Darby, Texas House of Representatives

Rep. Erin Zwiener, Texas House of Representatives

Dr. Lorena Moscardelli, Director, Bureau of Economic Geology

Phillip Marangella, EdgeConneX

Evan Pierce, New Era Energy & Digital

Aparajita Datta, University of Houston

Prof. Vaibhav Bahadur, UT Austin

Phillip Sandino, TRACT

Denitza Arguirova, Crusoe

Michael Obradovitch, Ecolab

Kasey Faust, UT Austin Civil Engineering

Tiffany Wu, McAdams Energy Group

The Bureau of Economic Geology, through COMPASS, contributes independent scientific analysis intended to inform understanding of these issues. This work is strictly educational in nature and does not constitute policy guidance, advocacy, or endorsement of any specific project, proposal, or regulatory approach.

Two-Day Tentative Agenda

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DAY 1 · THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10 Foundations: building the knowledge base

8:15 **Registration and breakfast**

9:00 **Opening**

Dr. Lorena Moscardelli, Director, Bureau of Economic Geology. Keynote: Rep. Drew Darby and Rep. Erin Zwiener, Texas House of Representatives.

9:45 **Coffee break and group photo**

10:00 **Block 1: Power and the Grid**

Interconnection, the large-load queue, and who pays for the grid.

11:20 **Coffee break**

11:35 **Block 2: Water**

Consumption ranges and their uncertainty; what is metered and what is estimated.

12:50 **Lunch**

Multi-Purpose Room.

1:50 **Block 3: Economic Development**

Abatements, appraisal, and when revenue actually arrives; jobs projected against jobs observed.

3:05 **Coffee break**

3:20 **Block 4: Community Development**

Siting and zoning authority; noise, air, and land use; what is measured, what is not, and who measures it.

4:35 **Closing for Day 1**

The gaps in the evidence, and what Day 2 asks of you.

5:30 **Reception**

Commons Terrace, until 8:00 pm.

Each of the four blocks pairs a COMPASS researcher with practitioners and subject matter experts, followed by moderated discussion and questions from the room.

DAY 2 · FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11 Application: tools, working sessions, and tour

8:15 **Breakfast**

9:00 **Opening**
Fireside chat.

9:45 **Launch of the COMPASS GIS Portal and Community Dashboard**
45-minute presentation and live walkthrough of the community dashboards, followed by 15 minutes of questions.

10:45 **Working session briefing**

11:00 **Coffee break**

11:15 **Working groups, part 1**

12:30 **Lunch and Networking**

1:15 **Working groups, part 2**

1:45 **Coffee break**

2:00 **Report-outs**

3:00 **Group discussion, next steps, and close**

3:30 **Optional: walking tour**
Texas Advanced Computing Center (TACC) and core viewing.

ABOUT COMPASS

COMPASS (Collaborative Optimization and Management of Power Allocation, Surface and Subsurface Strategies) is an applied research consortium at the Bureau of Economic Geology, The University of Texas at Austin, the State Geological Survey of Texas. Our research spans five connected areas: geospatial siting, permitting, water and cooling, on-site power generation, and community readiness, all in the context of Texas's large-load development.

ABOUT THE BUREAU OF ECONOMIC GEOLOGY

Established in 1909, the Bureau of Economic Geology is the oldest research unit at The University of Texas and the State Geological Survey of Texas. Our mission is to serve society by conducting objective, impactful, and integrated geoscience research on relevant energy, environmental, and economic issues.

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