



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

September 4, 2019

Dear State Agency Directors and Directors of Institutions of Higher Education:

We want to remind that due to our state's steadily growing population and a robust economy, electricity usage in Texas has been at an all-time high. Our colleagues at the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) and the Public Utility Commission (PUC) have reminded us that we are still in a "hot zone" over the next couple of days with the strong likelihood of very high temperatures lasting possibly into the next week.

The accompanying increase in air conditioning usage in structures of every type is likely to push the total load on the ERCOT grid to even higher levels. While we remain confident that ERCOT has the resources it needs to guide the grid through this predicted spike in electricity consumption, it would be prudent for state agencies that are committed to carefully stewarding Texas tax dollars to take a few simple steps to reduce our shared impact on the amount of electricity used.

BEFORE THEY LEAVE TODAY, TOMORROW AND NEXT WEEK: Please remind your employees to:

- Turn off the lights in their workspaces
- Switch off power strips when they leave
- Unplug appliances like coffee makers.

WHEN THEY'RE AT HOME: Please encourage your employees to:

- Set their air conditioning thermostat at least two degrees higher
- Avoid using major appliances (washer, dryer, etc.) during afternoon peak demand times
- Keep the curtains drawn in direct sunlight
- Use fans to keep cooling air circulating in occupied rooms.

DURING THE WORK WEEK: Please remind your employees to:

- Choose natural or task-specific lighting, turning off overhead lights in offices or hallways
- Unplug any "energy vampires" like coffee makers or cellphone chargers when not in use
- Defer printing & copying jobs that can wait to a time outside of afternoon peaks
- Adjust their computer's power management settings to encourage "sleep" when not in use.

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The Public Utility Commission has a useful website featuring energy-saving tips, so please encourage your team members to visit PowerToSaveTexas.org for more energy-saving tips.

Again, it's no surprise that it gets hot in Texas, but we can work together to reduce the chances of electricity demand exceeding supply as we keep our state moving forward with the lights on.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah Hicks". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S" and a distinct "H".

Sarah Hicks
Budget Director and Senior Advisor
Office of the Governor

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