

You Can Help the World's Best Minds Solve the Biggest Energy Challenges



Austin's Mueller neighborhood, where Pecan Street launched its research network in 2009.

Unlike any other organization, Pecan Street is focused on advancing original research and accelerating innovation in water and energy. Our network of volunteer research participants across the nation is the first of its kind on the planet.

Wanted: An Army of Citizen Scientists



Pecan Street's research was born in Austin's Mueller neighborhood, where we equipped existing homes with advanced energy monitoring equipment. Since 2009, our network of volunteer research participants has grown in number and geography.

Now we are headed to California's Bay Area and Tompkins County, NY!

Our network includes 750 active participants, including more than 200 solar customers and 80 electric vehicle owners. Each home's energy generation and use are measured at intervals ranging from one second to one minute — 24/7/365 — and can be viewed securely by participants via a secure browser. Hosted on-site and protected with DOE-level security, our energy database is the largest real-world open energy database on the planet. It's available (securely, without participant identification) to university researchers and Pecan Street's clients.

Why California and New York?

Our research in Texas has provided incredible insight into the energy use and renewable energy. Expanding our research network to include participants with different energy profiles in different climates will allow us to tackle a number of remaining research questions critical for states and cities to move their clean energy programs forward and support local businesses and entrepreneurs.

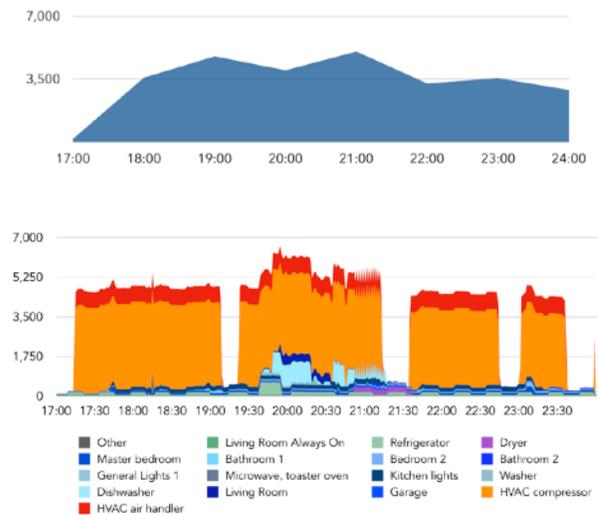
We will add 100 volunteer research participants in each new market. You can learn more about Pecan Street's unique research and what volunteering entails on the back of this sheet.

Better Data, Better Decisions

The difference between common one hour, whole home energy data and Pecan Street's high frequency, disaggregated data is dramatic.

The top chart shows whole home, one-hour energy data between 5pm and midnight.

The bottom chart shows energy use in a home in Pecan Street's research network on the same day. For this home, data was collected every minute from multiple circuits in the home, giving an incredible minute-by-minute understanding of when and how electricity was used.



What it Means to Volunteer with Pecan Street

We know that committed individuals and companies can speed up the arrival of a better, cleaner future. That's where you come in! Homeowners who participate in this trial will receive access to a secure website to monitor their energy use and its correlation to utility bills.

As with all of Pecan Street's research, participation is free, and volunteers' identities are not shared with any research partners.

To collect and provide highly detailed information about how electricity is used in your home, a licensed electrician will install an energy monitoring system called eGauge in your home's breaker panel. The eGauge has been installed in more than 1,000 homes and businesses throughout Pecan Street's research network and is a virtually invisible data collection tool. The eGauge securely transmits your home's energy data to Pecan Street's database via your home's WiFi network.



"The ability to see our energy use on a computer screen has had a big impact. We didn't know how much energy we used or that we could change it that much. It's like a flip was switched on in my head."
— Akemy Acosta, volunteer participant

Learn more at pecanstreet.org or contact Rachel Jenkins at 512-782-9213.