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Wind energy expensive, study says

By [CHRISTINE RAPPLEYE](#)

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Wind energy is environmentally friendly and will create jobs, but it's all expensive.

In Texas, that cost would tally \$60 billion by 2025, according to the "Texas Wind Energy: Past, Present and Future" study released Tuesday by the Texas Public Policy Foundation.

"Wind is free, but wind energy is expensive," said Drew Thornley, a natural resources and economic freedom policy analyst at the foundation.


The cost of transmission lines and subsidies for companies and the intermittent nature of wind and always having to have a natural gas backup, make wind energy costly, Thornley said.

Thornley added that he would like to see the competitive market bear the cost of wind energy rather than through subsidies and other costs.

Wind farms have popped up in West Texas. In 2007, the General Land Office officials leased offshore tracts to companies exploring the feasibility of the 250-foot turbines off the coast, including along Jefferson and Galveston counties, according to The Enterprise archives.

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