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## GROUP NIRE IS PARTNERING WITH TEPRI TO REDUCE ENERGY BURDENS FOR LOW-INCOME AMERICANS

The Texas Energy Poverty Research Institute is pleased to welcome Group NIRE to our diverse collaboration of power market participants focused on developing holistic and innovative approaches to advance the collective understanding of low income consumers and their relationships to energy.

Group NIRE is joining this diverse association which works towards creating a world with sustainable energy access for everyone. TEPRI and its members aim to improve the quality of life for all Texans by decreasing high cost energy burdens through energy efficiency, conservation, and renewable technology opportunities intended to tackle the specific needs of low-income communities. Approximately 37% of all Texan households live below 200% of the federal poverty guideline (\$48,600/family of 4) and TEPRI's goal is to improve the lives of those individuals through energy.

"We applaud Group NIRE for their vision to apply their expertise in technology commercialization to the LMI customer segment and thank them hardily for becoming our newest TEPRI member." says Former PUC Chairman, and TEPRI Founder and Director Becky Klein.

CEO Mark Harral noted that "Our goal at Group NIRE is to create a more sustainable future for everyone, and becoming a member of TEPRI presents itself as a stepping stone for us to achieve that goal. We are excited to see what we can do together!"

Group NIRE provides companies with support during the development and construction phase of projects and is the direct contact with utilities, landowners and agencies. Their research facility

allows manufacturers the capability to test and demonstrate their prototype technology in a real-world environment by providing a plug and play facility for their customers.

Group NIRE and TEPRI are currently seeking funding to launch a project to provide a realistic accelerator to transfer and overcome the challenge of solar and related technologies by forming a solar scorecard focused on lowering LMI American's energy burdens by developing an efficient and cost-effective integrated suite of distributed energy resources technologies.

Executive Director Dana Harmon describes this important addition to the membership, "Group NIRE produces integrated renewable energy resources and emerging energy-efficiency technologies for the electric grid. We are thankful of their support to find innovative ways address the energy needs of our underserved neighbors."

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### **About Group NIRE**

Formed in 2010 by Texas Tech University, Group NIRE provides solutions to many challenges of integrating renewable energy sources and emerging energy-efficiency technologies within the electric grid industry. They ensure the grid is resilient and secure in the face of growing cybersecurity and extreme weather concerns. Group NIRE is funded by the Texas Governor's Office, Emerging Technology Fund, private industry and Department of Energy to create a real-world testing facility which the DER Network can use to validate models, solve knowledge gaps, transfer applied research results.

Learn more: [groupnire.com](http://groupnire.com)

### **About TEPRI**

TEPRI is an association of leaders in the power market who work to inspire lasting energy solutions that increase comfort, reduce strain, and put critical dollars back in the hands of low-income families. By studying and sharing what is working across the country, TEPRI spreads best practices in energy conservation, efficiency, and reducing energy burdens. TEPRI is a 501(c) non-profit organization with specific objectives to address the growing energy-poverty nexus. TEPRI's members represent a wide variety of Texas stakeholders and include Oncor, AEP, CenterPoint Energy, Austin Energy, CPS Energy, Direct Energy, TXU Energy, Environmental Defense Fund and the Texas Association of Community Action Agencies (TACAA). Founded by former PUC Chairman Becky Klein in 2015 and funded by its members to inspire lasting energy solutions for low income communities. Members of TEPRI are leveraging resources to spearhead innovative and in-depth research at the nexus of energy and poverty.

Learn more: [txenergypoverty.org](http://txenergypoverty.org)