

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 30, 2017
Texas Renewable Energy Industries Alliance (TREIA)

Contact: Stacey Abel
(512) 587-6639
[**staceyabel@treia.org**](mailto:staceyabel@treia.org)

**FORMER VICE PRESIDENT AL GORE
TO KEYNOTE TEXAS ENERGY GRID CONFERENCE**

GridNEXT 2017 to be Held Again in Georgetown, First All-Renewable Energy City in Texas

GEORGETOWN – Former Vice President Al Gore will deliver a keynote address on the opening day of the Texas Renewable Energy Industries Alliance (TREIA)’s 3rd annual GridNEXT conference to be held on October 23-24, in Georgetown, Texas, a spokesperson for the group announced today.

Al Gore’s film, “*An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power*,” opened nationwide in early August and features his visit to the central Texas community, which has become one of the largest cities in the United States - and the first city in Texas - to meet 100% of its power needs from renewable energy.

“We chose Georgetown for last year’s conference for a number of reasons,” said TREIA President, Melissa Miller, “but their continued leadership in sharing their success story with communities across America was a primary driver in the decision to host the conference here again. We’re thrilled to be coming back to Georgetown and incredibly honored to have Vice President Al Gore as a keynote speaker.”

The two-day conference will focus on the latest trends and new developments that are transforming technology and the electric grid. “Wind and solar projects have ignited the deployment of technology on the grid, creating the start of the biggest transformation in the history of the electric industry and unleashing the need for more grid-centric technology,” said Hala Ballouz, President of Electric Power Engineers, Inc. and chair of the GridNEXT initiative and conference. “Our emphasis is on transforming the grid and technology to revolutionize the generation and delivery of energy to consumers.”

“Clean, renewable energy should not be a partisan issue,” Georgetown Mayor Dale Ross said, “it’s just good business and has been very good for us in terms of having some of the lowest utility rates in Central Texas. We look forward to welcoming Mr. Gore back to our fine city and to hosting the GridNEXT conference, where attendees can experience the most beautiful Town Square in Texas, our incredible park system and rivers, and a variety of unique shops and restaurants.”

TREIA President Melissa Miller clarified one of the main benefits of TREIA’s GridNEXT conference: “We bring together technology leaders, utilities, consumers, developers, and solution providers so they can connect and innovate with their peers around the latest trends and new technologies that are transforming the grid. Having Vice President Gore as a keynote speaker will bring even more attention to these exciting new developments that are critically important for the future of the Texas energy industry.”

The conference will be held at the Sheraton Georgetown Texas Hotel and Conference Center. Registration is available at <http://www.treia.org/registration-1>