

**KINH TẾ VI MÔ II – PA2024**

**Bài giảng 3**  
**THẢO LUẬN - CUNG VÀ CẦU**

**THE TEXAS FREEZE:  
COLD TRUTH OF FREE MARKET?**

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# Câu hỏi thảo luận

1. Đặc điểm của thị trường điện Texas?
2. Ưu điểm và hạn chế của thị trường điện cạnh tranh tự do?
3. Trong trường hợp này, người tiêu dùng có được lợi hơn nhờ thị trường cạnh tranh tự do không?
4. Thảm họa xảy ra như thế nào? Nguyên nhân?
5. Vấn đề của thị trường/chính phủ là gì?
6. Bài học cho Việt Nam?

# Griddy vs. other providers

| Griddy   | Other providers   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No-contract electricity service at an indexed rate directly tied to real-time wholesale pricing.</li><li>• Customer accounts tied to their debit/ credit cards, automatically recharge if balance &lt; \$25</li><li>• Membership fee \$9.99/month.</li><li>• Price changes every 5 minutes. Normally ~\$0.035/kWh.</li><li>• Regulation: ceiling price of \$9/kWh.</li><li>• Bills every 15 minutes.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fix-rate with precise contract lengths of 6-24 months.</li><li>• Examples:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fixed rates with free weekends, free nights, and bill credits.</li><li>• 100% renewable energy powers fixed and variable-rate deals, offers such as free weekends, and incentives to install smart meters.</li><li>• Fixed and variable rates, free nights or weekends, and occasional switching incentives such as shopping vouchers.</li><li>• Fixed-rate, free weekends, free nights, with bilingual (Spanish/English) customer service agents.</li></ul></li><li>• Normal price \$0.1 – 0.2/kWh</li></ul> |

# Texas electricity rate (other providers)

| Plan Name   | Plan Length | Rate          |
|---|-------------|---------------|
| Flagship Power - Galleon1000 36                     | 36 months   | \$0.104 / kWh |
| Gexa Energy - Gexa Eco Saver Plus 24                | 24 months   | \$0.106 / kWh |
| Express Energy - Flash 24                           | 24 months   | \$0.106 / kWh |
| Frontier Utilities - Frontier Saver Plus 24         | 24 months   | \$0.106 / kWh |
| 4Change Energy - Maxx Saver Select 24               | 24 months   | \$0.106 / kWh |
| Rhythm Energy - Simply Bright 6                     | 6 months    | \$0.129 / kWh |
| First Choice Power - You Got This 12                | 12 months   | \$0.133 / kWh |
| TriEagle Energy - Real Deal 36                      | 36 months   | \$0.135 / kWh |
| Pulse Power - Texas Green 36                        | 36 months   | \$0.144 / kWh |
| TXU Energy - Smart Edge 12                          | 12 months   | \$0.145 / kWh |
| Constellation - 36 Month Usage Bill Credit          | 36 months   | \$0.159 / kWh |
| Reliant - Basic Power 24                            | 24 months   | \$0.161 / kWh |
| Chariot Energy - GridEdge 36                        | 36 months   | \$0.172 / kWh |
| Payless Power - Simple 6 - Prepaid Plan             | 6 months    | \$0.191 / kWh |
| Direct Energy - Live Brighter Lite 24               | 24 months   | \$0.202 / kWh |
| Discount Power - Value Plus 12                      | 12 months   | \$0.221 / kWh |
| Cirro - Smart Value 12 Online                       | 12 months   | \$0.236 / kWh |
| Green Mountain - Pollution Free e-Plus 24 Preferred | 24 months   | \$0.241 / kWh |

“...During Winter Storm Uri in February 2021, prices for electricity reached the maximum allowed. Electric providers were forced to pay millions, burdening customers.

... During the storm, the cost of wholesale electricity jumped to **\$9,000 per MWh** and stayed that high for days.

For comparison, Texas averaged \$22/MWh in 2020 and \$38/MWh in 2019, with spikes during the summer months.

... U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) records show Texas ranked ninth in low energy charges for all sectors.

Combined residential, commercial, industrial, transportation rates averaged 9.02 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) in October 2021.

...”

(<https://www.kvue.com>, “Yes, Texas wholesale electricity rates are among the lowest in the world”)

Griddy: charged \$10/ month to help its customers buy electricity wholesale. Most days: lower prices than other consumers could get (~13% less). Griddy says that difference saved its customers \$17 million between the company's spring 2017 launch and last February (2021).

The price volatility built into Griddy's business model left its residential customers financially vulnerable during the severe winter storm in mid-February. Power plants and natural-gas providers in Texas—who are not required to winterize their facilities, as are their counterparts in neighboring states that weathered the storm with little disruption—froze and tripped offline, cutting electricity to more than four million homes as temperatures stayed below freezing for days. The desperate need for heat statewide caused wholesale prices to spike. Some Griddy customers' bills ran as high as \$17,000 for that month. The company became a target for lawsuits, fodder for unflattering stories about Texas in the national media, and an easy scapegoat for public officials looking for someone to blame. Just weeks after the crisis, Griddy found itself sued by the state and forced into bankruptcy. In late May, the Legislature outlawed wholesale plans like Griddy's altogether.

*Source: Loren Steffy, June 9, 2021 (texasmonthly.com)*