NTREG Conversation Group Guidelines
Revision 6.0 - July 12, 2020

What is a Conversation Group and How Does it Work?
Conversation Groups are simply a way to communicate with others, usually with the same interests. Messages sent to a conversation group are visible to all members of the group, and may be visible to the public.

Our Conversation Group is not a “chat room”. After you join our group, you may post messages. New members’ messages are “moderated” (require approval by a moderator before they are allowed to be posted). When a message is approved, it will show up on the message board, and will automatically be sent to members that elected to receive posts via e-mail. Established members generally have their messages set for “automatic” approval. Messages posted to our Conversation Group are visible to the public.

Our Group has rules and guidelines. Rules are mandatory. Guidelines are suggestions. Some our rules may appear restrictive, but they exist to prevent abuse or misuse of our Conversation Group.

Subscribing
Participation in NTREG’s Conversation Group is not mandatory to be a member of NTREG, but most people find it’s an easy way to stay informed about meetings, events, and renewable energy issues. You may join or unsubscribe at any time. Your information will not be shared. Participation in our Conversation Group does not convey membership in the North Texas Renewable Energy Group.

You are in full control of your Conversation Group participation. You elect how often you receive Group messages, and your desired message format. You may also unsubscribe at any time on your own. We do not make your e-mail address available to anyone. Period. See our “Privacy Policy” on our website:

There are two ways to join our Conversation Group.

#1: You may send an empty e-mail message to:

NTREG+subscribe@groups.io

- or -

#2: Visit our Conversation Group website, and click “Join This Group” (lower left on the main page).

https://groups.io/g/NTREG

After joining, you’ll be able to choose how often you receive messages, and your preferred message format. Other settings are also available to you in your “Profile”.

Unsubscribing from Our Group
To unsubscribe, send an empty e-mail message to:

NTREG+unsubscribe@groups.io

Tip: If you’re overwhelmed by too many e-mail messages, you can always change your e-mail delivery preferences to a “summary”, or even “none”. If you choose “none”, you may read the messages at your convenience directly on the Conversation Group website (link under “Contact Us” at the top of any web page. Your profile settings can be changed by you at any time.

NTREG does not sell, distribute, share, disseminate, publish, or make public in any manner the e-mail addresses or personal contact information about its members or members of its Conversation Group.
NTREG Conversation Group Information & Guidelines

1. **“Attachments”**: Attachments are files and images sent with messages. This includes images within a message, and logos in the signature block at the end of your message. Because attachments can contain a virus or other dangerous software, Groups.io holds all messages with attachments for review by a Moderator before it can be posted. “Held” messages may be delayed for posting depending on how quickly a Moderator is able to review and approve your message. If your signature block includes an image logo, it will be seen by Groups.io as an “attachment”, and will be held for approval every time. If you want your messages to post immediately, omit your logo. If you're actually sending an attachment with your message, it will be reviewed as quickly as possible.

2. **No harassment of others.** We’re often dealing in and discussing topics of varying opinion. For example, is “Climate Change” truly taking place? Are humans responsible for it? People find points on both sides of this discussion.

3. **No “ad hominem” attacks.** These are statements that appeal to feelings or prejudices rather than intellect. Everyone is entitled to their opinion. Please don't belittle others if their belief or opinion differs from yours. You're welcome to share a contrasting opinion and provide supportive information or basis for your opinion.

4. **No SPAM. No advertising.** We have professional solar energy installers as members whom we know would like to post advertising. They too are bound by these rules. If you wish to advertise or conduct other promotional efforts with us, business, professional, and corporate sponsorships are available. Contact a member of our Executive Board for details.

5. **No “cross-posting”.** Please do not copy and paste information from other Groups. Instead, provide a short summary in your message, and include a link to the original information.

6. **Copyrights.** Please respect copyrighted material. Excerpts of text, articles, news, and others may be posted, but please avoid posting entire articles. Instead, post a short comment, and include a link to the original article.

7. **Links.** Website links may be included in your message, and are encouraged as long as the links have been checked prior to posting. Long website addresses may end up spanning multiple lines, yielding them unusable. In such cases, try to include the link on a separate line, or use one of any of the link “shorteners” available on the web. Shorteners are provided by Google, BitLY, and others.

8. **Selling.** Please check with a moderator prior to posting something for sale. Permission to post personal items directly related to renewable energy may granted on a case-by-case basis. Commercial sales, business-related sales, or anything giving the appearance of a business-level sale are not allowed.

9. **Use an appropriate subject for your message.** Summarize your post in the subject. Descriptive subjects get more attention from members. For example: “Need help” isn’t very informative, whereas “Question about solar panel operation” is much clearer in its meaning.

10. **Use discretion.** Post prudently. In the alternative, send private e-mails. Our Conversation Group is rated ‘G’, with some participants as young as 10 years old.

11. **Avoid off-topic commentary.** It’s easy to get involved in discussions about which political party is more favorable to renewable energy, electric vehicles, and so forth. Expression of opinion is welcome, but please do so with facts to back up your statements.

12. **Real names.** Please post your real name in your messages.

13. **“Auto-responders”**. If you use an “Out-of Office” responder on your e-mail, please remember to set your NTREG Conversation Group account for “No mail” before before you leave. Remember to change it back when you return.

14. **Administration.** All decisions related to these rules rest with the NTREG Conversation Group moderators. Violators of our Conversation Group rules are subject to a private e-mail reminder up to removal from the Group.

--- www.ntreg.org ---

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