

Journalists and the looming superstorm of climate disinformation | Columbia Journalism Review

By Andrew McCormick

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✖ **TEXAS HAD ONLY JUST FROZEN OVER.** In the wake of a devastating winter storm, millions in the state were without power and struggling to find warmth. They boiled snow for water; some were dying. And against all evidence the anti-climate political right was grouching about windmills and blaming a Green New Deal that doesn't yet exist.

"Unbeknownst to most people, the Green New Deal came to Texas," Tucker Carlson said on February 16 on Fox News. "The power grid in the state became totally reliant on windmills. Then it got cold, and the windmills broke, because that's what happens in the Green New Deal." An hour later, on *Hannity*, routinely America's most-watched cable news program, Texas governor Greg Abbott said his state's predicament "shows how the Green New Deal would be a deadly deal for the United States of America." In the days that followed, similar disinformation was repeated across Fox News and Fox Business programming, on competitor right-wing outlets OAN and Newsmax, in right-leaning newspapers, and in myriad statements by Republican elected officials.

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