



Austin Energy Regional Science Festival 2023

Founded in 1956, the Science Festival celebrated its 67th anniversary this year — the first live event after two years of online fairs. A total of 2,188 students from 193 schools entered 1,789 science projects in the Austin Energy Regional Science Festival, representing 18 Central Texas school districts in eight counties, as well as private, charter and home schools. First- and second-place category winners advance to the Texas Science and Engineering Fair in College Station in March. Seven “Best of Fair” projects advance to the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair to be held in Dallas, TX.

The Austin Peace Academy, a private middle school, and Vista Ridge High School, from the Leander Independent School District, won Sweepstakes Awards.

The Sweepstakes Award is presented to the school in the junior division (middle schools) and senior division (high schools) earning the most points in the 18 science categories at the festival. The Austin Peace Academy won Sweepstakes for the third time in a row, outperforming 30 other middle schools. Vista Ridge outperformed 23 other high schools for their 15th Sweepstakes award since 2006.

The regional science festival is Austin Energy’s largest

sponsored annual community event, helping promote science, technology, engineering and math education.

The Austin Science Education Foundation, which assists Austin Energy in conducting the fair, gratefully acknowledges the support from all the Science Festival underwriters, including Gold Sponsors 3M and Synopsys, Inc. Additionally, the foundation wants to thank the more than 400 judges and 200 volunteers who make this event possible.

Visit sciencefest.org for a complete listing of awards as well as a list of sponsors.



Vista Ridge High School



Austin Peace Academy



Let your voice be heard about the needs of Austin residents

The City of Austin is collecting input on community needs to set spending priorities for housing and public service programs in the Annual Action Plan. The City of Austin’s Annual Action Plan covers how we will use federal funds for housing and public service programs and sets goals to better assist underserved communities.

The City of Austin provides programs and services to support affordable housing, low- and moderate-income households, persons with disabilities, seniors and youth. Your input will inform investment decisions to meet the needs of our community.

The City will collect feedback on the needs of the community from March 6 to April 15. This year’s draft Action Plan for FY 2023-2024 will be available for review and feedback from May 2 to June 9.

For more information, call **512-974-3100** or visit publicinput.com/housingneeds to tell us what you think. Your feedback by April 15 will help us shape the plan, and your feedback from May 2 to June 9 will help us better define community needs.

Keeping it green

From Walnut Creek to the rolling terrain of the Texas Hill Country, there's a lot to love about Austin's green spaces. You can celebrate those green spaces with many City departments at Earth Day ATX 2023 — April 22 from noon to 6 p.m. at Huston-Tillotson University. Keeping it green, though, can happen all year long. Here are a few ideas for you:

Austin Water conservation tips

- » Water your lawn only on your assigned day and times.
- » Take shorter showers. If you take a bath, fill the tub half full.
- » Install faucet aerators and low-flow showerheads.
- » Visit austinwater.org to take advantage of Austin Water's water efficiency rebates, tools and programs.
- » Join the My ATX Water Customer Portal to view water use data and get Austin Water alerts. More at myatxwater.org.

Enjoy more savings

An energy efficient home is better for the environment and can help you save money year-round. Explore rebates and resources to make your home more comfortable and energy efficient. Start today at austinenergy.com/go/tips.

Choose 100% renewable energy

If you want 100% renewable energy, Austin Energy offers GreenChoice®. It is the longest-running voluntary renewable energy program in Texas. 2022 GreenChoice® customer impact translates into:

- » Powering 88,339 homes with wind energy instead of fossil fuels.
- » Removing the same amount of carbon dioxide from the air as 829,959 acres of U.S. forests.
- » Removing carbon emissions equal to 151,111 gasoline-powered passenger vehicles.

Learn more at austinenergy.com/go/greenchoice.

Swap out single-use plastics

To celebrate Earth Day, minimize waste by swapping single-use plastics for reusable options. Ditch the plastic produce sacks for washable cotton or mesh options with drawstrings. Canvas bags are the go-to to cut back on single-use grocery bag stockpiles. Your plastic bag surplus can be returned to retail stores for recycling, repurposed as bathroom trash bags or to pack fragile items for shipping. Find simple plastic swaps to reduce your waste at austintexas.gov/plastic.

Join the EVolution

Austin Energy can help you plug into cleaner transportation. Easy to use, easy to maintain and easy to charge. Electric vehicles are fun to drive and can save you some money while helping the environment. Visit Austin Energy's EV Buyer's Guide to explore new and used electric vehicles in Austin. Check out ev.austinenergy.com.



Rain to River plan is coming together



With a year's worth of community feedback around water-related "highs and lows," the Watershed Protection Department (WPD) is

creating Rain to River, a strategic plan to guide the department's work for the next ten years.

WPD prioritized reaching out to communities that have historically been left out of City planning processes, including people of color, low-income communities and other groups likely to experience negative quality of life outcomes in Austin to gather input from the full diversity of the Austin community. Take a look at raintoriveratx.com to see how WPD is using your feedback.

LIFEGUARDAAUSTIN.COM

NOW HIRING LIFEGUARDS

APPLY TODAY!



STARTING AT \$20 PER HOUR



The Austin Parks and Recreation Department is now hiring lifeguards ages 15 and older for the summer swim season! Schedules are flexible and pay starts at **\$20 per hour**. Benefits include a **\$400 training stipend**, free bus pass, and paid sick leave. Visit lifeguardaustin.com.

Para obtener una copia en español de esta publicación, visite coutilities.com/go/utilitynews.

Customer Service Phone: 512-494-9400

24-Hour Power Outage Reporting: 512-322-9100 | 24-Hour Emergency Water Service: 512-972-1000

East Austin Utility Customer Service Center (Walk-in Center): 2800 Webberville Rd.

North Austin Utility Customer Service Center (Walk-in Center): 8716 Research Blvd., Ste. 115

South Austin Utility Customer Service Center (Walk-in Center): 1901 W. William Cannon Drive, Ste. 100

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