

AUSTIN UTILITIES NOW

INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR CITY SERVICES



DEC-45382

December 2020

It's time for wastewater averaging

Austin Water's annual wastewater averaging period spans three consecutive billing cycles beginning in mid-November and ending in mid-March. Check your utility bill or visit austinwater.org to find the dates for your wastewater averaging period.

About Wastewater Averaging

Wastewater averaging is a way for you to save money. It is calculated during the winter months when most residential water goes directly into the sanitary sewer system versus being used for outdoor watering. This measurement determines the cap on the volume of wastewater you will be billed for each month for the next year. If there is outside watering during the wastewater averaging period, that water volume will also be included in the wastewater average. Avoid

this by making sure your irrigation systems are turned off during your wastewater averaging period.

Lower Your Wastewater Costs

You can lower your wastewater costs for the next year by conserving water during these billing periods. Here are some water-saving tips:

- » Check your irrigation system for leaks and turn them off during the fall and winter months.
- » Fix all leaky faucets and toilets.
- » Run your dishwasher and washing machine only with a full load.
- » Take shorter showers — place a timer in your bathroom.
- » When buying new water-using appliances, look for the WaterSense® label.

For more information visit waterwiseaustin.org.



Recycle your holiday tree

The holidays are right around the corner, and soon after, it will be time to give your tree a second life by turning it into rich mulch! Beginning Dec. 26, City of Austin curbside customers can recycle their holiday tree by placing them curbside on regularly scheduled collection days by 6:30 a.m. Trees 6 feet or taller must be cut in half. If you don't have Austin Resource Recovery curbside services, you can do a contactless drop-off of your tree at Zilker Park Polo Fields on Jan. 2 through 3 and Jan. 9 through 10 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Remember to wear your mask for drop-off.

When recycling, remember:

- » No trees sprayed with artificial snow.
- » Remove all ornaments, decorations, lights and tree stand.
- » Do not place tree in a bag.
- » Only natural trees are accepted for recycling.

Find your new vehicle online with the EV Buyer's Guide

Thinking about end-of-the-year car shopping? Austin Energy's updated EV Buyer's Guide can help you check out your options, and available incentives, from the comfort of your own home. Now you can visit ev.austinenenergy.com to see what's available to buy or lease at local dealerships without having to go out in the cold. As you determine which EV is right for you, you can learn more about how EVs are easy to use, easy to maintain and easy to charge.

Want more reasons to drive electric? EVs are fun to drive and can save you money while helping the environment. Plus, you can charge your EV easily at home in a regular outlet or access public level 2 and



fast chargers in the area, powered by 100 percent renewable GreenChoice® Texas wind energy. If you buy or lease before Dec. 31, you may be eligible for federal tax incentives and state grants. Visit pluginaustin.com today to learn more.

Community Solar at the ABIA takes off

There's nothing like clear skies when it comes to flying and Community Solar. In partnership with Austin-Bergstrom International Airport, Austin Energy brought online a new 1.8 megawatt solar installation in November, as part of its Community Solar program. About 1.5 MW go to the program, increasing subscriptions by 160, with 80 reserved for Customer Assistance Program participants.

Located on top of the blue lot garage at ABIA, the airport location provides plenty of access to the Central Texas sun while keeping the resource local.

"We want to locate projects in the community to benefit the local workforce and our local economy," said Tim Harvey, Customer Renewable Solutions Manager. "Community Solar expands access to the resource by breaking down barriers due to costs and the lack of roof ownership. Subscribers can be



renters, have some of our beautiful trees around their home or they can live in a high-rise downtown and still have access to solar energy. Also, there are no upfront costs or long-term commitments."

This project has been in the works since 2018, and construction began in June 2020 — incorporating unique safety criteria to ensure airline and passenger safety into account, including panel reflectiveness and tilt angle.

With the airport array online, the Community Solar program has a total capacity of 4.35 MW and is able to reach about 500 subscribers. You can find more information about the program at austinenergy.com/go/communitysolar.



Keep your home safe

The Austin Code Department has valuable information for you about potential hazards that could be present in your home. For example, did you know that your home requires smoke detectors and also carbon monoxide detectors unless all heating appliances are electric? Also, is your home weatherproofed for the colder weather? To learn more about common code violations and keeping your home safe year-round, visit austintexas.gov/code.

Austin Transportation releases traffic calming recommendation

As the second piece of its comprehensive update to the Speed Management Program, the Austin Transportation Department has recommended an initial batch of traffic calming treatments — such as curb extensions and speed cushions — for installation on 14 street segments by the end of 2021. Speeding is one of the primary factors that contribute to most fatal crashes in Austin. These efforts, along with speed limit changes in the urban core, will help improve safety for all road users. Recommended street segments include:

- » Springdale Road — Airport Boulevard to Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.
- » Briarcliff Boulevard — Cameron Road to Berkman Drive.
- » Rosewood Avenue — East 11 Street to Webberville Road.
- » Bolm Road — Springdale Road to Shady Lane.
- » Webberville Road — Springdale Road to Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.
- » Crystalbrook Drive — Loyola Lane to Pecan Brook Drive.
- » Blessing Avenue — Atkinson Road to E Anderson Lane.
- » Heflin Lane — Springdale Road to Webberville Road.
- » Colony Park Drive — Loyola Lane to Ritchie Drive.
- » Powell Lane — Georgian Drive to IH-35.
- » Peppertree Parkway — East Stassney Lane to Teri Road.
- » Blue Meadow Drive — Bluff Springs Road to Meadow Lake Boulevard.
- » Palace Parkway — West Slaughter Lane to West Dittmar Road.
- » Abilene Trail — Convict Hill Road to Beckett Road.

You can find more information on the Speed Management Program at austintexas.gov/department/speed-management.

Si gusta recibir este folleto en español, llame a los Servicios Públicos de la Ciudad de Austin al 512-972-9523.

Customer Service Phone: 512-494-9400

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

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

Rosewood-Zaragosa Neighborhood Center (Walk-in Center): 2800 Webberville Road, Ste. 110



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