

AUSTIN UTILITIES NOW

INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR CITY SERVICES



March 2019

Reduce your waste as a way to get a rebate

A recent study showed that 46 percent of what goes into our landfills is made of organic — or compostable — material. The City of Austin wants to help do something about that. The City offers free home composting and chicken keeping classes, and qualifying Austinites can even apply for a \$75 rebate for the purchase of a home composting system or chicken coop.

Composting at home can keep an average of 280 pounds of

waste out of your trash cart each year while also providing you with nutrient-rich soil for your lawn or garden. The average chicken can eat close to seven pounds of food scraps a week and can provide you with eggs, fertilize your grass and eat bugs in your yard.

To learn more about classes, rebates and how to reduce your waste at home, visit austinrecycles.com.



What ECAD is all about

Buying, selling or renting a home or apartment? Austin's Energy Conservation Audit and Disclosure (ECAD) ordinance can help you make a smart decision.

Sellers with homes that are older than 10 years, within the city limits, and served by Austin Energy are required to have an energy audit and to disclose the results to potential home buyers. This gives home buyers a clearer picture of the costs they can expect for energy usage and home maintenance. The audit is also an opportunity for sellers to spotlight the desirable energy-efficient features of their homes.

Multifamily property owners are also required to post their annual Energy Utilization Index scores. The results compare average tenant use to the average in Austin, giving renters an idea of possible energy costs.

For details on the ECAD ordinance, visit austinenergy.com/go/ECAD.

Free household document shredding

Saturday, April 27 from 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Shred-It, 4129 Commercial Center Drive
(entrance to event on St. Elmo Road)

Because of the threat of identity theft, it is important to carefully dispose of personal records including financial and medical records. Austin ARMA, along with Shred-It, are sponsoring the 16th Annual Free Spring Shred Day.

Only dry paper packed in cardboard boxes no larger than 24 x 24 x 36 inches with fitting lids or securely closed box flaps are accepted. Do not bring plastics of any kind, electronic media, batteries, or three-ring binders. All shredded material is recycled.



Please do not arrive before 8 a.m. You will be turned away until the event begins. Monetary donations will be accepted with proceeds split evenly between Austin ARMA and the Central Texas Food Bank.

For more information, please visit austinarma.com/shred-day or leave a message with Austin ARMA at **512-937-3347**.

SAFETY TIP!

Call Before You Dig

Do you know what could be under your yard? This is the kind of mystery that is better solved before you dig. Call Before You Dig is a free service that locates your underground utilities. Your property could be hiding electric cables, gas lines, water lines and wastewater lines. One call to 8-1-1 and all your utilities will be marked. For more information, visit austinenergy.com/go/811.



Doing good in the neighborhood

Do you and your neighbors wish you had a community garden, new playground, sidewalks, public art or bike lanes? The City of Austin's Neighborhood Partnering Program is an award-winning cost share program that pairs community groups with resources and expertise to make these dreams a reality! NPP has successfully partnered with communities across Austin on a range of diverse projects. Here are some things NPP can do for you:

» **Fund community projects up to \$500,000 on City-owned property, including parkland**

» **Fund 30-50 percent of the community cost-share portion through volunteer hours valued at \$25.11 per volunteer hour, in-kind, cash and professional service donations**

» **Help you through the application process with assistance from community outreach specialists**

If this sounds like something you'd be interested in, you can get more information by visiting austintexas.gov/neighborhoodpartnering, emailing PWDNeighborhoodPartnering@austintexas.gov or calling **512-974-6439**.



Every Austinite deserves the opportunity to build today for our communities of tomorrow.

Green your yard this spring

Want to create and maintain a beautiful landscape or garden? Whether you already have a green thumb or have never picked up a garden tool, growgreen.org can help! Learn how to pick the best plants for your yard, keep bugs at bay in the least-toxic way and much more. You'll also find rebates and free items offered for water conservation and other landscape improvements.

Join us for our next free homeowners' training the evening of May 9 at Zilker Botanical Garden. You can find more upcoming events at austintexas.gov/watershed, and you can sign up for email alerts about Grow Green classes at eepurl.com/wrw_9.



DON'T BLOW IT!...into the street

Leaves and grass clippings blown into the street wash into and clog storm drains, leading to increased flooding. The foliage that does get through ends up in Austin's creeks and lakes. As this material decomposes, it can reduce the amount of oxygen in the water and kill fish. Here's what you can do:

» **Blow clippings from walkways back to your yard – keep grass clippings on the lawn and use the leaves as mulch in gardens**

» **Add clippings to your backyard compost pile**

» **Place clippings into paper lawn bags or compost carts for the City to pick up**

Visit austintexas.gov/what-do-i-do for more information. To learn more about the Watershed Protection Department's pollution prevention and reduction program, visit austintexas.gov/pollutionprevention.

Input sought on programs to serve low- and moderate-income Austinites

The City is seeking your input regarding the affordable housing, job creation and public services needs of these community members. Each year, the City of Austin receives federal funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for programs and services that support low- and moderate-income families, persons

with disabilities, seniors and youth.

Please provide your input to the Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Department through March by participating in public hearings or by giving feedback in writing or online.

To learn more, call **512-974-3100**, email nhcd@austintexas.gov, or visit austintexas.gov/five.

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

