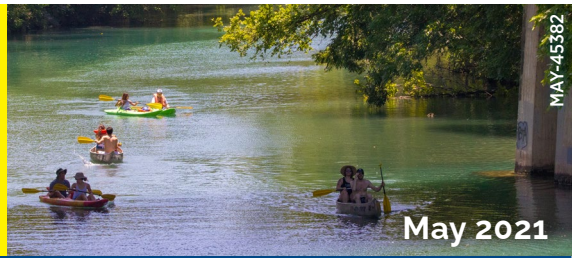


# AUSTIN UTILITIES NOW

INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR CITY SERVICES



May 2021

## Keys to summer irrigation success

Adjusting the watering schedule for your irrigation system by season is just as important as regular system maintenance. Use system scheduling to conserve water and save on your bill. Follow these simple steps for summertime success:

- » **Review your control settings.** Accidental scheduling is a common cause of excessive water use.
- » **Make sure your schedule is in line with the current water restrictions,** and start with low station times. Increase incrementally as needed.
- » **Base your station times on plant material,** sun exposure and emitter type.

Austin Water provides free irrigation evaluations for qualified customers during which a licensed irrigator will provide an overview of your system's performance and make recommendations for scheduling and equipment upgrades. To see if you qualify, and to schedule an evaluation, call **512-974-2199** or email



[AWirrigators@austintexas.gov](mailto:AWirrigators@austintexas.gov).

Austin Water also offers landscape and irrigation system efficiency rebates to help with all your outdoor watering needs. For conservation tips and more, please visit [austinwater.org](http://austinwater.org).

### SAFETY TIP!



## Spring rains could bring flooding

Austin is in the heart of Flash Flood Alley, and some of our biggest floods have been in the spring. Stay safe during a flood by staying off roads and flood-prone trails. If you must drive, remember to watch for water over the road and Turn Around, Don't Drown. But driving isn't the only risk. There are thousands of homes in Austin that are prone to flooding. If your home is at risk, make a plan for responding to a flood and consider purchasing flood insurance. To find out more about flood safety, visit [atxfloodsafety.com](http://atxfloodsafety.com).

## 25th Annual Cool House Tour

Sunday, June 13

Austin Energy Green Building has been showcasing some of the city's coolest homes for 25 years! Join us to take a virtual peek into six inspiring local projects. The tour includes a mixed-use condo tower, an affordable multifamily community, two east Austin backyard dwellings, a modern home in west Austin and a suburban home designed for a challenging site. This year's webinar tour is Sunday, June 13 and FREE to attend. Visit [coolhousetour.com](http://coolhousetour.com) to register and learn more.

## Get the dirt on composting

Now you can put your food scraps, food-soiled paper and yard trimmings in your green composting cart instead of the trash. Here are some tips to make using your green cart nice and easy:

- » **Use the right bags.** Look for the BPI-certified logo when shopping for compostable bags online or at your local grocery store. Paper bags or lawn-and-leaf bags are also okay for composting.
- » **Freeze the stinky stuff.** To cut the stink factor from meat, bones, fish and dairy, keep these items in your freezer until you are ready to set out your green composting cart.
- » **Set it out every week.** It's important to put it out on the curb every week by 6:30 a.m. for collection. Waiting too long can lead to mold, bad smells and pests that you don't want to deal with.

The City of Austin's goal is to get to zero waste by the year 2040. It's a big goal, but we can get there together. Learn more at [austintexas.gov/composting](http://austintexas.gov/composting).

# Ding, ding! Don't let Bike Month pass you by

Riding a bike is great any time of year in Austin but May is extra special because it's Bike Month. Established in 1956, National Bike Month is a chance to showcase the many benefits of bicycling. To make it easier for you to give two wheels a spin, Austin Transportation offers free Austin Bike Maps. These maps have:

- » **Routes color-coded** by comfort level and type of street or trail.
- » **Route steepness indicated** with white arrows.
- » **Points of interest** such as bike shops and MetroRail stops.
- » **Tips for bicycling**, being a bicycle-friendly driver and how to say "bike" in some of Austin's most common languages.



Whether you're riding for fun, fitness or making essential trips, riding a bike can benefit physical and mental health while helping create a more connected community. Pick up a free map at local bike shops or visit [austintexas.gov/bicycle](https://austintexas.gov/bicycle) for the interactive version. Learn more about Bike Month at [getthereatx.com](https://getthereatx.com).

## Thank You for Supporting Renewable Energy

Austin Energy would like to extend a special thanks to the nearly 25,000 Austin Energy customers choosing Texas wind energy for their homes and businesses through GreenChoice®! The impact of GreenChoice customers equals:

- » **Removing the same amount of carbon** from the air as 8 million trees.
- » **Powering nearly 86,000 homes** with wind energy instead of fossil fuels.
- » **Removing carbon emissions equal to 109,634 cars** driven for one year.
- » **Removing carbon emissions equal to 1,259,209,460 miles driven** by an average passenger vehicle.

This means that GreenChoice customers avoided more than 507,000 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions in 2020, which is great news for both people and the planet!

Renewable energy is good for the economy, too. Texas ranks No. 1 in the nation for wind energy capacity and is No. 2 in the nation for employment in the renewable energy industry. You can join your neighbors in choosing wind energy by visiting [austinenergy.com/go/greenchoice](https://austinenergy.com/go/greenchoice) or calling **512-494-9400**.



## Are you Summer Ready?

Austin Code wants to know, are you Summer Ready? Summer should be about running barefoot in your yard, barbecues and pool parties, not about bug bites or uncomfortable rashes!

The summer heat and standing water make ideal conditions for mosquitoes and other bugs to thrive. Before the summer heats up, do a quick look around your home for easy ways to keep the bugs at bay:

- » **Keep your lawn shorter than 12 inches.**
- » **Flip over any containers that may have standing water like pots or buckets.**
- » **Don't dump, recycle! Dumping trash in unmarked areas is a code violation.**

These simple things will help keep your home free of bugs and critters and help you enjoy the best of summer. To report a potential code violation, call Austin 3-1-1 or submit a report online — your report can be kept anonymous. To learn more about being Summer Ready, visit [austintexas.gov/code](https://austintexas.gov/code).

If you don't have internet access but want to **register** for the **COVID-19 vaccine**, you can call **3-1-1** or **512-974-2000** to create an account.

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

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

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

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The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request. TDD 512-974-3256, Relay Texas 711-1. MAY-45382

