



November 2022

## Fiscal Year 2023 rates and fees highlights

Austin City Council approved the Fiscal Year 2023 budget in August. The \$5 billion budget ensures the City of Austin can continue to provide high-quality services, operations and programs while addressing staff recruitment and retention.

As part of the budget process, the City Council also approves the rates and fees customers pay through their City of Austin Utilities bill. Below are some highlights on FY 2023 rates and fees:

- » **Austin Resource Recovery (ARR)** customers may have noticed a change in their bill that starts Oct. 1, 2022, including a \$0.65 increase to the base customer charge and a \$0.15 increase to the ARR portion of the Clean Community fee. ARR reviews its fees yearly and sets them at the cost to continue to deliver award-

winning services while keeping Austin clean. Learn more at [austintexas.gov/arrfees](https://austintexas.gov/arrfees).

- » **The monthly Transportation User Fee** — funding street maintenance — will increase by 19% per month across all property types starting Nov. 1, 2022. On average, a single-family residential home will see an increase of \$2.91 per month. Residential City of Austin Utilities customers may be eligible for an exemption if the person responsible for paying the utility bill is 65 or older or does not own or regularly use a private motor vehicle. Exemption form available at [austintexas.gov/tuf](https://austintexas.gov/tuf).

Find more information at [coautilities.com](https://coautilities.com).

Changes to Austin Energy's rates — base rates and pass-through charges — will be highlighted in a future edition of the newsletter.



### Emergencies happen. Are you prepared?

If an emergency strikes in your area, you want to know as soon as possible! Visit [warncentraltexas.org](https://warncentraltexas.org) today, and sign up to receive alerts and actions for severe weather and more by text, email or phone call. Help protect yourself, your family and your property. The service is free for all Central Texas residents. To receive emergency alerts in American Sign Language, sign up on the Accessible Hazard Alert System at [tinyurl.com/AccessibleAlerts](https://tinyurl.com/AccessibleAlerts).



### An Austin tradition continues with the Zilker Tree lighting

The 56th annual Zilker Tree Lighting is presented by the Austin Parks and Recreation Department and Austin Energy with support from the Trail of Lights Foundation. The tree will be lit each night Nov. 27 through Jan. 1, 2023. Learn more at [austintexas.gov/zilkerholidaytree](https://austintexas.gov/zilkerholidaytree).

# GIVE A GREAT STORY



Are you searching for the perfect holiday gift for your family and friends? By gifting an experience, a repaired item or buying second-hand items, we can help create lasting memories without creating unnecessary waste. Each year, more than five billion pounds of returned retail gifts end up in landfills. The Austin Reuse Directory can help you find locations near you to buy, rent and repair items you could gift this holiday season while supporting our local reuse economy. The directory can also help you find places to donate or sell items you no longer need. Learn more at [austintexas.gov/shopzero](https://austintexas.gov/shopzero).



# As Daylight Saving Time ends, remember the Three L's

When Daylight Saving Time comes to an end Nov. 6, this can mean darker evening commutes and reduced visibility. Get home safely by remembering the Three L's:

- » **Lights on.** Turn on your vehicle headlights, and use lights on different forms of transportation, such as scooters or bicycles.
- » **Look around.** Take an extra second to look for pedestrians, cyclists, motorcyclists and other drivers during your evening travel. Approach intersections, crosswalks and bus stops with caution.
- » **Locate safe crossings.** Use well-lit and marked crosswalks if you are walking or riding a bike or electric scooter.



## Lower your bill with wastewater averaging

Wastewater averaging takes place from mid-November through March, and it's a great opportunity for customers to lock-in the best wastewater rate possible for the next year. It's simple — all you have to do is reduce your water use as much as possible during your wastewater averaging period.

Austin Water calculates your wastewater average based on meter readings for the clean water you use. The meter readings are taken over the course of three consecutive months in the fall and winter known as the wastewater averaging period. This coincides with seasonal low water use, when many households naturally cut back on irrigation, filling pools, washing cars and other outside water uses.

As the yearly wastewater averaging process begins, remember to do your part and conserve water. For information about how Austin Water is saving you money through wastewater averaging, a list of conservation tips or to find out when your wastewater averaging period begins, visit [austinwater.org](http://austinwater.org).



## Electrify Expo

Join Austin Energy's Electric Vehicles and Emerging Technologies team for Electrify Expo on Nov. 11 through 13 at Circuit of the Americas. Electrify Expo — the nation's biggest electric vehicle festival — lets you ride, drive and demo the world's top electric vehicles, e-motorcycles, e-bikes, e-scooters, e-skateboards and more.

Austin Energy has secured a 20% discount for customers. Visit [electrifyexpo.com/attend](http://electrifyexpo.com/attend) and use code **EEAE20** at checkout to get your discounted tickets to Electrify Expo! Stop by the Austin Energy tent to learn more about electric fuel, charging, rebates, incentives and Austin Energy's role in electrifying transportation.

If you can't make it to the event, you can still explore the electric vehicle lifestyle from the comfort of your home. Visit Austin Energy's interactive EV Buyer's Guide at [ev.austinenergy.com](http://ev.austinenergy.com) to explore new and used electric vehicles available in the Austin area.



## SPEEDING KILLS

Just 10 miles per hour can make the difference between life and death

**Speed limits have a purpose**

**Many have recently been changed**

**Check your speed**

**Choose to stay alive**

VISION ZERO

Para obtener una copia en español de esta publicación, visite [coautilities.com/go/utilitynews](http://coautilities.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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