

# AUSTIN UTILITIES NOW

INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR CITY SERVICES



August 2023

## Save energy and water this summer

Reduce your energy and water use for summer utility bill savings.

### Save on electric bills

- » Monitor your energy use at [coautilities.com](http://coautilities.com).
- » Change your AC filter monthly in the summer to improve airflow and air quality.
- » Raise your thermostat by a few degrees.
- » Use fans when you are in the room to feel about 4 degrees cooler.
- » Keep curtains and blinds closed on windows hit by direct sunlight.

### Save on water bills

- » Find water savings ideas at [austinwater.org](http://austinwater.org).
- » Take shorter showers when you can — five minutes, tops.
- » Don't let the water run while brushing your teeth.
- » Water your lawn on your assigned day and times.
- » Use drip irrigation for bedded plants, shrubs and trees to water the roots directly.

Visit [austinbillhelp.com](http://austinbillhelp.com) for help with utility bills. Find power outage preparation information at [austinenergy.com/go/outage](http://austinenergy.com/go/outage).



## Making sure city streets are smooth sailing

Is your street getting a little bumpy? Don't worry, it's the time of year when City crews make repairs with a smoothing process called sealcoat.

Residents along streets identified for sealcoat treatment will receive advance notice of scheduled work. These residents will be asked to move vehicles away from streets scheduled for maintenance for two days.

Crews spray an oil mixture on the road, followed by spreading and rolling a gravel mixture. Finally, they sweep up excess gravel, resulting in a smoother surface that prevents potholes.

Streets can be used immediately after treatment. Avoid hard braking or turning over newly sealcoated streets — this can cause an increased amount of small gravel particles to break loose from the road before the treatment cures. Crews will return for additional sweeping of loose gravel if needed. Residents can expect loose gravel to settle in roughly four to six weeks.

Learn more at [austintexas.gov/page/street-preventative-maintenance](http://austintexas.gov/page/street-preventative-maintenance).



## If it grows, it goes — in your green composting cart

The Curbside Composting Collection Program collects food scraps, yard trimmings, food-soiled paper and natural fibers, converting them into nutrient-rich compost. Place spoiled, cooked or raw food, plus food-soiled paper, in your green composting cart. Leaves, small branches and other yard trimmings can go directly into your cart, along with natural fibers like popcorn bags or chopsticks. Ensure your cart lid closes completely, then set it out by 5:30 a.m. on collection day. Learn what goes into your green cart at [austintexas.gov/composting](http://austintexas.gov/composting).

# Safe Routes to School

It's back-to-school time, and the City of Austin is committed to getting your children to campus safely. The Safe Routes to School Program encourages human power to get to school, whether it's walking, bicycling or rolling.

At the Safe Routes website — [austintexas.gov/saferoutes](https://austintexas.gov/saferoutes) — you can discover multiple ways to educate, engage and protect your family:

- » **Crossing Guard Program** — Become a crossing guard or get a crossing guard for your school. Pay is \$20 per hour and you'll be doing a great thing for your community.
- » **Community Engagement** — Get help planning activities to get students excited about walking and biking to school. Request traffic observations from the City for your neighborhood school.
- » **Education and Training** — Host a safety training at your school and get lesson plans, classroom activities, and other resources for educators and administrators.
- » **Information on Safe Routes Projects** — Learn about Safe Routes infrastructure projects near your school, including interactive maps.



## Take a pause in the back-to-school hustle

As students begin to return to the classroom this month, the City of Austin is reminding you to stay safe on our area roadways. Failure to yield is one of the top contributing factors to severe crashes in Austin and is particularly dangerous for vulnerable road users like pedestrians or people on bikes or scooters.

Between 2017 and 2021, more than 200 people were injured or killed by turning drivers at signalized intersections in Austin. In more than 60% of these crashes, the driver failed to yield to a pedestrian who had the walk signal.

Always pay attention for people crossing the street, put your phone down when driving and remember to watch your speed. Slowing down by just a few miles per hour can significantly reduce the chance of a crash and can even save a life.

To learn more about Austin's efforts to eliminate traffic-related serious injuries and fatalities, visit [austintexas.gov/department/vision-zero](https://austintexas.gov/department/vision-zero).



## Public School Energy Assistance Fund now serving homeless students

Since 2012, the Public School Energy Assistance fund has been an accessible way for City of Austin Utilities customers to voluntarily contribute to public education. In late 2022, Austin City Council passed a resolution to allocate those funds to serve the most vulnerable of students — those experiencing homelessness, including children who are unsheltered or living in shelter or transitional housing, hotel/motel accommodations, or doubled up in insecure housing. The new Homeless Student Assistance Fund aims to help schools provide quality educational opportunities to homeless students in each of the school districts served by Austin Energy. You can help by donating, either online at [coautilities.com](https://coautilities.com) or with an added contribution when you mail in your payment. Look for "Homeless Student Fund" on the tear-off payment stub portion of your bill.

**www.colinshope.org**

**COLIN'S HOPE BE A WATER WATCHER**

SCAN ME

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