

AUSTIN UTILITIES NOW

INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR CITY SERVICES



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Wise ways to reduce your bills this summer

Water consumption and energy use hit a peak in August and September, resulting in higher water and electric bills for residents. Try using these helpful summer savings tips to reduce your costs!



Impact Your Water Bills

- » **Water your lawn on your assigned day and times.**
- » **Use drip irrigation for bedded plants, shrubs and trees.** This applies water directly to the roots and avoids evaporation.
- » **Choose drought-tolerant plants.** When landscaping, group plants with similar water needs together.
- » **Wash your car at a commercial car wash that recycles water.** This saves hundreds of gallons of water when compared to washing your car at home.
- » **Replace older toilets.** High-efficiency models use 1.28 gallons per flush. Dual flush models use even less water.
- » **Take shorter showers (five minutes, tops).** If you take a bath, fill the tub to only six inches.
- » **Replace bathroom faucet aerators and showerheads.** Low-flow aerators use 0.5 gallons per minute. Water-saving showerheads use 1.5 gallons per minute or less.
- » **Turn off the water.** Don't let water run while shaving, brushing your teeth, lathering in the shower and shampooing or conditioning your hair.

Impact Your Electric Bills

- » **Change your AC filter every month in the summer.** This helps with air flow and quality.
- » **Set your thermostat at 78 degrees or higher when possible.** Every degree higher than 78 degrees can decrease your bill by about 3 percent.
- » **Let someone else pay the energy bills.** Go to a library, shopping center or community center and take advantage of climate-controlled activities away from home.
- » **Install LED light bulbs.** ENERGY STAR® qualified LEDs use at least 75 percent less electricity, generate less heat than incandescent bulbs and last about 50 times longer, saving both money and energy.
- » **Unplug appliances and electronic devices when you are not using them.** They use energy even when they are turned off. Turn off your lights when you leave home.
- » **Keep curtains and blinds drawn on windows hit by direct sunlight.** The sunlight can quickly raise indoor temperatures 5-10 degrees.
- » **Use fans when you are in the room.** Fans make you feel 2-4 degrees cooler. Turn them off when you leave the room. Remember, fans cool people, not rooms!

Want more ways to save? Visit austinenergy.com/go/summer and austintexas.gov/summersavings.

SAFETY TIP!



Telltale signs of electrical problems in rentals

If you're moving into rental property, here's a way you can check for underlying electrical problems. Turn on all the lights and wait a few minutes. Have the lights dimmed or flickered? Are the on/off switches warm to the touch? Does the microwave, air conditioner or heater cause the lights to flicker or dim? Is there a burning smell or buzzing noise? Any of these warning signs can mean electrical problems.

5 Tips for Apartment Recycling

Recycling in an apartment can feel like an impossible task, but it doesn't have to be that way. Here are five tips you can use right now:

- » **Start with the easy stuff.** Focus on common recyclable items like plastic, cardboard and paper, aluminum cans and glass.
- » **Eliminate junk mail.** Visit catalogchoice.org and dmachoice.org to opt-out of catalogs, retailer ads and coupons.
- » **Add recycling bins to every room.** It's easy to remember to recycle when there's a container in the room.
- » **Post recycling signs.** Download free signs at austintexas.gov/uroresources to remind and educate your roommates and neighbors about what's recyclable.
- » **Become a Zero Waste (Block) Leader.** Block Leaders are "green-minded" active residents who help spread the word about recycling in their communities. Sign up at austintexas.gov/zerowasteblockleader.



Stay in the loop with Safe Routes to School!

The Safe Routes to School Program helps Austin students walk and bike to school. As part of the 2016 Mobility Bond, the Safe Routes to School Program is working on projects across Austin. These projects aim to make it easier and safer for young students to get to and home from school. Want to see which Safe Routes projects might be coming to your neighborhood school? Go to austintexas.gov/saferoutesprojects to learn more and sign up for email updates. You can also go to



austintexas.gov/saferoutes for more information about the Safe Routes to School Program.



Jack Delli-Santi (left center) and Sindhuja Uppuluri (right center) pose with their teachers.

Science students win big at global science fair

Three Central Texas students, who won Best of Fair at the Austin Energy Regional Science Festival earlier this year, also brought home awards from the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair hosted in Phoenix in May.

- » **Jack Delli-Santi**, Lake Travis High School, placed second in Earth and Environmental Sciences for his project about zebra mussels.
 - » **Sindhuja Uppuluri**, Westwood High School, placed fourth in Animal Sciences for her project searching for potential treatments for Alzheimer's. This was Sindhuja's second year to place at ISEF.
 - » **Camille Chiu**, College Station High School, won an Honorable Mention from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) for her project that supported a new theory about the Milky Way galaxy.
- Congratulations to all the students!

Piecing the puzzle together with the Neighborhood Partnering Program

When it comes to making community improvements like gardens, murals, trails and sidewalk upgrades, the Neighborhood Partnering Program (NPP) is here to help put the final pieces into place. By connecting your group with opportunities like cost-sharing, adopting a median and grant assistance, NPP helps you find resources with the right fit for your project. Community organizations, neighborhood associations and nonprofits are encouraged to apply.



Have an idea for your neighborhood we can help you with? Submit an application before the Oct. 1 deadline. Applications, program rules and past projects examples can be found by visiting austintexas.gov/neighborhoodpartnering.

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

