

Lineworker Appreciation - #ThankALineworker

Electric lineworkers are essential to our daily lives, providing us with the electricity that powers our homes, businesses, and other places. They are highly skilled professionals who face many physical and mental challenges, such as working with high-voltage power lines, climbing tall poles, and operating heavy machinery. They must also be knowledgeable in electricity, engineering, and safety protocols. Lineworkers are required to attend rigorous training and certification programs to ensure they have the skill and knowledge necessary to perform their tasks safely and efficiently. Their hard work and dedication to their job enables us to enjoy the benefits of electricity every day.



L to R: Mark Gerstner, Steve Tiegs, Trevor Herfindahl, Garitt Wytaske, Pat Andera, Jeff Martinson, Colin Roberts, Pat Donovan, Tyler Underdahl, Dillon Sprague, Skip Ferguson, and Bill Bumgarner.

The Minnesota Carbon-Free Standard

In February, Governor Walz signed legislation establishing SF4, a Minnesota carbon-free electricity standard. The bill will impact electric utilities in a couple ways. One is a renewable energy standard, which expands current law that already requires power companies to deliver 25% of their energy from renewables by 2025. Now, utilities need to reach 55% renewables by 2035. Austin Utilities receives their power from the Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA) who in 2022, delivered 33.8% of their energy from renewable resources, mostly from wind and a small amount of solar.

The most consequential change is an entirely new carbon-free standard, which ramps up for electric utilities in the bill from 80% in 2030 to 90% in 2035, and then finally to 100% in 2040. Austin's contract with SMMPA expires in 2030. As we plan for the future, this new standard will influence future decisions involving AU's energy power supply.





SMART ENVIRONMENT

SAVE A TREE (AND TIME)

Switch to E-bill and receive a \$5 bill credit!

ALREADY HAVE SMARTHUB?

How to Activate Paperless Billing .

To receive the \$5 credit onto your account, you must stay enrolled in paperless billing for 12 months. 10 customers who are already enrolled in paperless billing will be put into a drawing for a \$5 credit to be applied to their account. ***

Step 1: Log in to your SmartHub Account

If you haven't registered yet, download the app or visit our website to get started.

Step 2: Activate Paperless Billing

Take advantage of this billing option to have better control over your account. Go into your settings and select paperless billing and turn this feature on. (Mobile) Or select My Profile → My Information → Update My Paperless Settings. (Web)

Step 3: Pay your bill online or through the mobile app

Activating the Paperless Billing option will have a positive impact on the environment and organization of your life by giving you instant access to your bill.

NEED TO REGISTER FOR SMARTHUB?

How to register on mobile device.

Step 1: Install the SmartHub app from the App Store or Google Play Store.

Step 2: Open the app and search for Austin Utilities, then hit **Don't have an account? Register now.**

Step 3: Next, you will need to fill out your information and verify your account using your email.

Step 4: The next step will ask you to set your new password on your account and accept the terms and conditions.

Step 5: If you would like to add paperless billing move the **Activate Paperless Billing** slider to the right and tap save.

Step 6: You will be asked to set a Security Phrase. You have now registered your SmartHub account!

How to register on Mobile Device



How to register on Web



Sign up for AU Alerts!

On SmartHub, you can manage your notifications, and you will be able to receive alerts for:

- Bill Available
- Billing Change
- Credit Card Expiration
- Landlord Notification
- Payment Confirmation
- Payment Reminder

Planting a Tree for Arbor Day?

1) Call 811 before you dig!

Make sure the "perfect spot" you picked out for the new tree is "perfectly safe!" Minnesota state law requires that before you begin any project which requires digging, you must first contact Gopher State One Call to locate any underground utilities.

Call 811 or visit www.gopherstateonecall.org.

2) Don't forget your Austin Utilities rebate!

Carefully positioned trees can save up to 25% of a home's energy use for heating and cooling. Customers of Austin Utilities are eligible for a **\$10 REBATE** when they purchase a tree that is on our qualifying list from one of our partnering nurseries:



Stivers Nursery
& Landscaping



To receive your rebate, complete and submit a Partners in Planting Rebate Form available from the nursery or www.AustinUtilities.com.



ATTENTION AU CUSTOMERS

Minnesota Cold Weather Rule utility protection ends on April 30th. If your bill is not current, be sure to have an active payment plan in place to avoid disconnection. Learn more at www.austinutilities.com/pages/ColdWeather/ or by calling one of our customer service staff at 507-433-8886.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Tuesday, April 4th
9:00 am - 3:00 pm



Austin Utilities - 1908 14th St. NE

1-800-REDCROSS
redcrossblood.org

Employee Spotlight

Matt Ball

Lead Gas Construction

Matt Ball started his career at AU in 2013 as a Light Equipment Operator. He had experience in masonry work and general contracting. Matt was promoted to a Welder position in 2017 and then to Lead Gas Construction in 2020. He enjoys working outdoors, making and fixing things, and knowing he plays a big role in bringing utilities to his friends and neighbors. Matt says the best part of the job is having such great co-workers.

Matt grew up in Austin and has 2 children with his fiancé Julie. Talon is 13 years old and Avery is 5 years old. He has been a golfer most of his life and even had a hole-in-one on a par 4, old hole #16, at the Ramsey Golf Course. When he's not on the links Matt likes to hunt and fish. He says when he makes it to retirement he wants to join the PGA Senior tour.



Welcome

Austin Utilities welcomes Marc Oleson as the new Information Technology Director. "We welcome Marc to the AU team and look forward to his guidance in the rapidly changing world of technology." said Nibaur.

Marc's background includes over 30 years of IT experiences across multiple industries. He is a graduate of Northwest Iowa Technical College and is completing a B.S. in Computer Information Systems from Dakota State University, Madison. His most recent experience was as an IT Systems Engineer at Cambridge Technologies in Worthington, MN. Outside of work, Marc's interests include hiking, camping, and Kansas City BBQ Society Judging.



Please help our crews by slowing down and steering clear of our vehicles and workers when we are doing our jobs. We want to keep you and our fellow co-workers safe.

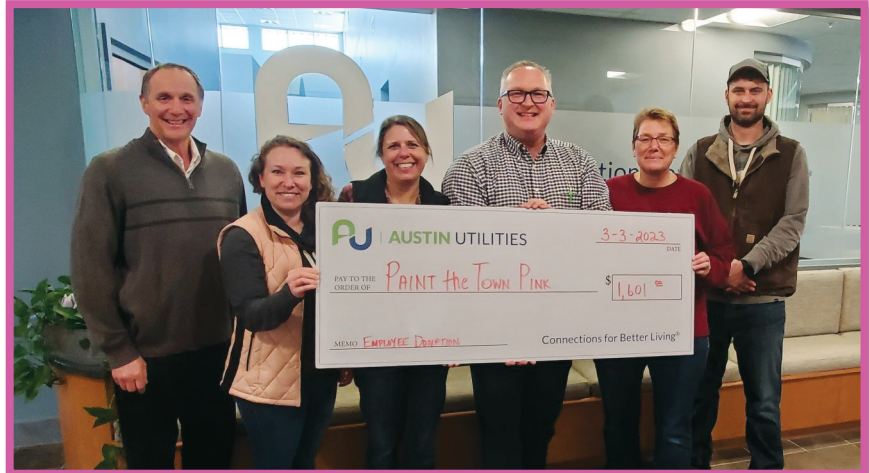
UPCOMING STREET PROJECTS

1st St NW–Oakland Ave W to 1st PI NW
Water main and service replacement
Electric vault rehab, duct installation

5th Ave NW, 6th Ave NW, 20th St NW
Water main and service replacement
Gas main and service replacement

10th Ave SW, 11th Ave SW, 2nd St SW
Water main and service replacement
Electric overhead to underground conversion

19th Dr NE, 7th Ave NE
Water main and service replacement



L to R: Mark Nibaur, Ashley Stadheim, Audra Smalley, Dave Thompson, Ann Christianson, and Corey Kreutzbender.

Once again Austin Utilities Staff participated in the community-wide Paint the Town Pink fundraiser by collecting over \$1,600 in donations from employees. The donations were collected through an annual employee raffle event for prizes donated by employees. Over the past 10 years AU staff has collected more than \$16,600 for the Hormel Institute's cancer research.

Austin Utilities Board of Commissioners

Thomas C. Baudler **Jeanne Sheehan**
Steve Greenman **Kristin Johnson**
Jay Lutz

To contact or find more information on AU's elected Commissioners visit www.austinutilities.com/pages/board



AU will be Closed
Friday, April 7th
for the Easter Holiday



Austin Utilities
1908 14th St NE Austin, MN 55912
Office: 507-433-8886
Email: talk2au@austinutilities.com
Website: www.austinutilities.com

