

Locator Appreciation

Austin Utilities has over 500 miles of underground electric, natural gas and water utility service. That is a lot of pipe in the ground! Our engineering department has the important job of knowing where all of it is. When you take the time to call Gopher State One Call (GSOC) at 811, our Engineering Service Technicians act as utility locators to locate, identify and mark underground utilities before any digging or construction begins. Their duties don't end there. They also document any changes or irregularities and make sure our system maps are updated and kept current. This is a very important job because a homeowner or contractor hitting an underground utility could cause substantial damage, like cutting the power to an entire neighborhood. In 2022, our locators responded to over 3,600 GSOC locating tickets. We are thankful for our engineering department and the work they do to keep homeowners and contractors safe while digging.



Locators Derek Berndt, Brandon Schaefer & Craig Weis

Our Lobby Hours are Changing!

AU now has many ways for you to conduct business with us online like applying for new service, rebates or making payments. Visit www.austinutilities.com

New Lobby Hours (effective July 3)

MON-THU: 8:30 am to 5:00 pm
FRIDAY: 8:30 am to 4:00 pm

Peak Alerts are when the entire community is using the most electric energy. They only happen a few days and occur from June-September on the hottest days of the year. The highest level of energy used during this season impacts utility costs for the entire year so it's important to try and keep our energy use as low as possible.

Help us control Peak Alerts by becoming an Energy Hero. We notify Energy Heroes when we have a peak alert so they can reduce unnecessary energy usage which is good for the community, the environment and good for you. Sign up today at www.austinutilities.com/form/ResidentialEnergyHero/



Sign Up Now!



AU Scholarship Winners

The winner of the AU-MMUA scholarship for 2023 is Nora Tweeten. Nora's essay about the benefits of public power organizations like Austin Utilities was chosen to receive the \$500 scholarship and has been entered into the MN Municipal Utilities Association's statewide scholarship contest.

AU's first winner of the Lineworker & Utility Related Trade Scholarship is Mitchel Johnson. Mitchel will receive a \$1,000 scholarship to help pay for tuition to attend Northwest Lineman College in Utah.

Congratulations to Nora and Mitchel!



Employee Spotlight

Dillon Sprague Lineworker

Dillon Sprague joined AU in 2014 as an electric department intern. He was hired as a full-time apprentice lineworker in 2016 and advanced to a journey lineworker in 2020. Dillon grew up in Albert Lea where his father has been a lineworker for more than 30 years. Doing hands on work outside with a great electric crew is what he enjoys most about his job.



In his free time Dillon likes boating, motocross, golf, downhill skiing, and traveling. One of his trips involved being on Judge Judy where he was called as a witness. He did get scolded by her for his 'smirk' but he says the experience was great. Dillon says his future plans are to get married and settle down, as soon as the right gal comes along.

NOTICE

In compliance with the Code of Federal regulation #49, Part 192.16, Austin Utilities must notify each customer who owns buried natural gas piping after the meter.

1. Austin Utilities does not maintain the customer's buried piping.
2. If the customer's buried piping is not maintained, it may be subject to the potential hazards of corrosion and leakage.
3. Buried gas piping should be:
 - (a) periodically inspected for leaks.
 - (b) periodically inspected for corrosion if the piping is metallic.
 - (c) repaired if any unsafe condition is discovered.
4. When excavating near buried gas piping, the piping should be located in advance, and the excavation done by hand.
5. Austin Utilities and plumbing and heating contractors, can assist in locating, inspecting, and repairing the customer's buried piping.

Customers with buried natural gas piping should feel free to contact Austin Utilities at 433-8886. You can also find information at www.austinutilities.com.

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

ONLINE
NEWSLETTER
& MORE INFO
ON OUR
WEBSITE



**AU will be Closed
Tuesday, July 4th
Independence Day**



Austin Utilities

1908 14th St NE Austin, MN 55912

Office: 507-433-8886

Email: talk2au@austinutilities.com

Website: www.austinutilities.com





Sustainability Report

Based on 2022 Activity

Interest in sustainability is growing. In our industry, sustainability is often looked at as green energy, but this report highlights the ways we contribute to sustainability and carbon reduction in other ways, including our energy mix.



Customer Survey

In 2022, we surveyed our customers and this is what they said:

0 = Low Importance
10 = High Importance



7.7 / 10

How Important are efforts by AU to Provide Renewable Energy?

How Much More, as a Percent of Your Utility Bill, Will You Pay for AU to deliver More Renewable Energy?

4.95% more

We Deliver Renewable Energy

Minnesota established a goal to achieve

100% CLEAN ENERGY by 2040

joining 25 other states with 100% clean energy or zero greenhouse emissions commitments.



In 2022, we delivered

33.8%

of energy from

RENEWABLE RESOURCES*

* Renewable energy provided each year is modeled but the actual amount of renewable energy delivered is dependent upon the actual resources produced by the renewable generation.



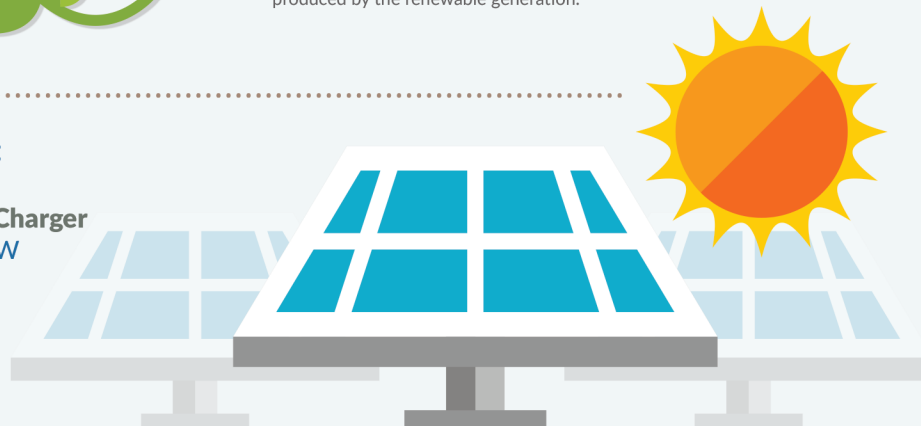
Austin Utilities owns two solar arrays:

Austin Utilities
1908 14th Street

Downtown EV Charger
403 1st Street NW

In 2022, our solar arrays produced

5,327 kWh OF SOLAR ENERGY



We Support Customer Interest in Renewable Energy

SolarChoice allows customers to subscribe to the solar output from a **COMMUNITY SOLAR ARRAY** instead of installing solar on their own property.

45 CUSTOMERS are subscribed to **206 PANELS**

In total, SolarChoice customers received **92,906 kWh** of solar energy credits.



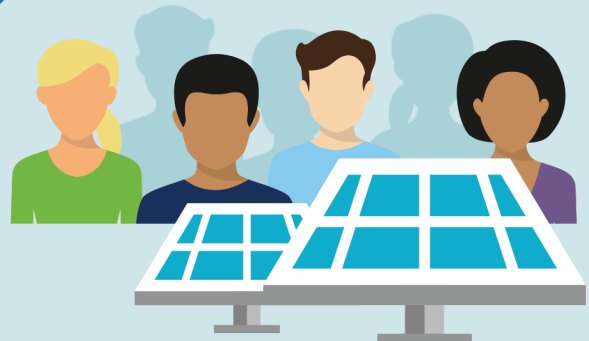
CUSTOMER OWNED SOLAR PROJECTS qualify for our solar rebate program.

27 customer-owned solar arrays

307.32 kW of solar generation

Our solar customers produced approximately

1,037,205 kWh of solar energy



We Support Using Energy Wisely

Conserve energy + save money

when you participate in our Conserve & Save rebate program for the purchase of **energy saving appliances and equipment**.



1,383 REBATES

were processed in 2022 saving customers

1,322,000

kWh of electricity

233,180

therms of natural gas

385,952

gallons of water

Conserve and Save at School – This program for 4th grade students, encourages students and families to “**Think!**”, “**Talk!**”, and “**Take Action!**” with their energy and water use through energy efficiency curriculum and a take home kit filled with energy saving items. This program saved families –



4,771
therms



12,195
kWh



382,115
gallons



416 Take home kits filled with energy saving items

were distributed in 2022

We Support Clean Transportation

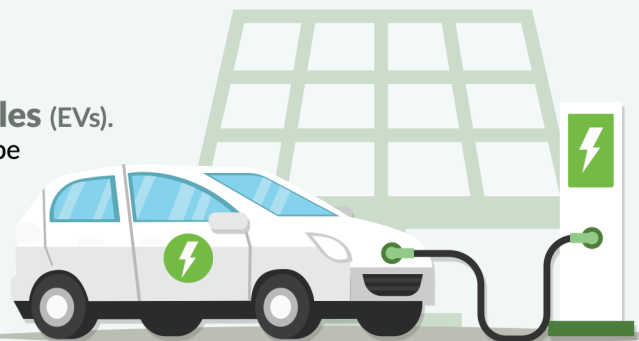
Austin Utilities is **CHARGED UP** about electric vehicles (EVs).

EVs are good for the environment because they do not produce tailpipe emissions that contribute to carbon.



Austin Utilities has installed three electric vehicle charging stations in Austin on public property.

161 sessions in 2022 – 2,745 kWh EV charging



Public Parking Lot #1

403 1st St NW – First EV Charger installed 2013, offset with solar panels



Public Parking Lot #2

329 1st St NE installed in 2020



AU Parking Lot

1908 14th St NE installed in 2020



In 2023 Austin Utilities will add a DC Fast Charge station in Austin for public use.

2 new members joined our Electric Vehicle Owners Club in 2022.

Several members participated in events throughout the year to share information about Electric Vehicles to other people in the community.

AU has a total of **11 members in the Electric Vehicle Club in 2022.**

CHARGING FORWARD WITH LOCAL ENERGY **EVCHOICE**

Austin Utilities has two alternate fuel vehicles in our fleet with plans to add more in the future.

2016 Ford F 150

CNG vehicle (Compressed Natural Gas)
Gas Service department
22,197 miles in 2022



2020 Nissan Leaf

BEV (Battery Electric Vehicle)
Shared fleet vehicle
13,691 miles in 2022



We Support Community Projects Focused on Sustainability

Water Conservation Programs

We encourage customers to use water wisely and offer incentives that support the purchase of water conservation and **WaterSense** products.

385,952 gallons saved from water conservation programs offered at AU

2022 Rain Barrel Sale

Rain barrels reduce water purchased by **providing free water for gardening** collected and stored from your homes rain gutter system.

Austin Utilities offers a \$10 rebate on the purchase of rain barrels.



Planted in the NW corner of our property is a butterfly garden (planted by our staff). It was planted to support the decline in the Monarch Butterfly.

Thank you to the Shooting Sport and Wildlife Mower County 4-H group for the great work maintaining our Butterfly Garden.

Partners in Planting

is our tree rebate program that encourages proper tree planting.

Trees remove carbon dioxide from the air we breath.

Austin Utilities partners with a local non-profit, Spruce Up Austin, on tree planting and education efforts.



AU PURPLE MARTIN COLONY

In 2022 we added a web cam to allow birds lovers to watch the Purple Martin nests from home. The web cam is available April through August at www.austinutilities.com

Purple Martin Numbers:

**17 Nests • 64 Hatched
77 Eggs • 68 Fledged**



Savings add up to a BIG IMPACT!

Austin Utilities offers a variety of programs that make it easy for our customers to make more sustainable choices every day. We continue to take steps to minimize our impact on the environment. We understand the decisions we make today can help shape our energy future for generations to come.

In 2022 our sustainability programs saved the equivalent of

9,203,890 kWh

The carbon reduction associated with this is equivalent to:



1908 14th Street N.E., Austin, MN 55912
507.433.8886 | www.austinutilities.com

The greenhouse gas emissions from

886



gasoline powered vehicles

The greenhouse gas emissions avoided by

150,901

incandescent lamps switched to LEDs



The CO₂ emissions from

502

homes' energy use for one year



The carbon sequestered by

4,748

acres of U.S. forests in one year

Thank you for helping us make a difference.