

Austin Earns Honors for Drinking Water

Austin Utilities was recently named a finalist for the 2021 Source Water Protection Award in part based on our well sealing program partnership with Mower County Soil & Water Conservation District. The partnership program provides a grant of 50% of the cost up to \$1000 to seal abandoned and unused wells in Mower County. Sealing these wells with concrete prevents contaminants from entering the drinking water. Funding for this program ends October 31 of this year. So far through this program, 13 wells in the city of Austin have been sealed and 34 wells in total in Mower County.



Adam Heimer, Water Chemical Technician, tests daily samples collected

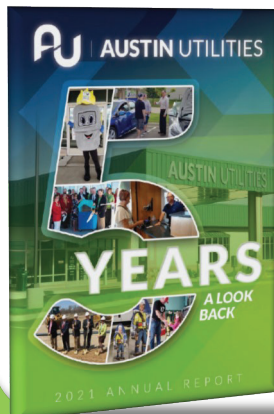
Austin is fortunate to have quality drinking water. Austin Utilities provides drinking water to its residents from a groundwater source: eight wells ranging from 110 to 1075 feet deep that draw water from the Prairie Du Chien-Jordan, Spillville, and St. Peter aquifers. The water we provide to customers meets current drinking water standards of the MN Department of Health. Austin's water quality is especially high due to the depth of the wells and the quality of the source; therefore there is little need for treatment. At each of our wells the State of MN required water treatment products are added, fluoridation, disinfection, and corrosion control.



From left, Alex Bumgardner, Utility Operations Director, Keven Maxa, Engineering Supervisor, receive award from MN DOH representative.

Austin also protects the quality of our water every day. Each year, our staff performs over 1,900 water sample tests on the Austin Utilities distribution system. Baseline sample tests are taken at the well and at various homes and businesses to monitor contaminants that may be present in our system.

Tests for Lead and Copper are performed every 3 years to comply with the EPA's Lead & Copper Rule. The next round of sampling and testing is June 2022. If you are on our test list for these contaminants we appreciate your cooperation in getting us access for samples.



ANNUAL REPORT

Our 2021 Annual Report, featuring a 5-year look back since moving into our new building, is now available in our lobby and online at <https://austinutilities.com/pages/about-us-news/#AnnualReport>

Water Quality

Our new Water Quality Report based on 2021 data provides in depth information about AU's water system and the high quality of Austin's water. The report is available in our lobby and online at <https://www.austinutilities.com/pages/WaterQuality/>



Make the Drops to Watts Connection \$

Most people know that using less energy can help save money and protect the environment. From switching light bulbs to replacing appliances, energy-efficient technologies are all around us. But did you know that saving water is another way to save energy in our homes and other buildings?

A lot of energy in your home is used to heat the water you use to shower, shave, rinse dishes, and wash clothing. That's why anything you can do to use less water in these fixtures and appliances will not only save energy, but can also lower your utility bills.

One of the best ways to save water, energy, and money without sacrificing quality is by installing WaterSense® labeled products, which are independently certified to meet the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) criteria for both water efficiency and performance. Products that earn the WaterSense label use at least 20 percent less water but must also be tested to ensure they provide the same satisfying spray, flow, or flush as standard plumbing fixtures.

Take showerheads; in addition to providing a powerful spray, WaterSense labeled showerheads save enough electricity to power a 60-watt light bulb for eight hours with every shower. A WaterSense labeled showerhead will save the average family more than \$70 in annual energy and water costs and 2,900 gallons of water per year, or the amount of water it takes to wash 70 loads of laundry and enough energy to power a home for 13 days every year!

For more information about WaterSense labeled products or the drops-to-watts connection, visit www.epa.gov/watersense.

High Efficiency Labeled Products Save Water and Energy



≤ 2.0 gallons per minute



≤ 1.28 gallons per flush



≤ 1.5 gallons per minute



≤ 3.5 gallons/ cycle



≤ 4.2 IWF*



WaterSense labeled products are more water efficient than standard products in that category and perform well.



Standard-size dishwashers and clothes washers with the ENERGY STAR label use less water and energy.

Save today with rebates for WaterSense labeled products available from Austin Utilities

Clothes Washer	\$25 - \$90
High-Efficiency Toilet	\$25
Showerhead	\$25
Rain Barrels	\$10
Weather-Based Irrigation Controls	\$75

COMMUNITY SUMMER KICK OFF

Live Music
Photo Booth
Open Swim
Canoe & Kayak
Seed Library
Dance

4th Ave Fest



FREE

Culture & Arts Commission 

4 - 8 pm

Wed June 8 ~ Horace Austin Park

Coming this summer

"Charged Up Kids"

Summer Education Class for Kids
Tuesday July 12, 10-noon
Grades 4-6

In this class, kids will learn about the world of electricity today. Topics will include solar generation, electric vehicles, electric safety, and line workers and equipment. We'll cover it all. Watch for your Austin Community Education book for sign up details.



Electric Safety Month

The average American home was **built in 1977**. Many existing homes **simply can't handle** the demands of today's electrical appliances and devices.

! Learn the warning signs of an overloaded electrical system:



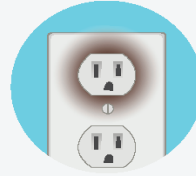
Frequent **tripping of circuit breakers** or **blowing of fuses**



Dimming of lights when other devices are turned on



Buzzing sound from switches or outlets



Discolored outlets



Appliances that seem **underpowered**

⚡ How to avoid overloading circuits:



Label your circuit breakers to understand the different circuits in your home



Have your home **inspected by a qualified electrician** if it's older than 40 years or has had a major appliance installed



Have a qualified electrician **install new circuits** for high energy use devices



Reduce your electrical load by using **energy-efficient appliances and lighting**

Employee Spotlight

Dar Duholm

Customer Service Representative

Dar is a familiar face for many customers at AU. She has been a Customer Service Representative for the past 11 plus years. When Dar joined AU she already had 19 years of experience as an Administrative Assistant. Her day to day responsibilities involve answering the phone, taking payments, processing applications and service orders among many things. For Dar the most important part of the job is just being there for the customer, no matter what service she's performing. She says she is a part of a great customer service team at AU and credits her co-workers for making her career so enjoyable.

Dar is a mother to twins Jennifer and Jesse and a grandmother of four. She's also mom to a one year old puppy named Bernard. She enjoys watching the grandkids play baseball, softball, basketball, dancing, gymnastics and bowling. When she has time to herself it's spent planting flowers, sewing, crafting, playing Sudoku and winning at BINGO! Dar plans to retire in 2023 and although she has no set plans, she hopes to travel and drop in on all her 'snowbird' friends when the Minnesota weather gets too cold.



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.

Notification to Customers

In compliance with Austin Utilities adopted rules relating to cogeneration and small power production, Austin Utilities is obligated to interconnect with and purchase electricity from cogenerators and small power producers that satisfy the conditions as a qualifying facility. Austin Utilities is obligated to provide information regarding rates and interconnection requirements free of charge to all interested customers upon request. All interconnections require an application and approval to become a qualifying facility. Any disputes over interconnection, sales, and purchases relative to qualifying facilities should be brought to Austin Utilities Board of Commissioners for resolution, per Austin Utilities Distributed Generation Rules adopted February 13, 2018. Interested customers should contact Austin Utilities at 1908 14th St. NE, Austin, MN 55912 or call 507-433-8886.

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



**Our Greatest
Resource is our
Future Generation**

*Congratulations
class of 2022!*



507.433.8886

AustinUtilities.com

CONSERVE & \$AVE

**Mower County &
City of Austin
Electronics Recycling
Event**

**Saturday, May 14th
9am to 2pm
Mower County Fairgrounds**

**To volunteer please contact Mower
County Recycling at 437-9551.**

**Austin Utilities Office
will be Closed
Monday, May 30th**

