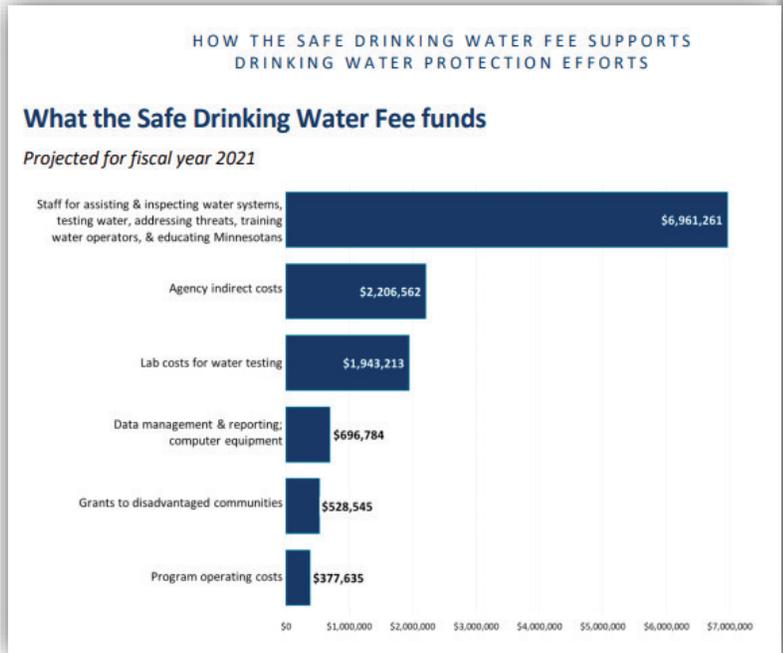


What is the Safe Drinking Water Fee?

The Safe Drinking Water Fee is paid by each active water customer. The fee provides Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) regulatory and technical assistance for public drinking water systems. It also helps the State build relationships with drinking water operations that results in extensive knowledge, trust, and compliance with the safe drinking water standards. The need for the fee began in 1992. The Safe Water Drinking Act (SDWA) required additional testing for contaminants but there were no federal funds available for the increase of testing costs. To help cover the increased costs, the 1992 Minnesota Legislature authorized the MDH to assess a fee to community water systems. The fees are dedicated to supporting smaller water systems. These systems, due to their smaller customer bases, have fewer resources for testing, investigations, and physical improvements. This fee helps ensure that our customers along with other Minnesotans have access to safe and sufficient drinking water.



Water Service (1 CCF = 748 gallons)		
Service Availability		17.20
Water Usage	8 CCF @ 1.400	11.20
Water Service Fund		3.00
Safe Drinking Water Fee		0.81
Total Water Charges		32.21

Austin Utilities customers are charged this fee on a monthly basis. Historically, it has been referred to as the State Water Tax for many years. However, starting May 1st, it will be relabeled as the Safe Drinking Water Fee. This adjustment aims to provide customers with a clearer understanding of the purpose behind the fee and how it is utilized.

Advanced Meter Infrastructure (AMI) Update

In 2021, AU began the project of upgrading all electric, natural gas, and water meters in the service territory with the AMI technology. AMI meters will allow us to provide improved service and operations savings while giving customers access to more information to make decisions that will save them energy and money. At present, the electric deployment stands at 84% completion. Water deployment has reached 65% completion, and the natural gas deployment is at 32%. All three deployments are on track to be completed on time.

If you receive notifications from AU to upgrade your meters or have any questions related to your upgrade, please contact customer service. Use the QR code to read our AMI frequently asked questions.



Family members of AU celebrate Spring with Easter Egg Hunt



The children and family members of AU hunted for eggs filled with candy on March 30. AU employees volunteered filling and hiding the eggs for the kids to enjoy.



Business After Hours

On Tuesday, March 13, Austin Utilities and Bremer Bank co-hosted the Business After Hours event at AU. We would like to thank Bremer Bank for doing this with us and the Austin Area Chamber of Commerce for the opportunity.



As part of their monthly program, the Chamber of Commerce invites different businesses in the Chamber to host Business After Hours on the second Tuesday of every month.



The event was a huge success as we had over 90 people in attendance! Everyone enjoyed good food, great company, and beautiful weather. We want to thank all those who came out that night.

AU Employees volunteer for HeatShare

AU employees volunteered at Pizza Ranch March 21. Tips raised that evening were donated to the Salvation Army Heatshare program. Heatshare programs helps community members with emergency utility assistance with no place left to turn to. Interested in donating? Contact our customer service team to sign up for HeatShare Round up.



Salvation Army Food Drive

The Austin Utilities employees came together to collect food items for the Salvation Army Food Shelf. The Food Shelf offers groceries to individuals and families in our community in need. The food drive was held from March 13th through April 5th.

MAY AU ENERGY-SAVING TIP

SPRING CLEANING

Vacuum your refrigerator coils. Dust builds up on coils, and the coils are critical to pushing heat out, so removing dust and dirt will allow the unit to keep cool more efficiently.

Welcome New Employee

Heather Felten

Austin Utilities welcomes Heather Felten, a new Customer Service Representative, to our team. "I enjoy coming to work every day, everyone is so friendly and helpful," said Heather. Her previous work experience includes being a bookkeeper at Sacred Heart in Adams, MN.

Heather was born and raised in Austin and has lived here her whole life. When she isn't working, she enjoys spending time outside with her kids and watching her girls dance and play basketball.



Employee Spotlight

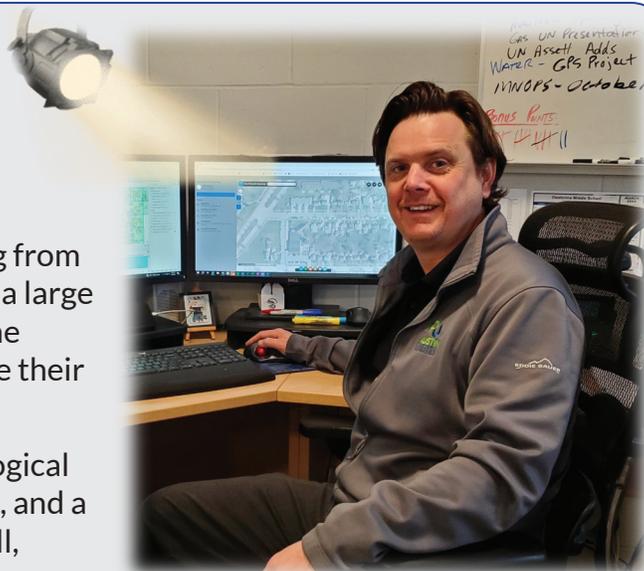
Curtis Webb

GIS (Geographic Information System) Analyst

Curtis joined Austin Utilities in April of 2021 after moving from Sioux Falls, SD where he also worked as a GIS Analyst for a large telecom provider. He says working at AU has given him the opportunity to make everyone's job easier and to enhance their work experience.

Curtis spent 20 years in the Army and has done archaeological field work in Thailand. He has a 17 yr. old daughter, Kiara, and a 12 yr. old son, Keenan. His hobbies include sports, football, camping, canoeing, hiking and exotic foods.

His career plans are to lead the GIS department at AU into the future, and provide cutting edge GIS services to AU and its customers. Along with that he wants to get a cabin in northern MN.



APGA Legislative Summit

Mark Nibaur attended the American Public Gas Association (APGA) 2024 Legislative Summit in Washington, DC in January. Attendees received important energy policy updates and were able to meet with their congressional delegates to discuss important legislative issues. Having congressional representatives hear directly from Natural Gas utility professionals is critical to advancing APGA's advocacy priorities.

While in Washington, Mark met with Congressman Brad Finstad. He also met with the staff of Senator Amy Klobuchar's and Tina Smith's offices along with Representative Fischback's and Craig's staff. Priorities of this year's summit were the Natural Gas Act and reforming section 5. Other items discussed were supporting the direct use of natural gas and its value for electric generation, as a fuel source, and the availability of its use for cooktop stoves and conventional furnaces. They also voiced their support for Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) dollars to support the communities they serve.

"People might say, why go to D.C.? If we go, we can make change. If you don't try, nothing will happen. Our legislators do like to see us, and our presence does make a difference." Nibaur stated.



(L-R) Thomas Liepold with Senator Klobuchar's office met with Mark Nibaur, Luke Peterson, and Michael Nolan

AU Air Conditioning Clean & Tune Rebate

\$25 CREDIT ON UTILITY BILL

CONSERVE & SAVE

Austin Utilities Board of Commissioners

Tyler Hulsebus

Jeanne Sheehan

Steve Greenman

Jay Lutz

Kristin Johnson

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 2024!

Maison Johnson - Son of Mike Johnson
Riley Ferguson - Son of Skip Ferguson
Camille Dunlap - Daughter of Jess Dunlap
Kiara Webb - Daughter of Curtis Webb

Austin Utilities will be CLOSED

MEMORIAL DAY

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

MAY 27 2024

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