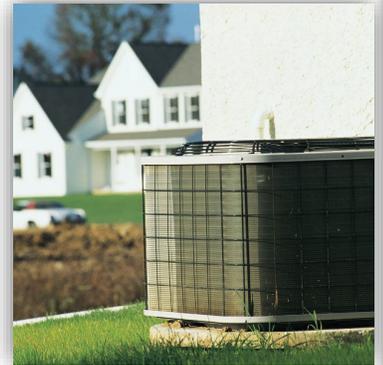


## Lowering electricity costs using AC load controls

According to Minnesota Public Radio, this summer was the fourth hottest summer on record. Hot summer temperatures greatly affect electricity costs. Sixty-five percent of the cost of electricity is based on the cost of purchasing power. One cost variable is when our system peaks. That “peak” sets a portion of purchased power costs for the year. Lowering the peak helps lower rates and utility bills for all customers.

To help control system peaks, we install AC load control devices outside on your central air unit. The device helps reduce demand for electricity during peak times by only cycling the compressor on your AC off for a portion of each hour. It is also known as peak shaving, which is a practice that saves customers energy and money. From June 1 to September 30, Austin Utilities initiated 16 load control events – which was 13% of the total days during that timeframe. The average amount of time when load control was initiated was three hours and 43 minutes. Load control, the Energy Hero Program, and generation powered by a few local businesses - all contribute to reducing our peak. If you feel your central air unit isn't keeping up like it should, we have Conserve and Save™ rebates for new equipment and A/C Clean and Tune Rebates.



## Thank you, Energy Heroes!

As we experienced above average temperatures, this summer, these businesses participated in our Energy Hero Campaign. The program is an opportunity for local businesses to lower their electric usage during peak demands. AU thanks these customers for participating in the program for 2023.



Austin Area Commission for the Arts  
Austin Public Schools  
Cedar River Counseling  
Clifton Larson Allen  
Diane's Salon Classics  
Fraternal Order of the Eagles  
Hormel Food Corporation  
Jay C. Hormel Nature Center  
Medicap Pharmacy  
Rodeway Inn and Suites  
Southern MN Women's Center  
Willow Pet Hospital

Austin HRA  
Bell Liquor  
City of Austin  
Diamond Ridge Printing  
Fox Electric  
Hastings Shoes & Repairs  
Hormel Institute  
M.J. O'Connor, Inc.  
Moline Awards/United Pack and Ship  
Simplified Technology Solutions  
Sterling Drug – Main Street

## Tom Baudler retires from AU Board of Commissioners

Tom Baudler, long standing AU Commissioner, retired from the Board on November 21, 2023. Tom started as a Commissioner with Austin Utilities on October 12, 1999. He replaced his father, Richard C. Baudler, who himself was a long-term commissioner and served from 1959 to 1999. This will be the first time in 64 years that a member of the Baudler family will not represent our customers as a commissioner.

During his career, Tom has seen many changes in metering technology, customer service enhancements and most notably, the building of our central facility in 2016.

“Tom will be missed on the board. He was on the board when I arrived and has been a strong advocate for the customer from the beginning of his long board tenure. I appreciate Tom's careful balance on board governance and allowing management to run the company. I wish Tom well in his future endeavors.” – Mark Nibaur, General Manager



# What's the Cost of Lighting Up the Holidays?

## Outdoor Inflatables

Becoming more popular every year, they run about 200 watts for 24-hours a day during the month of December costing you just under \$19.00 (each!)

## Indoor Pre-lit Trees

A 7.5 foot tall tree with 650 incandescent mini-bulbs uses about 300 watts. On an average of 12-hours a day during the month of December it will end up costing you just under \$14.00

## Outdoor String Lights

On average, a modest display of 10 strands of incandescent bulbs would use about 151 kWh and cost \$19.31 for the full season.

(Using LED lights will reduce that to 18 kWh of energy costing \$2.27!)

Purchase LED Holiday Lighting and get rebates up to \$12 per string

Recycle your old lighting at AU bins in lobby

## 97 Pounds of Food Collected During Trick or Treat Food Drive

Austin Utilities Employees handed out candy to over 250 trick or treaters and collected food donations for the Salvation Army during their Trick or Treat Food Drive on Halloween.



AU's Meter Buddy & a Trick or Treater



Taylor Arndt, Meter Buddy & Jay Kohnke



Melissa Swenson & Lori Espe of the Salvation Army

# Round Up a Little, Help Out a Lot!

Give a gift all year long by setting up a HeatShare automatic monthly round-up. Your donation stays right here in our community to help neighbors in need. HeatShare is a voluntary program administered by the Salvation Army. It helps those in need survive our long winters by providing funds for heating bills and heating-related repairs.

Don't want to round-up, but still want to contribute? Visit our lobby or call us at 507-433-8886 and make a one-time donation.



Please Pay Amount  
\$545.59

smart hub

**SIGN UP FOR  
E-BILL AND GET  
A \$5 BILL CREDIT**

To sign up, visit [austinutilities.com](http://austinutilities.com)  
or scan the QR code.

## Give the Gift that Never Gets Returned

.....  
**Gift**ing a utility payment is a great way to support a friend or family member who may be struggling right now.

Give the gift that will never be returned and will always be used and appreciated. When you make a gift payment on an account you receive a Gift Payment Certificate to give to the recipient showing the amount of the payment.



Gift payment certificates are available in any denomination and can be purchased at the Austin Utilities office at 1908 14th St NE or by calling 507-433-8886

## Employee Spotlight

### Pete Klingfus Materials Coordinator

Pete joined AU in the summer of 2018 as the Warehouse Materials Coordinator. He had worked as a prototype machinist and purchasing agent for a local machine shop before taking the position. Pete is involved in purchasing and organizing the large supply of parts and equipment AU crews need to maintain and repair Austin's utility infrastructure. Being able to interact with employees in all the different departments is something he really enjoys.

Pete has been married to his wife, Char, for 23 years. They have two daughters, Paige is 21 and Cara is 18. The Klingfus family still resides on the family farm where Pete was born and raised. He enjoys motorsports, snowmobiles, motorcycles, and repairing almost anything. Spending time with his family camping, boating and cruising the Caribbean Ocean also makes his list of hobbies. Pete says despite not being able to swim, his plans for the future involve winning the lottery and sailing the seven seas.



## 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](http://www.austinutilities.com).

**TIME IS  
RUNNING  
OUT!**



Due to new federal lighting standards, **rebates for screw base LED bulbs for all residential and commercial customers will end on Dec 31, 2023.**

Apply before they are gone! Download a rebate application with complete terms and conditions:

[austinutilities.com](http://austinutilities.com)

**CONSERVE  
& \$AVE**

**AU | AUSTIN UTILITIES**  
Connections for Better Living®

Help families in need this Holiday Season by purchasing gifts from a local child's wish list and donating them to the Salvation Army. AU will have an Angel Tree in our lobby through December 7th.



## **Red Cross Blood Drive**

**Thursday, Dec. 28th**  
**Austin Utilities**  
**1908 14th St NE**  
**9:00 am - 3:00 pm**



[redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org)  
**1-800-REDCROSS**

## **Austin Utilities** **Board of Commissioners**

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

**Kristin Johnson, 2023 President**

To contact or find more information on AU's elected Commissioners visit [www.austinutilities.com/pages/board](http://www.austinutilities.com/pages/board)



## **Austin Utilities**

**1908 14th St NE Austin, MN 55912**  
**Office: 507-433-8886**

**Email: [talk2au@austinutilities.com](mailto:talk2au@austinutilities.com)**  
**Website: [www.austinutilities.com](http://www.austinutilities.com)**

