

Fact Sheet

Austin Utilities Facility Update

Austin Utilities Board and Staff are looking to better meet the needs of our customers now and into the future by investing in our infrastructure. Planning began in 2009 with the purchase of our Energy Park site, 23 acres in Austin's industrial park just south of Todd Park. We are able to repurpose our existing facilities but for just a small increase in our investment we can build a new central facility at Energy Park. This will give us the opportunity to have all our staff located in one central building, allow us to meet and exceed the excellent customer service our customers have come to expect from us, and achieve cost savings from operational efficiencies. Vacating our existing facilities will support economic and community development in the downtown area. This new building could be a community role model in energy efficiency.

Construct a New Central Facility

- Provides "One Central Facility" concept and gains physical and financial efficiencies
- Allows for economic and community development expansion in the downtown area
- Provides adequate space for all utility functions with a building size of 105,000 sq. ft.
- Estimated project cost \$15 - \$21 million (includes furnishings, fixtures, equipment, architect and engineering)

Here are a few of the benefits of a new facility -

Building for the Future

- Replaces outgrown and outdated facilities
- Provides space for Austin Utilities staff and customer meetings that is lacking in our current facility

Improve Operation Efficiencies/Synergies

- Savings estimated at \$2.5 million over 10 years
- Eliminates wasted staff time traveling to and from current multiple locations

Improve Safety

- Eliminates traffic and safety hazards associated with current location
- Fenced area will secure the new facility from security breaches

Improve Service During Emergencies

- Central Dispatch/Control Center in a hardened area improving crew response time
- Backup generation onsite to assure quick response during emergencies

Improve Customer Service

- Serve our customer with a "one stop shop" by providing all departments' functions in one facility.
- Improved lobby space and customer interaction providing better privacy and areas to complete paperwork

Financing and Rate Implications

- Federal and other grant opportunities to help offset costs
- Average residential customer increase \$5-6 per month
- Average small to medium business customer increase \$44-70 per month
- Average large business customer increase \$66-142 per month

