



July
2012

Austin Utilities
400 4th St N.E.
Drop Boxes

Drive-Up Location

- East side of building (entrance on 4th St NE)

Walk-Up Location

- Austin Utilities Lobby
- North side of building entrance on 4th Ave NE

Payments made at the above locations by **5:00 p.m. on the due date** do not incur a late fee.

Austin Utilities
Off Site
Drop Boxes

Jim's Market Place

301 11th St NE

Hy-Vee

1001 18th Ave NW

Main Street

1305 1st Ave SW

Payments made in the convenience locations above will be processed on the following business day.

Connections

Strengthening our Community...

one customer at a time!

Rebate of the month

Because we all benefit when we conserve and save

July - Dehumidifier

Did you know that the average Energy Star qualified dehumidifier can save you about \$20 per year? Over the life of the unit, that's more than \$220 in savings.

Energy Star qualified dehumidifiers have more efficient refrigeration coils, compressors, and fans than conventional models. They remove the same amount of moisture as a similarly-sized standard unit but use 15% less energy to remove moisture from your home.

Austin Utilities customers can qualify for a \$65 rebate by recycling their old dehumidifier and purchasing a new qualifying ENERGY STAR model.

Visit austinutilities.com for more information about Energy Star Dehumidifiers.

Because we all benefit when we conserve & save.

**Affordable Solar Thermal for
Your Home or Business
Free Workshop
July 25th, 6-8 p.m.
Hormel Nature Center
Ruby Rupner Building**

This workshop is to highlight the MN Renewable Energy Society's Solar Hot Water/Air Heat Bulk Purchase Program, *Make Mine Solar*. Participants will learn the basics of energy efficiency, solar hot water and solar air heat technology, how the bulk purchase program works, rebates, incentives and financing.

Everyone will get a chance to meet the installers and talk to them one on one about their project. It is recommended participants get a site assessment before the workshop so they can bring it along to demonstrate their site better to the installers.

To sign up for a virtual low cost site assessment, go to <http://mnrenewables.org/node/1176> to get you started on the process.

- ♦ The basics about solar and how it works
- ♦ The basics of the bulk purchase program
- ♦ How you can promote this in your neighborhood
- ♦ Cost, rebates and tax credits
- ♦ How to choose an installers and next steps

Schedule:

- ♦ Energy Efficiency Techniques by James Dontje of Gustavus College
- ♦ Solar Air Heat and Solar Hot Water Basics by James Dontje of Gustavus College
- ♦ Program Basics by Laura Cina of the MN Renewable Energy Society
- ♦ Questions & Answers plus Meet Your Installers

Line dry and save money

Energy Star clothes washers use 37% less energy to wash clothes than standard washing machines. About 90% of the energy used for washing clothes in a conventional top-load washer is for heating the water. There are two ways to reduce the amount of energy used for washing clothes—use less water and use cooler water. Unless you're dealing with oily stains, the warm or cold water setting on your machine will generally do a good job of cleaning your clothes. Switching your temperature setting from hot to warm can cut a load's energy use in half.

Laundry Tips

- Wash your clothes in cold water using cold-water detergents whenever possible.
- Wash and dry full loads. If you are washing a small load, use the appropriate water-level setting.
- Dry towels and heavier cottons in a separate load from lighter-weight clothes.
- Don't over-dry your clothes. If your machine has a moisture sensor, use it.
- Clean the lint filter in the dryer after every load to improve air circulation.
- Use the cool-down cycle to allow the clothes to finish drying with the residual heat in the dryer.
- Periodically inspect your dryer vent to ensure it is not blocked. This will

save energy and may prevent a fire. Manufacturers recommend using rigid venting material, not plastic vents that may collapse and cause blockages.

- Consider air-drying clothes on clothes lines or drying racks. Line drying clothes can cut \$25 off your monthly electric bill and it increases the life of your favorite outfit, saving them from the dryer's damaging heat.

Long-Term Savings Tips

- Look for the Energy Star and Energy Guide labels. Energy Star clothes washers clean clothes using 37% less energy than standard washers. Most full-sized Energy Star washers use 15 gallons of water per load, compared to the 32.5 gallons used by a new standard machine. Energy Star models also spin the clothes better, resulting in less drying time.
- When shopping for a new clothes dryer, look for one with a moisture sensor that automatically shuts off the machine when your clothes are dry. Not only will this save energy, it will save the wear and tear on your clothes caused by over-drying.
- Energy Star does not label clothes dryers because most of them use similar amounts of energy, which means there is little difference in energy use between models.

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, 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 or at our website www.austinutilities.com for further assistance.

Set Up a Rain Barrel



Lawn and garden watering make up nearly 40% of total household water use during the summer. A rain barrel collects water

and stores it for watering plants or washing your car. It provides a supply of soft water that is free of chlorine, lime, or calcium. A rain barrel can save homeowners up to 1,300 gallons of water during the summer according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Not only is water conservation good for the environment, it can save you money. Rain barrels also divert water from storm drains which decreases the impact of runoff to streams. Although prices can vary, there is a variety to choose from including decorative models. Visit www.austinutilities.com for rebates on rain barrels and information on other residential rebates and incentives.

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