



NEWS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## AUSTIN UTILITIES CELEBRATES PUBLIC POWER WEEK, OCT. 1-7

AUSTIN, Minn.— Austin Utilities is celebrating Public Power and Public Natural Gas week, Oct. 1-7, along with more than 2,000 other community-owned, not-for-profit electric and gas utilities that collectively provide utility services to over 47 million Americans.

Public power utilities are community-owned, locally controlled and operated on a not-for-profit basis. Each utility is a little different, depending on population, geography, structure, and the community's values and goals. This ability to tailor local control, reliable customer service, affordable rates, and economic development to the local community is the foundation of public power's success.

"Public Power and Public Natural Gas Week gives us the chance to emphasize the advantages of the locally grown, locally owned energy we deliver to our citizens," said Mark Nibaur, general manager. "Our service is reliable and safe because of the pride we take in Austin and serving our friends and neighbors."

Austin Utilities invites community members to participate in a variety of events in October. Activities include:

- Winter Readiness Open House Lower temperatures often bring higher energy costs. But don't wait! Now is the time to plan and prepare! Come to Austin Utilities' Winter Readiness Open House to learn about tools and services available to help you manage winter energy costs. Free LED for attendees.  
October 5<sup>th</sup> from 2-6pm
- FREE workshop "Community Solar" An overview of solar electric and heating systems. This workshop answers many basic questions about how well solar works in Minnesota, where to start, costs, incentives and maintenance.  
October 4<sup>th</sup> 10-11am or 6-7pm
- FREE workshop "Energy Saving 101" Learn common sense ways to decrease energy use and save money on utility bills. Participants receive a free gift bag of energy saving products and can sign up for a House Call Energy Audit (\$300 value) for a reduced co-pay of \$25.  
October 11<sup>th</sup> 1-2 pm or 6-7 pm

- HeatShare 5K or 1 Mile Run/Walk – The first year of this fundraising event. All funds raised stay in the Austin community to support the Salvation Army HeatShare program.  
October 7<sup>th</sup> at 9 am
- Facility Tours – October 3<sup>rd</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> at 1pm or 5:30 pm
- Free Cookies - Available in the lobby of Austin Utilities all week and a free gift for all customers who stop in and see us in October.

For more information on this week's event's check out our website at [www.austinutilities.com](http://www.austinutilities.com).

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Austin Utilities is a municipal utility serving approximately 12,300 electric customers, 10,300 natural gas customers, and 9000 water customers. Their mission is to offer utility products and services in a safe, reliable and responsible manner in order to enhance the quality of life in our community. Austin Utilities' Board of Commissioners are elected by the consumer-owners of Austin to represent their best interest. For more information on Austin Utilities visit their website at [www.austinutilities.com](http://www.austinutilities.com).