

PRACTICE ENERGY CONSERVATION TO KEEP COOLING COSTS DOWN

Once there was a family who loved to leave their lights and appliances on all the time. Then one day, they received a high electricity bill that made them realize they needed to change their ways. They started turning off lights and unplugging appliances when they weren't using them. As a result, their electricity bill decreased significantly. They also felt good knowing they were doing their part to conserve energy and help the environment. From then on, they made it a habit to always be mindful of their energy usage and continued to save money while helping the planet.

The Farmer's Almanac uses words like "unrelenting" and "oppressive" when describing the heat that we'll experience this summer. At a time when many customers are just catching up from winter bills, we encourage practicing some of these energy conservation tips to keep cooling costs down this summer.

- Have a Clean and Tune performed on your air conditioning system and replace the filter regularly.
- Set your thermostat at 78°F and use a fan when in the room to circulate air. Be sure fan blades turn counterclockwise and turn fans off when you leave the room.
- Close curtains and shades during the day and open windows at night to take advantage of "free" cooling.
- Remember, don't try to heat or cool the outdoors! Close windows and doors when running the air conditioner. Also, make sure your air registers are clear of furniture or other obstructions so that air can circulate.
- Replace old-style lighting with LEDs and turn off lights when you are not in the room. The days are longer so when you can, use natural light.
- Wash clothes in cold water whenever possible or warm - not hot.
- Understand your energy bill so you know where to focus your energy saving actions.

Energy efficiency means to use less energy to perform the same task. Energy conservation is to not use energy. For example, turning lights off in an unused room is energy conservation while switching to more energy efficient lights such as LEDs is energy efficiency.

CONSERVE & \$AVE®

Staying cool doesn't have to break the bank. When you select equipment that is energy efficient you may pay a little more, but you save money over the life of the equipment. Our hot rebates will help with the extra cost and leave you feeling cool this summer with more money in your pockets.

AC Clean and Tune	\$25
Central Air Conditioning start at	\$100
Ceiling Fan w/LED Lights	\$25
Electric Heat Pump start at	\$100
Smart Thermostat	\$50
Window Air Conditioning	\$50

See rebate application for complete terms and conditions.



Purchasing Tips:

- Look for the ENERGYSTAR and WaterSense logo for equipment that perform the same but use less water and energy.
- Check minimum efficiency requirements ahead of time to make sure your purchase qualifies for a rebate.

Air Conditioning (AC) Load Control is an important tool Austin Utilities uses to manage energy costs for the entire community. It only happens a few times each summer, but it is important for customers to know why and how.

WHY we control AC



Austin Utilities requires a load control device be installed on all residential AC units. By controlling the load for AC usage, together we **LOWER THE COST OF PURCHASED POWER AND SAVE EVERYONE MONEY!**

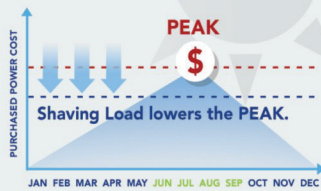
65%

of the cost of your electricity is based on the cost of **PURCHASED POWER**



OUR SYSTEM "PEAKS" on the hottest day of the summer when everyone wants power, usually for AC. This "peak" sets our cost of purchased power for the year.

THE LOWER WE CAN GET OUR "PEAK"
THE LOWER WE CAN SET EVERYONE'S RATE



TO HELP CONTROL SYSTEM PEAKS, WE INSTALL AC LOAD CONTROL DEVICES OUTSIDE ON YOUR CENTRAL AC UNIT.



These devices help reduce demand for electricity during peak usage times by cycling the compressor on your AC off for a few minutes each hour. **Also known as peak shaving**, this practice can save customers energy and money!

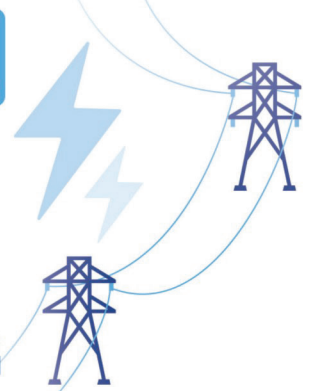
HOW we control AC



SYSTEM REACHING PEAK LOAD ALERT

AU Implements Peak Shaving Procedures.

- An AU operations controller is notified of the alert and sends a load management control signal to the substation gateway.

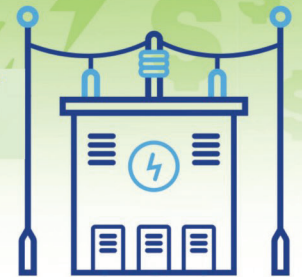


SUBSTATION

sends a signal from the gateway to each home in the city with a load control device.

1 MEGAWATT OF PEAK LOAD REDUCTION SAVES \$170,000/year

When everyone participates, we can save **5 MW** of power city wide.



EACH HOME TAKES TURNS CYCLING OFF THEIR AC COMPRESSOR FOR A FEW MINUTES EACH HOUR.

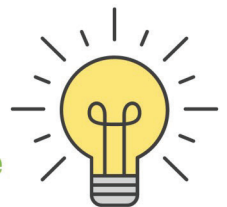
Load management devices control the AC condenser a few minutes each hour but allow your fan to continue circulating cool air.

Want to know if we are running our Load Control program?

Just go to our website and click on the load control icon to check the status.



Sign up today to be an Energy Hero. We inform **ENERGY HEROES** when we are approaching a peak alert by sending notices requesting them to limit their energy consumption.



THANK YOU

TO THESE BUSINESSES FOR
HELPING TO REDUCE OUR PEAK
ENERGY DEMAND!

Visit www.austinutilities.com to sign up your business.

Businesses who sign up to be an Energy Hero receive recognition, including a Participation Decal to display in their business window, to let customers know they are doing what they can to help manage energy costs for the community.



City of Austin
Austin HRA
The Hormel Institute
MJ O'Connor, Inc.
Jay C. Hormel Nature Center
Supplement Plans Agency, LLC
Fraternal Order of Eagles
Diane's Salon Classics

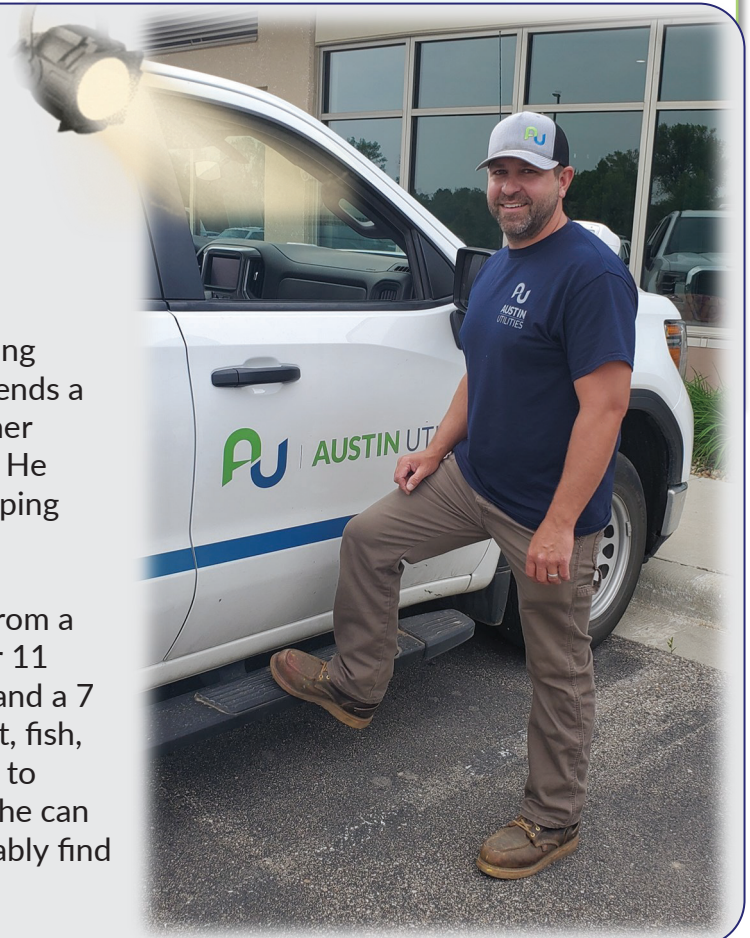
Willow Pet Hospital
Medicap Pharmacy
Fox Electric
Bell Liquor
Diamond Ridge Printing
Moline Awards/United Pack & Ship
Austin Area Commission for the Arts

Employee Spotlight

Brandon Schaefer Engineering Service Technician

Brandon began his career at AU in 2015 as a Light Equipment Operator. He moved up to the Engineering department in 2021. As a utility locator Brandon spends a lot of his work day going from one location to another marking AU's natural gas, water, and electric assets. He says he enjoys being outdoors and knowing he's helping protect our valuable infrastructure.

Brandon was born and raised in Austin and comes from a large family. He's been married to his wife, Tami, for 11 years and they have a 10 year old daughter, Isabel, and a 7 year old son, Brooks. In his free time he likes to hunt, fish, camp, and play hockey. In the near future he hopes to coach his son in hockey and be the best dance Dad he can be. When retirement finally rolls around you'll probably find him in a cabin on a lake.



HeatShare

High utility costs can happen year round. HeatShare is a Salvation Army program that provides emergency utility assistance for people with no place left to turn. AU Customers have been supporting HeatShare since the late 90s. Your monthly donation will go a long way towards offering financial aid to those who are struggling. Scan the QR code to sign up today!



Attention Martin Enthusiasts!

If you're a bird watcher, our Purple Martins are back and you can see them by checking out our Live Bird Camera online at www.austinutilities.com or by visiting the southwest corner of our property. Did you know

Purple Martins are the second most studied martins in the world? That is because they exclusively live in bird houses and do not build nests. Each year we track the number of eggs that are hatched and fledged.

Purchasing a new home is a busy and exciting time. Austin Utilities has made transferring utility services easier by giving different options to apply for your new service – when it is convenient for you! It is as easy as 1 – 2 – 3!

1

Applying for service online using Smarthub - not only is it easy to apply, but you will have all the benefits of managing your account electronically.*

New Service



2

Email us for an application at customerservice@austinutilities.com*

3

Stop in to see us and apply in person at 1908 14th St NE. Our customer service staff is ready to help answer all of your questions and get your new account started.

Are you moving and no longer need service with us? We can help with that too! Call us at 507-433-8886 during normal business hours or complete this online form:

Cancel Service



* Requires 24 hour notice.

Austin Utilities Board of Commissioners

Thomas C. Baudler Jeanne Sheehan
Steve Greenman Kristin Johnson
Jay Lutz

To contact or find more information on AU's elected Commissioners visit www.austinutilities.com/pages/board

ONLINE NEWSLETTER & MORE INFO ON OUR WEBSITE

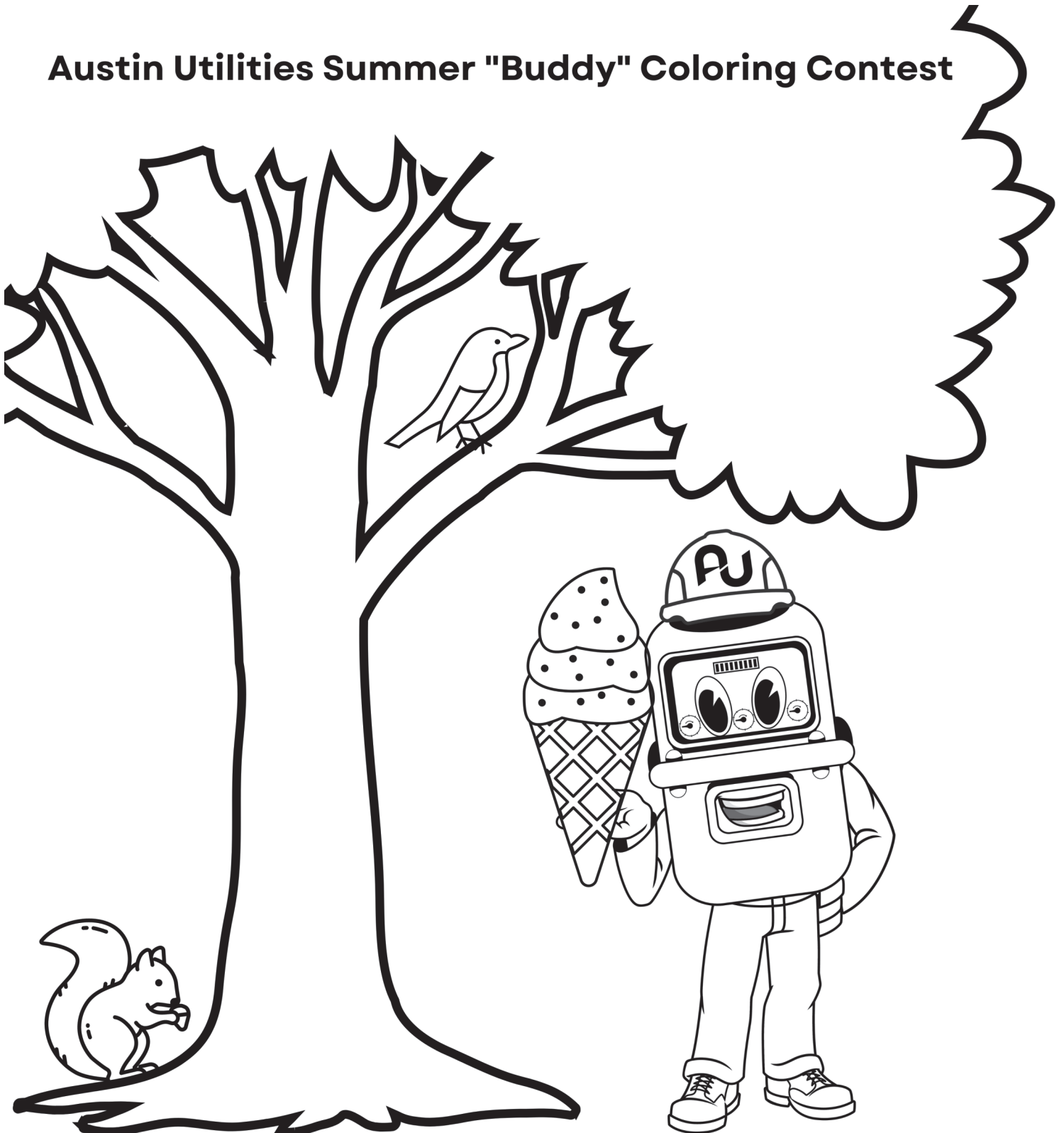


AU will be Closed
Tuesday, July 4th
Independence Day

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



Austin Utilities Summer "Buddy" Coloring Contest



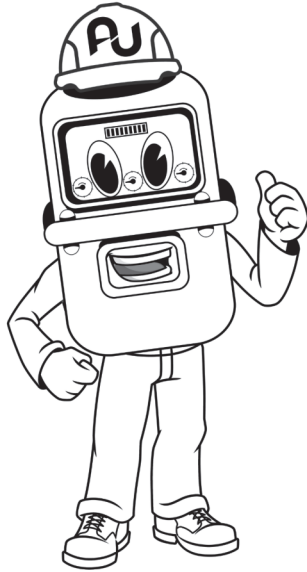
Meter Buddy says, "Turn up the thermostat inside and stay cool outside in the shade! Ice cream optional."

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First Name _____ Age _____

See backside for coloring contest rules and other important information

Energy Conservation Word Find



X F P Y E L E C T R I C I T Y
G G X R R A N M Q X Y T G E N
L E W B W I Y H A M W L S U R
V S M J S U N L I G H T S H E
E B E P E L B J Z C P W H B G
X N S F G F K W H M Y B J J Y
F E E Y Y E F F I C I E N T Y
N N N R C M P H N V C Y T C A
A D U Q G S B Y G E J X G O S
G C T Z V Y W X N J E P H N Y
A S P S P M P P V W L A X S W
S I H C P W I P M R S X R E S
K E C L N N H S F A N A A R Q
B E V C D W A T E R H C V V D
Y D X C O O L I N G U X V E O

Find these words:

Energy

Conserve

Gas

Cooling

Water

Save

Electricity

Fan

Efficient

Sunlight

Coloring Contest Rules:

Scan and submit your entry to Talk2AU@austinutilities.com -OR- Drop at our office located at 1908 14th St NE, Austin. Entries will be separated into two categories: Age 0-6 and Age 7-12.

Entries must be received by July 31st; winners will be announced August 7th on the AU Facebook page. By submitting an entry you agree to allow AU to post your entry in our lobby and your winning entry on AU's Facebook page.

3 winners will be randomly selected from each age category, Age 0-6 and Age 7-12. One grand prize winner will be selected by the AU Coloring Contest Committee.

Each winner will receive an AU Gift bag! One Grand Prize winner will receive an AU Gift bag plus \$10 in Chamber Bucks.

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____