



**AUSTIN  
UTILITIES**  
Connections for Better Living™

**The Austin Utilities Board of Commissioners** Monthly Meeting was held on April 20th, 2021. Agenda items included:

- 2020 Financial Audit
- Easement for bike trail near SW Substation
- Update on Customer Survey results

Meeting minutes are available at [www.austinutilities.com](http://www.austinutilities.com)

## Congratulations

**Briella Wempner**  
**AU's \$500**  
**Scholarship**  
**Winner for 2021!**

**AUSTIN UTILITIES  
WILL BE CLOSED  
MONDAY, JULY 5TH  
IN CELEBRATION OF**



# Connections

June 2021  
Customer Newsletter



## Sustainability Report

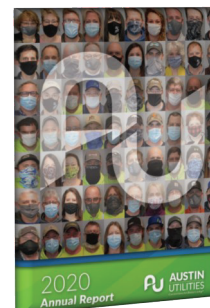
*Based on 2020 Activity*

As a municipal utility we believe it is important to meet the needs of our customers. Interest in carbon reduction is growing. Ninety-seven percent of the customers we surveyed agree or strongly agree that carbon reduction is important to them. In our industry, sustainability is often looked at as green energy, but this report highlights the ways we contribute to sustainability and carbon reduction in other ways, including our energy mix.



We are pleased to announce our customer lobby is now open regular business hours. Please continue to follow social distancing guidelines if you need to visit AU for in-person service.

**MON: 8:30 am - 5:00 pm**  
**TUE-WED: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm**  
**THU: 8:00 am - 6:00 pm**  
**FRI: 8:00 am - 3:30 pm**



AU's 2020 Annual Report is available online at [austinutilities.com](http://austinutilities.com)

# We Support Renewable Energy

**OUR ELECTRICAL SUPPLIER,**  
Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA) follows state mandates to provide:



**25% OF ENERGY**  
from renewable resources by 2025

in 2020, **26%**  
of the energy delivered was from  
**RENEWABLE RESOURCES\***



Our wholesale provider is committed to being

**80% CARBON-FREE ENERGY** by 2030

\* Renewable energy provided each year is modeled but the actual amount of renewable energy delivered is dependent upon the actual resources produced by the renewable generation.

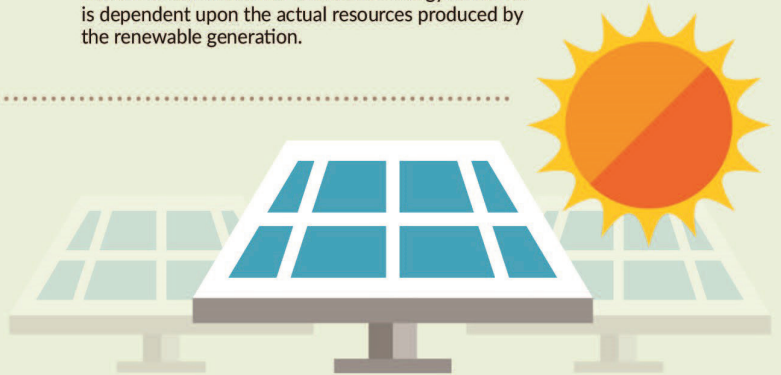


**Austin Utilities owns two solar arrays:**

- Austin Utilities**  
3.8 kW array
- Downtown EV Charger**  
1.29 kW array

In 2020, our solar arrays produced

**7,068 kWh OF SOLAR ENERGY**



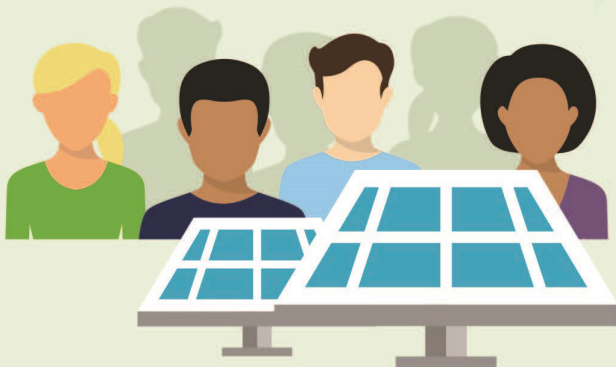
# We Support our Customer's Interest in Renewable Energy

**SolarChoice** allows customers to **SUBSCRIBE TO THE SOLAR OUTPUT** from a community solar array instead of installing solar on their own property



**40 CUSTOMERS** are subscribed to **185 PANELS**

In total, SolarChoice customers received **86,765 kWh** of solar energy credits.



**Austin Utilities provides a solar rebate** to support customers who have an interest in owning their own solar array

**25** customers own  
**271.43 kW** of solar generation to date

**Our solar customers produced approximately 916,075 kWh** of solar energy

## We support educating our customers and the community about using energy wisely

### Conserve energy + save money

when you participate in our Conserve & Save rebate program for the purchase of energy saving appliances and equipment.



**1,548 REBATES**

were processed in 2020 saving customers

**2,602,204**    **210,909**    **303,126**  
kWh of electricity    therms of natural gas    gallons of water

### Our Project Conserve and Save program for 4th graders

encourages students and families to take action with their energy and water use through energy efficiency curriculum and a take home kit filled with items that provided these energy savings to participants.



**441** Take home kits filled with energy saving items were distributed in 2020

## We support Clean Transportation

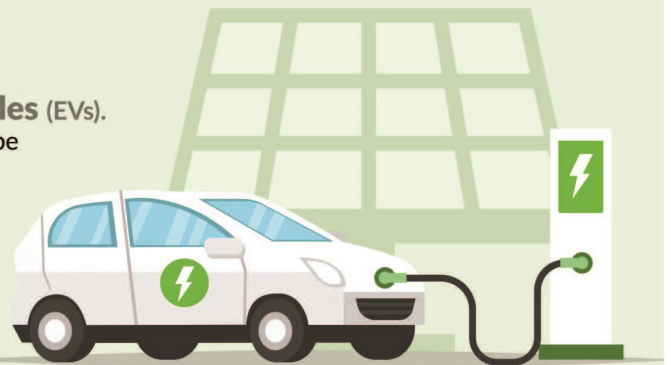
### Austin Utilities is CHARGED UP about electric vehicles (EVs).

EVs are good for the environment because they do not produce tailpipe emissions that contribute to carbon. Here are some of the ways we are helping our customers get charged up too.



Austin Utilities has installed three electric vehicle charging stations in Austin on public property

78 sessions in 2020 – 1808 kWh EV charging



**Public Parking Lot #1**  
403 1st St NW – First EV Charger installed 2013, offset with solar panels

**Public Parking Lot #2**  
329 1st St NE installed in 2020

**AU Parking Lot**  
1908 14th St NE installed in 2020

In 2021 Austin Utilities will add a DC Fast Charge station for public use in Austin.



### Austin Utilities launched an Electric Vehicle Club in 2020.

Our club members can help us learn about the needs of EV owners.

### Austin Utilities has two alternate fuel vehicles in our fleet with plans to add more in the future.

**2016 Ford F 150** with an aftermarket CNG Kit installed

**2020 Nissan Leaf BEV** (Battery Electric Vehicle)



We support engagement in community projects that are focused on **sustainability**

## In 2020 we held our first annual rain barrel sale event.

Sixty rain barrels were distributed. Rain barrels reduce water used by **providing free water for gardening** collected and stored from your homes rain gutter system. **Austin Utilities offers a \$10 rebate on the purchase of rain barrels.**



Planted by our staff in the NW corner of our property is a **BUTTERFLY GARDEN** to support growth of the declining Monarch Butterfly population.

Austin Utilities supplies butterfly garden seeds to customers interested in starting their own butterfly garden.

Thank you to the Shooting Sport and Wildlife Mower County 4-H group for the great work maintaining our Butterfly Garden.

## Savings add up to a BIG IMPACT!

Austin Utilities offers a variety of programs that make it easy for our customers to make more sustainable choices every day. We continue to take steps to minimize our impact on the environment. We understand the decisions we make today can help shape our energy future for generations to come.

In 2020 our sustainability programs saved the equivalent of

**9,953,655 kWh**



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## Partners in Planting

is our tree rebate program that encourages proper tree planting.

**Trees remove carbon dioxide from the air we breath.**

Austin Utilities partners with a local non-profit, Spruce Up Austin, on tree planting and education efforts.



## PURPLE MARTINS

are seeing a slow decline in population in part due to their dependence on humans for their habitat. The SW area of our property provides the perfect habitat for purple martins so we adopted some houses and are enjoying the bird activity.

Thank you to Bob Goetz for his continued interest in teaching us how to maintain purple martin houses.



The carbon reduction associated with this is equivalent to:



Running 1.5 wind turbines for a year.



The CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from charging **897,524,877** smart-phones in one year



The CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from **812** homes' energy use for one year



The carbon sequestered by **9,191** acres of U.S. forests in one year

Thank you for helping us make a difference.