

Holiday Energy Savings

The holidays are coming and you may have lots to buy, but you don't have to worry about your energy bill and we'll tell you why. If you're making your list and checking it twice, finding extra ways to save energy is always nice. Here are some ways to save on your bill, and they're pretty easy so we think that you will:

- Ask Santa to upgrade your thermostat. Invest in a WIFI programmable thermostat to lower the temperature in the winter overnight or when you're away. Save more than 15% on energy costs and get a \$50 rebate.
- Deck the halls with LED lights. LED Christmas lights use 90% less electricity than regular Christmas lights and you can apply for utility rebates up to \$12 a string.
- Bake several dishes at once. If you'll be doing a lot of cooking this season, take advantage of the energy that goes into warming your oven by baking as many dishes at once as possible.
- Turn lamps off when the tree is lit. You'll have plenty of light (and can enjoy the peaceful ambiance) simply by using the light of the Christmas tree to illuminate the room.
- Lower the thermostat when the party starts. While hosting guests, turn down the heat since holiday cooking and having a few extra warm bodies automatically raises the temperature in your home.
- Put holiday lights on a timer. Set the timer to turn lights on when it gets dark and off at bedtime. Aim to keep Christmas lights on for less than six hours a day.
- Unplug electronics before leaving town. TVs, DVD players, computers, printers, radios and many other electronics use energy even when they aren't turned on. Take the time to disconnect these phantom energy users before going away for the holidays.

**So your energy bill won't give you a fright, check out more savings ideas on our website.
www.austinutilities.com**

Celebrate the Holidays with LED Lights
**Purchase new LED holiday lighting
and get a rebate up to \$12 per string**
(must file rebate by 3/31/2023)

Myth; You will have a high energy bill if you put up holiday lights. Holiday lights don't have to use a lot of energy. By using LED lighting and putting your lights on timers, you can keep your holiday lighting costs under control and avoid any surprise jumps in your energy bill.



Recycle old holiday lights at AU

Annual Cost Comparison to other local communities

based on rates from Jan-Dec 2021

Compared to utility costs in other surrounding communities, Austin Utilities rates are average. As your local public not-for-profit utility, we strive to keep rates competitive. For more information about our rates check out our full 2022 Residential Rate Report available online.

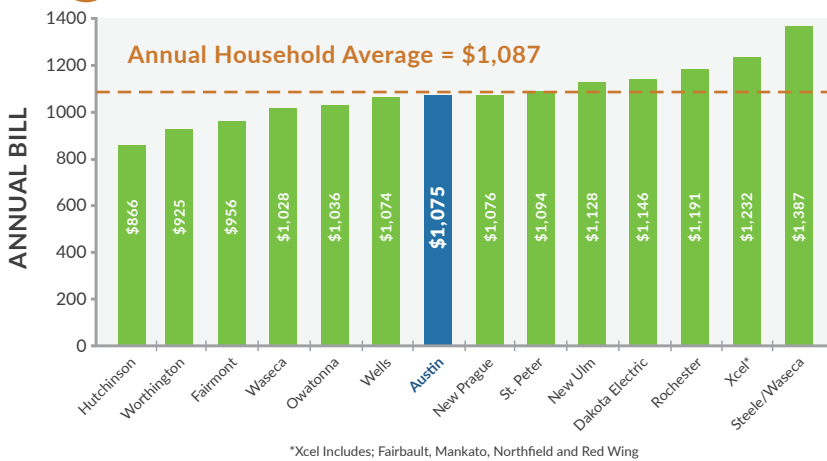


American Public Power Association

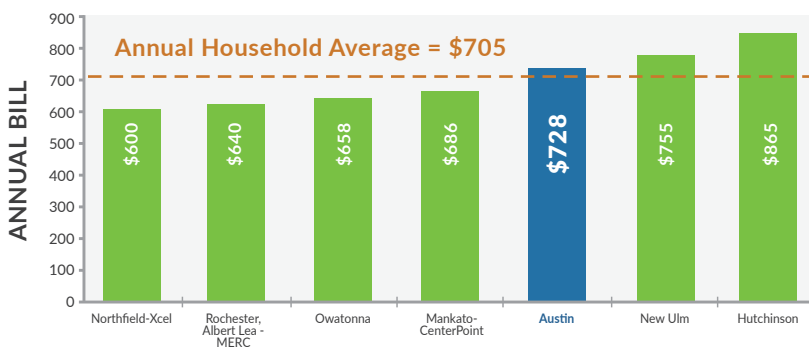
Austin Utilities received the American Public Power Association's Reliable Public Power Provider (RP3) Diamond Level award by earning a score of 100%. APPA's RP3 program is based on industry-recognized leading practices in four important disciplines: Reliability, Safety, Workforce Development, and System Improvement. An RP3 designation is a sign of a utility's dedication to operating an efficient, safe, and reliable distribution system and represents a utility's commitment to its employees, customers, and community.

Safe. Reliable. Responsible.

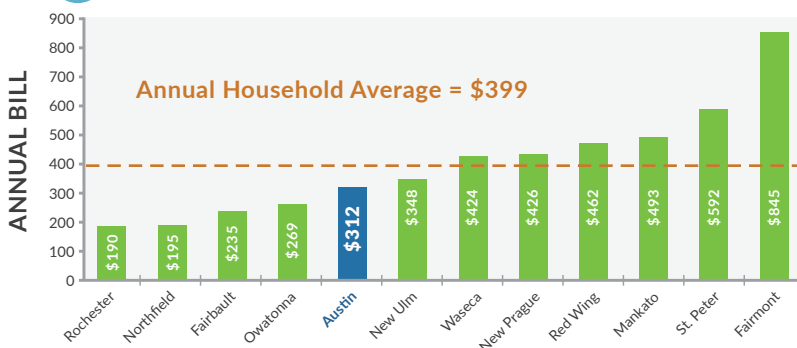
Residential Electric Cost Comparison



Residential Gas Cost Comparison



Residential Water Cost Comparison



Austin Utilities has earned the System Operational Achievement Recognition (SOAR) Bronze Level. We take great pride in our ability to deliver natural gas safely and efficiently. Attaining the APGA SOAR shows board members, community leaders, service providers and customers the utility's commitment to operational excellence. SOAR honors natural gas distribution utilities that demonstrate commitment to excellence in four areas: System integrity, System improvement, Employee safety, and Workforce development.



American Public Power Association

Austin Utilities received the Smart Energy Provider which is a best practices designation for utilities that show commitment to and proficiency in energy efficiency, distributed generation, renewable energy, and environmental initiatives. The program recognizes utility efforts to incorporate energy efficiencies and sustainability while providing affordable electric service.

Hurricane Help

On September 28, a line crew from Austin Utilities along with crews from 14 utility companies from across Minnesota, deployed to assist in storm restoration efforts in the Kissimmee Florida area following Hurricane Ian, a category 4 hurricane. When they arrived they were assigned to a community about one hour southwest in the city of Bartow Florida, pop. 19,762, to help get power on. Within six days of Hurricane Ian making landfall in Florida, crews who came to assist public power utilities had restored power to 99.99 percent of all public power community customers. All together, a team of more than 750 line resources from 125 utilities in 22 states came to assist with restoration efforts. As one of the most disastrous hurricanes in Florida's history, Hurricane Ian impacted two-thirds of Florida's 33 public power utilities with peak outages reaching 212,344 customers. Mutual Aid is coordinated by the Minnesota Municipal Utility Association and the American Public Power Association.



Pictured L to R: Trevor Herfindahl, Dillon Sprague, & Jeff Martinson

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for coming to Kissimmee and helping us!
Allie Jay, Facebook Comment



Other hurricanes Austin Utilities crews have responded to include 2019 - Dorian, 2017 - Irma, 2012 - Sandy.

Employee Spotlight

JONAS MOREHOUSE Information Systems Specialist

When Jonas joined Austin Utilities in late 2012 he came with a background in IT and experience in a few other jobs. Jonas says, "I did sell cars for a while in my early 20's (hated it) and cooked at several different places as well (loved it) and I actually considered going to culinary school but decided I didn't want to have to work every weekend and holiday the rest of my life." At AU he enjoys the daily variety of work and the awesome people he works with.

When he's at home he spends a lot of his time cooking, wood working, and spending time with his family; Wife, Michelle, Married 20 years. Daughters; Kadence (17) Savanna (15) Nevaeh (11) and son Calvin (9), Pets; dogs, cats and Bearded Dragons. Interestingly enough, the year that all of their kids will graduate is how old he and his wife were when they were born. "Kadence graduates in 2023 (we were 23 when she was born) Savanna will graduate in 2025 (we were 25) Nevaeh graduates in 2029 (we were 29) and Calvin will graduate in 2031 (we were 31 when he was born)."

Jonas plans to travel more in the future and hopefully start to tackle his expanding Honey-Do list.



Winter Rebates to Save You Money

Clean and Tune	\$25
Gas Furnace	up to \$400
Gas Boiler	up to \$500
Smart Thermostat	\$50
Furnace Fan Motor.	\$50
ECM Boiler Pump	\$50
Elec Ignition Hearth	\$75
ENERGYSTAR Doors	\$25

CONSERVE & \$AVE

Gift of Warmth

Drop off your new or gently used winter hats, scarves, gloves and mittens in the AU lobby through Nov. 23rd. Items will be placed on the fence by Skinner's hill for anyone in need on Dec. 3rd. This is the 6th year "Gift of Warmth" has collected winter items in the Austin community.



Help families in need this Holiday Season by purchasing gifts from a local child's wish list and donating them to the Salvation Army. AU will have an Angel Tree in our lobby again this year.

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



NOTICE

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 and 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. You can also find information at www.austinutilities.com.



We are eternally grateful to all of the men and women who have fought and served for our country especially our AU Veterans: Dave Thompson, Steve Bissett, Dave Maloney, Jeff Martinson, and Curtis Webb. Wishing you and your family a happy, safe and peaceful Veterans Day.

Thank You!

Austin Utilities will be CLOSED

Nov. 11th
Veteran's Day

Nov. 24th & Nov. 25th
for Thanksgiving

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