

## Celebrate with us!

### Public Power and Public Natural Gas Week - Oct 2-8

Austin Utilities is proud to be your public, community-owned, not-for-profit electric, natural gas, and water utility. We invite you to celebrate with us!

Follow all events at [www.austinutilities.com](http://www.austinutilities.com).

#### STARTING MONDAY - October 3rd



#### White Truck Treasure Hunt

We're hiding a model sized replica of an AU service truck. Find it using our daily clues and win a new EnergyStar dehumidifier. Clues posted daily at 9 am on our Facebook page and website beginning on Monday, October 3rd.

#### White Truck Website Challenge

We're hiding 10 utility truck icons on our website. Send an email to [talk2au@austinutilities.com](mailto:talk2au@austinutilities.com) letting us know where you find them for a chance to win one of ten AU gift kits.



#### Building Tours

**Thursday, Oct 6th 10 am or 5 pm**

Sign up for a building tour by calling 433-8886 or email [talk2au@austinutilities.com](mailto:talk2au@austinutilities.com). Tours last approximately 45 min.

#### OPEN HOUSE Wednesday, October 5th, 4-6 pm

There is something for everyone at our kid friendly Open House event. Our customer service staff will greet you and you will learn about various programs and services we offer. Participants will also have the opportunity to see up close some of the biggest equipment we use to provide public service to you including a line truck, skid loader and tractor backhoe.

*You must be a customer of Austin Utilities to earn prizes.*

**ALL CUSTOMERS** - Stop in the office during the month of October and receive a free customer appreciation gift.

**KID'S PASSPORT** - Kids who get their passport stamped at each station can pick up a special prize when they leave the event.

# Does Getting an EV Make Financial Sense?

Switching to an electric vehicle is a big step and many people wonder if it makes financial sense. Great Plains Institute Electric Vehicle Policy Specialist Moaz Uddin recently answered this question during an interview. A few key takeaways from the discussion:

- ♦ Over time, owning an electric vehicle is cheaper than an internal combustion vehicle.
- ♦ The savings from switching to an electric vehicle depend on your current vehicle, which vehicle you're switching to, and your driving habits.
- ♦ Electric vehicles have higher upfront costs on average, lower maintenance costs, and lower fuel costs than internal combustion vehicles.

*See our online newsletter for links to the full article and video.*

## Thinking of EV?

Minnesota expects to invest about \$68 million over five years to install fast chargers for electric vehicles from the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Program. Now is a great time to start thinking about driving electric, but do your research. Use the link on our website to get the facts on the latest list of electric vehicles available in the US.



**Currently Driving an Electric Vehicle? Join our EV Owners club and pocket \$30 Bucks.**

## NERC Report Highlights Resource Threats to Grid Reliability

### Key Findings and Actions in Progress

In July 2022 the North American Electric Reliability Corp (NERC) released their NERC 2022 State of Reliability report. Based on data and information collected for this assessment of bulk energy system (BES) reliability performance in 2021, NERC identified six key findings and is taking actions to address them. The impact of extreme weather upon BES reliability is a consistent theme underlying four of the key findings.

#### Key Finding 1

The February cold weather event demonstrated that a significant portion of the generation fleet in the impacted areas was unable to supply electrical energy during extreme cold weather.

#### Key Finding 2

Electricity and natural gas interdependencies are no longer emerging risks but require immediate attention, including implementation of mitigating approaches.

#### Key Finding 3

As climate change increases extreme weather event intensity and frequency, severe weather again challenged the BES putting grid resilience (the ability to withstand and recover from extreme events) into focus.

#### Key Finding 4

Geopolitical events, new vulnerabilities, new and changing technologies, and increasingly bold cyber criminals and hackers presented serious challenges to the reliability of the BES.

#### Key Finding 5

Large assessment areas have become dependent upon renewable resources to meet peak loads, but multiple loss of solar events in Texas and California in 2021 confirm that unaddressed inverter issues increased reliability risk.

#### Key Finding 6

Additional data types are needed to enable more complete analysis of adequate level of reliability performance objectives.

Full report on key findings and actions: [https://www.nerc.com/pa/RAPA/PA/Performance%20Analysis%20DL/NERC\\_SOR\\_2022.pdf](https://www.nerc.com/pa/RAPA/PA/Performance%20Analysis%20DL/NERC_SOR_2022.pdf)

# Schedule Your Furnace Clean and Tune

## TOP 5 REASONS TO SCHEDULE A CLEAN AND TUNE:

1. Maintenance ensures proper airflow.
2. Lower your energy bills.
3. Avoid an emergency breakdown.
4. Prevent costly repairs.
5. Ensure your home remains safe for your family.

**CONSERVE & SAVE**



## TOP TIPS!

Don't forget to..

- Check & change your furnace filter.
- Check the batteries in your thermostat.

## Get Ready, Get a Furnace Clean & Tune



**\$25  
Rebate  
AU**

**CONSERVE & \$SAVE**

## *Employee Spotlight*

### **Brad Sitek Fleet Maintenance Technician**

Brad started his career at AU in the spring of 2011 and has been AU's Fleet Maintenance Technician ever since. He had previously worked as a Truck Diesel Technician for Midwest Diesel in Austin. Brad loves the opportunity to work on and maintain all different kinds of equipment. He also enjoys the great group of people he gets to work with each day.

For 17 years Brad has been married to his wife, Sarah, and they have 3 children. Jackson is 11, Alivia is 9, and Aubrey is 7. Brad also has a twin brother, Brent, who lives in Brooklyn Center. Some of Brad's hobbies include fishing, hunting, gardening, and hanging out with his family and friends.

Retirement is another 20 years away so Brad hopes to keep doing what he's doing and then eventually retire and go fishing.



# COLD WEATHER RULE

The Minnesota Cold Weather Rule protects a residential utility customer from disconnection due to non-payment from October 1 - April 30 when the disconnection would affect the primary heat source for the residence and the following conditions are met:

- ◆ The household income is at or less than 50 percent of the state median income;
- ◆ Verification of income by the local energy assistance

provider or the utility, unless the customer is automatically eligible for protection against disconnection as a recipient of any form of public assistance, including energy assistance, that uses income eligibility in an amount at or below the income eligibility.

- ◆ A requirement that the customer receive referrals to energy assistance, weatherization, conservation, or other programs likely to reduce the customer's energy bills; and
- ◆ A requirement that customers who have demonstrated an inability to pay on forms provided for that purpose by the utility, and who make reasonably timely payments to the utility under a payment plan that considers the financial resources of the household, cannot be disconnected from utility service from October 1 - April 30. A customer who is receiving energy assistance is deemed to have demonstrated an inability to pay.



## United Way School Supply Fundraiser

AU Employees passed the hat to collect money for the United Way's School Supply fundraiser. AU staff presented a check for \$185 to United Way representatives.




## Honor Guards Park Remodel



Austin Utilities partnered with other local groups to freshen up the Honor Guards Park near 8th St and 8th Ave NE. AU staff donated time and materials to lay a new exposed aggregate pad.

**American Red Cross**  
**BLOOD DRIVE**  
**Monday Sept. 26th**  
**Austin Utilities**  
**1908 14th St NE**  
**9:00 am - 3:00 pm**  
**redcrossblood.org 1-800-REDCROSS**

**AUSTIN UTILITIES**  
**WILL BE CLOSED MON. SEP. 5TH**  
**Happy Labor Day!**

**SMART USAGE**  
**SAVING MONEY JUST GOT EASIER.**  
  
 Three steps to putting your energy use in your own hands. Usage Explorer gives you a detailed look at your past and current usage, all in one place. Download the Smarthub App today.

**ONLINE NEWSLETTER & MORE INFO ON OUR WEBSITE**  
  
  
  


**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](http://www.austinutilities.com/pages/board)

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