

AUSTIN UTILITIES NOW

INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR CITY SERVICES



September 2024

SEP-45382

Savings After Sunset

Conservation is our superpower for staying cool and saving both money and energy as we enter the hottest summer months. You can continue to save through sunset in a time ERCOT — the statewide grid operator — calls the solar ramp down.

Solar power generates thousands of megawatts of electricity for the ERCOT grid without producing harmful emissions. But, when August and September roll around, the days get shorter even though it's still hot well into the evenings. When the sun goes down, solar power generation decreases faster than the demand for energy to cool homes and businesses. This natural decrease in solar power is known as solar ramp down. As solar generation ramps

down in the evenings, ERCOT must bring on other resources to maintain a stable energy supply.

How you can help:

Reduce nonessential electricity use during the early evening hours from 7-9 p.m. Conserve energy when you get home from work or school as the sun begins to set.

- » **Adjust your routine:** Hold off on big energy tasks such as laundry, dishwashing or charging your car until later in the evening.
- » **Use energy wisely:** Turn off lights you don't need, raise your thermostat a couple of degrees when possible and opt for fans to keep cool.



Your small steps are a big deal when it comes to saving electricity during solar ramp down periods. They save you money and mean a more reliable and sustainable grid for all of us. Thank you for doing your part!

September is National Preparedness Month

Central Texas is prone to many hazards, including wildfire, flooding, heat and winter storms. The time to prepare is now — before the next emergency.

- » **Make a plan:** Being prepared isn't about luck. You need a plan. Austin's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) can help. Our Neighborhood Preparedness Guide has tips and checklists for planning, in English and Spanish.
- » **Build a kit:** HSEM has checklists and resources at [readycentraltexas.org](https://www.readycentraltexas.org). The first attendees at our Emergency Preparedness Pop-Up events can get a free, basic kit (while supplies last, limit 1 per household).
- » **Know your neighbors:** Do you know your neighbors? When disaster strikes, do you know how to work together? Our Neighborhood Preparedness Guide can help you plan with your community.
- » **Stay informed:** It's important to stay informed before, during, and after an emergency. Sign up for alerts at [warncentraltexas.org](https://www.warncentraltexas.org). Bookmark our Emergency Alerts page, with information in 14 languages, at [austintexas.gov/alerts](https://www.austintexas.gov/alerts) and download our free Ready Central Texas app!



Are you ready to vote this fall?

Register now to vote in November for the next U.S. President, Austin's Mayor, and more! Registration closes on October 7 and early voting starts on October 21. To get updates on this year's election all in one place, visit [austintexas.gov/voterinfo](https://www.austintexas.gov/voterinfo). There you can find valuable information like:

- » **Which** City Council District you're in.
- » **Where** to vote.
- » **How** to learn more about the candidates, including in Austin's local candidate forums.

For more information, visit [austintexas.gov/voterinfo](https://www.austintexas.gov/voterinfo) or call 3-1-1.

For more information, resources, and schedule of events, visit [readycentraltexas.org](https://www.readycentraltexas.org).

Why all parents should take youth mental health first aid training

Most people know about first aid training, where you learn life-saving techniques like CPR or how to stop a wound from bleeding. But many parents don't know they can get youth mental health first aid (YMHFA) training to prepare for mental health situations their child may experience. YMHFA can save a life, just like any other type of first aid.

At a YMHFA training session, you learn:

- » **Warning signs**, symptoms and risk factors of mental illness.
- » **Information on depression**, anxiety, trauma, psychosis, suicide and substance-use disorder.
- » **A five-step action plan** to help someone showing signs of mental illness or someone potentially in crisis.
- » **Professional** and self-help resources.



Integral Care and Travis County offer parents in Austin-Travis County access to FREE youth mental health training to help our kids weather the storms of adolescence. Sign up today at integralcare.org/youthmentalhealth.



Keep your alarm in check: get your alarms permitted and prevent false alarms

Did you know that a false alarm at your home can not only be a hassle, but can also lead to unexpected expenses for you? Preventing false alarms is an important step in managing and regulating your alarm system effectively.

Common causes for false alarms include user error, unlocked or loose doors and windows, balloons, children, pets and other visitors in your home. Help us reduce false alarms and ensure your alarm system is working and permitted in case of an emergency.

Got an alarm system? Make sure it's properly permitted. If you operate, maintain or own an alarm system as described in the City of Austin's Alarm Ordinance, you're required to have an alarm permit.

The Development Services Department's Alarm Administration team is your go-to for all things related to alarm permits. They administer the City of Austin's Alarm Ordinance, issue permits and work to improve public safety through education and awareness initiatives designed to eliminate false alarms.

To apply for your permit and ensure your system is compliant or for more information, visit austintexas.gov/alerts. Let's keep Austin safe and sound, one alarm permit at a time!



Fall planting with Grow Green

This is Bud. Bud knows that fall is the perfect time for gardening in Austin. Ready to upgrade your outdoor spaces? And want to help protect our creeks and lakes from chemicals, like fertilizers and pest control products, that can wash from land to water? Visit growgreen.org for free resources, tips and inspiration to create landscapes that are healthy for people, pets and the planet! Learn about the native and adapted plants that thrive in our area, garden design, soil preparation, efficient irrigation, eco-friendly pest control and more. Be like Bud and Grow Green to keep our water clean!

Para obtener una copia en español de esta publicación, visite coutilities.com/go/utilitynews.

Customer Service Phone: 512-494-9400

24-Hour Power Outage Reporting: 512-322-9100 | 24-Hour Emergency Water Service: 512-972-1000

North Austin Utility Customer Service Center (Walk-in Center): 8716 Research Blvd., Ste. 115

South Austin Utility Customer Service Center (Walk-in Center): 1901 W. William Cannon Drive, Ste. 100



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