



# Rate Proposals Reward Conservation and Efficiency

Proposed Austin Energy residential and commercial rate design options have two key objectives: 1) to recover more of the basic recurring costs necessary to maintain generation and infrastructure needed to deliver power to a customer and 2) ensure customers using higher levels of electricity pay the additional generation and system delivery costs associated with serving that higher usage.

Under Austin Energy's current rates, residential customers are underpaying the fixed cost to serve them by the largest

margin of any customer group. The rate proposals are designed to close that gap in a reasonable manner, with rate designs that also encourage conservation and efficiency.

A residential customer using a small amount of electricity would pay the basic fixed cost of service and a charge per kilowatt-hour (kWh) that would be the lowest available rate. Residential customers using larger amounts of electricity would pay the basic fixed cost of service and a charge per kWh that inclines through higher levels of usage.

Under the rate proposals, the current 3.1 million dollars in funding to assist low income customers would be at least doubled so that more customers can be assisted. The Utility also provides free energy-efficiency improvements to low-income customers.

Visit [www.rates.austinenergy.com](http://www.rates.austinenergy.com) for information on the rate proposals, the schedule of public meetings or to submit comments or questions. Final rate proposals will be presented to the Austin City Council for approval in December.

## Time to Plant Trees

Fall and winter are the best times to plant shade trees. Cooler weather allows root systems to establish, resulting in greater growth during the spring and better tolerance of hot summer temperatures.

Once mature, trees can reduce home summertime air conditioning costs by as much as 15 percent. The best trees for height and shade include pecan, elm and oak. They will shade your home during summer months but lose their leaves during winter, allowing sunlight through to help keep your home warmer.

It is important to plant the right tree in the right place. Large shade trees should be planted at least 50 feet or more away from power lines. Trees growing

Plant taller trees away from overhead utility lines.



into power lines are the number one cause of power outages during storms and windy weather.

**Tips for planting.** Dig the hole the same depth as the container, but two to five times as wide. After placing the tree and refilling the hole, put a three-inch layer of organic mulch around the tree. Water regularly and deeply to establish a healthy root system.

## Revised Building Permit Amnesty Ordinance

Are you thinking of selling your house? Have there been any remodels or additions done to your house that might not have been permitted? City Council has recently adopted a revised amnesty ordinance that might clear up these permitting issues. For details or to check the status to see if you qualify under the provisions of the revised amnesty ordinance, call **974-2747** (press "3" for additional options and "2" for Residential Plan Review). For additional information online, visit <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/planning/amnesty.htm>.

**Special Note:** The City of Austin will not permit encroachments that cross lot lines onto other citizen's property.

### Para una Traducción en Español:

Si gusta recibir este folleto en español, llame a Austin Energy al 972-9523.

## New City Animal Shelter



On November 12, the Town Lake Animal Center, currently located at 1156 W. Cesar Chavez, will move into a new state-of-the-art facility located at the Betty Dunkerley Health and Human Services Campus, 7201 Levander Loop. Austin's animal center is the largest in Central Texas, providing shelter to more than 23,000 animals each year and animal control services to all of Austin and Travis County. Ours is an open-intake facility where stray and owned animals from Travis County are accepted regardless of age, health, species or breed. It is the goal of the Austin Animal Center to place all adoptable animals in homes. The new Austin Animal Center will include an Education Center, as well as veterinary and adoption services areas, to provide training and outreach programs that help usher in a new level of care for lost, abandoned and orphaned animals. Visit [www.austininanimalcenter.org](http://www.austininanimalcenter.org) for additional information and thank you for your support of this community animal care resource.



Customer Service Center: 494-9400

Hours: Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.; Weekdays 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

24-Hour Power Outage Reporting: 322-9100

