Introducing SMMPA 2.0

Austin Utilities is about to get a little greener.

Our wholesale electric provider, Southern MN Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA), announced plans to provide 80% of their energy from renewable resources by 2030 as a part of their SMMPA 2.0 plan. Although state mandates require utilities to provide more renewable energy, SMMPA plans to exceed those requirements and still provide Austin with cost effective power. SMMPA currently has 209 MW of Wind, 5 MW of Solar and 3.7 MW of Biomass in their renewable energy portfolio, with most wind energy coming from the Wapsipinicon Wind Project located in Dexter MN. For more information visit smmpa.com.

Congratulations to the 2020 AU Customer Advisory Panel Members:

- Oliver Ballinger
- William Budion
- Amanda Gunderson
- Helen Jahr
- Mary Lindgren
- Vernon Lippert
- Jay Lutz
- Dan Marmol Jr.
- Taggart Medgaarden
- Brock Miller
- Julie Schramek
- Jerry Wolesky

We encouraged customers to apply though an ad in our March 2020 newsletter and a direct mailing to the Chamber of Commerce Leadership Austin graduates. We received 32 excellent applications. We narrowed those down to 12 finalists, which was the number of panel members we were looking for. Panel members are not compensated. They will meet quarterly and will serve 3-year terms. We look forward to hearing from our customers through this new program as soon as we can meet in a safe environment.
Introducing Austin Utilities New Electric Vehicle Webpage

You may be hearing more about the future of electric vehicles in the news. Austin Utilities is here to help you find the resources you need to help make your EV purchasing decision. Check out our new webpage to find information and resources about electric vehicle benefits and models available in our area. We will be updating this page as more information is available, including special rates and programs for electric vehicle owners. Visit www.austinutilities.com and click on the Environment tab for all the details.

Austin Utilities recently purchased its first all-electric fleet vehicle, a 2019 Nissan Leaf. We plan to add more electric fleet vehicles as the technology improves to meet demands of commercial vehicles.

Feel Like You’re Riding a Utility Bill Roller Coaster?

If utility bill highs and lows make you feel like you’re on a roller coaster, our Budget Billing program may be the answer you are looking for. The extreme heat and cold we experience in Minnesota can have a big impact on your energy usage each month. You don’t know the impact until you receive your bill. When you participate in budget billing, you pay the same each month, regardless of your usage. We use your historical usage to calculate one even payment. You pay the same amount every month – no matter the weather. Amounts are adjusted annually based on the most current 12 months of usage.

ATTENTION: Recent changes to our program make it easier for customers to sign up for budget billing. Our budget billing specialists will use their experience to estimate a budget amount to help you get on the path to success. Budget amounts set through this program are monitored more closely to ensure estimates align with actual usage.

*Customers must be paid in full and make monthly payments to qualify for budget billing.

How do I sign up for Budget Billing?

The easiest way to sign up for Budget Billing is to complete the application under the residential tab on our website. Be sure to have your account number handy. You can also call our office or stop out and talk to one of our customer service representatives.

Employee Spotlight

BUTCH GOERGEN
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Butch Goergen has been AUs IT Manager for more than 27 years. After high school, he got a 2 year electronics degree at the Vo Tech. Worked for a year at E.F Johnson in Waseca as a 2-way radio tech. Then, moved to Clear Lake, Iowa and worked as a computer technician with UNISYS for 5 years. Butch then married and went back to school at Winona State to get his Bachelor’s degree with a major in Computer Science and a minor in Statistics. He moved to IBM in Rochester as a computer analyst on the AS/400, before coming to AU in 1993. "I did a lot more programming back when we had our in house developed customer information system but I still enjoy the variety of things I currently do (except for meetings)."

Butch grew up and currently lives in Adams. He has been married to his wife Connie for 31 years. They have 3 kids, Holly, Mike and Joe. Connie has been a 2nd grade teacher in Grand Meadow for 32 years. Holly is a graphic designer at Hormel and newly married. Mike is a police officer in La Crosse, WI. Joe is a computer analyst at IBM Rochester.

When he’s not attending meetings Butch loves traveling, riding motorcycle, golfing and playing with his 3d printer. He says "Most people are surprised to hear I have 78 first cousins (a good number of them are still in the area) so reunions are interesting!" When Butch retires in a few years he hopes to travel the world. He says Connie may disagree though if/when the grandkids start coming.

Our July Update, Win & Be A Hero Winner is Dave Swoboda.

UPDATE, WIN, & BE A HERO

Update your account information and win a chance for a bill credit. We’ll give a $10 credit each month in July, August and September. A grand prize drawing of $25 in Chamber Bucks will be held September 30. To update your account and be entered into the drawing, return the information to:

Austin Utilities 1908 14th St NE, Austin, MN 55912 or drop at Hy-Vee, Jim’s Marketplace Foods, Sterling Main Street or in the drop box outside City Hall.

ACCOUNT UPDATE FORM

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☐ Yes, I want to receive email notifications from peakalert@austinutilities.com so I can do my part to reduce electric load and save on community energy costs.