Versión en español a continuación.

Special Called Joint Meeting of the Electric Utility and Resource Management Commissions March 8, 2021

The Joint Electric Utility and Resource Management Commission meeting is to be held March 8, 2021 with Social Distancing Modifications

Public comment will be allowed via telephone; no in-person input will be allowed. All speakers must register in advance of Sunday, March 7 by Noon. All public comment will occur at the beginning of the meeting.

To speak remotely at the Joint Electric Utility and Resource Management Commission meeting, members of the public must:

- •Call or email the board liaison at 512-322-6505 or Natasha.Goodwin@austinenergy.com no later than noon, Sunday, March 7. The information required is the speaker name, the telephone number they will use to call into the meeting, and their email address (so that the dial-in info may be provided). If speaking on a specific item, residents must indicate the item number(s) they wish to speak on and whether they are for/against/neutral. Speakers on any topic that is not a posted agenda item will be limited to the first 10.
- •Once a request to speak has been made to the board liaison, the information to call on the day of the scheduled meeting will be provided either by email or phone call.
- •Speakers must call in at least 15 minutes prior to meeting start in order to speak, late callers will not be accepted and will not be able to speak.
- •Speakers will be placed in a queue until their time to speak; each speaker will have up to three minutes to speak.
- •Handouts or other information may be emailed to <u>Natasha.Goodwin@austinenergy.com</u> by noon the day before the scheduled meeting. This information will be provided to Board and Commission members in advance of the meeting.
- •If this meeting is broadcast live, residents may watch the meeting here: http://www.austintexas.gov/page/watch-atxn-live

The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the American with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request. Meeting locations are planned with wheelchair access. If requiring Sign Language Interpreters or alternative formats, please call (512) 322-6450 at least 48 hours before the meeting date. TTY users route through Relay Texas at 711. For more information, please call (512) 322-6505.

Reunión del Electric Utility and Resource Management Commissions

FECHA de la reunion (8 de Marzo 2021)

La junta se llevará con modificaciones de distanciamiento social

Se permitirán comentarios públicos por teléfono; no se permitirá ninguna entrada en persona. Todos los oradores deben registrarse con anticipación (7 de Marzo antes del mediodía). Todos los comentarios públicos se producirán al comienzo de la reunión.

Para hablar de forma remota en la reunión, los miembros del público deben:

- Llame o envíe un correo electrónico al enlace de la junta en **512-322-6505 or Natasha.Goodwin@austinenergy.com** a más tardar al mediodía (el día antes de la reunión). La información requerida es el nombre del orador, los números de artículo sobre los que desean hablar, si están a favor / en contra / neutrales, y un número de teléfono o dirección de correo electrónico.
- Una vez que se haya llamado o enviado por correo electrónico una solicitud para hablar al enlace de la junta, los residentes recibirán un correo electrónico o una llamada telefónica con el número de teléfono para llamar el día de la reunión programada.
- Los oradores deben llamar al menos 15 minutos antes del inicio de la reunión para poder hablar, no se aceptarán personas que llamen tarde y no podrán hablar.
- Los oradores se colocarán en una fila hasta que llegue el momento de hablar.
- Los folletos u otra información pueden enviarse por correo electrónico a **Natasha.Goodwin@austinenergy.com** antes del mediodía del día anterior a la reunión programada. Esta información se proporcionará a los miembros de la Junta y la Comisión antes de la reunión.
- Si esta reunión se transmite en vivo, los residentes pueden ver la reunión aquí: http://www.austintexas.gov/page/watch-atxn-live



Special-Called Joint Commission Meeting Electric Utility and Resource Management Commissions

March 8, 2021 ■ 1:30 p.m. VIA VIDEOCONFERENCING

http://www.austintexas.gov/page/watch-atxn-live Austin, Texas

AGENDA

EUC Members:

Marty Hopkins, Chair (Casar) Erik
Dave Tuttle, Vice Chair (Alter) Kare
Vacancy (Pool) Cyru
Cary Ferchill (Adler) Rach

Erik Funkhouser (Fuentes)
Karen Hadden (Kitchen)
Cyrus Reed (Tovo)
Rachel Stone (Harper-Madison)

Kay Trostle (Ellis) Matt Weldon (Kelly) Stefan Wray (Renteria)

RMC Members:

Dana Harmon, Chair (Tovo) Kaiba White, Vice Chair (Fuentes) James Babyak (Kelly) Jonathan Blackburn (Ellis) Rebecca Brenneman (Alter) Lisa Chavarria (Adler) Leo Dielmann (Pool) Nakyshia Fralin (Harper-Madison) Shane Johnson (Casar) Tom "Smitty" Smith (Kitchen) Sam Angoori (Renteria)

For more information, please visit: www.austintexas.gov/rmc

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS: GENERAL – Speaker remarks limited to three minutes

NEW BUSINESS

1. Briefing on February 2021 Winter Storm Event

ADJOURNMENT

The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the American with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request. Meeting locations are planned with wheelchair access. If requiring Sign Language Interpreters or alternative formats, please call (512) 322-6450 at least 48 hours before the meeting date. TTY users route through Relay Texas at 711. For more information, please call (512) 322-6505.

Austin Energy February Storm Briefing: Event Overview and Communications





March 8, 2021

© 2018 Austin Energy

Unprecedented Winter Weather Event in Texas Strains Electric Grid

February 11-21

Sidney Jackson

Deputy General Manager and Chief Operating Officer



100-Year Storm Event

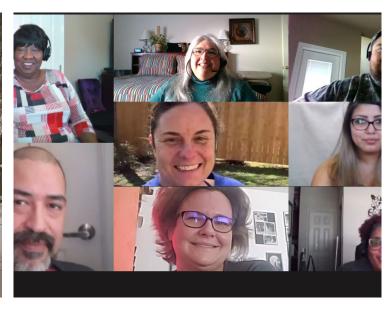




Emergency Preparedness and Response







Incident Command

Austin Energy's Incident Command has been operational since COVID-19 and pivoted to winter storm mode for this event. Crews were sequestered during the event.

Distribution Crews

Dozens of distribution crews were sequestered and worked through ice and snow to restore power.

Customer Care

The Utility Contact Center fielded thousands of calls during the winter storm. They were able to provide information to customers and help them with questions regarding outages.



Vegetation Impact to Power Lines

- Polar Vortex event combined with multiple winter ice,
 snow and windstorms that crossed the area Feb. 11-18
- Ice accumulation increased during the events and weighed down limbs and overhanging power lines.
- Falling trees, falling limbs and tree contact occurred during the entire period from Feb 11-18. This resulted in damage to active feeders and just-restored feeders as well as feeders out for load shed.
- Frozen lines and vegetation created hazardous working conditions and contributed to increased restoration times



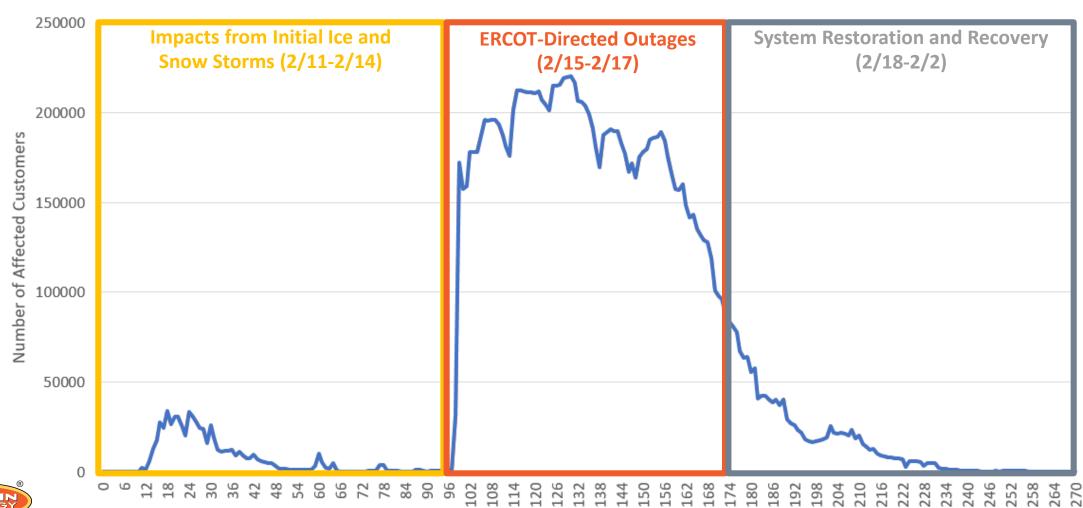






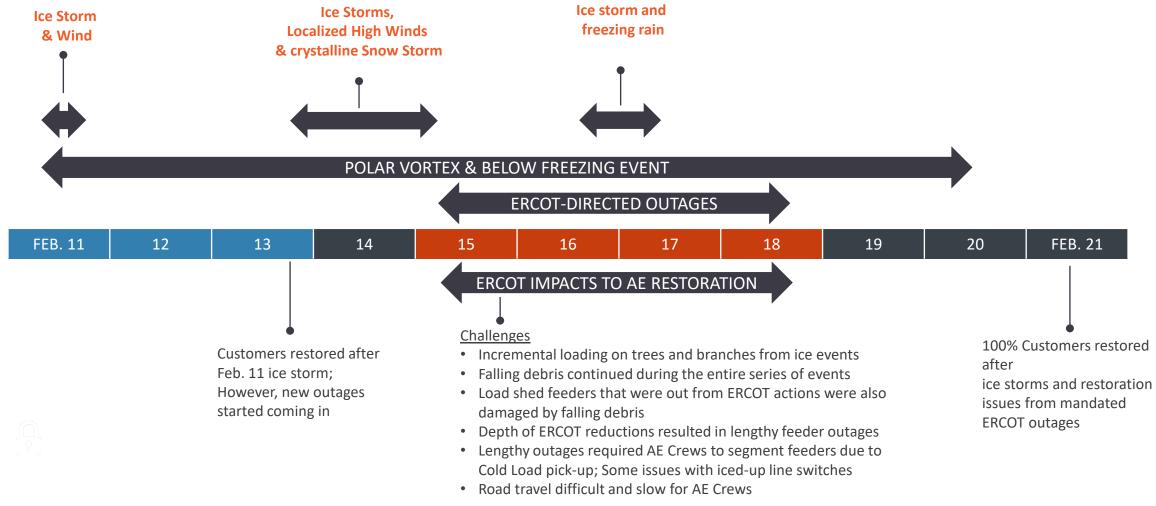
Phases of Extreme Winter Weather Event

2021 February Ice Storm: Affected Customers vs. Time 02/11 00:00 - 02/22 06:00





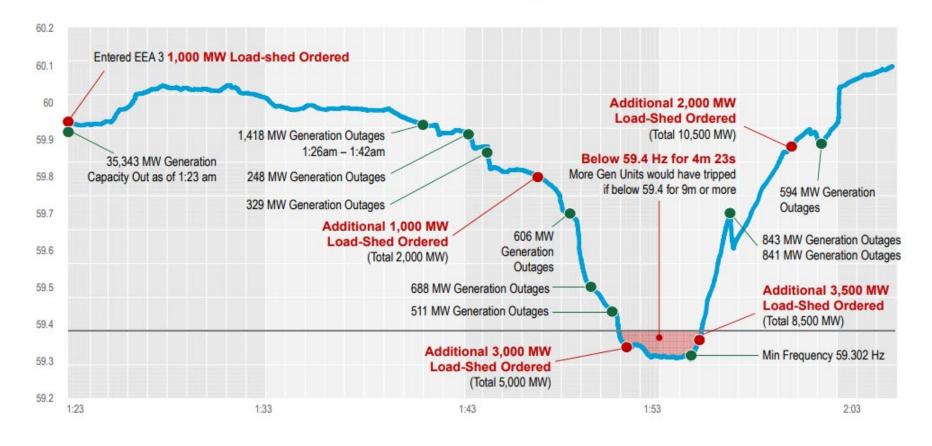
Overall Event Timeline (February 11-21)





Rapid Escalation of ERCOT Emergency on February 15

Rapid Decrease in Generation Causes Frequency Drop



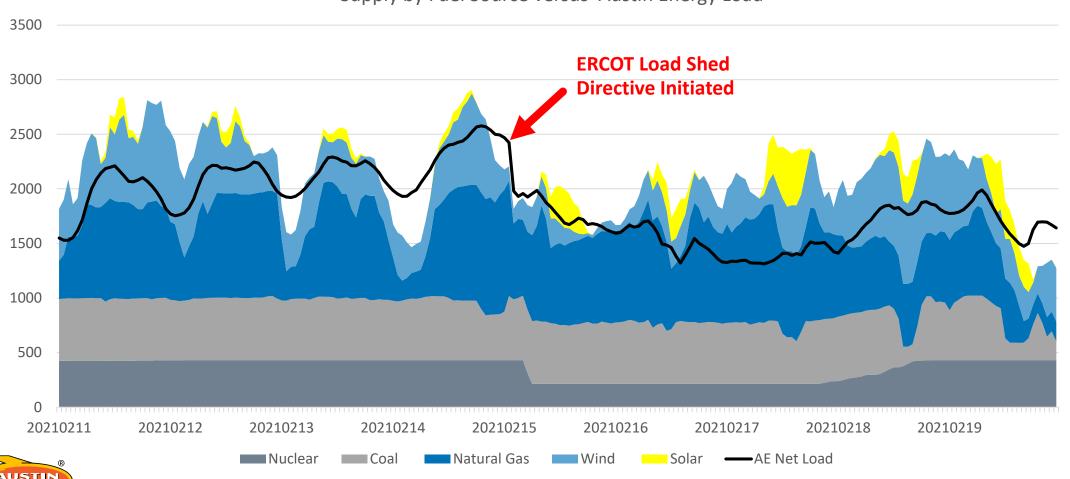


PUBLIC

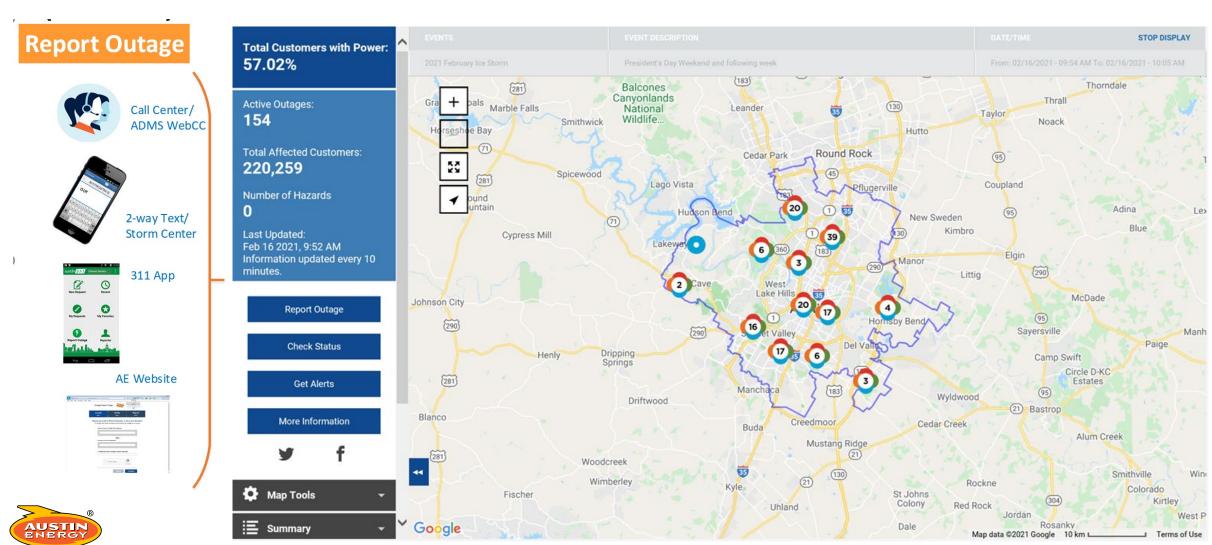


Austin Energy's Diverse Generation Resource Portfolio Performed Well

Supply by Fuel Source versus Austin Energy Load



Outage Reporting is Important to our Customers



Internal Review Efforts

- After Action Review: Assessing what worked well and what did not work well leading up to, during, and after event with input from Austin Energy staff who supported our preparation and response
- Recommendations for Improvement: Identification of lessons learned and accompanying process improvements, policy changes, and other recommendations for implementation prior to the upcoming summer and winter seasons when ERCOT demand is highest
- Stakeholder Input: We will be seeking input from policymakers, customers, and other external stakeholders to help complete the above actions.



Austin Energy Communications

Marissa Monroy

Director of Communications



Winter Storm Communications: Feb. 11-12

Key messages: Incoming ice storm, energy conservation, outage preparation

- Provided live media interviews on nearly every local morning news program to discuss incoming storm, energy conservation and outage preparation
- Responded to numerous media inquiries about incoming storm
- Shared social media messaging across multiple platforms
- Website updates



Winter Storm Communications: Feb. 11 - 12

Austin Energy prepared for extreme cold weather; tips for customers to stay warm

Austin Energy is prepared for extreme weather events all year long. With severe cold and possible snow and ice headed to our service area, the utility is ready to respond in the event of power outages. The utility supplies safe, affordable, reliable power to our customers every day, but power outages do occasionally happen. One out of three outages in our area are caused by vegetation and weather. During windy and stormy weather, heavy ice and snow can cause tree limbs to break and sway, rubbing against or hitting power lines. This can cause service fluctuations and widespread outages.

Restoring power is more than just flipping a switch. You may see line workers, forestry crews and trucks in your neighborhood, but employees throughout the utility are also working 24/7 to safely restore power. Our first priority is to keep our crews and customers safe so be aware that weather and other hazards may slow down the



Other ways customers can be prepared and stay safe during a winter storm

- · Keep cellphones charged and backup chargers fully charged.
- If working or learning at home, save your work periodically and make sure your devices are on power strips. Using a power strip helps protect electronic device. in case of a power outage. Consider using external power sources for your electronics.
- · Assemble a storm preparation kit with flashlights, fresh batteries, snacks, water, and other necessities. Make sure everyone in your home knows where to find i
- Keep your refrigerator and freezer doors closed, if possible. Food will stay good up to four hours.
- Do not drive over or go near a downed power line, it could be energized. Call 311 if you see a downed line to report it. If the line is sparking, call 911.

News release: Feb. 11, 2021



Austin Energy February 11 · 🕙

en espanol abajo

With icv conditions blanketing our area today, please be prepared for possible outages due to the weather.

- Register for Text Outage Alerts: austinenergy.com/go/alerts
- Bookmark our Storm Center Outage Map: bit.ly/ATXoutage
- Keep your cellphone charged ###

Con las condiciones heladas que cubren nuestra área hoy, esté preparado para posibles apagones debido al clima.

Regístrese para recibir alertas de interrupciones por texto: austinenergy.com/go/alerts

Marque nuestro mapa de apagones: bit.ly/ATXoutage

Mantenga su teléfono cargado



Social media: Feb. 11, 2021

Austin Energy warns customers to prepare for power outages amid ice storm **©CBS** AUSTIN

by CBS Austin | Adela Uchida | Jordan Bontke | Thursday, February 11th 2021



Icy conditions are expected to lead to power outages (Photo: CBS Austin)

Media interview: Feb. 11, 2021

Austin Energy advierte clientes se preparen para cortes de energía en medio de tormenta

by Telemundo Austin | Thursday February 11th 2021









Winter Storm Communications: Feb. 13-14

Key Messages: outage restoration, incoming winter storm, outage preparation, energy conservation

- Facilitated virtual news conference and media Q&A Feb. 13 and 14
- Provided Mayor & Council with communication about key messaging
- Emailed COA utility customers about energy conservation
- Emailed NewsFlash to Key Accounts customers to encourage conservation
- Messaging to 311 and City of Austin Utilities Call Center staff about conservation and preparation

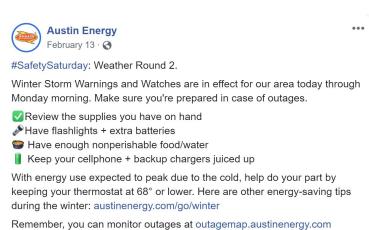


Winter Storm Communications: Feb. 13 - 14



Austin Energy's COO Sidney Jackson media availability on Feb. 13, 2021

Media Q&A: Feb. 13, 2021





Social media: Feb. 13, 2021



Our crews are used to working in 100° weather, but this ice and snow are on another level. Bad weather conditions + icy roads slows everything down. As the winter storm continues, check outages at

outagemap.austinenergy.com



Social media: Feb. 14, 2021



Communications: Energy Emergency Alert, Feb. 15

EEA 1 - 12:15 a.m.

- News release
- Updated websites
- Sent NewsFlash
- Shared social media messaging
- Communicated update to HSEM, CPIO, Austin Water and 311

EEA 2 - 1:07 a.m.

- News release
- Updated websites
- Sent NewsFlash
- Shared social media messaging
- Communicated update to HSEM, CPIO, Austin Water and 311

EEA 3 - 1:23 a.m.

- News release
- Updated websites
- Sent NewsFlash
- Shared social media messaging
- Communicated update to HSEM, CPIO, Austin Water and 311
- Email to Mayor and Council
- Warn Central Texas alert (English & Spanish)

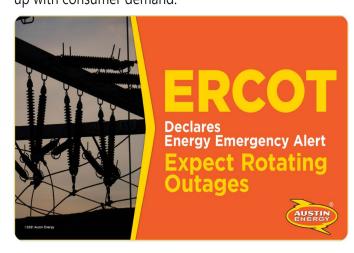
All communication completed within 30 minutes of ERCOT issuing EEAs.



Communications – Energy Emergency Alert, Feb. 15



Rotating outages are starting! ERCOT has declared an Energy Emergency Alert (EEA) Level 3. Austin Energy, along with utilities across the state, have been instructed to begin rotating outages because there is not enough power available to keep up with consumer demand.



1:25 AM · Feb 15, 2021 · Twitter Web App

Social media: Feb. 15, 2021

Due to record electric demand, Texas electric grid operator is directing rotating outages to protect electric grid reliability.

Outages typically 40 mins or less. Length and frequency depend on severity of event. Prepare for possible power interruptions due to mandated rotating outages.

Para el mensaje completo, haga clic en el enlace. Debido a una demanda eléctrica récord, el operador de la red eléctrica de Texas... <a href="https://example.com/http

Warn Central Texas Message: Feb. 15, 2021

Austin Energy prepared for extreme weather and continued restoration efforts

February 14, 2021

Austin Energy knows being without power is a big deal. When you rely on something as much as electricity, it can be unnerving when your power goes out. So, what should you do?

- Find more information about Austin Energy's current outages on the Austin Energy Outage Map and enter your address into the search bar at the top of the page.
- Customers with questions about their outage status, or who want to report an outage, can call 512-322-9100.

Austin Energy knows our customers are counting on us to restore power during extreme weather events like the winter storm we're currently experiencing. As of Sunday, Feb. 14, 2021, at 11 a.m., fewer than 200 customers are without power with four remaining active outages. At our peak, we had almost 50,000 customers without power. Since last Thursday, the average amount of time customers were without power was about three hours.

Thank you to Austin Energy customers for your patience as our crews work around the clock to ensure everyone's power is restored. Although most Austin Energy customers have power restored right now, we are still seeing outages occur because of ice accumulation on trees. It's important to know this is an ongoing event and outages may continue due to current conditions or worsen as additional severe weather moves into the area.

For customers experiencing longer outages, lights, electronics and thermostats left on prior to the issue can overload a circuit when the power is restored. This is called cold load pickup and may cause a second outage on that circuit. You and your neighbors can help us avoid cold load pickup by:

- · Lowering your thermostat.
- Turning off or unplugging any fixtures or appliances.



Communications: Feb. 15 -21

Key Messages: extended outages, ongoing winter storm, conservation, critical load circuits, billing, scam awareness, and more

- News releases
- Daily news conferences with Austin-Travis County leadership
- Media requests
- 500+ social media messages about key messages and responding to individual questions
- Memos and email updates to Mayor & Council for inclusion in emails and social media
- Email to Key accounts about conservation and outages
- Website updates about winter conditions, conservation, controlled outages and restoration efforts
- Outage map updates with controlled outage information and banner alerts



Communications: Feb. 15 -21

UPDATE: What you need to know about Austin Energy's outage situation

February 15, 2021

Why Some Customers Have Power

Because Austin Energy was mandated by ERCOT to shed so much load to help reduce demand, non-critical load circuits are without power. The parts of our service area experiencing outages are based on the status of the circuit they're on. Areas with power likely share a circuit with a critical load circuit. Critical load circuits include hospitals, control centers, 911, the airport and water/wastewater plants and are not subject to outages.

Why We Can't Rotate Outages

The large amount of electricity demand we've had to reduce has impacted our ability to rotate outages among customers and some of our customers have been without power since early Monday morning. In normal emergencies, we rotate outages throughout our service area. Unfortunately, we are unable to rotate outages at this time because there are no other available non-critical load circuits to put into outage rotation. The bottom line is that electric load must be reduced statewide in order to fully restore service across the ERCOT grid, and Austin Energy is following ERCOT's direction.

Record Energy Use Across Texas

This emergency stems from the ongoing, prolonged and widespread frigid weather occurring across the state. This is causing the state-wide electric system — managed by ERCOT — to be strained by high demand and low operating reserves. Operating reserves are low when the capacity of available resources, such as power plants, only slightly exceeds anticipated customer demand across the ERCOT system.

An emergency can also be caused by a sudden drop in generation, due to one or more sudden and unplanned power plant outages caused by extreme weather such as a severe freeze.

When Power Will be Restored

ERCOT has stated outages may last through tomorrow afternoon. ERCOT will let utilities, including Austin Energy, know when we can start restoring power to customers. We will follow their guidance and will operate safely to restore as many customers as we can, being mindful of outage duration.

However, this is an ongoing weather emergency. The ice and road conditions are still a factor and the safety of our crews and customers is top of mind.

Cold Load Pickup



AustinEnergy.com Website

AustinEnergy.com Website





City of Austin Utilities
Online Customer Care

Austin Water has lifted the boil water notice for all customers. Customers can return to regular water use. Find the latest information at austinwater.org.

Austin Energy has restored the majority of the outages related to this past week's winter storm. If you experience an outage, please report it to **512-322-9100** or **via the Outage Map**.



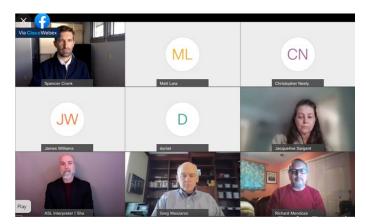
Austin Energy is evaluating the financial effects of the emergency situation. The electric utility works to provide stable, affordable rates to customers, and Austin Energy customers should not expect to see massive electric bills as a result of this winter storm event. **Read the full release**.

COAUtilities.com webpage

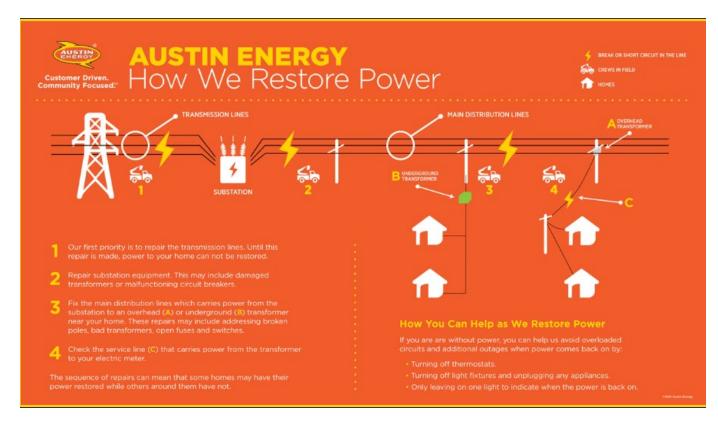
Communications: Feb. 15 -21



Social media: Feb. 18, 2021



City of Austin News Conference



Infographic shared on social media, Feb. 21, 2021



Communications: Mayor & Council



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council Members

CC: Spencer Cronk, City Manage

FROM: Jackie A. Sargent, General M

DATE: February 14, 2021

SUBJECT: Austin Energy's Restoration | Electric Grid Emergency Proc

This memo provides an update about Au ongoing weather conditions and prepare our system, and crews are working as qu

As of noon Sunday, February 14, more th power. We continue to work existing out and 12 vegetation management crews in working day and night in sub-freezing te power. Please keep them in your though Energy Control Center staff and other pe that our system is stable and responses a

The Austin-Travis County area is experier Although most customers have power re event. Most storms are discrete events t through. What we are currently experier with repeated outages often affecting th conditions or worsen as additional sever particular can cause frozen power lines t lines causing outages. We continue to m advance tree pruning in preparation for

Below are photos showing our restoration experiencing as they move through thick



MEMORAN

Mayor and Council Members

CC: Spencer Cronk, City Manager

ROM: Jackie A. Sargent, General Manager

ATE: February 15, 2021

SUBJECT: ERCOT Grid Emergency

The purpose of this memo is to inform you of the even emergency. This emergency stems from the extreme, joccurring across the state. This is causing the state-wic and low or inadequate operating reserves. Operating r available resources, such as power plants, does not exsystem by the required amount.

Early this morning, the Electric Reliability Council of Te an Energy Emergency Alert (EEA) Level 1. This was soo

very quick succession. By declaring an EEA Level 3, ERCUT ordered utilities across the grid to begin rotating outages to shed load due to a lack of power available to keep up with customer demand.

Rotating outages are typically short-term interruptions of electrical service implemented by utilitie when it it is necessary for ERCOT to reduce demand on the system. As is Austin Energy's standard procedure, leading up to the event, we communicated that rotating outages could be coming and they are typically limited to 10 to 40 minutes at a time — but may last longer depending on the severity of the event.

While Austin Energy, like other utilities, had anticipated the possibility of rotating outages due to weather conditions, we had not expected the immense strain on the electric grid that would requi such a massive load shedding event. In addition, the large quantity of load shed ERCOT required o utilities increased rapidly.

As Austin Energy began deploying rotating outages, the amount of ERCOT-required load shed rapi reached Austin Energy's maximum capability. Many electric circuits in our service area contain crit loads, such as hospitals and emergency responders, which rotating outages avoid. This means that only circuits available for rotating outages are those without critical loads. Because the quantity of ERCOT's load shed was so extraordinary, its requirements took up every non-critical electric circuit available. This is why the outages were not rotated. There are no remaining circuits to rotate the



Good afternoon Mayor and Council Members,

Austin Energy staff and crews continue to work towards safely providing full power restoration for all customers. In order to assist with some of the questions offices are receiving, here are some updates and information that may be helpful for you to use in your updates, or other messaging, to residents.

CUSTOMER BILLING UPDATE:

Reports regarding potential bill spikes for non-Austin Energy customers are circulating and we want to make sure our customers have the most accurate information.

Our rates are fixed and must be authorized by Austin City Council.

Residential customers are billed for their actual energy usage at the current rate. Anyone without power during this time period had no electric use recorded during outage events.

We don't yet know the full financial impact of the winter storm, but it may affect the Power Supply Adjustment, which covers fuel costs for power plants, cost to provide power, dollar for dollar. When we have a better understanding of the financial effects of this event, we will go to the Austin City Council with any necessary recommendations to reduce the impact of this emergency on our customers.

Full Statement: https://austinenergy.com/ae/about/news/news-releases/2021/austin-energy-customers-should-not-expect-to-see-massive-electric-bills-as-result-of-winter-storm

POWER RESTORATION EFFORTS CONTINUE:

Austin Energy has made outstanding progress on getting households back online. As of 4 p.m. today, we have fewer than 2,000 households without power and more than 99.6% of customers have power.

Of those still without power, we have become aware of issues hampering our efforts to bring the power back on for some apartment complexes. One of the main issues is cold load pickup at these buildings. When the power is turned back on, if the demand for energy is high, it can cause a circuit to trip again.

We're advising apartment residents and management without power to please:

- · Turn off high-energy use items.
- Don't rapidly heat your home, set it at 68 or even lower

Council Member Alison Alter @ALTERforATX · Feb 20

My office has received concerns about exorbitant Austin Energy bills.

@austinenergy sent out the press release linked below assuring customers that they should NOT expect to see massive electric bills as result of winter storm.

Austin Energy customers should not expect to see massive electric bills as result of winter storm

Austin Energy provides stable, affordable electric rates to all its customers. We are aware of media reports regarding potential massive electric bills for non-Austin Energy customers and want to stress to our customers that Austin Energy will not benefit financially in any way from this winter storm event.

The customers impacted by major bill spikes are seeing electric rates controlled by variable price billing and are therefore vulnerable to sudden price swings from the wholesale energy market, both increases and decreases. In contrast, Austin Energy's base rates are fixed and any changes must be authorized by Austin City

AE customers will not see massive electric bills from winter storm @ mailchi.mp

Council Member Pool

Dear Friends,

We continue to face an <u>unprecedented winter disaster</u> here in Austin, and I'm here to provide additional information on warming centers, important advisories, and additional resources in this dire situation.

My team has put together a <u>winter weather emergency resource guide</u>, which is available <u>here</u>: https://tinyurl.com/D7coldweather. We will periodically update the guide as new information becomes available. Please check back often for updates, and share this with family, friends, and neighbors.



Customer Care

Kerry Overton

Deputy General Manager and Chief Customer Officer



COA Utility Bills

- Austin Energy customers are charged only for the power consumed
 - Existing rates were approved in the November 2020 rate tariff
- AE and AW are working together on rate relief & billing adjustments
- Recent Council Action:
 - February 25:
 - Suspension of all COA utility late fees
- Upcoming Items for Council Consideration:
 - March 4
 - Waiver of \$20 service initiation fee for impacted residential customers
 - \$10 bill credit for residential customers
 - \$10 M (\$5M from each AE & AW) for Plus 1 Emergency Financial Assistance Program



Where can customers go to get help?

- For Customer Assistance Online or via phone:
 - www.austinbillhelp.com or call (512) 765-9721
 - www.COAUtilities.com or call (512) 494-9400



- For Customer Assistance in Person:
 - North Austin Utility Customer Service Center 8716 Research Blvd. Ste # 115





Austin Energy is Actively Engaged in Policy Discussion and Regulatory Compliance Activities

Tammy Cooper

Vice President of Regulatory Affairs and Corporate Communications



Austin Energy is Actively Engaging with Oversight Bodies























Customer Driven. Community Focused.

