

“AFFORDABLE ENERGY FOR AUSTIN” FACEBOOK PAGE AND BLOG”
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Help Us Oppose Austin Energy’s Unfair Rate Increase Proposal!

Austin Energy’s proposal to raise its rates begins with a 316% increase in fixed monthly charges for residential ratepayers. It will cost you \$25 before you even flip the first light switch! Customers who use the smallest amount of electricity, 300 kWh, would see a whopping 60% rate increase. This policy goes against Austin’s proud legacy of encouraging energy conservation and keeping electricity affordable for those least able to pay. We believe that Austin Energy’s proposal is upside down and backwards:

Upside down and backwards!

The following groups and individuals are working together to oppose the AE rate increase proposal:

- Public Citizen Texas Office
- Texas ROSE (Ratepayers’ Organization to Save Energy)
- Austin Tenants Council
- Gray Panthers of Texas
- Sierra Club
- Texas Legal Services Center
- Bill Oakey, Consumer Advocate
- Paul Robbins, Energy Activist

The high fixed charges are just the tip of the iceberg. Here’s what we are asking the City Council to fix:

Austin Energy’s Proposal	Affordable Energy Proposal
\$25 in monthly fixed charges which is three to four times higher than other similarly sized Texas utilities.	Eliminate the new \$15 “delivery charge.” Reduce the proposed \$10 customer charge.
A new rate design that imposes the biggest financial burden on those who can least afford it and those who use the least electricity, which discourages energy conservation.	Keep a rate design that follows Austin’s legacy that encourages energy conservation and conforms to the City’s own “Resource Generation and Climate Protection Plan.”
Change existing “cost of service” model to the “AED” model, which severely over-charges residences and small businesses.	Use the “BIP” model, which is fair and accurate and eliminates corporate welfare to large industrial customers.
An overstated revenue requirement increase totaling \$100 million a year or more.	Reduce revenue requirement by at least 50%

The City Council will begin holding public hearings on electric rates after the first of the year. Please ask your friends and neighbors to help, by subscribing to our blog, “Affordable Energy for Austin” Facebook page.

For additional information please contact Bill Oakey at boakey39@gmail.com. 11/4/11 (Please note that our group is not a formal entity and does not have an official name. “Affordable Energy for Austin” is just the title used to identify our Facebook page and our blog).