

**FY 2026-2027 BUDGET QUESTION**  
***Response to Request for Information***

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**DEPARTMENT(S):** Austin Energy; Austin Water;

**CBQ NO.:** 125

**REQUESTED BY:** (District 1) Natasha Harper-Madison

**DATE REQUESTED:** Sunday, August 2, 2026 9:25 PM

**DATE POSTED:** Thursday, August 6, 2026

**REQUEST:**

It appears that a reduction in utility support for the Greater Austin Regional Science and Engineering Fair has been proposed, with Austin Energy's contribution decreasing from \$94,000 to \$12,000 and Austin Water's contribution decreasing from \$15,000 to \$13,000. Please explain the rationale for these proposed reductions. Additionally, what factors or funding scenarios would enable Austin Energy and Austin Water to restore all or part of their previous levels of support in this current and future budget cycles?

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**RESPONSE:**

The Greater Austin Regional Engineering and Science Fair is a City co-sponsored event and all city fees incurred for producing the event are waived.

**Austin Water**

In FY 2026, Austin Water supported the Greater Austin Regional Engineering and Science Fair with a \$15,000 sponsorship. The amount for citywide sponsorships for that event was capped at \$25,000 for FY 2027, and Austin Water's portion of that overall funding will be \$7,000.

**Austin Energy**

In FY 2026, Austin Energy supported the Greater Austin Regional Engineering and Science Fair with a \$50,000 sponsorship. The amount for citywide sponsorships for that event was capped at \$25,000 for FY 2027, and Austin Energy's portion of that overall funding will be \$13,000.

**Austin Watershed Protection**

Austin Watershed Protection did not sponsor for FY26 event. For FY27, Austin Watershed Protection's portion of that overall funding will be \$5,000.

**Austin Convention Center**

We have no responsive information. While this event is held at our facility, it is a citywide sponsored event.