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July 11, 2022

VIA EMAIL

Rate Review Administrator
rate.filings2022@austinenergy.com

RE: Austin Energy's 2022 Base Rate Review – Feedback Forms

Attached please find public comments received by Austin Energy since our June 8 submittal.

Sincerely,



Thomas L. Brocato

TLB/pem
749/36/8425669

<p>Hello, my name is Hannah Hughes. I've been an Austin Energy customer since 2018 and am exceedingly worried about the proposed base rent increases.</p> <p>After attending the community info sessions I still had many questions as to why the base rent would be increased so much. Upon looking over the Independent Consumer Advocate's report released by the City of Austin, they recommend that there is no real need to increase our base rate. Especially by the high amount that has been proposed.</p> <p>Increasing base rates at all, especially by \$15 dollars will affect low-income and college student residents the most.</p> <p>Please reconsider and listen to the ICA's report and requests to ensure that Austin can remain a somewhat fair city.</p>	Hannah Hughes
<p>1. It is unethical to have residents shoulder the increase rather than corporate users.</p> <p>2. You must have a cap on increase for SENIORS 65+</p>	Patricia Wilson
<p>Mayor Adler, MPT Alter, City Council, and Austin Energy,</p> <p>I'm a resident of Austin and I strongly oppose Austin Energy's fixed base rate increase. The minimum monthly residential fee would jump 150% from \$10 to \$25! Rapidly rising costs of making living here harder every day. It's crucial that the city does everything it can to mitigate the financial burdens of ordinary people. I lived in East Austin just east of the highway during Uri, and I remember my house being 40 degrees with no power while the lights of downtown all burned brightly like an insult. Now, you're suggesting that I and people like me disproportionately bear the financial brunt of AE's fiscal issues? Issues whose source data is drastically skewed by Uri? AE proposes to eliminate premiums charged for high consumption, so the ultra-wealthy would pay less and the working class would pay more. This is absurd and is an obvious courtship of the very people and industries that are continuously displacing Austin natives. Texas' energy system crisis cannot be fixed by charging more for the vast majority of people -- only a Green New Deal can. Austin Energy belongs to us, not AE executives.</p> <p>Thanks, and I hope you'll reconsider.</p>	Thom Waddill
<p>Please look to even out the increased costs for electricity that you are proposing; this is not the time to add to homeowner's base monthly costs</p>	Terry Lieberknecht
<p>Mayor Adler, MPT Alter, City Council, and Austin Energy,</p> <p>I am a resident of Austin and I strongly oppose Austin Energy's proposed fixed base rate increase. The minimum monthly residential fee would jump 250% from \$10 to \$25! Rapidly rising costs of living continue to ravage our community, it is imperative the City does everything it can to mitigate the financial burdens of ordinary people. AE proposes to eliminate premiums charged for high consumption, so the ultra-wealthy would pay less and the working class would pay more. This is blatant class warfare. Texas' energy system crisis cannot be fixed by charging more for the vast majority of people, only a Green New Deal can. Austin Energy belongs to the us, not the AE Executives.</p>	Elena Bowes

Thank you	
This rate change is fundamentally wrong. We need to severely penalize big users not small ones. People with large houses should have punitive rates for destroying the planet. Those of us with small houses should not have to subsidize huge, profit making companies. This increase must be stopped and the burden shifted firmly upwards.	Joshua Freeze
The residential base rate changes AE proposes will benefit big electricity users with big bill savings, while raising bills for those customers who use the least electricity. A \$15 per month increase in the customer charge is excessive and unwarranted, as well as out of step with comparable utilities in Texas as shown by the ICA. Lowering usage in the first tier ensures more customers will move into higher cost tiers and also removes another tool customers have to control their bills. Reducing the number of tiers from 5 to 4 is needed, but the first tier usage should not be lowered so drastically. A rate structure that pushes costs down to those who use the least while giving a break to the biggest energy users is neither fair nor equitable and certainly does not encourage energy efficiency. The ICA has proposed modest changes in revenue and rate structure that provide financial stability and are also fair and equitable to ratepayers. In addition, the public outreach process for this case has been sorely lacking. There have been no public meetings with presentations by the ICA or other parties--the public is only hearing AE's side of the rate case. Further, the public is not even getting a full picture of the bill impacts from AE, as the \$15 per month increase in the customer charge is not the full story.	Janee Briesemeister
Should put the rate increase more on commercial users rather than the poor and working people of Austin. How much energy does a single user take versus those giant office buildings?	trish niswander
I oppose these rate changes for residential customers. The increase in rates would mean that regular folks in Austin who have reduced their energy use to benefit the environment would be penalized, while wealthy corporations and industrial customers get off easy. This change would harm low-income people and everyone else struggling to get by in these hard times. Austin needs a more equitable solution.	Julie Beckman-Key
hello! i'm just now finding out about your rate change proposals so i hope my comments are in time. i am a musician working 4 jobs to get by, a long time austin resident. i don't use air conditioning in the summer because i simply cannot afford the electric bill for it. this is pretty rough. i have converted my yard to native plants that don't require watering in the summer to reduce my water use. now i'm hearing that you feel our energy saving measures are TOO successful and you will raise the base rates from \$10 to \$25/month! nooo! this impacts me greatly! and it impacts low income residential customers like myself far more than businesses who are actually using a great deal more energy! this is beyond unfair. i also hear you are reconsidering the benefits customers receive when they install solar. you know climate change is real, right? you remember the fires of 2011 engulfing much of texas and surrounding austin? you've watched with horror the fires spreading across the western us and other parts of the world and you surely	Elizabeth Galiger

must know we're breaking records with heat this year. texas is definitely impacted by climate change as fights over water have begun and we continue having power failures due to extreme cold and extreme hot. your new policy proposals will punish the poorest austin residential customers and everyone who is working hard to protect our community and our planet. i object strenuously!	
Consumer groups and environmentalists have traditionally been advocates for Austin Energy to remain locally controlled. The process and proposed results of Austin Energy rate case work clarifies how little these rate payers and the phrase Customer Driven, Community Focused means to Austin Energy. The huge customer charge increase would undo a key element of the customer driven work to protect lower income rate payers. The compressing of the tiers negates previous work to encourage conservation and rate payer personal investments in clean energy solutions. The residential rate payers seem to be saddled with a disproportional burden when compared to commercial. All this is even more questionable because the size of the increased revenue need has not been justified. Please reconsider your proposal so that it is more equitable and so that residential customers can join you at City Council and the inevitable attacks when the legislature meets in 2023.	Bob Batlan
Raising the fixed monthly fee, changing the tiered rate structure (from 5 tiers to 3) or both, would mainly be on the backs of residential customers. This is not fair or equitable and would harm low income people the most as well as those of us just trying to survive. Flattening the tiers would also decrease incentives to conserve energy. This could impact the grid as well as our household finances. And it's not even clear if these changes would adequately set up the funding stream for fossil fuel decommissioning that is critical to reaching our goals for transitioning to clean energy.	kim pollard
I'm concerned with energy costs being increased for residential rate payers at an increasingly higher rate than larger rate payers incur. Please consider other ways to structure any rate increase that reward Austin Energy customers who conserve energy instead of charging more to these customers.	Dee Jackson
Please do not increase rates. With the ever increasing cost of living in Austin, this will pose numerous challenges to building a life here. Thank you.	Ali Sobhani
Your proposed rate changes are inequitable, as the base rate increase is proportionally the highest for the most energy-conserving citizens. Reducing the tiers in your tier system also discourages energy efficiency in the largest energy users, while penalizing the lowest energy users. Net metering (up to total consumer energy use) would be the best way to go; instead, you use VOS, which is complicated and hard to understand. Now you are changing that in ways that are not clear. Attaining financial stability is an excellent goal; doing it on the backs of citizens investing in solar by raising their base rate and changing the VOS calculations in ways that are opaque is not something I can support. If the largest energy users cannot pay their fair share, and feel no pressure to conserve energy, then Austin will never hit its climate goals in the years to come. That would be a tragedy.	Craig Nazor

<p>Your proposed base rate changes are inequitable, do not encourage energy conservation by the largest energy users, and penalizes those private homes that invested in solar to save themselves money. Why should those who invested to save Austin from having to build a new power plant have to support most of your rate increase? It seems to me it would be far better to have a rate structure that encourages energy conservation by the largest energy users, and not penalize those who have invested in the technology of the future at a time when that technology will save human civilization from massive damage. What is the logic behind that? A raise in energy rates could be supported, but not on the backs of the poorest energy users!</p>	Craig Nazor
<p>I'm a resident of District 5 and organize with District 5 for Black lives. I strongly oppose Austin Energy's proposal to increase the fixed monthly fee from \$10 to \$25, amounting to an annual increase of \$180. This absurd change will clearly harm countless people in Austin as we continue to struggle through rapidly rising costs of living. Austin Energy belongs to the people of Austin. Despite this, AE executives want Black and Brown people, the working class, and the middle class to face disproportionate financial struggle while the ultra-wealthy residents of Austin will be charged significantly less. Other components of AE's plans may limit our ability to transition to clean energy from fossil fuels. They do not fund energy usage reductions or support low-income households with energy saving programs. Charging more money for everyday people and less for the rich will not solve Texas' energy infrastructure crisis.</p>	Catina Voellinger
<p>Austin residents are struggling mightily to buy food, pay rent and afford the gas to get them to/from work. And against that backdrop, you are proposing a 150% increase? Assess the mega-companies who have recently expanded or relocated here, making Austin utterly unaffordable and forcing long-time residents to relocate.</p>	Marsha Patterson
<p>I oppose Austin Energy's proposal to increase the fixed monthly fee from \$10 to \$25, amounting to an annual increase of \$180. This change will clearly harm countless people in Austin as we continue to struggle through rapidly rising costs of living. Austin Energy belongs to the people of Austin. Despite this, AE executives want Black and Brown people, the working class, and the middle class to face disproportionate financial struggle while the ultra-wealthy residents of Austin will be charged significantly less (as the utility also proposes to eliminate premiums charged for high consumption).</p> <p>Other components of AE's plans may limit our ability to transition to clean energy from fossil fuels. They do not fund energy usage reductions or support low-income households with energy saving programs. Charging more money for everyday people and less for the rich will not solve Texas' energy infrastructure crisis.</p>	Nicole Meitzen
<p>My name is Sam Potasznik, and I'm a resident of Council District 7, 78757. I strongly oppose Austin Energy's proposal to increase the fixed monthly fee from \$10 to \$25, amounting to an annual increase of \$180. This absurd</p>	Sam Potasznik

<p>change will clearly harm countless people in Austin as we continue to struggle through rapidly rising costs of living. Austin Energy belongs to the people of Austin. Despite this, AE executives want Black and Brown people, the working class, and the middle class to face disproportionate financial struggle while the ultra-wealthy residents of Austin will be charged significantly less. Other components of AE's plans may limit our ability to transition to clean energy from fossil fuels. They do not fund energy usage reductions or support low-income households with energy saving programs. Charging more money for everyday people and less for the rich will not solve Texas' energy infrastructure crisis.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>	
<p>I DO NOT SUPPORT rate increases for. Residential customers. Start charging corporations their rightful share and place HEFTY FINES for keeping unoccupied buildings lit up - as in at night. Keep the base rate at the current level.Keep the tier structure as is for residential. No adjustments upwards fo Solar. In fact - incentivize solar! Get nuclear fuel!</p>	Elizabeth Gregowicz
<p>My name is Mayuri Raja. I'm a resident of District 10. I strongly oppose Austin Energy's proposal to increase the fixed monthly fee from \$10 to \$25, amounting to an annual increase of \$180. This absurd change will clearly harm countless people in Austin as we continue to struggle through rapidly rising costs of living. Austin Energy belongs to the people of Austin. Despite this, AE executives want Black and Brown people, the working class, and the middle class to face disproportionate financial struggle while the ultra-wealthy residents of Austin will be charged significantly less. Other components of AE's plans may limit our ability to transition to clean energy from fossil fuels. They do not fund energy usage reductions or support low-income households with energy saving programs. Charging more money for everyday people and less for the rich will not solve Texas' energy infrastructure crisis.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>	Mayuri Raja
<p>The proposed base rate increase is HUGE, and not at all fair to those with the least money to spare. With the increased kw charge inflicted upon everyone after the winter storms, electricity is already astronomically more expensive than it has been in the past few years...this is a completely tone-deaf proposal that will make it even harder for those struggling to stay in Austin...and push our marginalized communities to make way for more rich transplants. Why aren't we getting massive contributions from Tesla, since their electric cars are now using more power than ever before? Large companies and the highest electricity users should be the ones footing this bill, not families and the working poor.</p>	Sarah Schoonhoven
<p>I think raising rates so that residential customers pay \$180 more per year is ridiculous. Charge commercial customers more instead.</p>	Hannah Huckaby
<p>Why don't you also increase the rates on businesses? They were the ones who kept their lights on during SNOVID with utter disregard the</p>	Gloria Lee

community/state situation. I believe they will pay more attention to wasting energy if you raise THEIR rates. As a civilian non-business we keep our house at 80 degrees—! We have insulated, we have added awnings. Why are you squeezing water out of stones--we have so little left!	
Please consider having businesses pick up a fair share of the rate increases. Please also continue to incentivize energy efficiency and use of green energy sources.	Anne Smith Miller
This is such a damaging and tone deaf preposition. People are still reeling from the effects of covid and raises in costs of living in Austin without this additional burden. This is the opposite of fair and equitable service.	Michele Parks
Please do not place the burden of these possible rate hikes on the residential consumer. We are all struggling under inflation. Please also increase a commitment to solar as we try to wean ourselves off the fossil fuels that only contribute to more war and worse conditions for us all. Especially in light of the EPA ruling today, we need to be using more solar going forward.	Hillary Bilheimer
Please do not increase the base rate of low income and moderate income households. They do not have the funds. You can raise the rest of the community if you need to.	Lora Ann Gerson
I vote no, I can barely afford my bills as it is. That rate hike is way too much	Terri Tafoya
I appreciate the gap in revenue you're trying to fill, but truthfully most residents can't afford a jump in cost. I certainly can't, as I'm barely able to afford my apartment and bills as it is. I'd rather see Austin Energy charge more to corporations, as they're much better able to afford this than everyday Austinites. Thank you!	Ash Hall
Please do not pass off the "lack of revenue" onto the most at-risk energy users. Please charge corporations and large businesses with healthy profits before you pass off expenses to the most vulnerable homeowners and renters who can't stand anymore shocks to prices because of corporate profiteering and price-gouging (also known as "inflation"). We cannot take anymore. Companies with millions (billions????) in profits CAN. This is a disaster and will put Austin Energy in league with the price-gougers and those taking advantage of the most vulnerable instead of putting those with the largest cushion into service for the rest of us. Please don't do this. Companies can afford rate hikes, HUMANS can't. We are being taken under by increasing costs.	Emily Sawyer
I am incredibly concerned with and oppose proposed rate increases by Austin Energy. By raising the fixed monthly fee everyone pays from \$10 to \$25, and changing the tiered rate structure from five tiers to three, this substantial rate increase will be borne by primarily residential customers. In addition, flattening the tiers would reduce the incentive to save energy—increasing energy use could be bad for our grid and definitely would be bad for bills. Please reconsider this terrible rate change.	Julie Oliver
We oppose the proposed rate structure, which burdens residents rather than companies. It is the companies that draw new people to Austin, which strains grid capacity. Instead rates should be increased for companies - especially large corporations that have the scale to easily absorb this. As a corporate finance executive of a publicly listed company with several operating locations, I assure you that energy costs are not a concern for	Ann Saxton

companies; they certainly will not dissuade a company to locate in Austin. Therefore they should bear the increase in energy costs.	
I am writing in opposition to the proposed base rate increases that will largely affect people in Austin who are already struggling to make ends meet with the rising costs of living in this city. If the city needs to raise rates to meet their operating expenses, why are they not looking towards corporations and larger users of Austin's Energy who better have the means to support rate hikes? Other components of this plan may limit our ability to transition to clean energy and might not provide enough funding to reduce people's energy usage or support low-income households. It's unacceptable to place the burden on the small individual energy accounts when larger accounts should be capable of paying increased rates.	Suzanne Elizondo
<p>This is completely unacceptable. Corporations have had the highest profits in the last quarter than ANY OTHER QUARTER! Yet we as residential customers end up having to pay the extra costs due to inflation that the Corporations created in the first place.</p> <p>Some of the best Economists in the world told us that if the people don't get a bail out but the Corporations do, we will go into a state of inflation never before seen.</p> <p>Families are taking a hit in every way possible. Housing has almost doubled in the last three months. Gas has doubled, even though they are the richest and made the most in profits out of anyone. Which has caused prices of everything else skyrocket. We are already paying more than we ever have and you want to raise it more!?</p> <p>It's time we start making the rich pay their fair share!</p>	Jennifer L Pumphrey
<p>So, let's see, it sounds like my reward for being responsible and reducing my energy usage is that now I will be charged more. It seems like this reduction in usage was not adequately anticipated or planned for.</p> <p>However, I am most unhappy that you seem to be 1) giving a break to corporations and industrial customers and 2) distributing this cost equally across individual households--it is strongly regressive to more than double the current cost per month. It creates the potential for significant harm to low-income communities and to those who are already struggling with increased cost of food and gas. Please do better.</p>	Cindy Hoffman
With so many other essentials getting so expensive, please don't make our ability to be physically comfortable unavailable.	karen Glina
I disagree with the proposed rate increase and find it to be excessive	Pete Caponi
<p>The Austin Apartment Association was founded in 1964 and is composed of more than 1,000 diverse businesses that own, manage and service more than 200,000 rental homes in the City of Austin.</p> <p>Austin residents living in multifamily buildings represent the largest group of Austin Energy (AE) customers that will be impacted by AE Proposed Base Rate Changes. It is unfortunate for these customers that they did not benefit from a proposed Cost of Service study for multifamily properties that may have led to a lower base rate for multifamily residents.</p>	Paul Cauduro

<p>In the last base rate change approved by Austin City Council on August 29, 2016, in a section titled “Residential Studies” (Appendix E beginning on page 14), it was proposed that Austin Energy would:</p> <p>“Study customer-related cost recovery charges for multi-family, single-family, and solar installed residences: Austin Energy will investigate whether certain components of the Cost of Service vary by type of residence to improve allocation of costs within the residential sector.”</p> <p>The Austin Apartment Association knows of no AE report or research whereby AE attempted to determine that true cost of providing service to multifamily residents. Such a study would have likely revealed substantive cost savings due to the lower infrastructure and operational cost associated with providing service to multifamily properties.</p> <p>It is our hope that a cost-of-service analysis may soon be performed to better understand the cost savings associated with servicing multifamily residents. It is also our hope that any future AE rate changes will include a new “Multifamily Customer Rate” that reflects the true cost of service to multifamily properties and lowers the cost of living for multifamily residents.</p> <p>Respectfully submitted, Paul Cauduro Director of Government Relations Austin Apartment Association 8620 Burnet Road, Suite 475 Austin, Texas 78757 paul@austinaptassoc.com</p>	
<p>I don't agree with the rate hike, since utilities ending up profiting so much off Winter Storm Uri, with the brunt of those costs going to consumers like me.</p>	<p>Oliver Bernstein</p>
<p>This is ridiculous. Pull some of that \$\$\$\$ from the ineffective political theater that Abbott is running at the border and pay for the increased costs from that.</p>	<p>Jodi Ashlock</p>
<p>Hello and thank you for the opportunity to comment on Austin Energy Base Rate changes. I hope that Austin Energy is looking for ways to reward efficient energy use, provide more clean energy to our grid, and form more partnerships with citizens to help the city become energy independent and not dependent on fossil fuels.</p> <p>I think any look at increasing rates should affect all customers, especially businesses. As consumers of energy in our city we should be working towards common goals. My husband and I have tried a couple of times to join the Austin Area program where you provide money towards purchase of more solar farms for our city. Although this plan is still touted by the city, it appears that the city is not working towards expanding this program. I would like to see options for citizens to have options to help the city purchase more power from wind and solar and other clean sources.</p>	<p>Susan Walsh</p>

Instead of an across the board increase Austin Energy should be looking to the future and provide innovative options.	
I cannot afford it I have a mother that's 94 year old the I take care of, and we are fix income..Thx's	Beatrice Ramirez
Ya'll are ripping consumers off already. Don't LIE about not having enough revenue. Please do your jobs right and honestly. Don't misappropriate the funds and don't give big business any deals, please.	R B
Please do not raise the base rate for customers but instead charge more towards the industrial customers and corporations. These larger companies in general need to be more responsible with their energy use and accountable for the share of energy they spend. We take notice when major business buildings, plants, and facilities are running their energy to fill empty buildings when general consumers are asked to cut back. These costs should not be paid by general customers who are already financially less privileged and many of whom are going to increasingly struggle with inflation and potential recession impacts. I would ask that you charge more towards the bigger companies that can afford to do so and use their rate increases to invest in non-nuclear decommissioning—that would be the truly equitable thing to do.	Laura Tsao
Hi there, I am strongly against this rate increase that affected working people the most. These increases should be covered by the state, not by people who have no say in this matter.	Reyhan Sinha
THESE RATE CHANGES SHOULD NOT BE PASSED ON TO THE CONSUMERS!!! BILL THE INDUSTRIAL AND CORPORATE CLIENTS!!! THIS IS TOO MUCH MONEY FOR REGULAR PEOPLE TO PAY!!! THIS WILL HARM SO MANY PEOPLE!!!	Abriel Young
I urge you to not institute the energy base rate change. It will be a burden on low income customers, and will discourage conservation with the reduction of tiers.	Sue Borel
Why do there have to be fixed customer charges at all? They have the effect of making electricity & water more expensive for those who can afford them least. These charges should be incorporated into the charges per kWh or gallon so that higher rates are more fully paid by the more extravagant consumers.	Martyn Hitchcock
Please don't raise Austin Electric rates on residential customers. We deserve a break on the high cost of living. I would implore you instead to review the rates for large commercial businesses, who likely are receiving rate breaks, unlike your average customer, the larger commercial business can pay the cost of a modest increase. Thank you.	Joanne Foote
I am opposed to rate changes to our energy pricing for concerns for equity to all members of our community. Affordability is one of the major challenges of this city. An essential life supporting element such as energy and access to it based on pricing should not be an answer to budgetary challenges.	Marilyn Faulkner
Arbitrary. Absurd. Mismanagement coupled with these increased rates is the definition of a slap in the face to Austin residents.	Dominick Luciano

We can't afford this. Talk w the city officials and use some of the millions of dollars that poor into this city for what you need and/or they need to stop w the corporate tax breaks.	Sara Nicole
To who it may concern, This is absolutely ridiculous. Are you trying to completely price everyone out of the city? It's already tough enough to make ends meet we can't afford a large increase in rate like this proposal. Please PLEASE reconsider for all of us long time austinites.	Bryan Marshall
We are already paying too much for a substandard grid. It's sad	Mary Plies
I do not agree with this rate hike. Feels like the public are being asked to foot the bill for an overly fancy and very much mostly empty Mueller HQ campus with roughly 15% occupancy. I do not like it one bit.	Kate Houlihan
I understand the need to increase revenue in order to keep up with the cost for AE to provide reliable electric service. I do question the size of the increase in the fixed customer charge from \$10 to \$25. This amounts to a 250% increase that falls most harshly on lower income customers. Might an increase from \$10 to \$15 with the rest coming from rate increases be more equitable? It is a bit difficult to sift through all the language on the Value of Solar changes, but I support increases to the solar credit to ensure, at a minimum, the credits cover all the cost of AE electricity. Incentives to improve the payback of residential solar installations would be money well spent, as these installations help bring additional capacity to a rapidly growing Austin at a lower cost than new generation capacity. Home solar also contributes to reducing the greenhouse gases produced by electricity generation in Austin and contribute the most in the summer when electric demand is usually at its peak. Residential customers might also contribute to the stability of the grid if they are incentivized to purchase battery storage as well. I saw this interesting article recently about efforts to use residential powerwalls to provide reserve power and prevent blackouts in California. https://www.businessinsider.com/tesla-powerwall-virtual-power-plant-california-grid-solar-energy-2021-7#:~:text=Tesla%20will%20let%20Californian%20owners%20of%20its%20Powerwall,energy%20demand%20to%20prevent%20blackouts%20in%20the%20state.	Chuck Reynolds
Living in Austin is already more expensive than it should be. I don't see who this is going to help.	Sestina Antolini
No more rate increases. The rates are too high presently	James Knoebel
Please keep the base rate as is. Rather than make low use/low income people pay the same as wealthy high use customers, increase rates for customers who use substantially more energy than average.	patti l
Instead of a base rate change for homes, I would like to see higher rates for larger users like commercial and industrial customers and/or higher surcharges on customers using substantially higher amounts of energy.	Danika Ostrowski

Increasing a base rate does not do anything to incentivize conservation of energy consumption.	
I am opposed to your proposition to raise the base rate and flattening the tiers on electric usage. This will impact residential users disproportionately. It will also disincentivize users to reduce their energy consumption, which is critical, given the climate crisis. I understand that you need more revenue but it should be gotten from the largest users of energy, industry, rather than households.	Nina Brodsky
My name is Sam Kirsch, and I'm a resident of District 5 and member of District 5 for Black lives. I strongly oppose Austin Energy's proposal to increase the fixed monthly fee from \$10 to \$25, amounting to an annual increase of \$180. This absurd change will clearly harm countless people in Austin as we continue to struggle through rapidly rising costs of living. Austin Energy belongs to the people of Austin. Despite this, AE executives want Black and Brown people, the working class, and the middle class to face disproportionate financial struggle while the ultra-wealthy residents of Austin will be charged significantly less than they do now. Other components of AE's plans may limit our ability to transition to clean energy from fossil fuels and do not provide enough funding to reduce people's energy usage or support low-income households through energy saving programs. Charging more money for everyday people and less for the rich will not solve Texas' energy infrastructure crisis.	Sam Kirsch
As a college student in Austin this is preposterous. This proposed hike is not affordable nor necessary and the city of Austin will be better off with lower base rates.	Tatum Owens
In a city with some of the most profitable businesses in the world and the most expensive cost of living for low-moderate income individuals, the idea that we need to increase charges on the residential sector seems absurd. There has to be a better way to "appropriately" recover costs.	Christian
<p>Austin Utility customers reducing the amount of electricity they use is proof that Austin Energy's current rate schedule is working! If total usage is not meeting revenue needs, the proper response in this moment of impending environmental catastrophe is not to increase the "base rate" that would increase the fixed monthly fee that everyone - especially those many Austinites who are struggling to get by during these hard times and in this city of extremely high housing and other costs, which includes low-income people and people of color.</p> <p>If a rate increase is necessary, it should not be on the backs of residential customers, but passed on to high-usage commercial customers who can, if they must, pass those increases on to residents who choose to use their services.</p> <p>Austin Energy also proposes to flatten the current rate structure from five tiers to three. This would reduce the incentive to save energy and would again penalize residential customers unjustly.</p>	David Soileau

<p>In addition, the proposal to adjust the "Value of Solar" payments, in the context of this revenue shortfall, suggests a possible intent to reduce what customers with rooftop solar receive for providing energy from solar to our grid. This would be another disincentive at a time when more people should be encouraged to shift away from fossil fuels to renewable energy to save our planet.</p> <p>If changes must be made to improve Austin Energy revenue, please make those changes in ways that will more strongly support a funding stream for decommissioning fossil fuel generators and increasing our transition to energy sources that are less threatening to our environment.</p>	
DO NOT INCREASE RESIDENTIAL BASE RATES, I BEG YOU.	Caleb Ajinomoh
I think residential users who are at the lowest level of consumption should NOT see a cost increase. Users who consume more than the minimum should pay a higher rate. I am very much opposed to a base rate increase. My family is pretty conservative of energy. We turn off lights that are not needed. We set the AC at 84 F and use ceiling fans during the day and 82 F at night.	David Adams
While I understand that utilities need to update their rates to maintain financial costs of the utility, hiking rates an average of \$180 is unacceptable. Rate hikes generally are difficult to manage but a sudden additional \$180 increase in monthly bills (in addition to current costs) is frankly ruinous for families across Austin, especially our low income residents. Inflation is higher than we have seen in decades, leading to every day expenses like groceries, gas, rent, mortgages, medications, and other expenses to squeeze out more dollars out of residents' pockets. Austin Energy has the full authority to scale back, postpone, or find a different revenue source for this rate hike and I believe they absolutely should. Now is the absolute worse time to give Austin families ANOTHER heightened bill to pay, especially one that could very well break the bank for low income families like my own.	Ric Galvan
A raise in rate by \$180 is outrageous. That is going to result in people losing power because they can no longer afford it, especially now when inflation is rampant. I would urge you to NOT increase the prices for the sake of all of the Austinites living paycheck to paycheck	Julia Vance
I implore you not to raise during a time of inflation and economic challenges for our community. Please do the right thing and let people keep the lights on without going broke.	Emily Witt
I am retired and living on a fixed income. I cannot afford the fee and rate increases you are proposing. I have lived in Austin since 1976. Why does the city give millions in incentives to corporations (the largest consumers) and then make the average homeowner pay for them? The new three tier structure does nothing to encourage less power use, and does not reward the people who use less, like me. Rethink your flawed scheme please! Put something in place for older consumers that use less energy to keep us in our homes!	Barbara Loe
Raising energy prices will place an increased burden on the citizens of Austin. Many people, including myself, are barely keeping the lights on as it is, and a price increase (alongside the price inflation of many other daily &	Emily Barton

inelastic goods) will lower our standards of living. This is a burden that should be placed on the providers, NOT the consumers.	
I am against the proposed increase. Austin Energy has an monopoly over the City of Austin's electricity/water and it is the highest in the state. Right now with high inflation and gas prices, we do not need another increase. Please do not raise the rates at this stage of the game.	Temple Noble
This proposal makes it clear you all prefer to charge residents for your revenue gap, while minimizing any changes or costs to corporations. This is unacceptable. This is a ridiculous change that will clearly harm lots of people in Austin as we continue to live through the pandemic and rising costs of living on top of the status quo of injustices and harms in our society.	Sophia DeLoretto-Chudy
I oppose the 7.6% base rate increase you are proposing for residential customers. This puts an unfair burden on individual customers that use a comparatively lower amount of electricity than corporate and business customers. I also oppose the flattening of the tiered rates from three to five. This discourages energy conservation, which, given the isolated nature of the Texas power grid, and the critical power interruptions we have already experienced, is something that should be encouraged and rewarded with a lower rate. If Austin Energy needs more money, they should implement a billing structure that increases the rates for the customers using the most energy.	Kristin Logan Cockerham
Raises rates across the board is not fair. Rates should be raised for those that use the most water, not those that are conserving.	Sarah Parker
I believe rates which properly incentivize the conservation of energy is good for our Austin community and the world. Efforts to move the burden from the most capable (large businesses) to the least capable (individual families) is a step in the wrong direction.	Drew Castillo
<p>The proposed change in base rate is too large...financial hardship for many and just too much. Reanalyze to see what's really needed. Maybe \$11 or \$12.</p> <p>There should be a higher tier for those using over 1200 kWh. As a conservation user in a modest sized weatherized home, why is my neighbor in a 4000+ sq ft home with pool and gazebo and a car charger paying the same tier? The tiers we have for water use are effective - need a higher tier!</p> <p>The rates are producing solar power should encourage solar production, not discourage it. We have plenty of sun - we should incentivize more solar power, not discourage it by increasing payback time.</p>	Ann Bishop
This appears to charge residents for your revenue gap while changing almost nothing for corporations. This change isn't okay for me.	Jasmine Tolhurst
Please do not make us pay more.... We can't afford to live anymore. I'm a middle class school student who also works full time.... Please I'm just trying to live.	Lizzie
I have learned that Austin Energy is planning to raise the base rate for a residential customer to \$25. I oppose this as it seems to be a regressive rate increase that will fall most heavily on working class and low income Austin Energy customers. I ask that the City Council explain the reason for this	Daniel Harrison

increase and consider levying most of any necessary increase in the base rate on industrial and commercial customers.	
My bills doubled every summer cu Texas insists on being on their own grid that isn't equipped to handle the population and power necessary to sustain said population safely and affordably. My city fees the rest of the year cost more than the power and water I use- it's pretty lame when my city is littered with trash and IF my cans get picked up, they get thrown on their sides by the city employees- also disregarding the deposit I had to make on said equipment. The raise in costs is just one more reason I'm headed just outside the city limits. COA has a monopoly here and they take full, disgusting advantage.	Kade Lisenby
Please do not raise energy prices. This is not equity.	Lauren Cebulske
The rates here are already the highest in Texas. Many people are getting priced out of this city with housing prices as they are. Cutting back expenses would probably be a better idea. Like maybe what the Mayor and other administrative people get paid would be a start.	Regilean Kikta
Please DON'T raise base rates on residential consumers! Times are too tough as it is. Ask corporations and large energy consumers to do more.	Paulette Ladach
When the power grid is stable, and we know we'll have electricity during freezing winter months and hot summer months, maybe an increase would be warranted. I have no confidence in the Texas power grid. As it stands now, I see this as Austin energy trying to make up for their shortcomings by charging homeowners more, instead of going after the business' that use far more energy than a residential household. Homeowners can't continue to absorb costs that should be charged to big business. Let them take on the burden.	julie f
Austin Energy should NOT increase the base rate by an amount that is greater than the hourly wage of many economically vulnerable residents in our city. Please do not change the base rate for residents in the midst of historic inflation, prolonged public health crises, and extreme weather patterns due to climate change. Please look into your business model and adjust the costs shared by corporations and industries using exorbitant amounts of energy to make profit, unlike city residents that need these services to survive.	Christina Cotham
I oppose the proposed rate increase. Average citizens need not bear this burden.	Elliott
This is not the right time for a rate increase. So many constituents are facing housing and food insecurities and you want to make things worse for them? \$15 extra might not sound like a lot to those proposing the hike, but it's a lot to my neighbors on NextDoor asking for noodles or beans so they can feed their families until their next paycheck.	Sandra Gallegos
I do not agree with a bill increase due to rising prices, especially gas. Our income is not increasing.	Ana R Baldenegro
I oppose the proposed increase to AE's base rate for residential customers. This reduces the incentive to conserve energy and disproportionately impacts low-income Austinites. I support raising costs for high electricity use, and also continuing to promote the transition to solar and other clean energy sources.	Valerie French

<p>Hi - this rate change is harmful and counterproductive. Austin Energy should keep its promise to shut down expensive coal and gas power and make clean, cheap 100% clean energy a reality before asking for more money from strained ratepayers.</p>	<p>Duncan Meisel</p>
<p>As a native Austinite, retired State of Texas employee, who lives on a fixed income this smacks of let the . Why are you attempting to change the tier rate, let's not encourage to conserve energy (remember this same thought process was used to increase our water rates). If approved the residential customers will be charged on their dime. What about your "commitment" to end our use of coal and non-nuclear options? We need to continue to our conversion to clean energy and fairly charge all customers, not just residential..</p>	<p>K Meschke</p>
<p>I'm concerned that the base rate increase will harm low-income Austinites, Austinites of color, and anyone struggling to make ends meet.</p> <p>This substantial rate increase will be shouldered by residential customers. Flattening the tiers would reduce the incentive to save energy. This is bad for our already strained grid.</p> <p>Austin Energy's proposed adjustments to the "Value of Solar" payments need more investigation. You have not proposed any changes to the Community Benefit Charge or Energy Efficiency Service Fee. If you want more customers to install solar, why not give them better incentives?</p>	<p>Jackie Williams</p>
<p>I have several comments to make, as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I accept that you have to recover your costs, so the fact there are required rate changes to achieve that is undeniable. 2. I agree that Increasing the Value of Solar credit from 9.70 cents to 9.91 cents per kWh for Residential and Commercial Non-Demand is absolutely the right step if Austin is serious about getting off fossil fuels for its power generation needs. In fact, I would recommend an even higher rate, possibly 10 cents / kWh, to stimulate greater interest in solar energy and to encourage more AE customers to move to installing solar panels on rooftops that in their bare form, receive energy from the sun that normally goes to waste. This will also reduce the recovery time for the initial investment in solar panels which in turn would serve as an additional catalyst for solar power. 3. But the burden for proposed changes seems too skewed towards residential customers. So, here are some examples: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a). For residential customers, Customer Charge is proposed to rise from \$10 to \$25 but for Business Secondary Customers < 10 kW, Customer Charge is proposed to rise from \$18 to \$35 while for Business Secondary Customers ≥ 10 kW < 300 kW, Customer Charge is proposed to rise from \$27.50 to \$55. I recommend that the 	<p>Sumit DasGupta</p>

<p>amounts for Business Secondary customers, IN GENERAL, rise by a larger amount with corresponding increases for residential customers limited so that it rises no more than \$5.</p> <p>b). While I agree with the proposal to reduce the number of tiers from 5 to 3 for residential customers, the rate ranges of 3.8 cents / KWh to 4.8 cents / KWh seems out of line and skewed to the disadvantage of the residential customers when deep pocketed businesses with significantly larger consumption that apply a greater burden on your supply are charged far lower rates, such as, Primary Customers < 3 MW being charged 0.37 cents per kWh and Primary Customers ≥ 3 MW < 20 MW being charged 0.18 cents per kW in your new proposed rate structure. These latter rates need to rise far more so that the rates for the 3 tiers for residential customers can be set at much lower numbers. This plays into the question of affordability that is a very important topic in the minds of city leaders today.</p>	
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<p>ranges of 3.8 cents / KWh to 4.8 cents / KWh seems out of line and skewed to the disadvantage of the residential customers when deep pocketed businesses with significantly larger consumption that apply a greater burden on your supply are charged far lower rates, such as, Primary Customers < 3 MW being charged 0.37 cents per kWh and Primary Customers ≥ 3 MW < 20 MW being charged 0.18 cents per kW in your new proposed rate structure. These latter rates need to rise far more so that the rates for the 3 tiers for residential customers can be set at much lower numbers. This plays into the question of affordability that is a very important topic in the minds of city leaders today.</p>	
<p>This seems like a significant increase. What other sources of revenue have you considered? What are you doing with this increase specifically?</p>	Hoan Truong
<p>Raising the base rate so significantly because of your bad planning and overreliance on so called "green" energy is poor form. You've already broken your word on solar rates in the past. Please try to improve your practices, as you exist to serve the people, not for the people to serve you.</p>	Gordon Walton
<p>I am concerned that a \$15 increase added to energy costs would be disproportionately regressive for all low income households. Is there not another way to raise needed funds so as not to pinch the poor among us?</p>	Anamae Storbeck
<p>don't raise the energy prices. people are becoming homeless</p>	Stephani McCarthy
<p>These rate changes are awful and counterproductive. We should be billing for usage so people who use less pay less and the flatter tiers and higher base cost do the exact opposite</p>	Melissa Koshy
<p>Austin Energy now says previous rates, designed to discourage high energy use, worked too well. Customers are not using enough electricity to provide the "base rate" revenues to meet all the utility's expenses. If approved as is, Austin Energy's proposed base rate changes will increase the fixed monthly fee everyone pays from \$10 to \$25—a bill increase of \$180 a year. This will harm low-income people, people of color, and all of us just struggling to get by in these hard times. That includes my family. I'm a single mom trying to care for two disabled adult kids, a child, and my disabled dad. Our most recent COA bill totally blew my budget, and I don't know how I'm going to survive.</p> <p>By raising the fixed monthly fee everyone pays from \$10 to \$25, and changing the tiered rate structure from five tiers to three, this substantial rate increase—if approved—would mainly be on the backs of residential customers. In addition, flattening the tiers would reduce the incentive to save energy—increasing energy use could be bad for our grid and definitely would be bad for bills.</p> <p>Why, why, why, Austin Energy, are you letting wealthy corporations and industrial customers get off easy and sticking it to normal citizens who are already being priced out of this city on every level possible. I can't afford this change, in addition to increased prices for gas, groceries, rent (can't afford to</p>	TARA DUVAL

buy a house now), clothes, medicines, everything!! Please, please give us a freaking break. :(:(:(
We need to provide more incentive for clean energy development and use - not increase base rates for more residents that cannot afford it. Make more incentive to reduce fossil fuel energy use instead.	Jared Price
Tax the corporate companies coming in and high earners in the city to raise revenue. You're squeezing hard working ppl to death, its going to backfire.	Edgar Espinal
I am on a fixed income and any rate increase will truly be difficult for me.	Linda Nenno
Absolutely not. Y'all have no business upcharging anything with that absolute circus y'all pulled with snowpocalypse. This is attempted price gouging, pure and simple.	Ise Rosenthal
Do not raise our power this city is experiencing enough homeless as is you will only make it worse	Lee Morgan
Please. We just can't keep up either with all the hikes. I guess you just want a city if billionaires	Mick Corleey
I find it hard to believe the base rate is not high enough. If Austin energy needs more revenue while decreasing use they need to Bill all those companies that left the lights on during the winter outages. It was a symbolic slap in the face to the residential users who were told to conserve while power was being squandered by the corporations churning out computer chips ect. Charge industry the same rate as residential and you will see increased revenue and decreased usage. Currently the industrial users have no incentives or curb usage.	Brandon White
Increasing the rates AGAIN for the individual customers is WRONG! Large commercial businesses and industrial customers are making obscene PROFITS. But are they ever given a rate increase?? NO!!! The rates go up-Up-UP for residential users while the greedy energy users are never even looked at. It's time you started charging higher rates for them instead of ripping off the individual small businesses and the hard working residential customers. WE DO NOT HAVE PROFITS TO DRAW FROM~~~MOST OF OUR MONEY IS ALREADY BUDGETED TO THE PENNY!!!!	Kathy Tolleson
To make such a drastic change in the base rate and to reduce tiers from 5 to 3 is a huge difference to make at one time. We are already struggling to pay for groceries and gas. Trying to save on electricity use has been one way to save. This is not a fair increase.	Ardis Cox
I'm a little confused and upset that the biggest bearers of the rate increase are going to be residential accounts, particularly when we have so many multi-billion dollar corporations with offices within our city limits now. None of us are ignorant of Facebook, Google, Tesla, Apple, Whole Foods (part of Amazon) all are here. Why is this cost not kicked up to them instead of to the residents, many of whom struggle to keep their residences here already?	Lyndsey Raney
Sure, stick it to the working people and not the tax subsidized mega corporation and hotels. Austin Energy will drive working people out of the city limits!!!	Douglas Dahms
It would be nice if any increase could be postponed by at least a year. People are struggling just to pay for housing, food, and gas to get to work.	Annette

Do not raise fixed monthly fees from \$10 to \$25 for residential customers. Do not flatten the price tiers that incentivize saving energy, and protect our grid from stress in the hottest months. .	Lauren Ross
Non commercial customers already are struggling to keep up with paying energy costs. Charge commercial entities that are making , sometimes unheard of profits to pay for higher utility costs, bitcoins alone uses horribly high amounts of energy for their plants. Do not continue to break the backs of citizens to subsidize industrial users, we try to conserve as much as possible so there will not be blackouts causing untold miseries and deaths to ordinary citizens. You have a responsibility to all of us to increase charges to those entities that make profits; the businesses and corporate users, not us.	Z.A. Easterday
Changing the flats base rate disproportionately impacts low-income customers, especially those already struggling to pay rent and other bills. If you need to recoup costs, you should do it based on usage and focus on the heaviest users.	Richard E. Ochoa
I'm 73 years old and living on a fixed income. Developers, ERCOT, and corporations have gotten away with robbery in the past decades. They should be paying for the increase, not me.	Pamela Turlak
Charge big corporations more. Why should we subsidize them???	Sharon Bramblett
If you flatten the tiers, it reduces the reasons for conserving. It would be better to raise rates for those who can afford it and/or those who use more.	Meredith Lancaster
I believe the rate tiers should stay less consolidated. This more effectively incentives incremental reduction of usage, while consolidation may incentivize using up to the limit of the current tier.	Faith Chonko
Please don't raise our base rate.	Jennifer Jones
Businesses should pay more not individuals.	Jeffrey Horvath
First you tell us we need to conserve energy, then when we do, you tell us it's gonna cost us. You talk about rates being fair and equitable to customers - well, corporate customers aren't being told they need to shoulder a disproportionate share of your rate increases as a punishment for being too energy-conscious. How about you re-examine the rates for the business customers and then get back to us residential?	Cynthia Hale
As a retiree on a fixed income, I'm not down with dumping these costs on residential users. Seems like we're being punished for conserving energy. Are there competing plans that are better for customers than to energy providers?	Vincent Layton
Austin Energy now says previous rates, designed to discourage high energy use, worked too well. Customers are not using enough electricity to provide the "base rate" revenues to meet all the utility's expenses. Austin Energy's proposed base rate changes will increase the fixed monthly fee everyone pays from \$10 to \$25—a bill increase of \$180 a year. This potentially harms to low-income people, people of color, and all of us just struggling to get by in these hard times.	Linda Lee
By raising the fixed monthly fee everyone pays from \$10 to \$25, and changing the tiered rate structure (the cost we are charged increases with increased electricity used) from five tiers to three, this substantial rate increase this would mainly be on the backs of residential customers. In	

<p>addition, flattening the tiers would reduce the incentive to save energy—increasing energy use could be bad for our grid and definitely would be bad for bills.</p> <p>Austin Energy is proposing adjustments to the “Value of Solar” payments, I have solar, I believe this needs more investigation. While not proposed, any changes to the Community Benefit Charge or Energy Efficiency Service Fee, to meet our robust solar and energy efficiency goals, we may need to revise them.</p> <p>Finally, given the long-term commitment to transition off of coal and our commitment to end all fossil fuel use by 2035, i am not confident that these rates will adequately set up the funding stream for non-nuclear (fossil fuel) decommissioning needed to accomplish our important goals for transitioning to clean energy.</p> <p>I concerns about these proposed rate increases.</p>	
I am opposed to raising the residential rates.	David Salazar
I'm a single mom on disability and I don't recieve child support. I'm already struggling and really really scared about how I'm going to feed my son. Hes out for summer but nothing happened with my food stamp account and everything is so high now. I cant afford to pay everything in full every month as it is. If they raise my utility bill, itll be the last of what I can take.	Candice Sanders-smith
Please, NO!	Pat Garcia
This is absurd. First, you tell us to cut back because the grid will fail and then you want to increase the rate for having no service? Really? How dumb do you think we are? Get the grid up-to-date and then we can have the energy we need without fear of failure and you will get your proper compensation. but charging for nothing is wrong!!!!	Saundra Ragona
This is an unacceptable change. There are numerous corporations that could easily carry this burden and asking residents that are already struggling to find affordable housing is harmful to our community as a whole.	Sasha Rose
Everything is going up property Tax insurance food and gas for my car but my income has gone it's getting very to survive I need help and reduction not and increase	Sharon Bennett
We are trying to do our best to conserve energy like Austin Energy has encouraged. We have rooftop solar, heat pump a/c and heat, minisplits upstairs that can be left off when not needed. We set the thermostat at 80 in the summer. And don't use a/c at all spring and fall. But now the proposal is to charge us extra for trying to help.	Mina Loomis
If more income is needed you should increase what businesses pay per kWh, not residential customers.	Robert Murry
I oppose these rate changes. We need to continue to encourage lower energy use and conservation for all users and not penalize lower income users. We also need to encourage the use of renewable energy sources.	John Scott McHolland

I say fair is fair. Our elustrious chamber of commerce is effectively giving Austin's tax dollars to corporations to move here. There are also some energy benefits. Soon the older Austinites will be forced to move elsewhere. These corp's need to pay their fair share.	D. Simmer
It is disturbing that base rate for all customers is the same. This is going to hurt the poor residential customers immensely and that is unfair and not acceptable.	Kalpana 1951
Please keep Austin energy rates affordable and don't raise the base rate. Rent increases during an inflation make it difficult enough.	Susan Reardon
I feel its unfair to charge more or do a tier rate without raising rates on others who dont pat yhe same rates..and i would like to do solar but its so expensive	Patsy Flores
Progressive rates are critical to low income families trying to just hang on in Austin. Though it might make structural sense for AE to increase base rates it flys in the face of a decade of work by multiple organizations and Counsel Members to help the low income families in Austin survive. Raising the base rate is not acceptable. We need a progressive rate structure to accommodate the wide range of incomes across this city.	Al Braden
Please do not increase the base rate and flatten the rate structure from 5 to 3 tiers. This hurts the people who can afford it least. You are hurting residential users and favoring business and industrial users.	Eric James
<p>Austin Energy says previous rates, designed to discourage high energy use, worked too well. Customers are not using enough electricity to provide the "base rate" revenues to meet all the utility's expenses. If approved as is, Austin Energy's proposed base rate changes will increase the fixed monthly fee everyone pays from \$10 to \$25—a bill increase of \$180 a year. I anticipate potential harms to low-income people, people of color, and all of us just struggling to get by in these hard times.</p> <p>By raising the fixed monthly fee everyone pays from \$10 to \$25, and changing the tiered rate structure (the cost you are charged increases with increased electricity used) from five tiers to three, this substantial rate increase—if approved—would mainly be on the backs of residential customers. In addition, flattening the tiers would reduce the incentive to save energy—increasing energy use could be bad for our grid and definitely would be bad for bills.</p> <p>Austin Energy has also proposed adjustments to the "Value of Solar" payments (what people are paid for rooftop solar) that need more investigation. And while they have not proposed any changes to the Community Benefit Charge or Energy Efficiency Service Fee, to meet our robust solar and energy efficiency goals, we may need to revise them.</p> <p>I urge the Commission to reject these higher rates and replace them with more reasonable and lower justifiable increases that customers can afford in these difficult times.</p>	RichaRd Newhouse

Thank you.	
As a single individual employed by the state (aka low paid) I am struggling to survive in Austin as it is, with the crazy rent increases and grocery bills going nuts without having the fixed fee on our electricity bill raised. Please reconsider.	Janet McNutt
I refuse to pay extra so that the energy company can make record profits	Linda Ronan
Decreasing the number of tiers and increasing the flat rate disproportionately impacts residential customers and decreases incentives to reduce energy usage. I strongly oppose this measure as it may actually increase energy usage and strain the power grid	Lorie Harper
Do not raise my rates.	Julia Maffei
I oppose the proposal to raise the base rate, mainly for its impact on people of lower income. Any rate changes should take into account social justice issues. Also prefer o keep the five tier rate structure. As for Value of Solar, having just installed a home solar array last year, any decrease feels like bait and switch. But I am willing to pay more, if there is true equity in the increased burden of ratepayers, meaning that commercial customers, the largest users, should be made to bear the greatest burden.	Larry Yarak
It does not seem reasonable that wealthier individuals and corporations should be given a break. They have shown that they can pay the higher rates, so please leave those alone and let those of us that are struggling paycheck to paycheck have a break. thank you	Jennifer Henson
Energy is already expensive and with current discount programs people like me are barely able to afford it. It's not fair to raise prices on regular people while businesses and other entities catch a break!	Serene Sloan
The proposed policy change appears to have a regressive impact on a customer base that's already disproportionately borne the financial and physical consequences of utility providers' failures. The increase in the baseline monthly fees must be avoided.	Sam D
I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the proposed base electricity rate changes. The current 5-tiered structure incentivizes lower electricity use—obviously good for public utility customers and the planet at large. Changing this structure to 3 tiers, and charging a higher base rate (an unconscionable \$180/year burden!), will unfairly affect low income customers, and will sap all customers' incentive to conserve electricity. Do the right thing: remove no tiers, do not raise base costs for residential customers, and shift the burden to wealthy corporations who must pay their fair share.	James yelland
Do not increase the rates unless you increase the rates for corporations first. With our property taxes increasing substantially how is the middle class and low income suppose to survive in expensive city of Austin. I didn't even mention the inflation rate of a eight percent or higher. I can't understand your logic of raising rate over hundred percent. Do not raise it !!!! Matias Reveles	Matias Reveles

The base rate is already too high for a lot of people that live paycheck to paycheck. If you are already struggling to get enough money, what do you think charging everyone \$15 more will do?? They will further decrease the amount of electricity they are using to cover that cost. With inflation over 8%, asking people to pay 150% more just to use a vital service is absolutely cruel.	Jenna Davis
Please do not make the changes as suggested. The base rate increase will disproportionately affect low wage families that have small and usually or fixed incomes. They are trying to save money by saving energy. This is not the way to increase revenue.	Sofia Chamberlain
As I understand it, residential users are bearing most of the pain in the rate hikes. Businesses need to pay their fair share, and their base rate should be increased more. There are individuals who are already to pay their bills - why make it even harder for them in a city that is becoming increasingly unaffordable? Fair and equitable would be to ask businesses to step up so that a transition to solar has even a prayer of being affordable. Businesses come to Austin and get tax breaks at the expense of individuals - they can afford to pay more.	Cindy Hamilton
Please don't go through with this proposed rate change. The burden should be on commercial customers, not residential.	Colin Howard
I'm writing to object to Austin Energy's proposed base rate change. The proposed changes would disproportionately affect low-income residents and residents of color while letting large corporations off the hook for greater energy usage. With our energy grid as taxed as it is, flattening the tiered structure will reduce incentives to save energy, worsening Texas' energy issues. This is also counterproductive to mitigating the effects of climate change, which we are not doing nearly enough about. Austin needs more progressive price structures and incentives that reduce burdens on the vast majority of residents while asking corporations to do their fair share. This is about justice. Please reconsider these base rate changes. Respectfully,	Walter Furness
Being told to Save energy and then being penalized for being "too" good at it should not justify the means for hard-working citizens to flip the bill. It's bad enough we're forced to use Austin Energy, but now you want to come after the people who depend on your services. It's unconscionable, and it would behoove you to retract your ask and instead point it at the large corporations who use the bulk of energy. Otherwise, we will work to decentralize the energy in this city...think of how your profits will be effected under that new initiative.	Sarah G.
Why are we being punished for conserving electricity? We have weatherized, gotten solar to help conserve/provide electricity to others, and now the energy wasters are being charged less and those who care about the environment are being charged more. Does that make sense? Why not increase the rate for the energy wasters? It's not a matter of "fairness" to each level, it's a matter of the upper level leaching off the conservers in the	Joan Hadden

bottom level. Also, when will all the other electric companies around the state pay back Austin Energy for all the energy they used during the winter freeze? Basically, Austin Energy saved the rest of the state since the state was 4 minutes and 28 seconds away from shutting down for 6 months. Why are we being penalized while investors in other non-municipal companies are taking our money?	
With the new proposed changes there is anticipate potential harm to low-income people, people of color, and all of us just struggling to get by in these hard times. By raising the fixed monthly fee everyone pays from \$10 to \$25, and changing the tiered rate structure from five tiers to three, this substantial rate increase would mainly be on the backs of residential customers. In addition, flattening the tiers would reduce the incentive to save energy—increasing energy use could be bad for our grid and definitely would be bad for our bills when those of us in Austin are struggling enough as it is!!	Laura Cavounis
If it's necessary to increase rates those for businesses, especially the very large businesses, should pay more than private citizens.	Jane Jatinen
I think the base rate should closely approximate the actual cost of providing service to each user. Is this what the planned increase is supposed to address? I strongly disapprove of reducing the number of tiers in the rate structure. With an automated billing system, this doesn't provide any cost savings. Is solely intended to increase net billing returns?	Steve Kush
Please don't increase the base pay to normal consumers. Inflation and rising transportation costs are already hurting low income and people of color. Living in Austin is already unaffordable. Please don't be a part of that.	MARCIA REED
As Austin residents, we did what you asked: we switched to renewables, weatherized our homes, and used less energy overall. To increase our base rates by nearly \$200/year is punishment for good behavior! And poor and working-class people will *not* be able to afford that, between the pandemic and increased prices for necessities. Not to mention, low energy-users will be forced into a higher electrical tier and, again, pay more than they should for good behavior. These changes cannot go forward. Thank you.	Robyn Honig
How about instead of passing the rate increases onto the people of Austin - whose backs are already broken by inflation, rising cost of living in general, high gas prices, impossibly high rent prices, and increasingly unattainable housing prices - you cut into your profit margins a bit? After the service outages many of us have endured over the past couple years, how in the world can you justify raising base rates? Read the room!	Theodore Crawford
I think that increasing the base rate and shrinking the number of rate tiers will reduce the pressure for users to conserve, not a good thing in a time of grid fragility and climate change.	David Todd
The rate hike is BS. You have big companies and office buildings wasting so much electricity and water and getting concession after concession; while homeowners are again are left holding the bag. Thank you so much for putting more strain on our wallets.	z khan

A base rate change is the same as a regressive tax. Those who can afford to use vast amounts of energy also have the means to cover rate increases. Texas can barely keep up with its energy demands. Relying on a base increase instead of incentivizing energy conservation comes off as out of touch or just ridiculous.	Philip Fuller
As an austin resident I don't agree to this, especially right now with prices on the rise	Andy
Please don't raise rates or charges more fees. Ask for an audit so that the funds you are already getting can be better utilized. We can't afford us. The city of Austin is keeping it unaffordable for us with its incessant and wasteful spending.	Yvonne Weldon
Your Solar credits are about worthless, when are you going to implement net metering and actually pay for solar production. That will create a real incentive that would make your rebates look like pennies on the dollar for a customer who installs Solar and batteries so we would not be at the mercy of our unregulated and unreliable electric grid. Really tired of power offs happening in our neighborhood, six in the last two months. Once my solar is providing us with backup power we would be glad to sell you all our surplus for real cash, not credits we can only use to buy electric we don't need very often, if ever. \$25 to stay connect to an unreliable grid is not a bargain, hit us up for extra cash after you have maintained power to our house in a consistent manor for 12 months, then I would be glad to pay \$15 more a month for a real benefit. You all have forced me to become my own power supplier and it is costing us a fortune but no matter, you keep raising the rates on the poor people who cannot afford to install solar. If you will allow us with solar to transfer our credits to your poor customers then I can live with your credits, till then net metering and we will donate cash to help those stuck with the high bills and unreliable unregulated Texas grid.	Bruce Cardwell
It appears that Austin Energy's plan to change the electric rates to three tiers, as well as its plan to increase the base rate will unfairly discriminate against the poorest customers, while simultaneously rewarding the most affluent customers. So the lowest consumption residents will be forced to pay for the most profligate users, and to pay for new service to outlying new developments. This marginalization of the poor is patently unfair, and it doesn't reflect the generally liberal mindset of Austin residents.	Dan Morris
I strongly oppose the proposed residential base rates. Many Austinites are struggling financially given the very high cost of housing here, inflation, and high gas prices. I do not support charging residents higher rates while minimizing changes or costs to the commercial sector. Please do not proceed with these changes.	Kate McArdle
People are struggling to keep up with bills, especially after last year's winter storm and this year's record heat wave. City Council must step in and stop this outrageous change that will disproportionately impact renters and working class Austinites.	dave cortez
The majority of the financial burden resulting from this rate change should NOT fall on the residential side. It should fall on the large corporations!	Katherine Jackson

I'd like to know the rationale for this and specifically why this must be passed along to consumers who are already struggling with increases in everything else. It is not appropriate to make consumers pay for the companies refusal to make investments in their infrastructure in order to make more profit.	Courtney Link
If you increase base rate for a necessary utility in the middle of summer just to increase profits, you are putting people in danger. If anything rates should lower. Maybe you can put in a good word with the housing market and help make this place livable for regular people again.	Sam Underhill
I oppose the proposed rate changes. I am retired with limited income, and the rate changes would substantially affect me.	John Jacob
With costs of all things going up the way it has the last two years, it would be extremely disappointing for one of the most basic and essential services to increase as well. Especially considering what to me has felt like a service that is not fully reliable. Aside from the February 2021 storm, I have personally lost power multiple times since then, twice just in the last couple months. With two kids at home, one being a newborn, that is extremely scary to me. It's hard for me to see a reasonable justification for this base rate increase for this reason.	Kristin Davis
Absolutely not. Raise the rates of corporate users. Every day Austinites are cranking up their thermostats in record heat to conserve energy and try to save some money while food, fuel, and medicine costs are through the roof. Meanwhile every commercial building is lit up like Christmas and cooled like a meat freezer around the clock. If my kids have to sleep in 80°+ bedrooms every night just to see my bill go up and it's still not enough?? It means the heavy users need to contribute more.	Claire Grasso
Strongly opposed.	Katy Fritz
Absolutely crazy plan. Austin residents are being squeezed to death by increases and fees on everything. We have lived her 40 years and cannot afford these increases. And before you increase the cost of energy, can you guarantee we will have power through another winter storm or the hot days of summer?	Emilia Hezari
The fact you haven't built the grid up enough to account for all the new homes and residential users suffer when power goes out you need to expand the grid now and tax corporations to cover it.	Marci Cannon
Yeah, please don't raise rates. As a renter, we are barely able to stay in Austin.	Amy Anomalous
Do not increase rates. Your profit is high and you do not need to burden the public struggling already with high energy costs.	Anthony Mills
If approved, Austin Energy's proposed changes to residential "base rates" will negatively impact people in Austin as we continue to live through the pandemic and rising costs of living on top of the status quo of injustices and harms in our society. To broadly implement this proposed change will not equitably impact residents--it will further jeopardize the housing situations of low-income residents and renters who are struggling with the rising daily cost of living in Austin. Please do not raise the base rate.	Aja Gair
What less expensive energy sources are you exploring in order to avoid raising the electric rates of Austin which, according to the council, already	Scott Unzicker

had a massive affordability problem? If you were to raise rates, what increase in services can I expect to see? I mean, when I pay more for something, I expect more value for my dollar. In the end, how much did the CoA/Austin Energy pay for the biomass plant in East Texas? Is it producing any meaningful amount of energy? Are you exploring a way to eliminate the city monopoly on utilities? If not, why not?	
I just want to express my opinion AGAINST any increase in the base rate, especially from \$10 to \$25 as this is a significant increase for many people already experiencing increases in other fees and monthly bills. Also, AGAINST flattening the tier system from 5 to 3...thereby discouraging less energy usage...we need to be encouraging less usage - not the other way around. Please consider the individual residents you are affecting with these changes - why not make a higher charge for corporations and other entities using high rates of electricity...	Lisa
Please rethink this increase. As we hit this inflation it makes any additional increase harder to manage.	Lynn Cox
The proposed rate hikes are deeply unjust and harmful to average people in Austin. Residents should not be burdened with rate hikes from our MUNICIPALLY OWNED utility, when we are using less energy on average than other years. We know the real culprits of energy use are the large corporations and industries and they should be paying the difference in rate hikes, NOT the working people of Austin who need to get by. Place the burden of rate hikes onto businesses, not residents.	Sofia Shapiro
I strongly oppose this rate structure, these are not fair and equitable rates. Companies using the most energy need to be paying for it and not individuals struggling to make ends meet.	Janice Lowry
I don't understand why we would make rates higher for the average or energy-conscious customer, while decreasing them for heavy users (often airbnb houses operating without licenses, I expected). I understand the need to raise rates but believe it should be first on the highest users (despite myself sometimes having usage at the higher end of the spectrum). Why incentivize more utility usage when we apparently can't even support the current amount?	Kelsey Baldwin
We are so grateful for Austin Energy's investment in renewable energy sources and fully support 100 % of wind and solar sources of energy for the foreseeable future. Whatever we can do to encourage and enable this goal, we are happy to do! We currently operate 15kw of solar power cells on our property and just today, supplied 62k watt hours of power to the Austin Energy grid! Please continue the incentives for others to do the same. Thank you for being progressive on this front. We are also grateful for the EV charging goals Austin Energy has set. Keep it up!!	Cari Land
I assume that rates will go up and not down. This is very difficult for seniors who are on a fixed monthly income. and also for people who live under the poverty rate in Austin. Will there be rate reduction allowances given to senior citizens?	Jan Hedrick

The majority of rate increases should fall on the commercial developments , not homeowners and residents. Developers need to pay their way!	Susan Wehmeier
I'm opposed to these increases as you place the burden on individuals as families struggle to pay the most basic bills, and you are doing so at a predatory time when we face heat waves and electric is essential.	Liane Hajduch
The base rates are barely bearable as it is. With rent on the rise, outrageous gas prices, etc., we cannot shoulder another increase.	Natalia Speer
If you are planning a rate increase for residential customers, then I would advise against it at this time. This would cause undue burden on families already struggling with high inflation. If you are planning an increase on commercial properties, then I would highly recommend you do so. It is time they paid their fair share seeing as how I don't see them attempting to conserve energy	Sheri Miller
I'm completely opposed to raising our rates again. We already pay more for our electricity than almost anywhere in the US. I think you should be considering lowering our rates.	Tom Robinson
Make it equitable. Make it sustainable. That is all.	Jacob Barrett
Please don't	Taylor
In a city growing at a rapid pace where companies get incentives to move here the burden of expanded cost too often falls to the residents. Say no to increasing the residential flat rate and move your additional cost to the larger companies in the area.	Marie Case
FIX the GRID. Don't raise rates, Austin is too expensive as it is.	Hilary M. Deweerd
The rate increase is outrageous. The EROC corporations are receiving billions at the expense of the tax payers.	Cecilia Crossley
Rate hikes should absolutely NOT be placed on the shoulders of residential customers. Corporations should carry their fair share	Krista Ernst
Please do not raise the rates! Austin is so expensive we are already struggling to keep the lights on. Please reconsider increasing rates. I am living in an old 1960s era home with poor energy efficiency. I'm a renter so I cannot force my landlord to make changes, but I do my best to conserve energy and be mindful. Please I urge you not to increase rates.	a Rocha
No increases this year please! With gas prices and groceries going up most families can't handle anything more increasing in their monthly budget.	Karen Langley
I have been told that the proposed rate structure will place the burden of the increase mostly on individuals rather than companies. As so many families struggle to pay their bills as they face inflation and higher electricity usage due to climate change, for environmental justice's sake, I ask you not to place the burden of the increase on these families.	Kristi Michener
It makes no sense to change your rate structure to one that asks the private citizen to bare the burden. If you must increase rates at this horrible time for all, choose one that asks business and corporations to bare the largest burden. Many of them are price gouging themselves and should have plenty of funds to pay their electric bills!	Jennifer Bailey
It is outrageous, unconscionable, and unacceptable to put the majority of the financial burden of the increased energy costs on individuals/residential customers. We will not accept this. I understand AE needs its revenue but	Eva Lo

we -individual, working Americans - are done accepting the financial burden we never asked for. Find another way and honor your working-American customers.	
I'm writing to vote NO on rate increases and a flattened tiered structure whose burden falls primarily on residential individuals. More and more, American society is seeing the middle class taxed to death. This is yet another example. Austin Energy, DO NOT FLATTEN TIERD RATES, DO NOT INCREASE RESIDENTIAL USAGE. There are ways to accomplish your goals by working with "the big guys"--businesses, corporations, and large companies that already do not pay enough into Austin and Travis County taxes. Have a chat with them. In the mean time, your residential, individuals are exhausted by rate increases. Look elsewhere.	Barbara Johnson
I am opposed to the proposed changes to Austin Energy's base rates. The increase would fall primarily on residential customers and the flattening of the rate tier would reduce the incentive to save energy. Given the long-term commitment to transition off of coal and end all fossil fuel use by 2035, it's not clear whether these proposed rates will adequately set up the non-nuclear decommissioning funding stream needed to accomplish those goals.	Janet Delaney
Hello. I oppose the proposed base rate change. It disincentivizes users to use less energy, by flattening the current tiered structure. And puts more of a burden on residential (especially lower-income residential) users with the heft base rate increase. More of the increased revenue needed should be put on the commercial class of customers, and/or the higher usage residential users (by substantially increasing the rates for the higher tiers in the 5-tier system).	Jason Perez
Thank you for your consideration.	
This proposed rate change is very impactful to all City of Austin residents who are having problems making ends meet. With rent increases, gas rates so high, grocery bills also very high and now credit card interest rates increasing it has become very difficult to maintain a household. Some of us still earn very low wages and some are retired and on limited incomes. Although a \$15 per month increase doesn't seem to be very much to you, it is devastating to most of us. Only the wealthy can afford it. Thank you.	NORMA CORTEZ
There is no way that Austin Energy should raise base or any usage rates for any amount on individual customers! If anything possibly raise them on the largest companies. With inflation raging as well as the unprecedented increase in usage due to climate change, it seems unconscionable to even consider this action on individual customers at this time.	David Rosenblad
I am writing as a concerned mom and founder of The Parents' Climate Community to ask you to reconsider placing the burden of your rate increase mostly on individuals rather than companies. Many families struggle to pay their bills as they face inflation and higher electricity usage due to climate change. Given that Austin Energy is operating within the framework of the Austin Climate Equity Plan, I urge to consider how this rate increase impacts low-income communities within Austin, and whether this approach is consistent with the values of the Climate Equity Plan.	Eileen McGinnis

<p>Your proposed change to the monthly base residential charge from \$10 to \$25 is a 250% increase. This is both significant and unreasonable. Additionally, the proposed change from a 5 tier system to a 3 tier system would allow customers using more than 1201 kWh to receive a reduced rate of 4.8 cents/kWh, down from the current range of 7.8-10.8 cents/kWh while disproportionately impacting those customers who use 1200 kWh or less with a rate hike in Tier 1 of 3.8 cents/kWh (up from 2.8 cents/kWh) and changing the scale from 0-500 kWh to 0-300 kWh. For example, my electric usage for 5/3/22-6/2/22 was 786 kWh. My cost for this amount used, not including the base customer charge, was \$30.69 (T1=\$14.01 for 0-500 kWh; T2=\$16.68 for 501-786 kWh). Under this proposed rate hike it would be \$32.30 (T1=\$11.40 for 0-300 kWh; T2=\$20.90 for 301-786 kWh). A customer under the current rate system using 1500 kWh would pay \$82.24 (T1=\$14.01 for 0-500 kWh; T2=\$29.16 for 501-1000 kWh; T3=\$39.07 for 1001-1500 kWh). With the proposed changes they would then pay a reduced rate of \$64.50 (T1=\$11.40 for 0-300 kWh; T2=\$38.70 for 301-1200 kWh; T3=\$14.40 for 1201-1500 kWh). So while I'm trying to conserve electricity, using as little as possible, my cost will increase \$1.61 while someone using almost twice as much electricity will receive a \$17.74 reduction. And this does not include the proposed increase of the base customer charge of \$25, more than double its current rate. The City places so much emphasis on conserving and yet it appears those customers who use less will pay more while those who use more will benefit from a reduction under this proposal.</p>	Stacey Young
<p>Rates are already at an all time high. My energy bill has went up \$325 in the last 2 mths. Austinites are already struggling to pay their nervy bill. Raising rates will only price more people out of Austin and possibly out if their homes all together. Please reconsider these rate hikes. Allow us to stay in our city.</p>	Sherryl Walters
<p>FIGHTING SOLAR...if Demand is down due to SOLAR [provide Data showing how SOLAR has reduced Demand], then the only way for AE to FIGHT SOLAR is to raise Rates. Stop 'hiding the ball' and discuss how Solar has reduced Demand. Arizona recently lost a court case where that state attempted to raise rates in order to fight (counter) Solar.</p>	Patrick Freeman
<p>Hello, Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback. I am very disappointed at the proposed rates with \$10-25/month increases. This is unacceptable and will only increase the amount of displacement happening in Austin that disproportionately is affecting low-income and working class BIPOC people. This proposal & the way in which the rate case is being addressed is unjust and happening through back-door conversations rather than legitimate public engagement. Large corporations, especially those who are responsible for a large majority of the displacement & cost of living incs and who consume a larger proportion of energy should be responsible for shouldering the additional cost. It is unjust and unfair for AE to ask residential consumers to back these rate increases because customers are not using enough electricity especially when we are constantly being asked to reduce energy consumption due to a dilapidating grid that cannot support our energy consumption. AE needs to STOP investing in fossil fuels to address energy</p>	Jordyn Middlebrooks

demand. As we've seen, fossil fuels like natural gas are failing during extreme weather events like winter storm Uri and even this summer. Through expanding renewable energy infrastructure we can scale to keep costs down, and better support our energy consumption & demand which have operated more effectively during extreme weather events & are known to provide better economic results over time. Given our long-term commitment to transition off coal & end fossil fuel use by 2035 the rates proposed do not address the non-nuclear decommissioning funding stream necessary to accomplish these goals.	
I'm deeply disturbed by the proposed rate increases. Looking at the numbers, the increases disproportionately adversely effect those who use the least amount of energy. People who have the largest energy consumption are getting discounts, while people who use less energy are having to pay more, sometimes double. There is much less incentive to be energy efficient.	Tami Gamliel
The base rate change is far too high. This on top of increases in rent, food, and gas will make Austin very difficult to live in.	Emily Luedke
I am opposed to the proposed rate increase of an average of \$15/month. Many Austin residents struggle to pay for the basics such as rent, food, utilities, and transportation in a city where the cost of living is high. They should not be asked to pay any more for utilities. Corporations and industrial customers should pay their fair share.	Ann Teich
I am opposed to the proposed residential rate increase of an average of \$15/month. Many Austin residents struggle to pay for basics such as rent, food, utilities and transportation in a city where the cost of living is high. Increasing their utility costs will make it even more difficult for them to live in the city. Corporations and industrial customers need to pay their fair share.	Ann Teich
Please consider raising the rates on commercial customers rather than adding to an overburdened consumer who is paying increasingly higher costs for everything. Commercial customers can increase their prices and pass their increased expenses onto the consumer as they always do.	Lisa Cameron
Please consider raising rates for commercial customers rather than jacking up rate on already overburdened residential customers. We're paying a lot more for absolutely everything and we cannot increase prices to pay the increased rates like a commercial customer can, and which they will then pass the increased rates to the consumer. I'm retired and have limited resources which will be even less if this rate increase of 7+% is passed.	Lisa G Cameron
I have lived in Austin over 20 years now. I went to college here, and stayed to grow within my profession. Unfortunately, wage growth has not developed as fast as the cost of living in this city, and while I own my home, I still end up living pay check to paycheck and working 2-3 jobs. Raising the rates for basic need like electricity at this time will be devastating to many of us lower income austinians. Many of us have been here a long time, contributing to this city, only to be pushed out due to things like this. If you need to raise rates, do so with the businesses and commercial accounts that already use way more energy than the standard household. As an longtime Austin energy customer, I feel like others like myself should have at least a	Ryan Dunn

modicum of good will passed back. Grandfather longterm customers in their current rates tied to their current residence. \$15-25 might seem insignificant to some, but that can be 2-3 meals(prior to mass inflation)	
I think the base rate increase is really harmful to implement during this period as we continue to live through the pandemic and ever-rising costs of living, in addition to how many locals are already getting priced out of neighborhoods.	Emma Fairfield
It is not fair to charge customers who use less electricity this new fee. If the proposal goes through, customers like myself, who have been customers of Austin Energy in the same home since 1999, should be grandfathered into keeping the old rate. I am retired, and on a fixed income, and rate increases will only hurt me.	Nancy Lanier
This is not okay. Take the steps you need to as a responsible organization and remove the inefficiencies in your org before drastically increasing the price. So many are living paycheck to paycheck and this could break them. Do your part to be better. Do better!	Sophia Dozier
If you are going to raise rates, raise them on the corporations, not citizens who are already struggling to make ends meet. This will make a huge impact on under-resources families in Austin.	Katherine Schaeffer
These across the board increases that more than double current monthly fees for residents will have huge impacts on whether low income communities can afford electricity, leading people to go without in dangerous heat or go into debt for basic needs. Price increases, if needed, should fall on corporations or those who have higher energy usage levels to incentivize less wasteful use. This would contribute to environmental sustainability goals without burdening poor and working class families who are already struggling financially. We all saw the photos of office buildings downtown lit up (and likely heated) all through the night during the winter freeze while residents all across the city froze because of long outages. Placing fees on such wasteful usage and increasing prices for the highest users would be a better way to reach sustainability goals and reduce the risk of a similarly dangerous situation occurring in the future.	Bethany Carson
Please, NO, don't raise this charge. It's "only" \$15 to you, but for way too many of us it's grocery money, or money for prescriptions, or so many other things. Especially for those of us on social security! \$15 is more than my cost of living increase monthly on my SS check this year!!!	Marileigh Oldag
My rent has raised to the point that im threated with losing my home due to non payment. Austin Energy is making it so hard for low income families to have security	Ana Romero
My rent increased \$200 per month. I cannot afford this or the \$15/month increase AE is proposing. This is exploitative and harmful to our working class disproportionately BIPOC communities already facing financial pressures and displacement. If you need to increase income for AE raise the rate for big commercial businesses who won't feel the difference.	Solveij Praxis
Here we are struggling with high temperatures, turning down thermostats, barely keeping landscaping alive, all while struggling to also pay higher gas and food prices. And, instead of giving us a break, you're trying to raise rates. On top of this, we have an electric grid that is teetering on the brink.	S Davis

What are you thinking? You know you have us by the throats because where else can we go for energy and water? There aren't a lot of choices.	
We're senior citizens trying to get by on less and less. Please don't raise our rates now!!!	
I am retired state employee senior citizen. I have lived here all my life. Haven't had a income increase since I retired. At this rate of increase I will have to apply for utility assistance or sit in the dark and no AC.	Alma Williams
Please ensure that the poorest of Austin energy customers do not get unfairly charged. Also please do not pass along breaks in fees to businesses that should be paying their fair share. Thank you.	Laura Tabor
<p>I am sharing my dismay at the proposed rate increases, especially for retail customers. The increases disproportionately impact retail customers who:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Who use the least energy, are placing the least strain on the grid, or have either made tradeoffs or invested to increase efficiency (all policy goals we should be encouraging) 2. Who do not have large, energy consuming homes <p>In short, folks with the largest bills get the biggest break. The rate change deeply is regressive. Ie. those with the most means get a break in the new system while the more limited consumer gets a massive increase.</p> <p>For example, for a residential customer who uses 500kWh of energy: the proposal increases the connection fee by over 150% (\$10 to \$25) and the base rate (energy charge, previously 2.8c/kWh) by over 42%. Their overall bill before taxes nearly doubles from \$24.01 to \$45.</p> <p>How is this achieving the outcomes we desire?</p> <p>The stated goals are to make the increase "fair and equitable." The facts of this rate increase seem anything but.</p>	Brett
The proposed rate hike is too high. With Texas having its own grid, one would think that they have the business in hand and not have been profiting rather than improving/keeping up with the current climate (pun intended). The dismal handling of not only the 2011 problems but also the most recent winter issue is disgraceful. The federal infrastructure monies should be adequate to cover/help with upgrading the sorry state of Austin Energy and the TX grid in general. I firmly oppose the proposed hike and will be contacting my city council person to vote accordingly.	Anne
lawsuit was filed against Austin Energy regarding community benefit charges charged to citizens outside of the City of Austin. We WON the lawsuit. Yet, AE continues to collect this fee which is unlawful. Also, you keep reducing the amount you pay solar energy customers for producing solar energy. This should be rewarded, not discouraged.	JBA
No! Impacting ppl who can least afford as well as those of us who try to limit energy use when you ask us to...how is this an incentive? Use less energy pay	Patricia Olvera

a higher rate - makes no sense. This hurts poor people. Get your heads straight. NO just NO.	
With an understanding that rates need to increase, your proposal disproportionately impact poorer customers. Can you please focus the costs more on developers and corporations who are the driving force behind higher energy use and offer Austin residents a reprieve from the back to back cost increases currently affecting our pocketbooks?	Lori Miller
Once again the powers that be have chosen to hang the largest increase in costs on those least able to afford it. While giving the wealthy and big business massive cuts. The average price for rent in Austin is \$2000, the median income is \$41,000. Poor people and average earners are already struggling to pay rent and put food on the table. Meanwhile the people you are giving a break to are building McMansions, million dollar condos and living in overpriced high rises downtown. The businesses (Tesla, Samsung, etc) get property tax breaks from the schools and municipalities, which the average people have to cover. It's ridiculous to say that lowering the cost of living for big power users is "leveling the playing field", especially when you raise the cost on people who can't afford to adequately heat or cool their homes. Please reconsider this ridiculous Texas strategy of enriching the wealthy, ignore their lobbyists and actually do something to help Austin's struggling workers.DO NOT raise the rates on the poor and average people of Austin.	Joe Sayre
I am concerned that the customer charge is being increased excessively, especially impacting customers on fixed incomes and those in low economic households. I believe an increase of \$5 per month is more realistic and fair. Additionally, I oppose lowering the low tier threshold from 500 kWh. I consciously conserve according to all recommendations, including setting my thermostat at 80 degrees during the day and only lowering at night. We already are paying a power supply adjustment and regulatory fees that increase the cost per kWh. I believe Austin Energy needs to realize they are making it more difficult for a large portion of the population with these proposed increases	Deborah Saunders
I understand the need for a rate hike however, a 7.6 % is excessive. A minimum of 5% of the needed 48 million should come from operational improvements for lean operations. An additional 5 % should be eliminated as contingency and not added to burden of end user. The base should only increase by 2- 3% and balance should be balanced off high end user versus base rate	Mary Viney
AE does not deserve the trust of the people of Austin after taking 5 additional feet of easement with no notification and no public comment from Austin properties. They just took away our ability to build an ADU for a family member. This overt taking MUST be addressed FIRST.	Heyden Walker
I agree with the need to adequately operate and maintain power distribution for COA customers. However, for lower and middle income customers on a fixed income, an increase of 150% in the base rate and a 40% increase in my most recent may 9 to June 8 bill is unacceptable particularly when the city will divert some of it for "General Fund Transfers" (i.e. 'taxes').	Jay Roberson

I already pay higher COA property taxes given increase in property evaluations. I support a electric utility fee increase only if the NONE of it goes to the city general fund. It appears with the new fee structure you are penalizing the residents you are conserving energy by installing more efficient lighting and appliances and modifying their behaviors (higher thermostats in summer and lower in winter)...."No good deed goes unpunished."	
<p>I'm not opposed to raising the Basic Rates charged per KW but AM OPPOSED to Raising the Basic Charge from \$10 per Month to \$25!!!</p> <p>As a Senior on a Fixed Income, due to Inflation running Wild I have to watch what I spend so implore the Council yo DENY the Upcharge in the Base Monthly Rate.</p> <p>Thank you!</p>	Jim Hudson
<p>Austin utilities already charges all the extra service fees, now you are raising the 10.00 fee to 25.00. This a burden on the senior citizens & disabled people who are on a low income. You return millions every year to the city. This is our money, not the city's money! You need to return the extra money to the customers. You are already over charging the customers.</p> <p>Do not raise your rates!</p>	Sandra Abramson
<p>I think the "low income" rate class should not be moved from 500 to 300 kWh usage, rather should be higher. It is not uncommon that individuals in a "low income" situation have less energy efficiency than more, so may use more power. In addition, moving the base fee from \$10 to \$25 is also unfair to low income customers as it will automatically raise bills by \$180 a year with no way to lower those costs by using less power. Come on Austin, you know better than to have a tax like that which in unfair to those less fortunate.</p>	Sandra Morris
<p>You already make hundreds of millions a year profit, I do not want rates to go up.</p>	Ron Abramson
<p>You are making hundreds of millions a year in profit. I do not want my rates to go up.</p>	Ron Abramson
<p>Base rates affect low income customers the most and provide no encouragement to conserve resoures like useage fees. The city of Austin utilities already has a base rate of \$44.25 when you add the clean community fee \$9.30 + drainage \$9.99 + street service \$14.96 + elect. service \$10.00 = a base fee of \$44.25 & add trash p/u and we are at \$75.70 before a light is even turned on. Increase the kWh rate and let the biggest users pay for the addtional funds needed. And when added to our rediculous property taxes it makes it dificult if not impossible for low income workers and retired Austinites to live here. Our legislature & big corporate have already shifted much of their tax responcibility on to the everyday working people and by raising base rates is just anouther way for the big users of our services to get out of paying for their fair share.</p>	John Simpson
2022 Austin Energy Base Rate Review Comments	John Brewer

Request your consideration of the following comments on the 2022 Austin Energy Base Rate Review:

1. Eliminating the separate rate structure for Austin Energy's ETJ's customers is patently unfair in the sense that the proposal adds more charges for customers that have no political representation on the Austin City Council. Essentially, I have no opportunity to be represented in future City Council Austin Energy rate/management considerations which is the trade-off we are making right now by being included in a current separate rate structure. Under the proposed consolidation, an ETJ customer is considered on less-of-a -basis than a city resident, yet there is no opportunity for democratic input into the processes. Keep the ETJ rate structure separate.

2. On raising the base rates, per se, I, and my parents before me have been loyal Austin Energy customers for over 30 years and have never had any problems. Now raising rate for cost recovery and infrastructure which primarily targets city residents places an unequal burden on these costs for an unrepresented population which is not the primary beneficiary of the system improvements and costs.

3. As a residential customer who is retired and on a fixed income with no outlook for future increases in income, Austin Energy should provide a rate CREDIT for seniors over the age of 65 or 70 so we can afford to continue paying for the services. Customer loyalty, timely payments, and agreeing to continue to afford the services for which we have no political representation should count for something.

Austin's phenomenal growth is great, but it should not be borne by those who do not receive any benefit from that growth (for which the city customers receive) the funding from ETJ customers. Future increases should be borne by those commercial and residential customers who cause the costs to rise disproportionately.

Keep the separate ETJ rate structure and lower the proposed base rates for ETJ customers.