



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Austin Utilities Solar Electric Vehicle Charging Station Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Austin Utilities held a ribbon cutting event celebrating their recently installed Solar Electric Vehicle Charging station on Wednesday August 5th. The event was held immediately following the SE CERT (Southeast Clean Energy Resource Team) event held at the Jay C. Hormel Nature Center titled **"Austin: A Showcase of Community Clean Energy Action"**.

The utility thanked the many partners that made this project a success including students from Riverland Community College who installed the solar system, grants from Hormel Foundation and CERT, as well as Southern MN Electric, Werner Electric Supply and the City of Austin.

The station is a dual charging station, meaning two vehicles can charge at one time. The electric usage from the charging station will be offset with energy generated by the 1.65 kW solar array. Since it's activation in January, the station has been used 48 times and discharged 175 kWh of charge. The solar panels have produced 1207 kWh.

Research shows there will be a large influx of electric vehicles in the near future. This demonstration project will allow Austin Utilities to gather data to help them understand the impact of electric vehicle charging on their system while at the same time provide a benefit and inspiration to the community.

The last piece of the project will be finalizing the communication lines that will track the charging station usage and solar generation data. The data will be available to the public via the Austin Utilities website. This step will be completed in the very near future.

Austin Utilities is a municipal utility serving approximately 12,317 electric customers, 10,328 natural gas customers, and 9013 water customers. Their mission is to offer utility products and services in a safe, reliable and responsible manner in order to enhance the quality of life in our community. For more information on Austin Utilities visit their website at [www.austinutilities.com](http://www.austinutilities.com).

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