

Regular Board of Directors *Meeting Notes*

July 12, 2021

**Approval of a Contract Change Order for the Bryan Armory Demolition Project**

The Board approved a contract change order with Albo Construction, LLC for the Bryan Armory Demolition Project.

**Approval of a Revised BTU Rate Ordinance**

Mr. Doug Lyles, Executive Director of Business and Customer Operations, advised that the revision to the Rate Ordinance is to update the current market-access transmission level rate, Electric Rate Schedule Transmission Service – Real-Time Market Power Supply-City (TSRTMPS-C). The energy charge portion of the rate was modified from a fixed charge per kWh to a pass-through amount as defined by the customer's contract terms and conditions. There are no other revisions to the rate ordinance. The Board approved the revision to the TSRTMPS-C rate.

**Approval of a Professional Engineering Contract for the RELLIS Substation Project**

Electric load on the Texas A&M University System's RELLIS Campus is projected to require increased electrical service than what is currently available, requiring a new substation to be built on campus. The Board approved a professional engineering contract with POWER Engineers, Inc. for the design of the BTU portion of the substation.

**Discussion Regarding Fiscal Year 2022 Non-Competitive Operating & Maintenance Budgets**

The proposed FY22 budgets for City and Rural Systems were reviewed. The City System included merit increases, addition of full-time positions, increased transmission maintenance costs, and computer hardware/software upgrades. The Rural System included higher vegetation management costs, merit increases, and increased healthcare costs.



RELLIS Campus

BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES  
**KIOSKS**

BTU Drive Thru – 205 E. 28th St. (Open 24 Hours)  
HEB Grocery – Tejas Center on Villa Maria  
HEB Grocery – Texas Ave. & Hwy 21

**WAYS TO PAY**

CASH



CHECK



CARD

Bring your BTU account number, BTU bill, keycard or reminder letter.

BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES

**BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES**

205 East 28th Street • Bryan, TX 77803

email: ContactBTU@btutilities.com

**www.btutilities.com****Hours of Operation**

Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**Board of Directors**

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Ms. Rosemarie Selman, Vice Chairman

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Mr. Paul Turney

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Mr. Buppy Simank, Ex-Officio

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**Executive Directors**

Doug Lyles

Randy Trimble

Wes Williams

David Werley, Chief Business Officer

**Division Managers**

James Bodine

Nick Cook

Shawndra Curry

Ken Lindberg

Clay Lindstrom

Gary Massey

Vicki Reim

**City of Bryan**

Kean Register, City Manager

Will Smith, Chief Financial Officer

Bernie Acre, Chief Information Officer

**Important Numbers**

Billing/Collections/Connects

**(979) 821-5700**

Electrical Outage/Lines Down

**(979) 822-3777**

Distribution/Line Design

**(979) 821-5770****SOCIAL MEDIA**

BryanTexasUtilities



BTU\_BryanTX



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# Safety for Outdoor Chores



As the heat of summer begins to fade, many of us will spend more time on outdoor activities. This also means doing more outdoor chores around your home. As you perform those chores, please remember good safety practices. A recent 10-year study from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine found that accidents from home lawn and garden work accounted for an average of nearly 320,000 emergency room visits per year in the United States.

## **Here are some tips to keep you safe as you work around the house this fall.**

### ***Dress appropriately for your chores.***

Wear long-sleeve shirts, long pants, eye protection, and gloves if you do any type of yardwork. Add hearing protection if you will be operating machinery such as lawn mowers or garden tillers. Lawn mowers can emit 80 to 100 decibels of noise, which can cause permanent noise-induced hearing loss over time. Use foam earplugs or hard earmuffs. Headphones or ear buds are NOT a substitute for designed hearing protection, and can be worse than nothing at all if the music is turned up over the sound of the lawnmower.

### ***Perform a safety assessment before you begin.***

Take a couple of minutes to look for safety hazards before you begin your outdoor chores. If you are mowing or edging, walk through the yard and remove any objects such as sticks, wires, toys, rocks, etc., as they can become projectiles when hit by a mower blade. If you are trimming trees or bushes, clear a 50-foot perimeter and stop working if any people or pets enter the area.

### ***Make sure your equipment is in good working order.***

Always check the equipment to make sure you understand how to properly use it and that all safety features are in place. Hand tools can cause injuries just as quickly as power tools, so take a minute to inspect the tool before using it. For electric power tools, check cords (including extension cords) for cracks, damaged sockets, bare wires, and loose connections. Dispose of and replace damaged cords immediately. Never cut off the ground pin on a three-prong plug in order to fit an outlet with only two slots, as it could lead to a shock hazard. Finally, never use electrical equipment in wet conditions.

### ***Call Texas811 at least 48 hours before digging.***

If you have a home project that will require digging, always call “811” well in advance to avoid damaging underground utility lines. Even if you are only going to move a shrub, contact 811 before every digging project to protect yourself. The service is free of charge, and if you do not call 811 and hit a utility line, you will be responsible for the cost of repairs to the line. If your project involves planting trees or bushes, make sure you plant them far away from the underground utility lines to avoid potential problems caused by roots.





# All ABOUT OUTAGES

While BTU strives to provide exceptional electric reliability, power outages may still occur for a variety of reasons. BTU engages in preventative measures to stop certain outages from occurring, but when outages do happen, our crews work diligently to restore power as quickly and safely as possible.

## What causes power outages?

The majority of power outages are caused by weather. Lightning strikes to poles, wires, and other equipment can cause severe damage to electrical components and infrastructure. In severe weather, lightning and high winds can cause limbs or trees to fall onto power lines, either breaking the lines or causing electrical faults. In the winter, ice and snow can weigh down and break lines. In the summer, extreme heat combined with increased loads can overheat transformers.

Another common cause of outages is vehicle accidents. A wreck involving a collision with a utility pole can knock out power to hundreds of customers. Depending on the severity of the accident, BTU crews often have to wait until emergency responders have cleared the area before they can begin repairs. If the utility pole must be replaced, power can be out for several hours. Other vehicle accidents include construction equipment coming into contact with power lines. Cranes, lifts, and dump trucks can contact overhead lines, and excavators can sometimes come into contact with underground lines.

Animals can also cause power outages when they come into contact with certain components of the electrical system. Squirrels, raccoons, and other climbing animals create a short circuit when they touch two conductor lines simultaneously. Despite barriers in place to keep them out, snakes can find small gaps to slither into substations and transformers and wreak havoc on electrical equipment.

Other causes of outages include kites, mylar balloons, planned outages to replace equipment, and equipment failure.



## How does BTU respond to outages?

At BTU's System Operations Center, our lines and equipment are monitored 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. System Operators are immediately alerted to outages, and sophisticated software programs can remotely control equipment to restore service or re-route power to minimize the number of customers affected by an outage.

BTU line crews are available at all times to respond to outages in our service area. These crews respond quickly to outages, unless unsafe conditions such as lightning or high winds prevent them from responding immediately. In the case of multiple outages, several crews may be dispatched to respond. Outages are prioritized to first restore power to critical facilities, such as hospitals, fire stations, and other essential services. After that, priority crew assignment is generally directed to outages affecting the most customers.

The crews first seek out any hazards in the response area and make sure the outage area can be safely accessed, then they determine what equipment is needed to repair damages. If necessary a second crew may be called in to assist if damage is excessive or if additional equipment is needed to repair the outage.

A common question posed by customers is "when will my electricity be restored?" There is usually no easy answer to this question, as many things can impact the repair process. In some cases, a vegetation crew must be called in to clear trees or limbs so the power crew can gain access to the problem area. At times (especially for weather-related outages), multiple outage causes are found on the same circuit, further delaying full restoration of power.

## What can be done to prevent outages?

In order to minimize outages caused by falling trees and limbs, BTU contracts with certified crews to trim trees within the utility right-of-way on a four to five year trim cycle. BTU strives to balance the challenge of long-term vegetation clearance with preserving the aesthetic value of mature trees. Additionally, BTU electronically monitors electrical components, which helps us repair or replace equipment at the first signs of trouble, preventing many equipment-related potential outages from occurring.

BTU customers can also help prevent outages by planting trees and shrubs away from overhead utility lines, underground lines, and ground-level transformers. A good recommendation is to determine the maximum mature height of the tree or bush, and make sure it is a minimum of 20 feet away from overhead power lines. For underground utilities, avoid planting any trees or tall shrubs along the service line. Contact Texas811 by dialing "811" from any phone to have your underground utility lines marked at least two days before digging.

Despite our best efforts, power outages will still occasionally occur. It is a good idea to keep extra flashlights and batteries handy, as well as a battery-powered radio to keep up with weather-related news. Rechargeable portable power supply units can provide emergency power to small electronics and even some medical devices. Check with the manufacturer of home medical devices to determine which backup power supplies are recommended.

# SAVE TIME, GO ONLINE!

Bryan Texas Utilities offers many ways to do business remotely. By visiting our website, you have access to various ways to pay your bill, sign up for or discontinue services, find information, or apply for special programs.

**Online Account** – By creating an online account, customers can:

- Make one-time payments or set up recurring payments
- View e-bills and the bill insert, PlugIn
- View payment history
- View daily electric consumption graphs
- View monthly consumption reports for all utility services

## Ways to Pay

- One-time payment via credit or debit card or e-check
- Recurring payments via bank draft or recurring credit card
- Sign up for budget billing to have an average monthly payment that is trued up on an annual basis

**Contact Information** – There are many ways to get in contact with BTU including:

- Calling our local customer service call center
- Visiting our lobby or drive-through at 205 E 28th St. in Downtown Bryan
- Emailing a Customer Service Representative
- Mailing in payments or correspondence
- Visiting our warehouse to pick up meter cans or other construction materials
- Reporting after hours emergencies or outages
- Reporting a street light or security light outage

## Start, Transfer, or Discontinue Services

- Residential or Commercial customers can apply for new services, transfer services if moving from one location to another, or discontinue services.
- View a video tutorial on how to connect your meter once you have applied for new service. This involves utilizing a universal remote to activate the meter.

## Outage Information

- BTU has a real-time power outage map that customers can utilize to view those affected by outages and the status of the outage, including when a crew is assigned or when restoration has been completed.

**Apply for Programs** – BTU offers a variety of energy efficiency or optional programs:

- Apply for the SmartHOME Incentive Program. This program pays residential customers an incentive payment equal to 10 to 25 percent of their total energy efficiency project costs. The eligible measures include installing EnergyStar® rated windows, upgrading attic or exterior wall insulation, and adding solar screens to the outside of windows.
- Find information about the SmartBUSINESS Incentive Program. This program pays commercial customers an incentive payment equal to 10 to 20 percent of their total energy efficiency project costs. Eligible measures include any equipment replacement that reduces demand for that portion of the business by 20 percent or more. LED lighting retrofits are a common qualifying project.
- Apply for the RENEWability Program. This program is a rate-rider option available to all customers to certify they will receive 100 percent of their power from renewable sources such as wind and solar generation.
- Find details and frequently asked questions regarding solar energy interconnections.
- Apply for the Government-in-Action Youth Tour. Each fall, BTU opens applications to local high school students for the chance to win “the trip of a lifetime” to Washington D.C.
- Submit entries for the BTU Kids’ Calendar. Each spring, BTU opens applications to local elementary school students to submit artwork for an educational calendar provided at no cost to the community.

## Find the Latest News

- Find copies of the BTU pages in the Texas Co-op Power magazine
- Find copies of the monthly bill insert
- View the most recent press releases
- Find links to BTU social media accounts
- Find information about rate ordinances, financial statements, and other business documents
- View historical information about BTU

Learn more: [www.btutilities.com](http://www.btutilities.com)



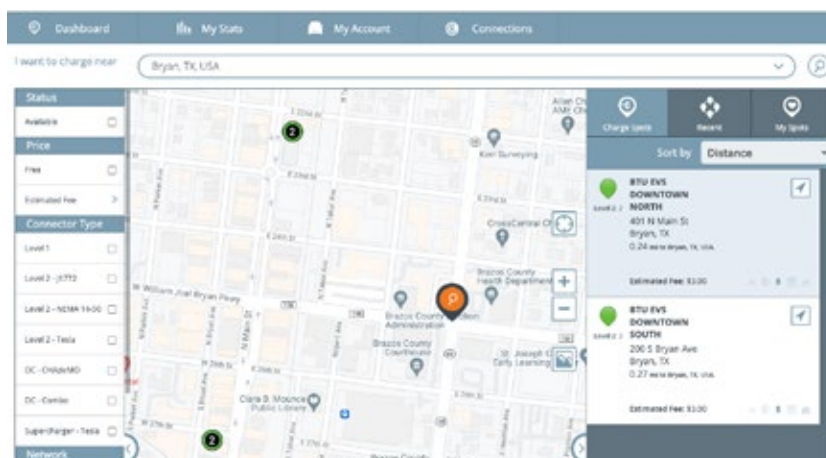


# Electric VEHICLES

With many more automobile drivers choosing all-electric or plug-in electric hybrid vehicles, BTU has seen the demand for public electric vehicle chargers rise. Recently, BTU installed two Level 2 electric vehicle chargers in Downtown Bryan for all members of the community to enjoy. The Level 2 chargers are compatible with most electric vehicles and are easy to use.

## Where are the EV chargers located?

Both chargers are located in Downtown Bryan. One is located on the south side in the parking lot at the 200 block of S. Bryan Avenue. The other is located on the north end on-street parking in the 400 block of N. Main Street. Both chargers have dedicated spaces painted green and marked with an “EV” logo. Download the Chargepoint smartphone app to see them on an interactive map.



## How do I start a charging session?

- 1 Tap to charge** – After installing the Chargepoint smartphone app, you can hold your phone over the reader on the station and pay by using Apple Wallet or your Android tap and pay.
- 2 Chargepoint App** – Choose the station you wish to use and select “Start Charge.” This will charge to the funds that you load onto the app.
- 3 Chargepoint Card** – When you register for the app, you can get a Chargepoint card. Once you activate it, a simple tap on the reader on the station is all it takes to get started.
- 4** Visit <https://www.chargepoint.com/drivers/support-faq/> for more information.

## How much does charging cost?

The fees are time-based. The first hour is \$2 and each hour thereafter is \$1.

## What if all of the charging slots are taken?

- 1** You can click the “Notify When Available” button on the station screen in the app, and it will send you a notification when the current charging session has finished.
- 2** You can use the “Waitlist” feature. This allows you to reserve the spot after the current vehicle finishes charging. The app sends you a notification and you can either accept it and move your vehicle to the spot right away or use the snooze feature to give your spot to the next person in line while you remain in line. If you do not want to charge anymore, just leave the waitlist.

## What cars are compatible with the stations?

Most electric vehicles are compatible with Level 2 stations, including Teslas with their included adapter.





# SmartHOME & SmartBUSINESS

## Incentive Programs

Did you know BTU provides incentive payments for homeowners and businesses to become more energy efficient? Homeowners can qualify to receive a 10%-25% incentive payment for adding insulation to their attic or exterior walls, replacing old single-pane windows with Energy Star® certified windows, or adding solar screens to their existing windows. Businesses can also receive an incentive payment for projects that reduce their demand by 20% or more.



To qualify for the SmartHOME incentive program, the customer must be the owner of a single- or multi-family, permanent dwelling in the BTU service area. Before and after pictures of the improvements are required, and the incentive payment percentages are calculated based on the estimated average kilowatt savings of the improvements.

The attic and wall insulation incentive is available if your home's attic has an existing R-value of not more than R-22 and insulation is added to raise the value to R-30 or higher. For wall insulation to qualify, the exterior walls must not have any existing insulation and must be raised to R-13 or higher. Replacing your existing single pane windows with Energy Star® certified windows can also qualify for an incentive payment, as long as the upgraded windows are Energy Star® certified for our area of Texas. Adding solar screens to your east and west facing windows can reduce the solar heat gain in your home, so your air conditioner will not have to work as hard to cool the house. You can qualify for the solar screen incentive program even if you do the work yourself.



Businesses can apply for incentive payments for qualifying projects such as chiller upgrades or HVAC replacements. A common project that businesses choose to implement is a LED lighting retrofit, exchanging incandescent or high bay metal halide lights for LEDs. For example, replacing a 60-watt (W) bulb with a 20W LED bulb, decreases the amount of energy needed to power the light by more than 20 percent. Rebates for this program fall between 10 and 20 percent of the total project cost with a limit of \$30,000 per customer per BTU fiscal year (October 1 through September 30 each year). Those wishing to apply for the program should contact the BTU Energy Management Department at 979-821-5830 for details and an application.

For more information on the SmartHOME or SmartBUSINESS programs, go to:

**btutilities.com**

and click on the Energy Efficiency tab.





## CITY OF BRYAN *Celebrating 150th Anniversary*

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the City of Bryan's official incorporation on Nov. 29, 1871. That's 150 years of history to celebrate, and we are taking the opportunity to tell the stories of how Bryan has grown – through the people, places and things that shaped the community.

Visit [150.bryantx.gov](http://150.bryantx.gov)  
to learn more about these stories.

 **CITY OF BRYAN**  
*The Good Life, Texas Style.™*

**150**  
YEARS  
1871 2021