



Austin Energy's Electric System Resiliency Plan (ESRP)

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Agenda

I. Background

- What is an Electric System Resiliency Plan
- Goals

II. Development

- Community Input
- Decision Framework

III. Plan

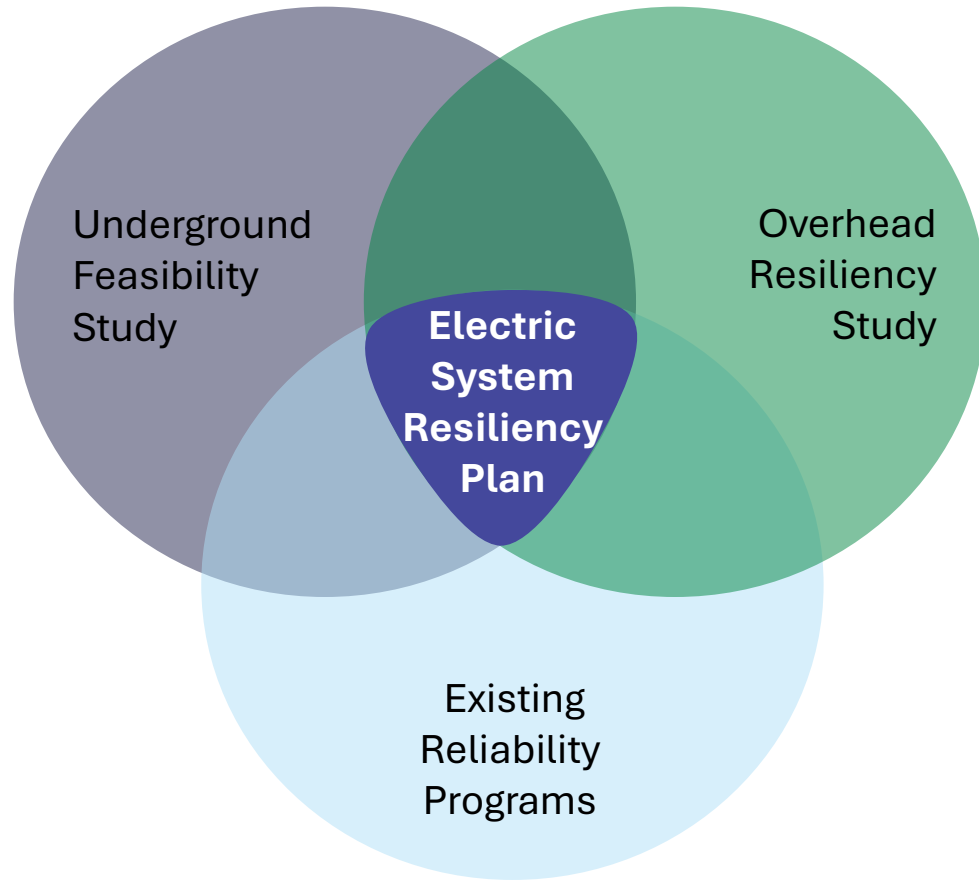
- Investment Areas
- Operational Plan
- Investment Forecast

IV. Next Steps



Why Are We Here?

Building a stronger, smarter and more reliable electric system for Austin



Undergrounding Study | March 2025

Consultant Delivered

Overhead Resiliency Study | July 2025

Consultant Delivered

Develop Electric System Resiliency Plan

Use both studies, further analysis and stakeholder engagement to inform near- and long-term priorities

Undergrounding & Overhead Study Takeaways



\$50 billion to underground 5,000 miles of overhead distribution lines

42% of Austin Energy's distribution system is overhead



Undergrounding Risks:

**Environmental/Cultural
Telecom Relocation**

**Rocky Soil
Critical Root Zones**

**Acquiring Easements
Dense Vegetation**



Recommended Austin Energy develop a strategic approach to resiliency

Overhead hardening implementation is faster, less expensive and provides similar benefits to undergrounding



Develop an Electric System Resiliency Plan focused on overhead hardening and advanced technologies

What is an Electric System Resiliency Plan? ESRP

Keeping the power on,
even when it's tough

An ESRP helps ensure a power grid can:

- Withstand extreme weather like storms, heatwaves, winter storms, and floods
- Recover quickly from outages and emergencies
- Adapt to future challenges like climate change and growing energy demand

Austin Energy's Electric System Resiliency Plan

A bold, integrated and forward-looking strategy to modernize and harden our electric distribution system over the next decade

Austin's ESRP Goals

- Reduce outage frequency and duration
- Prioritize investments that deliver the highest customer value
- Enhance the grid for bi-directional energy flows to better enable distributed energy resources
- Adopt a strategic and robust approach to hardening our system so we can achieve greater impact in less time

Stakeholder Feedback

In-Person and Virtual



What We Heard from Our Community



Equity & Geographic Considerations

Community Feedback:

Equitable improvements across all Austin neighborhoods

Plan Alignment:

Data-driven prioritization to target investments equitably



Communication & Transparency

Community Feedback:

Public-facing progress tracker and clear upgrade timelines

Plan Alignment:

Transparent reporting, and accessible project timelines



Wildfire Mitigation & Vegetation Management

Community Feedback:

Proactive trimming, maintenance and ecological sensitivity

Plan Alignment:

Expands vegetation management, using risk-based standards and environmental best practices

Decision Framework

Data Driven Criteria

1

Reliability Impact

Does it improve and sustain reliability metrics?

2

Resiliency Contribution

Does it strengthen the grid's ability to withstand and recover from disruptions?

3

Efficiency of Assets

Does it provide the biggest impact for the most customers?

4

Customer-Centric Value

Does it equitably improve the customer experience?

5

Affordability

Does it align with Austin Energy's affordability goals?

6

Flexibility & Capacity

Does it support integration of distributed resources & dynamic load management?

What Investments Make the Most Sense?

Investment Area	Description	Benefits
Circuit Hardening	Upgrades to vulnerable circuits with modern materials	Fewer outages; better storm resilience
Sectionalization & Automation	Smart devices for grid segmentation and fault isolation	Faster restoration; reduced outage impact
Intelligent Systems	Smarter grid operations due to upgrades to Advanced Metering Infrastructure, Advanced Distribution Management System, and Remote Terminal Units	Improved control and outage response
Grid Analytics	Real-time and predictive data for planning	Smarter investments; better asset management
Wildfire Mitigation	Fire-resistant upgrades in high-risk areas	Lower ignition risk; enhanced safety
Vegetation Management	Risk-based trimming aligned with grid hardening	Fewer vegetation outages; supports fire prevention
Pole Inspection	Drone and thermal scans for aging infrastructure	Early risk detection; fewer emergency repairs

10-Year Electric System Resiliency Plan

FY26

Foundation & Launch

- Harden 20 circuits
- Inspect 8,000 poles
- Deploy 30 main line reclosers & 100 lateral reclosers
- Continue Remote Terminal Unit (RTU) replacements
- Align vegetation management with risk & hardening
- Establish governance & dashboards

FY27

Scaling & Optimizing

- Harden 40 circuits
- Inspect 15,000 poles
- Deploy 40 mainline reclosers & 100 lateral reclosers
- Begin FLISR — Fault Location, Isolation & Service Restoration
- Launch Distributed Energy Resource (DER) intake platform
- Expand vault monitoring
- Continue vegetation management
- Automate reliability reporting

FY28-35

Execution through Maturity

- Continue all circuit upgrades
- Complete open wire replacement & switchgear upgrades
- Full FLISR — Fault Location, Isolation & Service Restoration — & lateral recloser deployment
- Complete Remote Terminal Unit (RTU) replacements
- Complete Advanced Distribution Management System upgrades
- Continue vegetation management

This is a living plan, subject to change with lessons learned and as technology evolves

10-Year Investments

- Capital strategy aligned with resilience priorities
- Phased investments allow for flexibility and scalability

Initial Budget Forecast (FY26 – FY35)

Vegetation Management	\$340 million
Grid Hardening & Automation	\$280 million
Smart Grid Upgrades	\$115 million
10-Year Forecast	\$735 million

Risk Mitigation

Risk Area	Mitigation Strategy
Supply Chain	• Secure long-term, fixed-price contracts • Continue procurement and inventory planning
Budget & Funding	• Phase investments strategically • Align with grant opportunities and internal capital
Resourcing	• Use a mix of full-time employees and contractors • Focus on cross-training, retention, and partnerships
State Regulatory Changes	• Participate in Public Utility Commission rulemakings on pole standards and pole maintenance plan as required by new state laws (SB 1789 and HB 144)

Advancing Austin's ESRP

Electric System Resiliency Plan

Where We've Been: Planning Phase

- Completed the Underground Feasibility and Overhead Hardening Study
- Defined strategic priorities and focus areas
- Assessed system vulnerabilities and community risks
- Developed initial roadmap and investment scenarios
- Engaged stakeholders



Advancing Austin's ESRP

Electric System Resiliency Plan

Where We're Going: Action Phase

- Mobilize Projects: Launch FY26 initiatives with clear scope and timelines
- Track Progress: Establish KPIs and dashboards for transparency
- Coordinate Resources: Align staffing, contractors, and materials
- Adapt & Improve: Use analytics and feedback to refine execution





**Customer
Driven.**

**Community
Focused.**

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