



# DISTRICT COOLING

*from Austin Energy*

## WHAT IS IT?

Large buildings typically use chilled water for cooling purposes. The equipment used to produce chilled water includes chillers, cooling towers and pumps that can cost several million dollars and take up valuable space. To be reliable and efficient, this equipment requires ongoing predictive maintenance. When reliability is a major concern some owners opt to buy redundant equipment, which increases the capital requirement.

With district cooling, the chilled water is distributed from a central plant to individual buildings through a network of underground pipes. A single-district cooling plant can satisfy the cooling needs of several buildings and customers and, due to load diversity, can offer increased reliability.

## WHO WILL IT BENEFIT?

Any large users of cooling energy whose facilities are located within several blocks of a district-cooling system can enjoy the benefits of district cooling. Building owners avoid the capital investment in chillers and cooling towers, and avoid uncertain operation, repair and maintenance costs.

## WHAT DOES AUSTIN ENERGY OFFER?

We will provide customers with chilled water from district-cooling plants by installing, operating and maintaining plants necessary piping, and service connections. This service will reliably meet your building's cooling and de-humidification requirements. The cost for this service is billed monthly on your regular billing statement.

## WHY WOULD A CUSTOMER WANT THIS SERVICE?

Outsourcing chilled water services provides numerous benefits to a building owner. Operationally, the benefits are its proven reliability (99.99%), convenience and risk mitigation.

Additional benefits include:

- Avoidance of an initial large dollar capital investment for cooling systems;
- Additional building space that can be utilized to generate additional revenue;
- Reduced operational and energy expenses;
- Assurance of stable and predictable cooling costs over the long term;
- Flexibility to use cooling water as needed without worrying about plant capacity or personnel to operate the plant; and
- Enhancement of the building's resale value as a result of reduced noise, aesthetics and potential environmental hazards.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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