



Travis County Emergency Services District No 5
Manchaca Fire/Rescue
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PRESS RELEASE

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Travis County Emergency Services District 5 Implements Solar Power and Rain Water Collection Systems

In an effort to be mindful of our ever changing climate conditions, water shortages, and energy costs, TCESD5 has implemented two programs aimed at reducing costs and capturing natural resources at its' fire station located at 665 W. FM 1626, Austin, TX.

Rain Water Collection

TCESD5 Station 501 was built in 2011 with the mindset of going as green of a build as possible and planning for future cost saving measures. The station was built with two large rainwater collection tanks capturing 100% of all rain that hit the roof of the station to be stored in two large storage tanks totaling 48,000 gallons of water to be used for ground irrigation. In 2023, all tanks ran out of water, so the ESD added an additional water tank to the system to capture another 29,000 gallons of water. With the recent rains over the winter and lack of usage, the tanks are all full and there is 77,000 gallons of water on site to use.

Solar Panel Project

When the station was built, the designers built the station in mind for the future buildout of solar panel installation. Over the years TCESD5 received several proposals for solar panels and in 2023, the district decided to make the investment and have the solar panels installed so that most of the electricity was coming from the sunlight. The results of the investment have resulted in the monthly electric bills dropping over \$1200 per month.

