

How much is The City of Austin, TX wasting on promoting bans on sealers?

In these days of acknowledging that perhaps government has gotten out of hand with spending. One example would in Austin, TX where there is an [anticipated budget shortfall of \\$28 million in 2011](#). [The city faces an almost \\$10 million shortfall in 2012](#). These include substantial cuts from essential services such as police, fire and EMS.



One must wonder about the wisdom of City Council with wasteful use of city resources. **In particular, how much is the City of Austin wasting taxpayer dollars by continually pushing its advocacy agenda of banning sealer?**

Let's look at some facts:

Austin Energy contributes to Environmental and Energy Study Institute ([EESI](#)), an environmental activist organization. This is the link to [2009 IRS 990 Form for EESI](#).

Austin's Watershed Protection Department:

Number of employees: 292

Total salaries: Tom Ennis' [salary](#) as of April 13, 2011 is \$100,630. The total approximate salary for the Watershed Protection Department is over \$15 million. The highest salary is \$170,269.

The city knowingly allows Tom Ennis to advocate the banning on sealer via his blog, traveling to other cities or participating in webcasts to promote such activities¹.

¹ People often ask for verification how it is known that Tom Ennis is behind the blog Coal Tar Free America. Tom actually is very vocal taking credit for this blog. Look [here](#) and [here](#).

We also know that the Watershed Protection Department uses [resources to train other cities on how to ban sealer.](#)

Tom Ennis claims that he convinced the big box stores to drop refined tar based sealer based upon a business model (This is a puzzling statement. One must know something about a business in order to create a model of it. Since Tom has never worked in retail or the home improvement retail, one must conclude this statement is false).

Would activists in Austin's government and environmental groups' pressure [Lowes](#) , [Wal-Mart](#) or Home Depot to stop selling pavement sealer?

[Save our Springs Alliance, Inc. 2009 IRS 990 Form.](#)

Items to note from the IRS 990 form:

- Page 7; **note the executive director's salary**
- Page 24; **note the \$503,708 under contingencies.** Is this a cash reserve?
- Page 31; **note the three loans from the organization to two individuals for a total of \$281,000. Two of the loans (\$275,000) are currently in default.**

Citizen of the City of Austin, TX should ask themselves which are more important, essential services (fire, police and EMS) or city employees acting as environmental advocates promoting their personal agenda.

Math Lesson for the Mayor and City Council of Austin, TX:

When Revenues=Expenses then this is a balanced budget. This is good.

When Revenues>Expenses then this is a budget surplus. This is good.

When Revenues<Expenses, this is a budget deficit. **This is not good.**

For additional information:

[The Truth about Coal Tar](#)

[The Paralyzing Precautionary Principle](#)