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## Austin Marathon takes green to next level

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Thousands of runners pounded the pavement in the [18th annual Austin Marathon and Half Marathon Sunday](#).

Although the Austin Marathon has had different names and different courses since its beginnings in 1992, it remains a race that reflects the unique spirit of Austin, with runners experiencing a loop course tour right through the heart of Austin.



While the sights and sounds of live music and staple city landmarks made the race more colorful, runners were likely seeing an even greener race from previous races.

*Runner's World* magazine recognized the Austin Marathon as the greenest race in North America.

Austin Marathon spokesperson, Jeff Hahn said the race has grown astronomically.

"We started this race back in 1992 with only 605 runners, and here we are with about 14,000 runners," he said. "It's a pretty logistical feat if there is one."

Runner's World Magazine recognized the Austin Marathon as the greenest race in North America, and race event organizers took those environmentally friendly efforts even farther in this year's race.

"We go through a lot of effort to make sure that those things that happen in the race have a low impact on the environment," he said. "It's a great way for us to add one more unique Austin mark to this race."

Racers might have noticed the new green features, including additional recycling stations, solar power and bio-diesel heaters and generators.

Hahn said about 14,000 pounds of trash will be recycled, and even clothing that runners were shucking off during the race were collected and will be cleaned and donated to homeless shelters. Even the T-shirts handed out are organic.



Spokesperson Jeff Hahn.

There were 26 different charities benefiting from the race, located at each water station along the race. Each charity has their own designated water station and they collect funds from sponsors. Hahn said they estimated that they collected over \$100,000

for charity through their efforts.

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