

AGENDA



Thursday, December 6, 2007

**Austin Energy
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

Item No. 3

Subject: Approve an ordinance authorizing acceptance of \$186,930 in cooperative agreement funds from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and amending the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Austin Energy Operating Budget of Ordinance No. 20070910-003 to appropriate \$186,930 to establish a Solar City Partnership to promote the use of solar energy.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding is available from the U.S. Department of Energy. Austin Energy will fund an in-kind match in the amount of \$187,000, available in the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Austin Energy Operating Budget.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is attached.

For More Information: Leslie Libby, Project Manager, Solar Programs, 482-5390; Fred Yebra, Director, Demand Side Management, 482-5305.

Boards and Commission Action: Recommended by the Resource Management Commission and the Electric Utility Commission.

This requested budget amendment, in conjunction with a proposed Cooperative Agreement between the City of Austin and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) will provide funding from the DOE to Austin Energy for four main tasks to be accomplished over the course of two years:

1. Install solar energy systems and develop curricular materials to be used in conjunction with school solar energy systems by local schools.
2. Team with local non-profit and neighborhood organizations to proactively promote and cross-market the solar, energy efficiency, and green building programs offered by Austin Energy.
3. Assess the rooftop area within the City suitable for solar energy development.
4. Assess the hybrid potential of wind/solar installations in West Texas and their transmission compatibility.

The objectives of the Solar City Partnership are:

1. To educate the City's teachers and younger citizens about the benefits of clean energy;
2. To reduce or eliminate information barriers that prevent citizens from participating in the City's renewable energy and energy conservation programs;
3. To install highly-visible solar energy equipment at public schools,
4. To establish groundwork for achievement of medium- and long-term City and Austin Energy goals by engaging in directed technical research projects, and
5. To establish reasonable goals and benchmarks for distributed and central station solar projects to be integrated into the Utility's generation plan.

The establishment of a partnership between Austin Energy and the DOE would result in developing a comprehensive strategy to transform the market for solar and other clean energy technologies locally and regionally, and to serve as a model for such market transformation nationally.