

AGENDA



Thursday, February 28, 2008

**Austin Energy
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 3**

Subject: Authorize the negotiation and execution by the Mayor of a Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Austin and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for the implementation of heavy-duty vehicle idling limitation rules.

Fiscal Note: There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

For More Information: Fred Blood, Sustainability Officer, 482-5340

Boards and Commission Action: Recommended by the Environmental Board.

Prior Council Action: 6/23/05—Approved initial MOA between COA, TCEQ and the local signatories to the Early Action Compact (EAC) for the implementation of idling limitation rules. 2/12/04—Approved the Clean Air Action Plan which included a reduction of vehicle idling.

Limiting heavy-duty vehicle idling is a key component to improve the region's air quality. The measure was initially implemented in the Austin-Round Rock MSA Early Action Compact. Stakeholder groups specifically requested this measure be included in the Compact as it offers significant emission reductions. The EAC signatories and members of the Clean Air Coalition are Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Travis and Williamson Counties and cities of Austin, Bastrop, Elgin, Lockhart, Luling, Round Rock and San Marcos. All EAC signatories committed to the measure. The measure is implemented through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between local governments and TCEQ. The initial MOA expired on January 2, 2008. The renewal MOA will continue the measure through January 2, 2013.

This MOA is necessary for Austin to prohibit vehicles with a gross vehicle weight of over 14,000 pounds from idling for more than 5 consecutive minutes during the ozone season, which runs from April 1 through October 1. Parties, such as the City of Austin, enter into this MOA for the purpose of delegating rule (30 TAC Chapter 114, Sections 114.510 – 114.512 and 114.517) enforcement from TCEQ to Local Governments.

To fully implement this rule, the COA must also amend City Code Chapter 6-1 Article 3 (Motor Vehicle Idling) and include the changes that were made to make the rule consistent with Senate Bill 12 from the last legislative session.