

## AGENDA



Thursday, September 25, 2008

**Austin Energy  
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

**Item No. 6**

**Subject:** Approve an ordinance authorizing acceptance of \$100,000 grant funds from the State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) through an existing Interlocal Agreement and amending the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Austin Energy Operating Budget of Ordinance No. 20080908-002 to appropriate \$100,000 for the design, purchase and installation of solar photovoltaic systems in six schools within Austin Energy's service area.

**Amount and Source of Funding:** Funding in the amount of \$100,000 is available from the State Energy Conservation Office (SECO). Austin Energy will fund an in-kind match in the amount of \$50,000, available in the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Austin Energy Operating Budget in the Conservation Rebates and Incentives Fund.

**Fiscal Note:** A fiscal note is attached.

**For More Information:** Leslie Libby, Solar Rebate Program Manager, 482-5390.

**Boards and Commission Action:** Recommended by the Resource Management Commission on June 17, 2008.

This grant will provide funding from the State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) to Austin Energy (AE) for the design, purchase, and installation of small-scale solar photovoltaic systems in these six schools within AE's service territory: Canyon Ridge Middle School and River Place Elementary in the Leander ISD; Del Valle Middle School and Ojeda Junior High School in the Del Valle ISD; and Decker Elementary School and Oak Meadows Elementary School in the Manor ISD. School districts in AE's service area were offered two projects; the districts chose the schools to receive installations.

Through the implementation of grant, AE will share a joint mission to maximize energy efficiency while protecting the environment, and promoting community education and outreach through the Texas Solar for Schools Program.

If approved, the following tasks will be accomplished by AE by August 31, 2009:

1. Purchase and install six small-scale solar photovoltaic systems in six schools in AE's service area.
2. Purchase and install data acquisition systems for each system.
3. Implement a Renewable Energy Education Outreach Plan and Training for the school district(s).
4. Assist the school districts in the development and implementation of a community outreach program that describes the economic and environmental benefits of renewable energy and its improving technologies.
5. Prepare and submit monthly reports and provide a final project report to SECO.

**Project Budget**

Equipment	\$75,000.
Subcontract (Installation)	\$25,000.
Total SECO grant	\$100,000.
Contractor (AE) Match	\$50,000. (for equipment and installation)

Total Project Amount    \$150,000.

Each solar PV systems will be approximately 2.8 kW in size. This energy improvement will save an estimated 11,445 kWh per year and produce an estimated 11 Renewable Energy Credits per year. These savings are equivalent to an estimated 12,997 vehicle miles traveled, the removal of 2 cars from our roadways, or the planting of 254 trees or 13 acres of forests in Austin's parks. This will save 7 tons of Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>); 9 pounds of Sulfur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>); 10 pounds of Nitrogen Oxide (NOX) and 7 pounds of Carbon Monoxide (CO) from being emitted.

The purpose of this program is to carry out part of AE's strategic plan to promote energy conservation through the use of alternative energy sources. Included in this plan is a commitment to implement a highly-visible public awareness program involving the installation of PV projects on schools.

In 2005, AE installed 10 PV systems on schools located in its service territory. Schools submitted applications describing their commitment to solar before they received the systems. The systems have data collection capability and have also incorporated a solar PV education element into their lesson plans.