

RESOLUTION NO. 20080925-084

WHEREAS, Austin Energy is a recognized leader in clean energy, having the largest green-energy program of any utility in the country, and is working toward reaching its City Council-mandated goal of having 30% renewable-based capacity in its generation portfolio by 2020, including at least 100 megawatts of solar capacity, and

WHEREAS, Austin Energy has begun a community dialogue process to explore options for the utility to meet Austin's future energy demands and other public policy goals; and

WHEREAS, the Austin City Council is committed to making Austin the nation's unquestioned leader in clean energy, including growing a strong employment base in industries and businesses related to solar energy, wind energy, energy storage, energy distribution, and energy efficiency technologies, and

WHEREAS, distributed generation and smart grid technologies holds immense economic opportunities to create jobs through technology development, engineering, and manufacturing, and

WHEREAS, new products, services, and systems could create new revenue for Austin Energy and the City of Austin; and

WHEREAS, distributed generation and smart grid technologies hold great potential to maximize energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources, but the full realization of these technologies will require advances

and investments in energy generation, storage, transmission, and communications technologies, and

WHEREAS, a robust, reliable distributed generation supply within Austin Energy's distribution grid would make it possible to produce locally significant amounts of solar and other types of emission-free energy, thereby improving local air quality, positively positioning Austin in a potential carbon cap-and-trade system, and potentially protecting consumers from the impact of transmission congestion costs and fuel-price volatility on their electric bills, and

WHEREAS, a team of community stakeholders called the Pecan Street Project, comprising technology experts, environmental advocates, business leaders, and Austin Energy representatives, have recommended that Austin Energy explore ways to leverage Austin's existing strengths in clean energy and the technology sector to develop and implement distributed generation capacity and smart grid technology, and

WHEREAS, the Emerging Technologies and Telecommunications Committee of the City Council has endorsed these recommendations, **NOW, THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

That the City Council directs the City Manager to work with the Environmental Defense Fund and other community stakeholders, including citizens, environmental advocates, the University of Texas, public interest groups, and the private sector businesses, to conduct an analysis of system improvements, technology advances, business models, and public investments


that would enable Austin Energy to more fully develop its capacity for the distributed generation of clean energy including the potential to develop new products and revenue streams, in furtherance of the recently announced goals of the Pecan Street Project

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the City Manager shall provide regular updates to the City Council's Committee for Emerging Technologies and Telecommunications, and shall provide a report to the City Council outlining recommendations for further action no later than November 20, 2008.

ADOPTED. September 25, 2008

ATTEST:


Shirley A. Gentry
City Clerk