

AGENDA



Thursday, July 23, 2009

Austin Energy
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION
Item No. 2

Subject: Authorize negotiation and execution of an Interlocal Agreement with the United Soybean Board through Osborn & Barr Communications, Inc. to provide grant funded assistance to the Central Texas Clean Cities Program for implementation of a statewide soybean-based biofuels education program, in the amount of \$17,550.

Amount and Source of Funding: Grant funding is available from the United Soybean Board through Osborn & Barr Communications, Inc. No match is required.

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

For More Information: Ester Matthews, Director, Austin Climate Protection Plan 322-6041; Stacy Neef, Program Coordinator 482-5343.

Boards and Commission Action: Recommended by the Resource Management Commission. Related to Item #3.

Prior Council Action: April 14, 1994 – Approved resolution establishing COA as a member of a regional Clean Cities Program; Sept. 30, 1994 – Accepted \$30,000 grant from SECO; approved contract with Clean Air Force to conduct the Program; Feb. 15, 2001 – Accepted \$50,000 grant from SECO and approved interlocal agreement allowing COA to act as fiduciary agent for CTCC; July 11, 2002 – Accepted \$25,000 grant from SECO to continue program; Jan. 30, 2003 – Approved interlocal agreement with SECO to continue program; July 31, 2003 – Approved \$40,000 grant from SECO to continue program; Nov. 4, 2004 – Approved interlocal agreement with SECO to continue program; Apr. 28, 2005 – Approved \$20,000 grant from DOE; approved interlocal agreement with SECO to administer the Clean Cities Coordinator Program; Jan. 12, 2006 – Approved \$23,500 grant from DOE; approved interlocal agreement with SECO to continue program; Feb. 1, 2007 – Approved \$10,000 grant from DOE; approved interlocal agreement with SECO to continue program; May 3, 2007 – Approved \$15,000 grant from DOE; approved interlocal agreement with SECO to continue program; March 6, 2008 – Approved \$12,500 grant from DOE through Research and Development Solutions to continue program; Sept. 25, 2008 - Approved \$12,500 grant from DOE through RDS to continue program.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) created the Clean Cities program in an effort to advance the nation's economic, environmental and energy security by supporting local decisions to adopt practices that reduce petroleum consumption. The City of Austin is the administrator and fiduciary agent for the Central Texas Clean Cities (CTCC) program, one of approximately 90 nationwide volunteer coalitions that develop public and private partnerships to promote alternative fuels and vehicles, fuel blends, fuel economy, hybrid vehicles, and idle reduction. Since 1993, Clean Cities coalitions have steadily increased the number of alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs) on our nation's highways, with gains averaging around 15% in recent years. In addition to increasing public awareness, the City is responsible for recruiting stakeholders for the CTCC program from the government and private sectors. The U.S. has approximately 90 Clean Cities coalitions, six of which are in Texas. The CTCC coalition includes Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Travis, and Williamson Counties, and Fort Hood in Killeen.

The United Soybean Board (USB), through soybean checkoff investments, is committed to funding research, development and commercialization of new industrial uses for soybeans. It is USB's mission to increase soybean demand through advancements in soy-based research and technology. This grant will be used to implement a statewide soybean-based biofuels education program. According to the proposed agreement, the grant period is from May 8, 2009 to September 30, 2009. The CTCC coordinator received notice of the grant in June 2009. The CTCC staff, housed within Austin Energy, will coordinate educational workshops, exhibits and advertising in promoting the use of soybean-based biodiesel fuel, and meet reporting requirements in accordance with the proposed agreement.

The CTCC staff will promote the biofuels education program and the goals of the Clean Cities Program through the following actions:

- Host educational workshops on the benefits of soybean-based biodiesel
- Distribute educational materials on soybean-based biodiesel via the CTCC web site at www.ci.austin.tx.us/cleancities and in the CTCC eNewsletter
- Promote the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's Texas Low Emission Diesel (TxLED) Program, whose goal is to lower emissions of NOx and other pollutants from diesel-powered vehicles and non-road equipment
- Work to expand local biodiesel fuel infrastructure and promote a "clean corridor" along I-35 in Central Texas by working to provide alternative fueling sites
- Participate in other Texas events including the Biodiesel Coalition of Texas Annual Conference and at least one major regional industry-specific trade show
- Advance clean air objectives through the use of soybean-based biodiesel
- Support regulated fleets by providing resources for information and collaboration among CTCC stakeholders so they are able to share the development of fueling infrastructure, secure funding and combine vehicle purchasing power
- Actively recruit additional CTCC stakeholders and increase public awareness of the CTCC program