

AGENDA



Thursday, September 24, 2009

**Austin Energy
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 5**

Subject: Approve the issuance of a Letter of Intent for a rebate to the TEXAS NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY - BEE CAVES for the installation of a solar photovoltaic system at 408 St. Stephens School Road, Austin, Texas, 78746, in the amount of \$100,000.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Operating Budget of Austin Energy, Conservation Rebates and Incentives Fund.

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

For More Information: Fred Yebra, Director, Energy Efficiency Services, 482-5305; Leslie Libby, Solar Rebate Program Manager, 482-5390.

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

Austin Energy (AE) requests authorization to issue a Letter of Intent in the amount of \$100,000 to the Texas National Guard Armory at Bee Caves for the installation of a solar photovoltaic system at 408 St. Stephens School Road, Austin, Texas, 78746. The total installed cost is estimated to be \$189,000 and the rebate will cover approximately 53% of the cost. The rebate level for this project is \$4,409 per kW. The solar equipment, which meets AE program requirements, includes a total of 135 solar modules rated at 175 watts and the associated inverter is rated 96% efficiency. A total of 19.6 kW in demand savings is expected.

The cash rebate amount for this project is approximately \$4.50 per watt. On March 13, 2009, AE revised the rebate amount to \$3.75 per watt as a result of new enhanced federal tax credits that will offset a greater share of the costs for individuals and businesses installing solar energy systems. However, rebates to nonprofit organizations will remain at \$4.50 per watt. In addition to this project, AE received other applications submitted prior to the rebate amount reduction, and will be bringing those to Council for approval.

This energy improvement will save an estimated 31,370 kWh per year—enough to provide electricity to three average Austin homes for a year—and produce an estimated 31 Renewable Energy Credits per year. These savings are equivalent to the planting of 696 trees or 35 acres of forest in Austin's parks or the removal of 35,624 vehicle miles or four cars from Austin roadways. This project will save 20 tons of Carbon Dioxide (CO₂), 26 pounds of Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂), 28 pounds of Nitrogen Oxide (NO_x), and 20 pounds of Carbon Monoxide (CO) from being emitted into the atmosphere.

The Commercial Energy Efficiency programs are elements of AE's comprehensive effort to reduce local air pollution through energy conservation, to reduce peak demand, and to assist customers in reducing electric consumption.

This effort will provide AE with a constructive market transformation opportunity while adding a value-added service to encourage customer retention.