

AGENDA



Thursday, September 24, 2009

Austin Energy
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Item No. 2

Subject: Authorize negotiation and execution of a 36-month funding agreement between the City of Austin and the CLEAN AIR Force of Central Texas to provide funding and extend the City's involvement in clean air programs, in the amount of \$90,000 for 12 months with two 12-month renewal options, for a total agreement amount not to exceed \$270,000.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Operating Budget of Austin Energy. Funding for the remaining months of the contract period is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.

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; Pharr Andrews, Coordinator, 482-5362.

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

Prior Council Action: July 23, 2009 – Approved resolution appointing Mayor Leffingwell to the Board of Directors of the CLEAN AIR Force of Central Texas.

The CLEAN AIR Force of Central Texas (CAF) is a nonprofit organization uniting corporations, academia, local governments, and civic organizations in the common goal of finding workable solutions for improving air quality in Central Texas. The mission of the CLEAN AIR Force of Central Texas is to coordinate air quality planning and conduct educational activities in Central Texas focused on motivating the citizens, businesses, and government agencies of this region to take action to reduce air pollution to protect public health. Over ten years of CAF outreach has provided a solid base of public understanding of air quality issues.

If approved, the agreement would continue funding for CLEAN AIR Force programs that:

- Inform Central Texans via email, the web, radio, newspaper, and television of the start of ozone season and on days when our region's air quality is likely to reach harmful levels.
- Educate the public on air quality issues and new regulations in Central Texas, and ways individuals can help reduce harmful emissions.
- Provide businesses and individuals the opportunity to stay abreast of the latest technical and policy developments regarding air quality.
- Facilitate research on emerging air quality issues in our region, including public surveys.
- Support participation in regional, collaborative problem-solving with elected officials, university scientists, industry leaders, and the public.
- Provide a public forum for the exchange of information and ideas on air quality issues.
- Present information to regional schools, government agencies, civic organizations and businesses on the health and economic impacts of air pollution.

This request authorizes an agreement to secure funding for CLEAN AIR Force programs in an amount not to exceed \$90,000 annually for a period of no more than three years. Approval of this agreement does not obligate or prohibit the City from funding the program beyond the three-year term.

