

## AGENDA



Thursday, February 4, 2010

**Austin Energy  
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 4**

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**Subject:** Approve ratification of the issuance of 18 letters of intent for rebates to ACERO CONSTRUCTION, Austin, TX, for the installation of solar energy systems designed to serve 18 new construction residential condominiums at 2301 South 5th Street, in the total amount not to exceed \$203,796.

**Amount and Source of Funding:** Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Operating Budget of Austin Energy, Conservation Rebates and Incentives Fund.

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

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

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

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On July 31, 2009, Austin Energy issued 18 Letters of Intent for rebates, averaging \$11,988 each, for the installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) systems at a new condominium project at 2301 South 5th Street in Austin, Texas. Each of the eighteen systems will be tied to an individual residential electric revenue meter. Upon subsequent review, Austin Energy determined that because the rebates are to be issued to a common address, the group of rebates could be considered a single project. The ratification is requested because, as a whole, the total rebate amount for the 18 projects is \$203,796, above the level at which Council approval is required.

The total installed cost for solar systems at the address is estimated to be \$341,714; the total rebate amount of \$203,796 will cover approximately 60% of the cost. The rebate level for this project is \$3,750 per kW. The solar equipment, which meets Austin Energy program requirements, includes a total of 324 solar modules rated at 185 watts and associated inverters are rated at 95.5% efficiency respectively. Austin Energy expects the systems to generate a total of 50.3 kW of power.

This energy improvement will generate an estimated 69,877 kWh per year—enough to provide electricity to six average Austin homes for a year—and produce an estimated 70 Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) per year. These savings are equivalent to the planting of 1586 trees or 79 acres of forest in Austin's parks or the removal of 81,195 vehicle miles or 10 cars from Austin roadways. This project will avoid 46 tons of Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>); 58 pounds of Sulfur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>); 64 pounds of nitrogen oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>), and 45 pounds of carbon monoxide (CO) emissions, based on Austin Energy emissions estimates.