

AGENDA



Thursday, February 4, 2010

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

Subject: Approve ratification of the issuance of 31 letters of intent for rebates to FORTIS DEVELOPMENT, Austin, TX, for the installation of solar energy systems designed to serve 31 new construction residential condominiums and three commercial buildings at 904 West Avenue, in the total amount not to exceed \$365,108.

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.

On September 15, 2009, Austin Energy issued 34 Letters of Intent for rebates, averaging \$10,738 each, for the installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) systems at a new condominium project at 904 West Avenue, Austin, Texas. Thirty-one of the PV systems will be tied to individual residential electric revenue meters. Three of the PV systems will be tied to individual commercial revenue meters. Upon subsequent review, Austin Energy determined that because the rebates are to be issued to a common address, the group of rebates could also be considered a single project. The ratification for these Letters of Intent is requested because, as a whole, the total rebate amount for the 34 projects is \$365,108, above the level at which Council approval is required.

The total installed cost for solar systems at the address is estimated to be \$515,592; the total rebate amount of \$365,108 will cover approximately 71% of the cost. The rebate level for this project is \$4,500 per kW. The solar equipment, which meets Austin Energy program requirements, includes a total of 476 solar modules rated at 185 watts and associated inverters rated at 95.5% efficiency. Austin Energy expects the systems to generate a total of 73.16 kW of power.

This energy improvement will generate an estimated 113,839 kWh per year—enough to provide electricity to ten average Austin homes for a year—and produce an estimated 114 Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) per year. These savings are equivalent to the planting of 2,583 trees or 129 acres of forest in Austin's parks or the removal of 132,278 vehicle miles or 17 cars from Austin roadways. This project will avoid 75 tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂); 95 pounds of sulfur dioxide (SO₂); 105 pounds of nitrogen oxide (NO_x), and 73 pounds of carbon monoxide (CO) emissions, based on Austin Energy emissions estimates.