

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, the City of Austin is a national leader in renewable energy; and

WHEREAS, in the 82nd regular session the State of Texas passed SB981, legislation related to regulation of distributed renewable generation of electricity;

WHEREAS, solar power currently accounts for approximately 5 MW of generation capacity in Austin, and the City has contracted to purchase 30 MW of power from a project at Webberville; and

WHEREAS, in February 2011, the City Council adopted the Resource, Generation and Climate Protection Plan (Generation Plan); and

WHEREAS, the Generation Plan includes a goal of reaching 200 MW of solar energy by 2020, while meeting certain constraints such as resource cost and affordability for customers; and

WHEREAS, the City has a solar rebate program to help diversify electric generation with clean, renewable energy and help develop the clean energy industry in Austin; and

WHEREAS, the City made changes in January 2010 to the solar rebate program which created a new commercial and multifamily production-based

incentive program to tie it to energy production and more closely track actual market conditions; and

WHEREAS, the shift from an upfront rebate to a production-based incentive has created difficulties for nonprofits, which are generally unable to make use of federal tax credits for renewable energy systems; **NOW**, **THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Council directs the City Manager and General Manager of Austin Energy to report back on the current strategy to reach the adopted goal of 200 MW of solar generation by 2020. The report should address possible solar generation projects including, but not limited to:

- current and potential utility-scale projects, including the potential for local manufacturing facilities,
- rooftop solar for large commercial developments and residential homes,
- the potential for the utility's leasing of private rooftop space for solar installations,
- the potential for community solar projects, including any legal restrictions,
- possible changes to the land development code that could promote solar installations, and
- the new state legislation and whether it could allow new options in Austin's service area.

The Austin Energy General Manager shall seek feedback and input from the Resource Management Commission and the Electric Utility Commission before reporting back to Council within 90 days on the long-term plans to reach the overall goal of 200 MW of solar generation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager and Austin Energy General Manager shall do an interim report to Council on items related to the FY2012 budget, with details about the solar rebate program including, but not limited to:

- how Austin Energy has adjusted the rebate amount and structure to meet market conditions for the past several years,
- the current policy/procedure for regular review of rebate amounts,
- review and possible adjustment of maximum system size; and
- whether nonprofits should have a separate solar rebate customer category.

The interim report shall be submitted within 30 days.

ADOPTED: _____, 2011 **ATTEST:** _____
Shirley A. Gentry
City Clerk