

A G E N D A



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	14011	Agenda Number	2.
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Meeting Date:	4/5/2012	Department:	Austin Energy
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Subject

Authorize negotiation and execution of a 12-month Interlocal Agreement between the City of Austin and the City of San Antonio to allow cooperation with respect to the implementation of the Texas Solar Collaboration as provided for and funded by the U.S. Department of Energy's Rooftop Solar Challenge grant in an amount not to exceed \$83,073.

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding is available from the Department of Energy's Rooftop Solar Challenge grant.

Fiscal Note

There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

Purchasing Language:	
Prior Council Action:	September 12, 2011 – Approved Ordinance 20110912-005, including Austin Energy's Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Operating Budget including this grant.
For More Information:	Fred Yebra, P.E., Director, Energy Efficiency Services, at 482-5305; Leslie Libby, Project Manager, at 482-5390.
Boards and Commission Action:	Recommended by the Electric Utility Commission and the Resource Management Commission.
MBE / WBE:	
Related Items:	

Additional Backup Information

The City of Austin through Austin Energy, the City of Houston and the City of San Antonio will share expertise and resources in order to meet the grant award requirements of the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Rooftop Solar Challenge. The City of Austin, the City of Houston and the City of San Antonio received funding through the DOE's Rooftop Solar Challenge to spur solar-power deployment by reducing barriers and lower costs for rooftop solar systems.

Austin received \$83,073 in grant funds included in the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Operating Budget of Austin Energy. Austin Energy will provide an in-kind contribution in the form of staff time working on the project. The grant period is from February 2012 to February 2013.

The Texas Solar Collaboration will enhance existing policy and process framework within the following four action areas:

- Develop a standardized, transparent and expeditious permitting and interconnection process;
- Advance standards of equity and quality assurance within net metering and interconnection provisions;
- Enable multiple financing options by establishing a foundation for community solar programs and/or third party ownership models;
- Make available established best practices to local municipalities.

The Rooftop Solar Challenge is part of the DOE SunShot Initiative, a collaborative national effort to make solar cost-competitive with other forms of energy by the end of the decade. Reducing the installed cost of solar energy systems by about 75 percent will drive widespread large-scale adoption of solar, fortifying U.S. leadership in the global clean energy race while spurring new industries and job creation across the nation.