



Local Solar Advisory Committee
Thursday, July 12 from 6:00-9:30 PM
Austin Energy, Town Lake Center Assembly Room 130
721 Barton Springs Rd.
Austin, Texas

Regular Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER - Colin Meehan called meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

Committee Members in Attendance: Sunshine Mathon, Varun Rai, BJ Stanberry, Stan Pipkin, Christine Herbert, Michael Kuhn, Colin Meehan, John Sutton, Monica de la Rosa, Gabe Flores, Sal Valdez, Mark Begert, Roger Wood

Trevor Lowell served as proxy for Tom “Smitty” Smith

Michael Holland served as proxy for Tuan Q. Pham

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of minutes from the June 21, 2012 meeting of the Local Solar Advisory Committee. Motion to approve by Christine Herbert. Second by Sunshine Mathon. Motion passed unanimously.

2. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

a. Solar Austin Presentation

- i. Trevor Lowell of Solar Austin presented on “The Path to 300,” an analysis of the benefits of pursuing a 300 MW distributed solar goal and recommendations on how to pursue that goal. Discussion occurred on the assumptions in the analysis and Austin Energy’s Generation Plan. Discussion occurred on the structure of Austin Energy’s Commercial PV Rebate Program.
- ii. The committee requests Trevor Lowell to research and determine what 3.4% production is referencing (total energy production capacity).

b. Discussion of Pecan Street Inc. Response to Committee Requests

i. Approval for Pecan Street to undertake a Best Practices review

Pecan Street will collect, distill, and summarize publicly available published studies of practices in other states and countries in the areas of public policy and financial incentive strategies employed to promote adoption of solar power generation. Pecan Street will work closely with the LSAC Programs Review Working Group on this task. Best practices review to be delivered to the Committee by August 9. Interim deadline to deliver list of articles by July 20. Motion to approve stated Scope of Work made by Colin Meehan second made by BJ Stanberry. Motion passed unanimously.

ii. Approval for Pecan Street to undertake a quantitative analysis of south- and west-facing residential solar arrays

Quantitative analysis will include:

- installation costs to the homeowner and the utility
- gross power generation and net energy consumption throughout the time of day
- load profile of customer’s gross power draw from distribution grid

- impact on peak power demand
- impact on customer's utility bill
- impact on utility revenues, including separated for distribution and retail

Amended by Stan Pipkin to include review of profiler data from AE. Analysis to be delivered to the Committee by September 6. Motion to approve stated Scope of Work made by Mark Begert. Second by Sal Valdez. Motion passed unanimously.

c. Working Group Reports

- Mission/Values:** Stan Pipkin and Sunshine Mathon reported that the Mission/Values working group will work jointly with the Community Costs & Benefits Working Group. The draft mission was shared.
- Technical** – BJ Stanberry presented a report from the working group kick-off meeting that outlined deliverables this working group will provide to the overall Committee's Strategic Report to City Council.
- Program Review** – Mark Begert led discussion of what should be included under this working group's scope of work.
- Scenario Development** – Christine Herbert presented questions that this working group is researching to establish assumptions for scenario development. Discussion occurred on how to structure the scenarios.
- Community Costs and Benefits** – Stan Pipkin reported that the working group is looking at how to establish a framework for analyzing the costs & benefits to the whole community under eight proposed solar development scenarios.
- Legal and Regulatory** – Colin Meehan presented on this working group's framing of legal & regulatory considerations for solar development to be explored for the strategic report. Considerations include: financing, 3rd-party ownership, building codes, permitting and inspections, community solar, homeowner association authority to restrict solar installations

d. Discussion of Austin Energy's Solar Incentive Program Budget History

i. Vote on Recommendation to Council for FY 2013 Program Budget

General discussion occurred. BJ Stanberry motioned that the Committee decide to take up the item on the next agenda after more information has been provided on Austin Energy's historical rebate expenditures. Colin Meehan seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

3. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

The first 5 speakers signed up prior to the meeting being called to order will each be allowed a three-minute allotment to address their concerns regarding items not posted on the agenda.

- Tod Wickersham from Beneficial Results presented a summary of the Value of Solar studies undertaken in America. Discussion occurred in the Committee.
- Chris Rath from CR Solar, suggested that the committee look into whether the City of Austin should create a licensing program for installers.
- Rob Hoskins suggested that the City not create a licensing program for installers, stating that it has created significant issues in other places.

4. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Discussion of budget recommendations for the FY2013 Budget.
- Request to Austin Energy for a presentation of rationale for FY 2013 Budget.

5. ADJOURNMENT – 9:35pm