

## **RESOLUTION NO.**

**WHEREAS**, in April of 2010, the City Council adopted the Austin Energy Resource, Generation, and Climate Protection Plan to 2020 (the “Generation Plan”) which establishes a general framework for investment in certain types of energy and emphasizes the City’s continued commitment to invest in renewable energy; and

**WHEREAS**, the Generation Plan includes an overall installed solar capacity goal of 200 megawatts (MW) and does not specify the location or character of the solar production; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Austin has provided a rebate for local distributed generation for residential and commercial customers for many years and has done so in part to incentivize the growth of local solar generation and the growth of the local renewable energy economy; and

**WHEREAS**, the latest Austin Energy data shows that with a rebate program investment of about \$6 million in fiscal year 2013, local installations have already produced almost 4.5MW of residential and commercial projects; and

**WHEREAS**, City Council recently approved approximately \$7 million for the solar rebate program in fiscal year 2014, and with continued City

investment in solar programs the utility should expect to achieve at least 5MW of solar for each of the next six years; and

**WHEREAS**, a City Council-appointed Local Solar Advisory Committee worked with Austin Energy staff and developed a set of recommendations aimed at cultivating a healthy local solar industry; and

**WHEREAS**, the price of solar panels and the cost of installation have declined over time, as predicted, and are widely expected to continue to decline to a point that eventually makes solar energy competitive with traditional forms of generation when considering all market externalities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Local Solar Advisory Committee recommended phasing out the upfront rebate for residential solar projects over time as the price of solar becomes more competitive; and

**WHEREAS**, the Local Solar Advisory Committee recommended distinguishing local utility-owned solar from local distributed solar goals; and

**WHEREAS**, City Council's commitment to developing a local solar program has contributed to the growth of many local jobs in solar manufacturing and installations, and establishing a local solar goal will provide some of the certainty needed for continued investment and sustainability of a local solar industry; and

**WHEREAS**, City Council will be considering the Local Solar Advisory Committee's broader recommendation to increase the overall solar goal within the context of the Generation Plan update in 2014; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

The Austin Energy Resource, Generation, and Climate Protection Plan to 2020 is amended to specify that at least 60 megawatts of the previously adopted 200 megawatt goal for solar generation will be local distributed solar projects.

**ADOPTED:** \_\_\_\_\_, 2013    **ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Jannette Goodall  
City Clerk