

## AGENDA



## Recommendation for Council Action

## AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting: April 12, 2018

Item Number: 004

## Austin Energy

Approve issuance of incentives for installation of solar electric systems on affordable housing communities to Guadalupe Saldana Neighborhood Development Corporation for facilities located at 1200 Paul Teresa Saldana Street (\$102,600) and 1813 East 8th Street (\$200,000) and to Foundation Communities for a facility located at 11015 Four Points Drive (\$200,000), for total incentive payments not to exceed \$502,600 for the three facilities.

**District(s) Affected:** District 1, District 3, District 6

<b>Lead Department</b>	Austin Energy
<b>Fiscal Note</b>	Funding in the amount of \$502,600 is available in the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Operating Budget of Austin Energy.
<b>For More Information</b>	Jeff Vice, Director, Local Government Issues (512) 322-6087; Danielle Murray, Solar Program Manager (512) 322-6055.
<b>Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action</b>	March 19, 2018 - Recommended unanimously by the Electric Utility Commission on a 7-0 vote, with Commissioners Reel and Wray absent and two vacancies. March 20, 2018 - Recommended unanimously by the Resource Management Commission on a 6-0 vote, with Commissioners Kohan and Lesnau absent and three vacancies.

## **Additional Backup Information:**

In October 2017, City Council approved Resolution No. 20171005-033, setting a goal of \$500,000 in the Fiscal Year 2018 budget towards incentives and programming for increasing solar energy adoption and access for underserved markets. In support of the resolution, Austin Energy released a call for participation for a “Multifamily Affordable Housing Shared Solar Pilot Program” in January 2018.

The experience and lessons obtained from this pilot program will help Austin Energy to better understand technical, financial and programmatic barriers and challenges on solar deployment to underserved communities and multifamily properties, and to test an innovative metering and billing Shared Solar solution that enables more cost-effective solar installations on individually-metered, multi-tenant properties for low-to-moderate-income customers.

The incentive level under the pilot program is \$1/Watt-DC installed. An additional incentive of \$0.80/Watt-DC is offered to projects that can demonstrate net-zero energy in low rise multifamily construction. The amount of incentives for an individual project is capped at \$200,000.

In response to the call for participation in the Shared Solar pilot program, four proposals were received, thoroughly reviewed and ranked. The three projects listed below met program requirements and were selected to receive incentives.

1. Foundation Communities - for the installation of solar electric systems on five affordable residential buildings and one learning center at its Cardinal Point campus located at 11015 Four Points Drive (Council District 6). The proposed 200 kW-DC solar installation includes a total of 588 solar modules rated at 340 watts. It will serve 120 units at the property, all of which serve tenants below 60% median family income (MFI). The total installation cost is \$426,330 and the incentive amount is \$200,000.
2. Guadalupe Neighborhood Development Corporation - for the installation of a solar electric system on its La Vista Campus located at 813 East 8<sup>th</sup> Street (Council District 1). The proposed 150 kW-DC solar system includes a total of 525 solar modules rated at 285 watts. It will serve 22 units in the building, all of which serve tenants below 60% MFI. This project also intends to demonstrate net-zero energy capability. The total installation cost is \$275,640 and the incentive amount is \$200,000.
3. Guadalupe Neighborhood Development Corporation - for the installation of a solar electric system on its Jeremiah Program Moody Campus located at 1200 Paul Theresa Saldana Street (Council District 3). The proposed 57 kW-DC solar system includes a total of 200 solar modules rated at 285 watts. It will serve 35 units in the building, all of which serve tenants below 50% MFI. This project also intends to demonstrate net-zero energy capability. The total installation cost is \$145,850 and the incentive amount is \$102,600.

These solar installation projects will generate an estimated 571,444 kWh per year in total. They are estimated to prevent the production of the following emissions each year: 343 tons of Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>); 477 pounds of Sulfur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>); 527 pounds of Nitrogen Oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>); and 367 pounds of Carbon Monoxide (CO). These emissions reductions are equivalent to planting 8,815 trees or 441 acres of forest in Austin's parks or the removal of 770,411 vehicle miles or 66 cars from Austin roadways.

Austin Energy's solar program helps meet the community's solar goal of 950 MW by 2025, including 200

MW of local solar capacity, established in the updated Resource, Generation and Climate Protection Plan approved by City Council in August 2017. The solar program is designed to reduce the amount of electricity Austin Energy must purchase from the market and reduce associated greenhouse gas emissions.